

PATHAN OF INDIA

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QUICK FACTS

People Name: Pathan
People Cluster: Urdu Muslim
Language: Urdu
Primary Religion: Islam
Population: 11,558,440

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for workers who are aware of, and sensitive to, the cultural nuances and ancestral history of this group.

Ask God to grant wisdom and knowledge to agencies looking to work among the Pathan.

Pray that God will reveal Himself to these precious people through dreams and visions.

CONTACT

FRONTIERS

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HISTORY

India, as a British colony, once had a large Pashtun population roughly equal to that in Afghanistan. Most of this population was allotted, along with its respective provinces, to Pakistan after the Partition of India. Today, the Pashtuns in India include both those who speak Pashto and those who speak Urdu, though a much larger number of the Pashtuns in India speak Urdu. A large community of the Urdu-speaking Muslims in India trace their ancestry to Pashtun invaders and settlers.

This group is often referred to using the Hindi-Urdu pronunciation of the word Pashtun: *Pathan*.

Pathans in India are culturally distinct from Pashtuns in neighboring countries, and must be understood as a separate people group. It must be remembered that the term *Pathan* does not refer exclusively and specifically to these Indian Pashtun descendants. Historically, the term was used to refer to Pashtuns in general by mainstream Indians, Muslims included. Most, however, find the term to be insensitive and prefer to be called by their native label.

Today more than 11.5 million Urdu-speaking people who claim Pathan descent reside in post-partition India.

The following delineates an estimation of the population of Pathans in the states of India.

Uttar Pradesh (4,600,000)
Maharashtra (1,000,000)
West Bengal (990,000)
Rajasthan (925,000)
Madhya Pradesh (800,000)
Karnataka (600,000)
Tamil Nadu (470,000)
Bihar (300,000)
Andhra Pradesh (260,000)
Gujarat (230,000)

