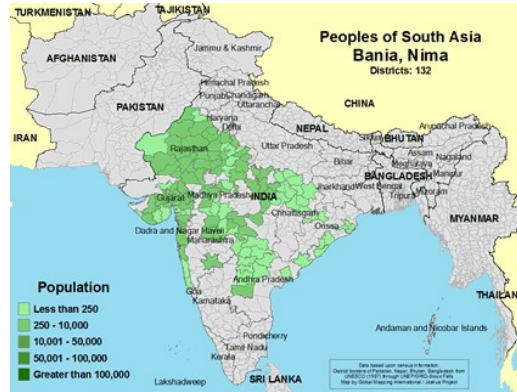


# Nema in India



Photo: Anonymous



Map: Omid / Joshua Project / Global Mapping Intl

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

People Name	Nema
Country	India
Status	Unengaged Unreached
Population	50,500
Language	Hindi
Religion	Hinduism
Written Scripture	Yes
Oral Scripture	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Gospel Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	No
Churches	No
Workers Needed	1
Workers Reported	0

## BACKGROUND

The Nema are a Bania subcaste, the bulk of whom reside in the Saugor, Damoh, Narsinghpur and Seoni Districts. The origin of the name is obscure; the suggestion that it comes from Nimar appears to be untenable, as there are very few Nemas in that District.

The Nemas are most largely returned from Central India, and are probably a Bundelkhand group. They will eat food cooked without water with Golapurab Banias, who are also found in Bundelkhand.

## WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Nemas wear the sacred thread and apparently prohibit the remarriage of widows. The Nemas are considered to be very keen business men, and a saying about them is, "Where a sheep grazes or a Nema trades, what is there left for anybody else."

## WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

They are mainly Hindus, with a small minority of Jains. They say that when Parasurama was slaying the Kshatriyas fourteen young Rajput princes, who at the time were studying religion with their family priests, were saved by the latter on renouncing their Kshatriya status and declaring themselves to be Vaishyas. These fourteen princes were the ancestors of the fourteen "gotras" of the Nema subcaste,

but the "gotras" actually bear the names of the fourteen Rishis or saints who saved their lives. These sections appear to be of the usual Brahmanical type, but marriage is regulated by another set of fifty-two subsections, with names which are apparently titular or territorial.

Like other Bania groups the Nemas are divided into Bisa and Dasa subdivisions or twenties and tens, the Bisa being of pure and the Dasa of irregular descent.

There is also a third group of Pacha or fives, who appear to be the offspring of kept women. After some generations, when the details of their ancestry are forgotten, the Pachas probably obtain promotion into the Dasa group. The Bisa and Dasa groups take food together, but do not intermarry.

## PRAYER POINTS

\* Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers to this people group. (Mt 9:37-38, Jn 4:35)

\* Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide these laborers to bear fruit through disciple-making and church-planting movements within this people group. (Mt 18:8, Mk 4:8, Jn 15:8)

\* Ask the Holy Spirit to multiply these movements until there is no place left in this people group where Christ is not

preached or known. (Mt 24:14, Mt 28:18-20, Acts 19:10, Rom 15:23)

\* Ask that these movements transform this people group's culture to fully glorify God and represent His Kingdom on earth. (Mt 6:9-10, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

\* Pray for every opposing spirit to give way to the liberating, life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King. (James 4:7, 2 Cor 10:4-5, 1 Cor 15:58, Mt 18:18)