

## MAHARASHTRA

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

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The total population of Maharashtra, as per the 2001 Census is 96,878,627. Of this, 8,577,276 (8.9 per cent) are Scheduled Tribes (STs). The ST population of the state constitutes 5.1 per cent of the country's ST population. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1976, have notified 47 STs in Maharashtra. Of these, two STs namely, Chodhara and Thoti have been notified with an area restriction. Chodhara have been notified in all the districts of Maharashtra excluding the districts of Akola, Amravati, Bhandara, Gondiya, Buldana, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Wardha, Yavatmal, Aurangabad, Jalna, Bid, Nanded, Osmanabad, Latur, Parbhani and Hingoli. Thoti have been notified only in Aurangabad, Jalna, Bid, Nanded, Osmanabad, Latur, Parbhani, Hingoli and Rajura tahsil of Chandrapur district.

2. Of the STs, three, namely, Katkaria (Kathodi), Maria Gond and Kolam are among the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) of India. Katkaria (Kathodi) and Maria Gond are sub-groups of Kathodi and Gond respectively. The population of Kolam, as per the 2001 Census, is 173,646. They are mainly distributed in Yavatmal, Nanded, Osmanabad, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra. As the census does not provide population of sub-groups, separate census figures are not available for Katkaria (Kathodi) and Maria Gond.

3. The growth rate of ST population of Maharashtra in the decade 1991-2001 at 17.2 per cent is lower in comparison to the overall 22.7 per cent of the state population as a whole.

#### **Population- Size and Distribution**

4. Out of the STs, Bhil, Gond, Koli Mahadev, Varli, Kokna and Thakur together constitute 73.3 per cent of the ST population of the state. Bhils are numerically the largest ST with a population of 1,818,792, constituting 21.2 per cent of the state's ST population. They are followed by Gond 1,554,894 (18.1 per cent), Koli Mahadev 1,227,562 (14.3 per cent), Varli 627,197 (7.3 per cent), Kokna 572,195 (6.7 per cent) and Thakur 487,696 (5.7 per cent). 19 STs in the state have a small population, each having less than 1,000 population.

5. As per the 2001 Census, 87.3 per cent of the ST population of Maharashtra is residing in the rural areas. Among major STs, Bhil have the highest (95.2 per cent) rural population, followed by Kokna (93.4 per cent), Varli (92.7 per cent), Gond (87.5 per cent), Thakur (86.3 per cent) and Koli Mahadev (80.3 per cent). District-wise distribution of ST population shows that they have been returned in all 35 districts of the state with major distribution reported in the districts of Thane, Nashik, Nandurbar, Yavatmal, Nagpur and Dhule. These six districts account for 54 per cent of the ST population of Maharashtra.

## Sex ratio

6. The sex ratio of the ST population in Maharashtra is 973 females per 1000 males, which is higher than 922 reported for the state population as a whole in 2001. The sex ratio of ST population has registered improvement over 968 reported at 1991 Census.

The Statement below shows sex ratio and child sex ratio (0-6) of the ST population at the national, state and numerically the largest six STs at 2001 Census:

Age Groups	All STs (India)	All STs (Maharashtra)	Bhil	Gond	Koli Mahadev	Varli	Kokna	Thakur
All Ages	978	973	984	964	964	1008	984	959
0-6	973	965	972	969	947	983	972	972

7. As may be seen from the statement, the overall sex ratio as well as child sex ratio (0-6) of ST population of Maharashtra is lower than the corresponding figures for ST population at national level. At the individual tribe level, Gond, Koli Mahadev and Thakur have lower overall sex ratio, in comparison to the state ST population as well as the other major STs. But in case of sex ratio of 0-6 age group, all the major STs except Koli Mahadev, have a better sex ratio than the state ST population.

## Literacy and educational level

8. Literacy and level of education are two basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a group/society. The Literacy results in more awareness besides contributing to the overall improvement of health, hygiene and other social conditions. According to 2001 Census, percentage of literate persons (those who can read and write with understanding) aged 7 years and above, among ST population of Maharashtra is 55.2 per cent, which is lower than 76.9 per cent reported for the state population as a whole. The literacy data show that the ST population of the state has made significant improvement in literacy during the decade 1991-2001. The literacy rate, which was 36.8 per cent in 1991, has increased by 18.4 percentage points in 2001. Though the literacy rate has improved substantially among ST population; it is still much below the literacy rate of the state population.

9. Among the numerically larger STs, Koli Mahadev are reported to have the highest literacy rate (65.8 per cent), followed by Gond (62.5 per cent), Kokna (57.8 per cent), Thakur (50.9 per cent), Varli (41.9 per cent) and Bhil (40.6 per cent). The female literacy rate of 43.1 per cent among ST population is lower as compared to 67.0 per cent among total female

population of the state. The highest and lowest female literacy rate of 52.9 per cent and 29.3 per cent are recorded among Koli Mahadev and Varli respectively.

Educational levels attained by major STs							
Name of ST	Literate without educational level	Below primary	Primary	Middle	Matric/Secondary /Higher Secondary Intermediate etc.	Technical & Non-technical diploma	Graduate & above
All STs	3.3	41.7	25.7	13.6	13.4	0.2	2.1
Bhil	7.0	49.9	23.5	8.6	9.7	0.1	1.3
Gond	2.0	40.3	26.2	16.9	13.0	0.1	1.4
Koil Mahadev	2.4	35.3	28.2	15.2	15.9	0.3	2.6
Varli	3.6	52.7	26.8	10.0	6.0	0.1	0.7
Kokna	2.8	38.9	26.1	13.1	16.3	0.4	2.5
Thakur	2.9	43.8	25.8	12.4	12.2	0.3	2.6

10. Out of the total literates, 45 per cent are literates without any educational level or have attained below Primary level. The literates, who have attained education up to Primary and Middle levels constitute 25.7 per cent and 13.6 per cent respectively. 13.4 per cent are having educational level up to Matric/Higher Secondary etc. levels, implying that about every 7<sup>th</sup> ST literate is a Matriculate. Literates with educational level of Graduation and above are 2.1 per cent. Individually, Koli Mahadev and Thakur have the highest 2.6 per cent each of Graduation and above educational level.

11. The educational level table shows that the drop out is conspicuous after the Primary level and again after Matric/Secondary levels among major STs.

12. Population in the age group 5-14 years are the potential students. Two third (66.2 per cent) of the ST population in this age group is attending various educational institutions. In this regard, Gond have the highest 76.3 per cent school going children.

### **Economic activity**

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

13. The work participation rate (WPR) is the percentage of workers to the total population. The WPR of 49.7 per cent among the ST population in 2001 is higher than that of the state population as a whole (42.5 per cent). The WPR has declined from 52.2 per cent

reported in 1991. The WPR at 53.1 per cent for males are higher than 46.3 per cent reported among females at 2001 Census.

14. At the individual ST level, the highest WPR of 52.1 per cent is reported for Kokna, followed by Gond (51.7 per cent), Bhil (51.4 per cent), Varli (50 per cent), Thakur (49.5 per cent) and Koli Mahadev (46.5 per cent). The same trend has been seen in case of WPR of females. Kokna have the highest 51.2 per cent female WPR.

### **Category of Workers**

15. There has been a decline in the main workers from 91 per cent in 1991 to 76.9 per cent in 2001 Census. This has resulted by corresponding increase in the marginal workers from 9 per cent in 1991 to 23.1 per cent in 2001. Out of the total workers, 'agricultural labourers' constitute 50.7 per cent, which is higher than 36.9 per cent registered among ST Population at the national level. 'Cultivators' accounts for 30.6 per cent and only 17.5 per cent have been returned as 'other workers'. Remaining 1.3 per cent have been workers in 'household industry'.

16. In the economic category at the individual tribe level, Bhil have recorded the highest 69.9 per cent agricultural labourers. The highest percentage of 'cultivators' (66 per cent) is reported among Kokna.

### **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 50.7 per cent persons among the STs of Maharashtra are 'never married'. The 'currently married' constitute 44.3 per cent while 4.5 per cent are 'widowed'. Only 0.5 per cent are 'divorced and separated'.

18. Majority of girls and boys among STs in Maharashtra are getting married after attaining the legal age of marriage. Marriages of ST girls below 18 years (1.4 per cent) are lower than that recorded among ST population at national level (2.1 per cent). Similarly, the incidence of marriage of boys below 21 years at 1.7 per cent is lower than 2.8 per cent aggregated at national level for ST population.

19. The mean number of children ever born per ever married ST women of all ages as well as 45-49 years age group are 3.1 and 3.9 respectively, which are almost equal to the corresponding figures of 3.2 and 4.1 for national ST population.

### **Religion**

20. The 2001 Census data show that 96.9 per cent STs are Hindus, followed by Muslims (0.9 per cent), Christians (0.4 per cent) and Sikhs (0.1 per cent). At the individual tribe level, Bhil have the highest 2.7 per cent Muslim population.