

**Pondicherry**  
**DATA HIGHLIGHTS : THE SCHEDULED CASTES**  
**Census of India 2001**

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The Union Territory (UT) of Pondicherry is unique in its geography with four districts located in four different parts of southern India. Two major districts namely, Pondicherry and Karaikal are located in Tamil Nadu; distance between the two is 135 Kms. The other two urban districts, Mahe and Yanam, are one each in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh respectively; Mahe is 653 Kms. away from Pondicherry (Headquarters), while Yanam, is 840 Kms.

2. The total population of Pondicherry, as per the 2001 Census, is 974,345, of this, 157,771 (16.2 per cent) are Scheduled Castes (SCs). Fifteen (15) SCs have been notified in the UT by the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964. None of the SCs has been notified with area restriction. Pondicherry occupies 23<sup>rd</sup> position in terms of SC population among the 32 states and UTs having SC population.

3. The growth rate of SC population in the decade 1991-2001 at 20.2 per cent, is at par with the overall growth rate of the population (20.6 per cent). The growth rate of SC population in 1981-1991 was 35.9 per cent. Though growth rate of population has registered a declining trend, share of Scheduled Castes Population in total population, has, however, remained constant at 16.2 per cent both in 1991 and 2001. Among major SCs, highest growth rate of 36.0 per cent is registered in the case of Adi Andhra, followed by Adi Dravida (21.5 per cent), Valluvan (17.9 per cent) and Parayan (17.5 per cent).

**Population: Size & Distribution**

4. Out of fifteen notified SCs, Adi Dravida, Parayan, Adi Andhra and Valluvan together constitute 94.0 per cent of the SC population of UT. Adi Dravida is numerically the largest SC with a population of 113,013, constituting 71.6 per cent of the UT's SC population; they are followed by Parayan numbering 26,658 (16.9 per cent), Adi Andhra 4,606 (2.9 per cent) and Valluvan 3,915 (2.5 per cent).

5. 44.0 per cent of the SC population is living in the urban areas. This is primarily due to their habitation in two fully urbanized districts of UT. Among the major SCs, Parayan has the highest (68.4 per cent) rural population. Adi Andhra, the third largest SC population, has reported as much as 96.0 per cent urban population. District-wise distribution of SC population shows that they are mainly concentrated in the districts of Pondicherry and Karaikal. These two districts account for 96.3 per cent of the SC population.

## Sex ratio

6. The UT has the distinction of having an equitable distribution of population among males and females. In fact, females have outnumbered males. The overall sex ratio of the SC population is 1019 females per 1000 males, which is considerably higher than 936 recorded for SC population at the national level in 2001. Among all the states/UTs, Pondicherry is second to Kerala (1048) with highest sex ratio of SC population. The statement showing comparative sex ratio of SC population as a whole and the numerically largest four SCs is given below:

Age Groups	All SCs (India)	All SCs (Pondicherry)	Parayan	Adi Dravida	Adi Andhara	Valluvan
All Ages	936	1019	1021	1018	1003	1001
0-6	938	990	1028	984	1031	830

7. As shown in the statement above, the overall sex ratio as well as child sex ratio (0-6) of SC population of Pondicherry is considerably higher when compared with the corresponding national figures for SC population as well as in case of all major SCs except Valluvan which has very low Child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 .

## Literacy and educational level

8. Literacy and level of education are two basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a group/society as literacy leads to a more awareness besides contributing to the overall improvement of health, hygiene and other social conditions. According to 2001 Census, percentage of literate persons aged 7 and above (those who can read & write with understanding) among SC population of Pondicherry is 69.1 per cent, which is lower than corresponding figure of 81.2 per cent of the UT population. The literacy data shows that the SC population of the UT has made significant headway in literacy during the decade 1991-2001. The literacy rate, which was 56.3 per cent in 1991 Census, has increased by 12.8 percentages in 2001 Census. At the district level, the highest literacy rate is recorded in Mahe (93.7 per cent) and the lowest in Pondicherry district (68.7 per cent).

9. Among the major SCs, Valluvan is reported to have the highest literacy rate of 79.5 per cent, followed by Adi Andhra (75.0 per cent), Parayan (68.8 per cent) and Adi Dravida (68.6 per cent). The female literacy rate of 60.0 per cent among the SCs population is lower as compared to 73.9 per cent for female population of UT.

Category	Educational levels attained by major SCs						
	Literate without educational level	Below primary	Primary	Middle	Matric/ Secondary/ Higher Secondary/ etc.	Technical & Non-technical diploma	Graduate & above
All Scheduled Castes	1.5	17.9	30.9	23.5	19.4	1.6	5.2
Adi Dravida	1.6	17.3	30.5	23.7	19.9	1.6	5.4
Parayan	1.1	19.6	33.4	23.9	17.2	1.1	3.6
Adi Andhra	1.1	15.9	28.1	22.7	21.9	3.0	7.3
Valluvan	2.1	14.5	27.5	22.9	22.3	2.5	8.2

10. Out of total literates, 19.4 per cent are literates without any educational level or have attained below primary level. The literates, who have attained education up to primary level, form the largest chunk (30.9 per cent). 19.4 per cent are having educational level up to Matric/Higher Secondary etc. levels, implying that every 5<sup>th</sup> SC literate is a Matriculate. Literates with educational level of Graduation & above are 5.2 per cent. Individually, Valluvan (8.2 per cent) and Adi Andhra (7.3 per cent) have highest percentage of Graduation & above educational level.

11. From the above educational level statements, it emerges that the drop out starts after primary level and increases by each level of education. The percentage of Matriculates is nearly half of the middle level literates.

12. Population in the age group 5-14 years are the potential students. 88.5 per cent of the SC population in this age group is attending various educational institutions. In this regard, all major SCs reflect the same trend.

### **Economic activity**

#### **Work Participation Rate (WPR)**

13. The work participation rate (WPR) is the percentage of workers to the total population. The WPR of the SC population is 40.2 per cent in 2001, which is almost equal to 40.8 per cent recorded in 1991 Census. The WPR at 50.5 per cent for males is higher than their female counterparts 30.1 per cent reported in 2001 Census.

14. At individual caste level, the highest WPR of 42.4 per cent is reported for Parayan, followed by Adi Dravida (40.3 per cent), Valluvan (34.7 per cent) and Adi Andhra (32.3 per cent). Similarly, in case of female WPR, Parayan tops the list with 33.4 per cent, followed by Adi Dravida (30.6 per cent), Valluvan (18.5 per cent) and Adi Andhra (17.4 per cent).

### **Category of Workers**

15. There has been a decline in the main workers from 96.3 per cent in 1991 to 88.2 per cent in 2001 Census. As a result, there has been a substantial increase in the marginal workers from 3.7 per cent in 1991 to 11.8 per cent in 2001. Out of total workers, 'agricultural labourers' constitute 55.4 per cent, which is significantly higher when compared to 45.6 per cent noted at national level for SC population. 'Other workers' accounts for 42.6 per cent and only 1.2 per cent have been returned as 'cultivators'. Remaining 0.8 per cent have been workers in 'household industry'.

16. At the individual caste level, among the major SCs, Parayan have the maximum 68.7 per cent 'agricultural labourers'.

### **Marital status**

17. Marital status is one of the important determinants of fertility and growth of a population. The 2001 Census data on marital status shows that 50.5 per cent persons among the SCs of Pondicherry are 'never married'. The 'currently married' constitute 42.6 per cent while 6.3 per cent are 'Widowed' and only 0.5 per cent are 'Divorced and Separated'.

18. Census 2001 data shows that majority of girls and boys among SCs in Pondicherry are getting married after attaining the legal age of marriage. Marriages of SC girls below 18 years (1.0 per cent) are lower than that recorded among SC population at national level (2.8 per cent). Similarly, the incidence of marriage of boys below 21 years at 0.8 per cent is significantly lower than 3.1 per cent aggregated at national level for SC population.

19. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC women of all ages is 2.9, which is lower than 3.2 of country's SC population. In the age group 45-49 years, the mean number of children ever born per ever-married SC woman is 3.6 as compared to 4.2 of country's SC population. As far as this indicator of fertility status is concerned, there is no significant difference from the major SCs.

### **Religion**

20. Hinduism is the predominant religion of SCs of the UT. Except 15 persons, who have reported themselves Buddhists by religion, the remaining SCs are Hindus.

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