

South Asian Peoples

The greatest concentration of lostness on Earth.

North India & West Nepal

The western Himalayan basin stretches across northern India to the edge of the Rajasthan Desert. From the peaks of the Himalayas to the plains, large cities and rural farms dot the landscape. The presence of poverty alongside great wealth only accentuates the vast economic differences. On the surface is a busy lifestyle in general, but below the surface are friendly people waiting to hear the Truth of God's Word. The Ganges River traces evidence of all of the world's major religions, including Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, as well as old Christian churches built during British rule. The Indian state of Uttar Pradesh has produced numerous poets and laureates and even created the great Hindu epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. Considered the seat of Hinduism, this area also boasts of Buddhist and Jain heritage.



Make an Impact

Want to be a part of the work God is doing in the West Himalayan Basin Cluster? Come for a week, or commit to pray for a year. You can make a difference. Be a part of a medical team; adopt an unreached, unengaged people group (UUPG) for prayer; train young pastors in leadership development.



West Himalayan Basin Cluster at a Glance

Countries & Indian States	West Nepal, Uttarakhand, New Delhi, Western-Central Uttar Pradesh	Population	150,000,000
Language	Hindi, Hindustani, Awadhi, Urdu, Nepali, Braj	UUPGs	Bahna, Bhar, Taga, Arakh, Ghosi, Bhatiara, Ahar, Aheria, Jhojha (India); Dang Tharu, Rana Thakur Tharu, Deokri Tharu, Kathoriya Tharu (Nepal)
Religion	Hindu 84%, Muslim 15%, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity & Sikhism <1%	Partnership Opportunities	Medical teams, prayer adoption of a UUPG, leadership training
Climate	Hot, hotter, hot & humid, and cold. February and November are beautiful.	Visit IMB's: www.Call2Embrace.org	

A vast multitude from every South Asian Nation, Tribe, People and Language knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Revelation 7:9

Bangladesh ~ Bhutan ~ India ~ Maldives ~ Nepal ~ Pakistan ~ Sri Lanka ~ and throughout the world
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Top 10 UUPGs - Unreached Unengaged People Group

(6 September 2011)

1. **Gadaria Awadhi (PEID#47955) - India, population 4,382,214**

The Gadaria are traditionally shepherds. Today they are a large, mostly Hindu, unreached people group, spanning from Kashmir to Bangladesh to South India. They are also known as Charwaha, Gaderia, Gareria, Gairi, Gaderiya, Beghela, or Pal. The traditional occupation of a majority of the Gadaria continues to be herding and rearing of sheep and goats for their wool, milk and meat. They also sell their animals in local markets and fairs. However, in places like Delhi, the Gadaria have virtually abandoned their traditional occupation and are engaged as laborers and masons and practice animal husbandry. The Gadaria Awadhi live in central Uttar Pradesh, with migrations into Delhi.

How can you pray? “Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding” (Jeremiah 3:15). Pray that Gadarias will hear the news of the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for them. Ask the Good Shepherd to call His sheep from among this people to know and follow Him.

What can you do? Through the main office in the US, contact the East team leader of the West Himalayan Basin Cluster for a list of ways that you can become involved in the effort to mobilize local harvesters to use Bible story recordings crafted specifically to reach oral peoples. Or, contact the Delhi team leader for ways to get involved with this group in the Delhi Metro vicinity. Go on a volunteer mission trip to India and tell the Gadaria Awadhi about the Good Shepherd.

2. **Kahar (PEID#48061) – India, population 500,000**

The Kahar carry water for upper caste peoples for weddings and funerals, and they grow water nuts in ponds and lakes. The Kahar are a large Hindu group, unengaged in the Hindi language. As a whole, this people group spans from Pakistan to Bangladesh to South India. Resources such as Scripture, recordings and films are available for most of the Kahar population, but workers are needed to carry these to the people. The Kahar also work as farmers or in small businesses, such as restaurants, fabric shops, and fruit and egg stalls. They also work as rickshaw-pullers, carpenters, basket weavers, boatmen and fishermen. The Kahar now live in many areas of New Delhi.

How can you pray? “Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the water pots with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim” (John 2:7). Pray for the Kahar to find and drink the Living Water in Jesus Christ. Pray they will find their thirst quenched in Him, not in liquor and vice.

What can you do? Come to New Delhi with a team and, with the help of a translator, spend a week working in Azad market distributing tracts and cups of cold water to Kahar people living/working in this area.

3. **Taga (PEID#41374) – India, population 631,564**

The Taga, better known as Tyagi, have been farmers since ancient times and live in the northern Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi. They claim their origin from the Brahmin, which is the highest Hindu caste. In Uttar Pradesh the Tyagi are concentrated in the immensely fertile and prosperous districts of Bulandshahr, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Saharanpur and Bijnor. Today, many Taga can also be found in private and government service. Some of them are shopkeepers, doctors, and businessmen. In Delhi, the majority of the Taga have left working the land because it has been acquired by the Delhi Development Authority. As a result, they too have found employment in government services, businesses, or professions, while a few are industrial workers.

How can you pray? “Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains” (James 5:7). Pray that God will make the soil fertile and ready to receive His Word. Pray that many Taga will hear, understand, and bear much fruit. Pray for workers to carry the seed to the Taga.

What can you do? Through the main office in the US, contact the West team leader for a list of ways that you can become

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involved in the effort to mobilize local harvesters to reach this people. Or, contact the Delhi team leader for more ways to get involved in reaching the Delhi segment of the Taga peoples. Organize a team and come to Western Uttar Pradesh and teach farmers reproducible methods of cultivation to enhance their productivity, and at the same time, using a local translator, share the Good News.

4. Machhi Muslim (PEID#48180) – India, population 180,809

The Machhi are also called Mahigir, Mahigeer, or Machhera, derived from machhi (fish), meaning fisherman. The Machhi of Delhi have immigrated from Uttar Pradesh in recent years and are also distributed in states like the Punjab, Haryana, and Bihar. In Delhi, they are residing in TransYamuna areas including Seelampur, Shastri Park, Shahdara, Usmanpur and Jahangir-puri. As fishermen, the Machhi get licenses from the government and also hire tanks and ponds on contract or lease for fishing. Some purchase fish at wholesale rates and sell it in retail, while a few are wholesale suppliers. They belong to the Sunni sect of Islam but are not opposed to pirs and shrines common to Sufism.

How can you pray? “Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed him” (Mark 1:17-18). Ask God to raise up laborers who will share the Good News with the Machhi. Pray for the net to be thrown broadly and widely and for many Machhi to be drawn to Jesus’ love.

What can you do? Are you a fisherman? Working with a local translator, use your talent by coming to Delhi and demonstrating some of the techniques you use in catching fish. Then, tell a Bible story that involves fishing/fisherman to the Machhi. Develop a strategy that mobilizes near-neighbor Urdu speakers, possibly using the many Bible stories involving fishing and fishermen to share and start churches.

5. Banjara Hindi (PEID#47982) – India, population 299,097

The Banjara is a nomadic community, also known as Labana in Punjab. In Delhi, they are also addressed as ‘Gour Banjara’ and Sirkiband by their neighboring communities, because quite a number of them are engaged in keeping cows and in roof-making. There is an estimated 8,357 Banjaras living in various places throughout Delhi. The Banjaras of Delhi claim that with the introduction of railways and other modern means of transport, they have been forced to give up their traditional occupation, which was trading. Now they are engaged as unskilled laborers, agricultural activities, drivers, and watchmen.

How can you pray? “Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?” (Isaiah 58:7). Pray that in their poverty, the Banjara would turn in sincere faith to Jesus. Pray for workers who will share the Good News with these people.

What can you do? Form a team which will come to Western UP or Delhi and provide community development assistance to the poor, with no strings attached.

6. Ghosi Muslim (PEID#41507) - India, population 370,344

The Ghosi is a Muslim community living in the heart of Delhi, specifically on the borders of the old city of Delhi and where the New Delhi area begins. The Ghosi are milkmen who may have Gujar roots and in Delhi are sometimes original settlers as well as immigrants from neighboring areas. Traditionally, the Ghosi tend cows and buffaloes, whose milk they sell. Their cattle graze in open pastures, or wherever it is available. They also make and sell butter and curd.

How can you pray? “He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree” (Genesis 18:8). Pray for workers to go to the Ghosi and tell them the Good News of Christ. Pray for their businesses to prosper under God’s blessing, their children to receive education, and for economic uplifting in society.

What can you do? Recruit dairy farmers and veterinarians to come and provide medical care to Ghosi cattle and buffalo. Train the Ghosi to provide basic veterinary medical care using available material. Using local translators, share stories from the Bible about Jesus and His love for all people.

7. Darji (Urdu) (PEID#47935) - India, population in Uttar Pradesh 1,083,921

The Darji are a Muslim and Hindu people spread throughout western, central, southern and northern India. Their primary language in the North is Urdu/Hindi. There are no known believers among this group, and therefore the Darji could be considered among the least reached peoples on the earth.

How can you pray? "...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). Pray that God will raise up laborers to go to the Darji and share the Good News. Pray that this people may be located and information necessary to reach them may be learned.

What can you do? Pray now for open doors into this group. Form a prayer and research team to come to Uttar Pradesh and search for this people and prayer walk among their village areas for an ingathering of souls. Claim the promise in Genesis 12:3 that every family on earth, including the Darji, will be blessed in the Christ. For more information on how to do this, contact the prayer coordinator for the Central UP cluster.

8. Gujjar Awadhi (PEID#47948) - India, population 1,200,000

Among the Gujjar people, both Muslims and Hindus are represented. The Gujjar live throughout North and Western India. They are a simple, inoffensive people, with a hospitable nature. Often they are belittled by the higher castes and labeled as thieves and vagrants. The Muslim community lives in poverty, illiteracy and social oppression. The Muslim Gujjar are nomads, wandering about from place to place. The Hindu Gujjar are settled farmers who live in the same place all year. A small number of Gujjar are believers in Christ.

How can you pray? Pray simply for the salvation of the Gujjar Awadhi and for workers to go to them and tell the Good News.

What can you do? Organize a team and come spend a week with Gujjar peoples, sponsoring a literacy class. As local believers teach children out to read in Hindi, you can share simple stories from the Bible which will be translated for the children.

9. Arakh (PEID#41401) – India, population 869,640

Their name Aarakh indicates that they were front liners in the army. They consider themselves part of the warrior caste; however, this is not universally recognized by other caste Hindus. One mythological tradition tells of an ancient king, who sent some warriors to fight in one of his wars, but instead of going to battle, they hid themselves in a field of lentils. The lentil was known as arhar. Subsequently, this people were derogatorily labeled the Aarakh, a word with similar pronunciation to the lentil field in which they sought refuge. Whatever their true heritage, today the Aarakh are divided into two main sub-groups: Suryavanshi and Moothi. The Moothi Aarakh is smaller in number and usually train and care for horses. The Suryavanshi Aarakh often take the title Singh (a title belonging to the warrior/kingly caste) and look down upon the Moothi. But as noted above, other caste Hindus place this entire people in the lowest caste of society. Whatever their true station in Indian culture, they are a people loved and known by God and in need of His salvation.

How can you pray? Pray that the Arakh would find their true name and identity in Jesus Christ, and for laborers to go to them and tell the Good News.

What can you do? Organize a prayer walk for the Arakh people and spend a week in the towns, cities or villages where the Arakh are found, praying for God's Kingdom to come to this people. Ask the prayer coordinator of the West Himalayan Basin cluster for details about how you can do this.