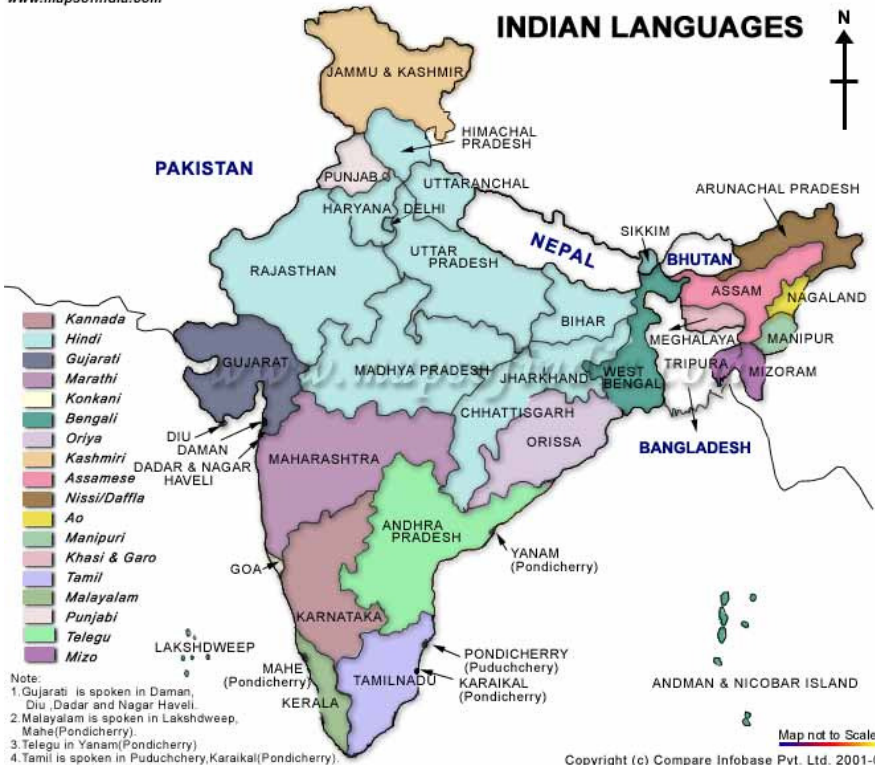


UBA Strategic Focus Languages:

www.mapsofindia.com



Kannada:

43 people groups of the world speak Kannada as their heart language which represents approximately 42 million people. All but 2 of these groups, and all but 60,000 speakers, are Indian.

Kannada In Houston:

There are at least 250 families and 150 additional individuals that are currently members of the Kannada Vrinda of Houston, a community organization specific to Indians from Karnataka, or "Kannadigas" in the plural form. It is estimated that this group began arriving in Houston in the 1960's and initially had a community size of 45 families. This organization has performed an Indian dance and art program at the Miller Outdoor Theater since 2003.

Gujarati:

81 people groups of the world speak Gujarati as their heart language which represents approximately 79 million people. 59 of those people groups, representing all but 2 million of the world's Gujarati speakers, are Indian.

Gujarati In Houston:

Gujarati is a language tracked by the Houston-area school districts and is prevalently spoken among the Indians in Houston. The BAPS Shree Swaminarayan Mandir (Hindu Temple) in Stafford offers distinctly Gujarati services. The Zoroastrian Association of Houston reports having approximately 400 representatives of the Parsee people group, which heralds from India among other countries such as Iran, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Indian Parsees speak the Parsi language, a dialect of Gujarati.

Telegu:

96 people groups of the world speak Telegu as their heart language which represents approximately 72 million people. 85 of those people groups, representing all but 2 million of the world's Telegu speakers, are Indian. Telegu is one of the four principle languages of southern India, thus many of the Christian churches and Hindu temples conduct their services in one of these four languages, the others being Tamil, Malayam and Kannada.

Telegu In Houston:

Telegu seems to be the most under-represented of the southern languages in Houston's established Christian churches. Catholics and Episcopalians have significant presence among the Malayam and Tamil-speaking Indians in Houston. There is one Lutheran Telegu-focused ministry currently meeting in southwest Houston.

Bengali:

Though difficult to rank exactly, Bengali is one of the world's most spoken languages—usually ranking between fourth and seventh—behind only Mandarin, Spanish and English consistently. 78 people groups of the world speak Bengali as their heart language which represents approximately 190 million people. 58 of those people groups, representing 69 million of the world's Bengali speakers, are Indian. Perhaps more than the other languages listed here, Bengalis may be either Hindu or Muslim.

Bengali In Houston:

Houston Durga Bari Society (Temple) located in the Westpark area of Houston specifically caters to Bengali-speaking Hindus.

Panjabi:

37 people groups of the world speak (Eastern) Panjabi as their heart language which represents approximately 23 million people. 18 of those people groups, representing all but 1.5 million of the world's Panjabi speakers, are Indian. Panjabi is the official language of the Indian state of Punjab, which is the historical home to the Sikh religion. While roughly two-thirds of Punjab residents are Sikhs, Panjabi is spoken by Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims. Sikhs are recognizable by the distinctive turbans they wear.

Panjabi In Houston:

The Sikh Center of the Gulf Coast is very active in Houston as evidenced by serving meals regularly at the Star of Hope, marching in community parades and operating a free medical clinic. There are at least three Sikh centers in Houston.

QUICK FACTS

- 50,000-75,000 Indians in the greater Houston area
- 40,000+ are Hindu and attend one of the more than 14 Hindu temples
- Houston has the nation's 7th largest Indian community
- There are 12 known Christian (Protestant & Catholic) churches targeting Indians, 1 in UBA

There are 24 official languages of India, the two most universal are Hindi and English. Though both are widely spoken among Houston's Indian population, Hindi heart language speakers generally come from northern and central India. UBA has contacts with several ministries in India among Hindi speakers both in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The first association of Hindus in Houston was begun in 1977 by Hindi speakers. The "India House" community center is being constructed in the West Bellfort area that will house the offices for the India Cultural Center and ten other Indian organizations. The first of three phases will be completed around March 2008 at the cost of \$4.6 million, and it is hoped that this facility will help to unite the somewhat fragmented Indian community of Houston.

Some UBA Pastors and Leaders to Include in Your Prayers

Binny Abraham, pastor of a South Asian congregation in Pasadena and the only UBA church currently reaching the people of India living in Houston

Rickie Bradshaw, UBA Church Consultant
Currently participating in Transform World: India

with other members of the Houston delegation: Yemi Aiodole and Tom Victor of the Houston Prays Task Force and Ted Royer, church planting missionary

India Connections

Joseph D'souza, Chairman of the Transform World: India 2006
Richard Howell, National Facilitator, Transform World: India 2006
Alex Phillip, Coordinator Transform World: India 2006

For more information about these five language groups, go to www.ubahouston.org

The UBA 24/7 Prayer Room is open for your use from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. to Noon on Fridays.

Please call Sharon at 713.957.2000 if you wish to schedule a time for prayer.