



Day 22 – Malayali

Country of Origin: India	Religion: Hinduism % Christian: 8%
Population: U.S.: 84,000 Global: 1,661,000	% Evangelical: 0.4% Complete Bible: Yes
Language: Malayalam	Online NT: Yes
Global Status: 1	Jesus Film: Yes Least Reached: No

Malayalam has its origin from the words ‘mala’ meaning mountain and ‘alam’ meaning land or locality which lies alongside the mountain. ‘Malayali’ means people from the mountains who lived beyond the Western Ghats and spoke the Malayalam language. **Malayalam is closely related to Tamil** but became a distinctive dialect only at the beginning of the medieval era. The speakers of Malayalam form the great majority of the Kerala people that include the Tamil, Tulu, Marathi and others.

The majority of the Malayali people are Hindu (54%) , but there are also large Muslim (24%) and Christian (18%) communities. The Muslim community, or **Mappilas, trace their origins back to early contacts with Arab traders** before the start of the Christian era and mostly follow the Shafi`i school of Sunni Islam. **The Christians belong to the Saint Thomas Christian community** and are also known as the Syrian Christians.

In the U.S., the Malayali-speaking diaspora maintain a **Youtube Malayalam Television News program**. The highest concentrations of Malayali are found in Bergen County, New Jersey and Rockland County, New York. They are widespread elsewhere in the U.S., and many Malayali are Christian.

The current population of India is 1,224,615,000 which is nearly 16% of the world's population, living on only 2.4% of the world's land surface. Of the population in India, more than 800 million are considered "least-reached." Indian culture has been historically separated into five "caste" distinctions: Brahmin (fire priests, scholars and teachers); Kshatriyas (warriors, administrators and law enforcers); Vaishyas (agriculturists, cattle raisers and traders); Shudras (service providers and artisans); and Dalits (untouchables).

Largest Asian-Indian Populations U.S. Cities

	U.S. Metro Area	Population	% of Pop.
1	New York City	526,133	2.8
2	Los Angeles	219,901	0.9
3	Chicago	171,901	1.8
4	Dallas-Ft. Worth	100,386	1.6
5	Philadelphia	90,286	1.5

Based on 2010 U.S. Census Data