

Religion Data of Census 2011: X

Declining share of Jains in the population of India

Like the Sikhs, Jains have registered rather low growth during 2001-11; their decadal growth rate of 5.37 percent is even lower than that of Sikhs who have grown at a relatively robust 8.42 percent. Unlike the Sikhs, however, the lower growth of Jains seems understandable in view of their very high urban ratios and very high levels of both male and female literacy. What is difficult to understand in their case are the sudden and sharp changes in their growth since 1981; their rate of growth declined sharply to just 5.0 percent in 1981-91, it rose equally sharply to 26.0 percent in 1991-2001 and has declined again to 5.37 percent in 2001-11. These sharp changes are probably related to other than demographic causes. But, Jains seem to have entered a phase of low growth after 1981.

Jains are a sub-group within the Hindu trading Castes; their low growth raises the important question whether the trading Castes as a whole have begun to grow at a much lower level than others. Could it be happening with other literate Castes like the Brahmins, etc., also? The Census does not collect the data to answer such questions.

Number and Share of Jains, 1951-2011

Total number of Jains counted in 2011 is 44.5 lakhs; in 1951, there were 16 lakhs of them in India. In the Table here, we have compiled the number of Jains as counted in the seven decennial Censuses since 1951. Up to 1981, the Jains were growing somewhat faster than the Hindus. In 1981-91, however, their rate of growth suddenly declined

Number and Growth of Jains (counted), 1951-2011

Census Year	Persons in '000s	Percent Share	Growth Jains %	Growth Hindus %
1951	1,618	0.45	—	—
1961	2,027	0.46	25.28	20.73
1971	2,605	0.48	28.52	23.68
1981	3,193	0.47	22.57	21.27
1991	3,353	0.40	5.01	25.09
2001	4,225	0.41	26.02	20.35
2011	4,452	0.37	5.37	16.76

far below Hindus. In that decade, Jains grew by only 5.01 percent. In the following decade, their rate of growth once again rose to 26.02 percent. Now, in 2001-11, they have registered a growth of 5.37 percent, which is similar to their growth in 1981-91.

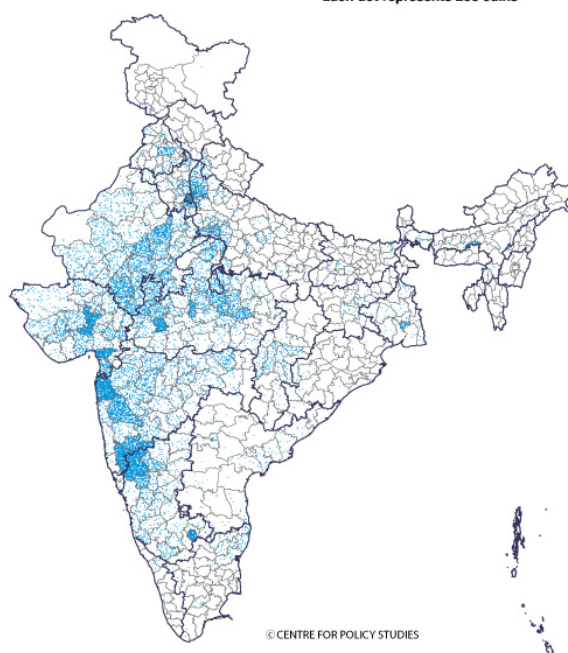
The Census was not conducted in Assam in 1981 and J&K in 1991. If we correct for this the rate of growth of Hindus rises slowly up to 1981 and smoothly declines after that, as we have shown in our eighth post on this issue. If we apply the same correction to Jains, their growth of 1971-81 becomes somewhat bigger and that of 1981-1991 somewhat smaller, thus making the changes in their growth even more abrupt. This sudden decline in the growth rate of Jains in 1981-1991, sharp rise in 1991-2001 and sharp decline again in 2001-11, is difficult to understand or explain. But, they certainly seem to have entered a phase of decline after 1981. In the 3 decades since 1981, the proportion of Jains in the population of India has declined by more than 20 percent, from 0.47 percent in 1981 to 0.37 percent in 2011.

Distribution of Jains across India

To understand the rise and decline in the growth of Jains during the last two decades, it is instructive to begin by looking at the distribution of Jains across the country. In the Table below, we have compiled the number, proportion and growth rates of Jains in 1991, 2001 and 2011 for all the States where there is a significant population of Jains. The 16 States listed here account for all but about 40 thousand Jains in the country. We also show the district-wise numbers of Jains in 2011 in Map X-A.

	Number of Jains			Percentage Share			Growth Rate %	
	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011	1991-2001	2001-2011
INDIA	33,52,706	42,25,053	44,51,753	0.40	0.41	0.37	26.02	5.37
Maharashtra	9,65,840	13,01,843	14,00,349	1.22	1.34	1.25	34.79	7.57
Rajasthan	5,62,806	6,50,493	6,22,023	1.28	1.15	0.91	15.58	-4.38
Gujarat	4,91,331	5,25,305	5,79,654	1.19	1.04	0.96	6.91	10.35
Madhya P	4,47,111	5,45,446	5,67,028	0.92	0.90	0.78	21.99	3.96
Chhattisgarh	43,213	56,103	61,510	0.25	0.27	0.24	29.83	9.64
Karnataka	3,26,114	4,12,659	4,40,280	0.73	0.78	0.72	26.54	6.69
NCT of Delhi	94,672	1,55,122	1,66,231	1.00	1.12	0.99	63.85	7.16
Haryana	35,296	57,167	52,613	0.21	0.27	0.21	61.96	-7.97
Punjab	20,763	39,276	45,040	0.10	0.16	0.16	89.16	14.68
Uttar Pradesh	1,70,786	2,07,111	2,13,267	0.13	0.12	0.11	21.27	2.97
Tamil Nadu	66,900	83,359	89,265	0.12	0.13	0.12	24.60	7.09
West Bengal	34,355	55,223	60,141	0.05	0.07	0.07	60.74	8.91
Andhra P	26,564	41,846	53,849	0.03	0.05	0.06	57.53	28.68
Assam	—	23,957	25,949	—	0.09	0.08	—	8.31
Bihar	11,332	16,085	18,914	0.02	0.02	0.02	41.94	17.59
Jharkhand	11,717	16,301	14,974	0.05	0.06	0.05	39.12	-8.14

MAP X-A: JAINS IN INDIA
Each dot represents 200 Jains



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Jains are concentrated in the western India

Jains in India are particularly concentrated in the western India. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka account for about 30.5 lakhs out of the total 44.5 lakh Jains counted in 2011. Within Karnataka, a majority of the Jains are in the western districts; of 4.40 lakh Jains in the State, 1.78 lakh are in Belgaum district and another 60 thousand in the adjoining Bagalkot and Dharwar districts. Apart from these northwestern districts, there is a concentration of Jains in Bangalore.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh form another concentration

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh together accommodate another 6.28 lakh Jains. In Chhattisgarh, more than half the Jains are in Durg and Raipur. In Madhya Pradesh, they are distributed all across the State, but their presence is particularly high in the western Malwa districts of Ashoknagar, Guna, Neemuch, Mandsaur, Ratlam, Ujjain, Shajapur, Indore and Jhabua; in Sagar, Damoh and Tikamgarh of Bundelkhand; and in Bhind and Gwalior.

Jains have a significant presence in Delhi and adjoining States

Jains form about 1 percent of the population of Delhi and they have a share of about 0.2 percent in Haryana and Punjab and about 0.1 percent in Uttar Pradesh. These four States together accommodate about 4.7 lakh Jains. In Uttar Pradesh, Jains are particularly concentrated in the western districts adjoining Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. There are also more than 9 thousand Jains in Uttarakhand; most of them are located in Dehradun and Hardwar districts.

Jains in other States

Outside these western, central and northern States, Jains have a remarkable presence only in Tamil Nadu, where they form 0.12 percent of the population. There are also significant numbers of Jains in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana), Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. Map X-A shows pockets of Jain concentration in all these States.

Growth rates of Jains in different States

As seen in Table above, the all India pattern of Jains recording a spurt in growth in 1991-2001 is repeated in almost every State except Gujarat. The spurt was particularly sharp in the northern States of Delhi, Haryana and Punjab. In Punjab, Jains have grown faster

Growth Rate of Jains, 1961-2011

	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-01	2001-11
INDIA	28.52	22.57	5.01	26.02	5.37
Maharashtra	44.88	33.50	2.82	34.79	7.57
Rajasthan	25.43	21.57	-9.85	15.58	-4.38
Gujarat	10.21	3.59	5.04	6.91	10.35
Madhya P	39.24	28.90	10.20	22.68	4.49
Karnataka	25.52	36.15	9.44	26.54	6.69
Haryana	20.62	13.82	-0.52	61.96	-7.97
Delhi	70.68	46.33	28.08	63.85	7.16

than the total population in 2001-11 also. In the Table here we have compiled growth rates of Jains since 1961-71 for all States with a significant Jain population and presence. In all of these States, except Gujarat, the decadal growth of Jains declined substantially in 1981-91. This was followed by a very significant rise in the growth rate during the next decade of 1991-2001. And then in 2001-11, there is an equally sharp decline, with the growth rates turning negative in Haryana and Rajasthan. In

both these States, the growth rate of Jains was negative even in 1981-91; in Haryana, that negative growth was followed by extraordinary growth of 62 percent in the next decade.

In Gujarat, however, the growth rate of Jains declined from the rather low 10.2 percent in 1961-71 to just 3.6 percent in 1971-81; since then, it has been slowly rising. During 2001-11, Jains in Gujarat have grown by 10.4 percent, but that is also far below the growth of Hindus at 18.6 percent.

The sudden rise of growth in most States, except Gujarat, in 1991-2001, could be a demographic quirk, but it is more likely to be the result of some campaign to get more persons counted as Jains. Growth rates are unlikely to rise so sharply based on only demographic parameters. Similarly, the rather low growth of 1981-91 may also be partly related to other than demographic causes. But overall indications are that the Jain community has settled into a low growth period, which has set in from 1981-91.

Jains have a relatively high gender ratio

The growth rate of Jains has declined even though their gender ratio is somewhat higher than the Hindus and of the total population. As seen in the Table here, at the all India average level, Jains have 954 females per thousand males compared to 939 among Hindus. The ratio for Jains is higher than Hindus in all States where there is a significant Jain presence, except Chhattisgarh and Karnataka. The gap between the gender ratios for Jains and Hindus is among the highest in Gujarat, where their growth has also been the high. But the gap between is fairly high in Maharashtra and Delhi also, where their growth has been moderate, though higher than their national average. The growth rates thus do not seem to have any direct relationship with the gender ratios. This is also not expected; demographic phenomena are complex and cannot be determined by any single parameter.

Gender Ratios of Jains and Hindus, 2011

	Total	Hindus	Jains
INDIA	943	939	954
Maharashtra	929	928	964
Rajasthan	928	926	958
Gujarat	919	916	966
Madhya P	931	929	942
Chhattisgarh	991	990	947
Karnataka	973	972	952
Punjab	895	879	935
Haryana	879	876	895
Delhi	868	865	942
Uttar P	912	907	937
Tamilnadu	996	992	957
West Bengal	950	948	958

Various socio-economic parameters for Jains and Hindus

Jains have high female literacy

From the community-wise data on literacy and other socio-economic and demographic parameters that has been released by the Census of India last week, it seems that the Jains have very high literacy in general and particularly high literacy among women. In the Table below we have compiled data for the literacy, child ratio and work participations rates of men and women for Jains and Hindus for both 2001 and 2011. Before 2001, the Census was not publishing community-wise data on these parameters.

From the Table, it is clear that literacy among Jains is much higher than Hindus, though the gap has become somewhat narrower in 2011. The gap between the female literacy

Literary, Child Ratio, WPR of Hindus and Jains: INDIA 2011								
Religion	Lit	Lit-M	Lit-F	0-6%	WPR	WPR-M	WPR-F	
Hindu	73.27	81.70	64.34	13.20	41.04	53.91	27.35	
Jain	94.88	96.78	92.91	8.91	35.53	57.71	12.27	
INDIA 2001								
Hindu	65.09	76.16	53.21	15.63	40.36	52.37	27.45	
Jain	94.08	97.41	90.58	10.62	32.09	55.19	9.20	

Lit: Literary Ratio; Lit-M: Male Literacy Ratio; Lit-F: Female Literacy Ratio; 0-6%: Percentage of population in 0-6 year age group; WPR: Work Participation Rate; WPR-M: Male WPR; WPR-F: Female WPR

rates of Jains and Hindus is even wider; 92.9 percent of Jain women above the age of 6 years are literate; the ratio is 64.3 percent for Hindus. In 2001, the female literacy ratios for the two communities were 90.6 and 53.2 percent, respectively.

Female literacy among Jains is high almost everywhere. In all major States of India, except Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, female literacy among Jains is above 90 percent; in these three States, it is above 80 percent.

Jains have low number of children in the 0-6 age group

Jains have much lower number of children per hundred of the population than Hindus. The ratio is 8.9 for Jains and 13.2 for Hindus. Thus, per hundred of the population, Jains have 4.3 fewer children. The gap was even wider in 2001. Such low number of children, of course, reflects in the lower growth rates of the population. This is another indicator to show that the spurt in the growth of Jains in 1991-2001 was probably abnormal and was not related to the usual demographic parameters.

The data for Jains seems to strongly indicate that higher literacy among women translates into lower number of children. We have seen this phenomenon among Sikhs also, though not as strongly as among the Jains. But as we have said earlier, female literacy alone does not determine the fertility of a population.

And work participation rate of Jain women is low

Along with high female literacy and low number of children in the population, Jains also have very low rates of work participation for women. In 2001, only 9.2 percent of Jain women were working compared to 27.5 percent of Hindu women; in 2011, work participation rate of Jain women has somewhat improved to reach 12.3 percent, while the rate for Hindu women has remained nearly unchanged.

Jains are highly urban

Another significant feature of the Jain community is their very high level of urbanisation. Of 44.5 lakh Jains counted in 2011, as many as 35.5 lakhs are urban. This amounts to an urban ratio of 79.7 percent, compared to 29.2 percent of Hindus and 31.1 percent for the total population. The urban ratio of Jains is high in all major States. The rural Jains are also often located in larger locations that act as trading centres for the area around them.

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The higher female literacy among Jains is partly related to their higher level of urbanisation. In general, urban female literacy in India is much higher than the rural; in 2011, 79 percent of the urban women of age above 6 years are literate compared to only 58 percent of the rural women.

The lower number of children among Jains may also be partly related to their higher level of urbanisation. On the average, there are 11.45 children per 100 of population in the urban areas compared to 14.55 in the rural areas. But the number of children among Jains at 8.91 per hundred is much lower than the national urban average also. Incidentally, urban Jains have even fewer children; the ratio for them is only 8.64 per 100 of the urban population.

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