As per 2001 Census, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of the State of Orissa is 8,145,081. This constitutes 22.1 percent of the total population of the State and 9.7 per cent of the total tribal population of the country. The state holds 3rd and 11th rank among the States/UTs in terms of ST population and the proportion of ST population to total population of the State respectively. The decennial growth of ST population has been 15.8 per cent, which is 0.5 per cent lower than the growth of population (16.3 percent). The State has a total of sixty two (62) Scheduled Tribes, and all have been enumerated at 2001 census.

2. The Scheduled Tribe population in the State is overwhelmingly rural, with 94.5 per cent residing in villages. District wise distribution of ST population shows that Malkangiri district has the highest proportion of STs (57.4 per cent) followed by Mayurbhanj (56.6 per cent), Rayagada (55.8 per cent) and Nabarangapur (55 per cent). Puri district has the lowest by proportion of STs (0.3 per cent).

Population : Size and Distribution

3. Out of sixty two (62) STs, Khond is the most populous tribe with a population of 1,395,643 constituting 17.1 percent of the total ST population. Gond is the second largest tribe, having a number of 782,104. (Having 9.6 per cent share in the total ST population.) Six other tribes namely, Santal, Kolha, Munda, Saora, Shabar and Bhottada along with Khond and Gond constitute 64.2 per cent of the total ST population of the State. Bhumij, Bhuiya, Oraon, Paroja and Kisan having a population ranging from 248,144 to 321,592. Together, they form 18.1 per cent. Five STs, namely, Bhumia, Binjhal, Koya etc. having population in the range of 103,537 to 196,846 constitute 9 percent of total ST population. Remaining forty four (44) tribes along with the generic tribes constitute the residual 8.8 per cent of total ST population of the State. Five tribes namely Chenchu, Mankidi, Desua Bhumij, Ghara, Tharua are very small groups having less than 500 population.

4. District wise distribution of the individual ST shows that Khond have the highest proportion (93.3 per cent) in Kandhamal district, followed by Nayagarh (76.9 per cent), Baudh (76.4 per cent), and Rayagada (71.1 per cent) districts. Gond have the highest concentration in Nabarangapur district followed by Nuapada district whereas Santal and Kolha are primarily concentrated in Mayurbhanj district. Other four STs, Munda, Saora, Shabar and Bhottada are
primarily concentrated in Sundargarh, Bargarh, Gajapati and Nabarangapur districts respectively.

**Sex Ratio**

5. The overall sex ratio of the ST population in Orissa is 1003. It shows the preponderance of females and is higher than the national average (978) for all STs.

6. At individual tribe level, except Santal, all the major tribes of the state have over all sex ratio higher than that of the national average. Females outnumber the males among Khond, Shabar, Saora and Gond tribes.

7. The sex ratio among the STs, in the age group 0-6 years (979) is slightly higher than that of all STs at the national level. Except Santal, Saora and Kolha, the five major tribes have higher child sex ratio than that of the national average.

**Literacy and Educational Level**

8. The overall literacy rate of the STs has increased from 22.3 per cent in 1991 to 37.4 percent in 2001. Despite this improvement, the literacy rate among the tribals is considerably below the national average (47.1 per cent). Male literacy has increased from 34.4 per cent to 51.5 per cent while female literacy has gone up from 10.2 per cent in 1991 to 23.4 per cent during 1991-2001.

9. Among the numerically major tribes, Gond have the highest percentage of literates (47 per cent) followed by Saora, Santal, Munda, Shabar (35.4 per cent) etc. Gond have also registered the highest female literacy. Bhottada have the lowest percentage of female literates, preceded by Kolha and Khond.
10. Among tribal literates, 44.7 per cent are either without any educational level or have attained education below primary level. The proportion of literates who have attained education up to primary and middle levels constitute 28.7 per cent and 13.7 per cent respectively. Literates, who are educated up to matric/secondary/higher secondary etc., have a share of 11 per cent only. Graduates and above are 1.5 per cent while non-technical & technical diploma holders constitute less than half per cent (0.4 per cent).

11. Among numerically larger group Santal have the highest proportion of matriculates followed by Munda and Kolha.

12. The data on the education levels attained by all STs show that the drop-out rate is high after primary level as the percentage of middle level literates is half that of the primary level. It declines sharply from the higher secondary level onwards, as the percentage of students after matriculation drops down to nearly one third in Higher Secondary or Intermediate level.

13. Out of total 21.4 lakh tribal children in the age group 5-14 years, only 9.8 lakh attend school constituting 45.8 per cent. Alarming, as many as 11.6 lakh children in the corresponding age group do not go to school. Among the major tribes, Gond and Saora have more than half of the total children in the corresponding age group attend school; this proportion is above 40 per cent among Khond, Munda, Shabar and Santal.

14. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the ST population is 49 per cent, which is equal to that of all STs at the national level (49.1 per cent). There has been a slight decline of 0.4 per cent in the WPR of the tribes during 1991-2001. While there has been a decline in male WPR from 58.9 to 54.8 per cent, female WPR (43.2 per cent) has increased by 3.4 per cent during 1991-2001. Among the total workers, 57.4 per cent are main workers and this proportion is much below the national average recorded for all STs (68.9 per cent).

15. Among the major tribal groups, Khond, Gond, Shabar, Saora and Bhottada have higher WPR than that of the State as well as national average for all STs.

16. ‘Agricultural Labourers’ constitute the highest proportion (46.9 per cent) among the total workers. This figure is higher than that of the national average of 36.9 per cent. ‘Cultivators’ account for 33.3 per cent which is lower than that of all STs at the national level (44.7 per cent). ‘Other Workers’ constitute 15 per cent. This proportion is at par with that of the national average (16.3 per cent) whereas workers engaged in ‘Household Industry’ (HHI) constitute 4.8 per cent, which is 2.7 per cent higher than that of all STs at the national level.

17. Among the major tribes, Bhottada, Shabar and Saora have more than half of the total workers are ‘Agricultural Labourers’. Among the major groups, both Khond and Gond tribes have the highest share of ‘Cultivators’, whereas Munda have the highest proportion of ‘Other Workers’. In the category of HHI, Santal holds the top position.
18. The Census 2001 data on marital status show that ‘never married’ persons with a proportion of 50.9 per cent exceeds the ‘married’ persons (43.2 per cent). ‘Widowed’ persons constitute 5.5 per cent while half per cent are ‘divorced and separated’.

19. Marriages of girls and boys below the legal age of 18 years and 21 years respectively are rare among the tribes of Orissa. The proportion of married girls below 18 years (1.6 per cent) and married boys below 21 years (1.9 per cent) are below the corresponding figures recorded by all STs at the national level (2.1 per cent and 2.8 percent respectively).

20. The mean number of children ever born per ever married ST woman (age-group 45 – 49 yrs.) is 4 which is equal to STs at national level (4).

**Religion**

21. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the State (94.4 per cent). As many as 88.2 per cent STs are Hindus. Christian tribal constitute 7.4 per cent. The STs professing ‘Other Religions and Persuasions’ account for 4.2 per cent. A negligible 0.2 per cent (13,782) of tribal are Muslims. The tribes who follow Sikhism (251), Buddhism (175) and Jainism (196) are in negligible number.

*Source: Office of the Registrar General, India, Census, 2001*
Orissa

Data Highlights: The Scheduled Castes

1. The Scheduled Caste (SC) population of the State of Orissa, as per the 2001 census, is 6,082,063. This constitutes 16.5% of the total population of the State. The State holds the 11th rank and 12th rank among all the States and UTs in terms of the SC population and the proportion of SC population to the total population of the State respectively. The decennial growth of SC population has been 18.6% per cent, which is 2.3 per cent higher than the overall growth of the total population (16.3% per cent). The State has a total of ninety-three (93) Scheduled Castes, but ninety-one (91) have returned their population at 2001 census.

2. The Scheduled Castes are predominantly rural with 88.4% per cent residing in villages. Among the districts, the SCs have the highest concentration in Sonapur district with a share of 23.6 per cent to the total population, followed by Jajapur (23 per cent) and Baudh (21.9 per cent) districts. Gajapati district has the lowest proportion of the SC population (7.5 per cent).

Population - Size and Distribution

3. Out of ninety-three (93) SCs, Pan is the most populous caste having a number of 1,078,523 constituting 17.7 per cent of the total SC population. Dewar is the second largest SC having a number of 648,937. Five other SCs in the descending order are Dom, Dhoba, Ganda, Kandra and Bauri. Among with Pan and Dewar, the seven SCs constitute 72.6 per cent of the total SC population. Ghasi, Namasudra, Chamar, Gokha and Haddi have a population ranging from 105,722 to 209,701. Together, they form 13 per cent. Six SCs, namely Tiar, Patial, Tanla etc. having population ranging from 49,675 to 98,885 constitute another 6.6 per cent of the total SC population.

Remaining seventy three (73) SCs along with generic castes constitute the residual 7.9 per cent of total SC population of the State. As many as thirty two (32) SCs have population below 1000. Of them, eight castes namely Pamidi, Musahar, Godagali etc. are very small having population less than 100.

4. District wise distribution of the individual SC population shows that Pan have the maximum population in Jajapur district followed by Kendujhar and Dhenkanal but they constitute the highest proportion (77.9 per cent) of the total SC population in Kandhamal district.

Dewar have the highest population in Cuttack followed by Ganjam and Khorda.
Other five major groups Dom, Dhoba, Ganda, Kandra and Bauri are primarily concentrated in Kalahandi, Ganjam, Balangir, Kendrapara and Ganjam districts respectively.

**Sex Ratio**

5. The overall sex ratio of the SC population in Orissa is 979 females per 1000 males which is higher than the national average of 936 for the total SC population.

6. At individual level, seven major castes have registered the overall sex ratio higher than the national average with Dom having a preponderance of females, their sex ratio being 1007 (Statement-1).

7. The sex ratio among SCs, in the age group 0-6 years (958) is higher than that of the SCs at the national level. Among the larger groups, Dom have the highest (972) and Dewar the lowest (943) child sex ratio. All of the major castes have returned child sex ratio higher than that of the national average.

**Literacy and Educational Level**

8. The overall literacy rate of the SCs is 55.5 per cent at 2001 census, showing an improvement from that (36.8 per cent) recorded at 1991 census. This figure is marginally higher than the national average of 54.7 per cent aggregated for all SCs. Male literacy has increased from 52.4 per cent to 70.5 per cent while female literacy has among the numerically larger castes, Dewar and Dhoba have more than 50 per cent female literacy followed by Kandra (46.5 per cent). Dom have shown gone up from 20.7 per cent to 40.3 per cent during the lowest female literacy (24.9 per cent).

9. Among SC literates, 40.1 per cent are either without any educational level or have attained education below primary level. The proportion of literates who have attained education up to primary and middle levels constitute 30.1 per cent and 14.4 per cent respectively.

Literates who are educated up to matric / higher secondary constitute 12.6 per cent only. This implies that every 8th SC literate is matriculate. Graduates & above are 2.3 per cent while non-technical & technical diploma holders constitute less than half per cent (0.4 per cent) only.

10. Among numerically larger groups, Dhoba have the highest proportion of matriculates, followed by Dewar and Kandra etc. Bauri have the lowest proportion of matriculates.

11. The data on the education levels attained by all SCs show that the drop-out rate is high after middle level as the percentage of middle level literate is almost half of the primary level literates.
and declines sharply from the higher secondary level onwards. Similar trend has been shown by the major SCs in the attainment of levels of education.

12. Out of the total 14.9 lakh SC children in the age group 5 -14 years, only 9.2 lakh children attend school, constituting 61.3 per cent. As many as 5.8 lakh children in the corresponding age group do not go to school. Among the major SCs, Dhoabo have the highest proportion of school-going children (70.2 per cent); this proportion is above 60 per cent among Dewar, Ganda, Kandra and Pan.

**Work Participation Rate (WPR)**

13. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of the SC population is 39.3 per cent which is marginally lower than that of total SCs at the national level (40.4 per cent). This figure is same as that recorded at the 1991 census. While there has been an increase in female WPR from 23.4 per cent to 26.2 per cent, male WPR (52.2 per cent) has declined by 2.5 per cent during 1991-2001.

Among the total workers, 64.8 per cent are main workers which is below the national average recorded for all SCs (73 per cent).

14. At the level of the individual caste, Dom, Ganda, and Bauri have registered WPR higher than that of the State as well as national averages.

**Category of Workers**

15. ‘Agricultural Labourers’ constitute the highest proportion (45.7 per cent) among all SCs workers, which is almost equal to that of the national average (45.6 per cent). Persons working as ‘Other Workers’ constitute 30.2 per cent which is approximately the same if compared to the national average of 30.5 per cent. ‘Cultivators’ account for 18.2 per cent which is at par with the national average of 20 per cent whereas workers engaged
in Household Industry (HHI) constitute 6 per cent and this figure is significantly higher than that of all SCs at the national level (3.9 per cent).

16. Among the major castes, Dhoba, Dewar, Kandra and Dom have every 5th worker, a cultivator. ‘Agricultural Labourers’ constitute 61 per cent of the total workers of Bauri, followed by Pan, Ganda, Kandra who have more than half of the total workers are ‘Agricultural Labourers’.

    Dewar have the highest proportion of ‘Other Workers’ followed by Dhoba (39.9 per cent) and Kandra (26.4 per cent).

**Marital Status**

17. The data show that approximately half of the SC population is ‘never married’ (49.8 per cent) whereas ‘married’ persons constitute 45.1 per cent. ‘Widowed’ persons form 4.6 per cent while a negligible percent (0.4 per cent) are ‘divorced and separated’.

18. The marriages of girls and boys below the stipulated age, for each are not practised in Orissa. Married girls below 18 years and married boys below 21 years constitute 1.5 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively. These proportion are significantly lower than those recorded for all SCs at the national level (2.8 per cent and 3.1 per cent respectively).

19. The mean number of children ever born per ever married SC woman (45 – 49 years) is 4 which is equal to the SCs at national level (4).

**Religion**

20. Hinduism is the predominant religion of the State (94.4 per cent). Nearly cent per cent (99.9 percent) Scheduled Castes are Hindus. Negligible numbers of the SCs are Sikhs (172) and Buddhists (247).