

South Asian Peoples

The greatest concentration of lostness on Earth.

East Nepal, Bhutan & East India

From the highest Himalayas to the plains of Northern India, the geography of the East Himalayas offers tremendous variety. The peoples of the East Himalayan Basin Cluster change with the altitude. This melting pot of immigrants with Tibetan ancestry spread throughout the cluster and speak hundreds of distinct languages. Travelers from the Western flood plain of the Ganga (or Ganges) River brought the Vedas, or Hindu religious teachings, with them. The foundation of Hinduism later transformed into Buddhism, while the 12th Century Moghul Empire brought Islam. Today, these three dominant religions remain in tension. This cluster is home to the first mosque in India, which is in modern-day Bihar, and a Nepali prince called Gautama Buddha who founded Buddhism.



Make an Impact

God is on the move! Perhaps preserved by the enemy as a stronghold against the Great Commission, these Hindu and Buddhist holy lands are experiencing a great awakening to the love of Christ. The creation that has been worshiped for centuries is now bowing down before the one, true God. Opportunities abound to be involved in supporting laborers as they break down the gates of one of the enemies' last strongholds. Volunteer teams can empower and equip local workers, train believers to do the works of ministry in the context of church and facilitate adoptions of UUPGs and more unreached districts for prayer and engagement.



East Himalayan Basin Cluster at a Glance

Countries & Indian States	Eastern Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Bihar, E. Uttar Pradesh, Northern West Bengal	Population	160,000,000
Language	Hundreds... Hindi, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Maithali, Nepali, Magahi, and Angika are all spoken by over 15 million people.	UUPGs	Gareri, Nagar, Kumhali, Ganguata, Sainthwar, Markande, Pargha, Gurtu, Drukpa, Dakpa, Halwai, Kunjra, Shaikh (Maithali), Shaikh (Magahi), Bhar, Kalwar, Nai (Bhojpuri), Nai (Maithili), Gohrhi
Religion	Hindu 78%, Muslim 15%, Tribal 4%, Buddhist 2%, Christian <0.5%	Partnership Opportunities	Equipping local workers, training believers and facilitating adoptions of UUPGs
Climate	Depends on elevation	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
SouthAsianPeoples.imb.org | email: SouthAsianPeoples@imb.org | www.imb.org



Top 9 UUPGs - Unreached Unengaged People Group

(6 September 2011)

1. **Kalwar (PEID#41258) – India, population 3,232,405**

Kalwar peoples are traditionally known for the manufacture, distilling and sale of liquor, however today they may be found in business, trade, agriculture and a wide range of occupations. They worship Hindu gods and goddesses and perhaps show more reverence to the goddess Lakshmi (goddess of wealth and prosperity) and the god Shiva (the “destroyer”).

How can you pray? The Kalwar observe animal sacrifices and pilgrimages to their spiritual sites. Please pray that the Kalwar people will come to know Jesus as the ultimate Sacrifice and live with hope rather than in fear.

2. **Kahar (Magahi) (PEID#48060) – India, population 2,602,992**

The Kahar are an ancient Hindu community in India predominately found in the northern parts. Traditionally the Kahar were those who brought water from the well to guests at royal feasts, although today they may be found doing a variety of different tasks, including small-scale business, wage labor, and pulling rickshaws.

How can you pray? Ask the Father to bring someone to the Kahar people who will share Living Water with them.

3. **Lohar (Magahi) (PEID#47894) – India, population 1,811,442**

The Lohar, numbering close to two million, follow the Hindu religion. Many Lohar worship their ancestors and objects in nature such as the moon, sun, and hills. In addition to working as blacksmiths, the Lohar sharpen agricultural tools used in harvesting crops.

How can you pray? Pray for workers to be sent with effective tools to reap a harvest among the Lohar.

4. **Bharbhunja (PEID#41336) – India, population 1,383,659**

The Bharbhunja are located in north and central India, as well as in Pakistan. There are Muslim, Hindu and Sikh Bharbhunja, but they do not intermarry. Their name comes from the Hindi words which mean “to parch grain,” which is still one of the jobs they do. They also may be found running small businesses and working as day laborers.

How can you pray? The Bharbhunja Hindus will often make pilgrimages to their holy sites. Ask the Lord to reveal himself to the Bharbhunja as they seek spiritual things on these pilgrimages.

5. **Gangauta (PEID#41388) – India, population 972,885**

The Gangauta work as daily workers or agricultural laborers, and also in fishing. They follow the Hindu religion and believe they were created by the goddess Ganga.

How can you pray? Pray that the Gangauta would come to know their true Creator, choose to follow Him, and share the Truth with those around them.

6. Nai (Bhojpuri) (PEID#46280) – India, population 889,084

The Nai are the barbers of India. As such, they have an integral part in society and play a important role in the religious ceremony of a child's first haircut, which is believed to remove impurities.

How can you pray? Pray that the Nai would come to Jesus and share with those they meet about the One who cleanses sin.

7. Kunjra (PEID#41349) – India, population 838,665

The Kunjra do not normally own land, however some of them have purchased land so that they can grow their own crops. Typically, the Kunjra sell fruits and vegetables. They are followers of Islam and do not know Jesus the Messiah.

How can you pray? Ask that the Word would take root in the hearts of the Kunjra and bear "fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10b).

8. Shaikh (Maithili) (PEID#46197) – India, population 789,575

Shaikh Maithili live in India's Bihar state along with the Kunjra and Mahar peoples. The Kunjra live in the far eastern part of the state, and the Maithili Shaikh live in the north, not far from the India/Nepal border. They may be found working in business or agriculture and are followers of Islam.

How can you pray? Please pray that harvesters will rise to the task of sharing the Gospel in the heart language of Maithali among the Shaikh. Pray that the Spirit would reveal, through visions and dreams, Christ as the Messiah.

9. Gareri (PEID#41277) – India, population 760,131

The Gareri raise sheep and are known for the blankets they weave. They are Hindus, which means that they worship millions of gods rather than the One True God.

How can you pray? Pray for the Gareri to come to know the Good Shepherd.