

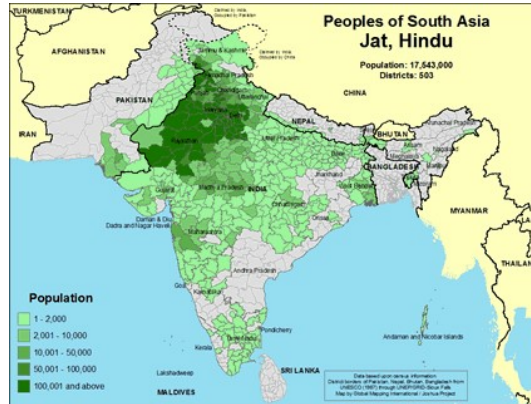
50 Largest UNREACHED People Groups

Transform-World: Christ's Missional Challenge - The Last and the Least



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Jat, Hindu of India



People Name	Jat, Hindu
Country	India
10/40 Window	Yes
Population	17,234,000
World Population	17,307,000
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Bible	Complete
Online Audio NT	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Audio Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	Less than 2 %
Status	Unreached
Progress Level	1.2

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

BACKGROUND

The Jats are not a homogeneous ethnic group living in a particular area and speaking a single language. Rather, they are a people scattered around the world among several ethnic groups, yet retain their own identity. This distinction is often based on occupation and heritage.

There are different opinions as to the origin of the Jats, but most seem to recognize them to be of Indo-Aryan descent. There is also a theory suggesting that they may be the predecessors of Gypsies. Whatever their origin, in the eighteenth century, the Jats became a force that could not be ignored.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Overall, the Jats have a very good self image. "Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever," is a well known Jat proverb. They are brave, hardworking people who possess both the desire and ability to rule. It has been said that no Jat wants to be ruled. Rather, he desires to have power over a group, if not over an area.

Known for their military prowess, many Jats served as fighters in the Persian army and later were recruited into the British-India army during World War I. Earlier, a Jat who did not have a horse was looked down upon by his peers. Today, the Jats are well read, and some occupy high positions in academic and technical arenas.

Conservative by nature, the Jats rarely marry people from other ethnic groups. Great pride is

placed in their ancestry. In fact, all the Jats in a particular village consider themselves to be the descendants of the man whom they believe founded it by the power of the sword. Physically, the Jats are taller and heavier than most of their neighbors. Because of their larger build, their reputation for violence, and the fact that they control much of the land and village income, they are generally feared.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Most Jats are either Muslims, Hindus, or Sikhs. (Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that combines elements of Hinduism and Islam.) The Jats living in Pakistan, Russia, and Ukraine are primarily Muslim; while the great majority of the Jats in India are Hindu.

The Muslim Jats are Sunnis of the Hanafi school, but are known to have a strong tradition of worshipping many local saints. The Hindu Jats adhere to the traditional practices, as well as a wide variety of additional beliefs and practices. Until recent times, the Sikh Jats seemed to be the least meticulous in their observance of Sikh traditions, leaning more towards Hinduism. Regardless of their religious affiliation, all Jats observe many ceremonies, especially rites of passage such as circumcision and initiation into adulthood.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Jats who live in India and Pakistan need clean drinking water and proper health care facilities. Christian medical teams and

humanitarian aid workers are needed to work among them and show them God's love in practical ways.

Most of the Jat believers live in India. Sadly, this only represents a tiny proportion of the entire Jat population in that area. Missionaries, Christian broadcasts, and evangelistic literature are needed to effectively reach the Jats with the Light of the Gospel. Most importantly, they need people who will begin to intercede for them, tearing down the strongholds that are keeping them in spiritual bondage. Only then will their hearts be prepared to receive the Good News as it is presented to them.

PRAYER ITEMS

- * Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth additional laborers into Pakistan, India, Russia, and Ukraine to work among the Jats.
- * Pray that Christian doctors, nurses, and aid workers will have opportunities to share the love of Jesus with the Jats.
- * Ask God to save key Jat leaders who will boldly proclaim the Gospel to their own people.
- * Pray that the Lord Jesus will reveal Himself to the Jats through dreams and visions.
- * Pray that churches and missions organizations will accept the challenge of adopting and reaching the Jats.
- * Ask God to raise up teams of intercessors who will faithfully stand in the gap for the Jats.
- * Ask the Lord to bring forth strong churches among the Jats for the glory of His name!