

## Assam

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS: THE SCHEDULED CASTES Census of India 2001

---

The total population of Assam in 2001 Census has been 26,655,528. Of them, 1,825,949 persons are Scheduled Castes (SCs), constituting 6.9 per cent of the total population of the state. The state has registered 10 per cent decadal growth of SC population in 1991-2001. There are sixteen (16) notified SCs, and all have been enumerated in 2001 Census.

#### Population: Size & Distribution

2. Kaibartta (31.8 per cent) and Namasudra (30.4 per cent) are the two major SCs in the state sharing more than half of the total population. Patni (8.3 per cent), Jhalo (4.2 per cent), Muchi (3.9 per cent), Sutradhar (3.4 per cent), Bhuihmali (3.2 per cent), Hira (3 per cent), Dhupi (2.7 per cent), Brittial Bania (2.6 per cent), and Jalkeot (1.3 per cent) also have sizeable population in the state. SCs namely Lalbegi, Mahara, Dugla, Mehtar, and Bansphor each accounts for less than one per cent (Statement-1).

**Statement-1: Scheduled Caste Population, 2001 Census**

SL. No.	Name of the Scheduled Caste	Total population	Proportion to the total SC population
1	All Scheduled Castes	1,825,949	100%
2	Bansphor	14,760	0.8
3	Bhuihmali	57,974	3.2
4	Brittial Bania	47,974	2.6
5	Dhupi	49,929	2.7
6	Dugla	6,364	0.3
7	Hira	55,106	3.0
8	Jalkeot	23,511	1.3
9	Jhalo	77,533	4.2
10	Kaibartta	581,559	31.8
11	Lalbegi	552	0.0
12	Mahara	1,725	0.1
13	Mehtar	12,715	0.7
14	Muchi	70,954	3.9
15	Namasudra	555,621	30.4
16	Patni	151,992	8.3
17	Sutradhar	62,032	3.4

3. Among the districts, Cachar (14.4 per cent), Karimganj (13 per cent), Marigaon (12.9 per cent), Hailakandi (10.9 per cent), and Bongaigaon (10.3 per cent) are the main SC concentrated districts in Assam, each having more than 10 per cent SC population. These five districts together share 32.4 per cent of the total SC population of the state (Statement-2).

**Statement-2: District wise SC population**

SL. No	State/ District	Percentage of SCs to total population of the State/ District	Percentage of SCs to total State's SC population
1	ASSAM	6.9	100
2	Kokrajhar	3.4	1.7
3	Dhubri	3.9	3.5
4	Goalpara	4.8	2.2
5	Bongaigaon	10.3	5.1
6	Barpeta	5.7	5.1
7	Kamrup	6.8	9.3
8	Nalbari	7.5	4.7
9	Darrang	4.6	3.7
10	Marigaon	12.9	5.5
11	Nagaon	9.3	11.8
12	Sonitpur	5.2	4.8
13	Lakhimpur	7.9	3.8
14	Dhemaji	5.3	1.7
15	Tinsukia	2.7	1.7
16	Dibrugarh	4.1	2.6
17	Sibsagar	3.4	2.0
18	Jorhat	7.9	4.3
19	Golaghat	5.4	2.8
20	Karbi Anglong	3.6	1.6
21	North Cachar Hills	1.8	0.2
22	Cachar	14.4	11.4
23	Karimganj	13.0	7.2
24	Hailakandi	10.9	3.2

4. According to 2001 Census, 85 per cent of the SCs are living in rural areas. Individual SC wise, there is wide variation with regard to their rural-urban distribution of population. A high of 27.9 per cent urban population has been recorded among Dhupi, followed by Brittil Bania with 23.3 per cent. On the contrary, Patni has recorded the lowest of 7.3 per cent urban population. Namasudra, Hira, Muchi, and Kaibartta are predominantly residing in rural areas having more than 85 per cent rural population.

**Sex Ratio**

5. The sex ratio of the total SC population is 935, which is very close to the national average for SCs (936). Of the eleven major SCs, low sex ratio has been registered among Muchi (916), Dhupi (920), Jhalo (923), Jalkeot (923), Patni (924), and Namasudra (924). It is higher than the national average among Hira (966), Kaibartta (955), Brittil Bania (951), Sutradhar (938), and Bhuijniali (937).

6. The child sex ratio (0-6 age group) at 959 is above the aggregated figure at national level for SCs (938). The child sex ratio among Hira (986), Kaibartta (977), Jalkeot (971), and Bhuijniali (961) has been recorded higher than the state average for SCs. On the contrary it is below the state average among Sutradhar (915), Jhalo (932), Brittil Bania (939), Patni (940), Dhupi (947), Muchi (952), and Namasudra (958).

## Literacy & Educational Level

7.The literacy rate among the SCs is 66.8 per cent, which is above the aggregated national figure for SCs (54.7 per cent). Having male and female literacy rate of 75.7 per cent and 57.1 per cent respectively, the gender gap in literacy is quite conspicuous (Statement-3).

**Statement-3: Literacy Rate among Major SCs**

SL. No.	Name of the Scheduled Caste	Literate Rate (7 years and above)		
		Total	Male	Female
	All Scheduled			
1	Castes	66.8	75.7	57.1
2	Bhuinmali	72.2	79.8	64.0
3	Brittial Bania	81.0	88.6	73.0
4	Dhupi	76.0	83.1	68.3
5	Hira	72.5	82.7	61.8
6	Jalkeot	69.3	78.9	58.8
7	Jhalo	52.8	64.3	40.3
8	Kaibartta	72.1	80.5	63.3
9	Muchi	47.9	60.4	34.2
10	Namasudra	60.2	70.1	49.4
11	Patni	75.9	81.5	69.9
12	Sutradhar	67.2	76.6	57.2

8.Brittial Bania with 81 per cent literacy rate are not only on top among the eleven major SCs but also are well above the state average for SCs. On the other hand Muchi are at the bottom having a low literacy rate of 47.9 per cent.

9.The gender gap in literacy is very conspicuous among Muchi with male and female literacy rate of 60.4 per cent and 34.2 per cent respectively. The Muchi women are lagging behind their male counterparts by 26.2 percentage points. The gender gap is comparatively low among Patni (11.7 percentage points) where female literacy is nearly 70 per cent.

10.According to the 2001 Census, 64.6 per cent of the SC population in the age group 5-14 years has been attending schools or any other educational institutions. Brittial Bania have recorded the highest 78.1 per cent, closely followed by Dhupi (72 per cent), Hira (71.9 per cent), and Kaibartta (70 per cent). It is comparatively lower among Muchi (50.6 per cent), Jhalo (56.3 per cent), and Namasudra (59.4 per cent).

11.The SCs having educational level graduation and above are only 2.5 per cent. Jalkeot with 4.7 per cent and Brittial Bania with 4.3 per cent are well ahead of others. On the contrary Muchi have registered less than one per cent of their total literates having

this level of education. It is also low among Jhalo (1.3 per cent), Sutradhar (1.7 per cent), Namasudra (1.8 per cent), and Patni (1.9 per cent).

### Work Participation Rate (WPR)

12.The percentage of SC workers to total population (WPR) is 34.4 per cent, which is lower than the aggregated average for SCs at national level (40.4 per cent). Of the total workers, 74.8 per cent have been recorded as main workers and 25.2 per cent as marginal workers. The female WPR is only 17.3 per cent, which is lower than their male counterparts (50.3 per cent). The majority of workers among males are main workers (85.4 per cent), Statement-4.

**Statement-4: Distribution of Total, Main & Marginal Workers among SCs**

T/M/F	Total Workers ( Percentage to Total Population)	Main Workers ( Percentage to Total Workers)	Marginal Workers ( Percentage to Total Workers)
Total	627,688 (34.4%)	469,427 (74.8%)	158,261 (25.2%)
Male	474,892 (50.3%)	405,522 (85.4%)	69,370 (14.6%)
Female	152,796 (17.3%)	63,905 (41.8%)	8,8891 (58.2%)

### Category of Workers

13.Of the total main workers among SCs, 32.7 per cent have been recorded as cultivators, 8.1 per cent as agricultural labourers, and merely 5.1 per cent in the category of household industry. The remaining more than half of the total main workers (54.1 per cent) have been returned as 'other workers' outside agriculture and household industry.

14.Of the eleven major SCs in Assam, Namasudra, a traditional cultivating caste, registered 41 per cent cultivators of their total main workers, Hira, who are hand-made potters by their traditional occupation, have recorded the next highest 36.2 per cent cultivators. On the other hand the percentage of cultivators among Muchi (14.9 per cent) is low. But, Muchi have registered a high of 10.5 per cent agricultural labourers among them.

### Marital Status

15.As regards marital status, 55.3 per cent of the SCs are never married, 39.6 per cent currently married, 4.7 per cent widowed, and only 0.4 per cent divorced/ separated.

16.Child marriage is not common among the SCs in Assam. Merely 1.8 per cent of the SC females below 18 years – the minimum legal age for female marriage – have been registered as ever married. Among the eleven major SCs, Kaibartta have recorded the highest 2 per cent of their females of this stipulated age as ever married, while it is the lowest among Patni (1.2 per cent).

17.The ever married SC males below 21 years – the minimum legal age for marriage – constitute only 1.1 per cent of the total population of this category. Both Hira and Kaibartta have recorded 1.4 per cent of their population in this age category as ever married, which is the highest among the eleven major SCs of the state.

**Religion**

18.In 2001 Census, of the total of 1,825,949 SC population in Assam 1,824,472 persons are Hindus constituting 99.9 per cent of the population. Besides, 822 persons are Sikhs and 655 Budhists.

-----