

Matua Community

May 19, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Matua Community Latest News

Most of the Matuas, who migrated from neighbouring Bangladesh during different time-periods do not have sufficient documents to apply for citizenship under the CAA.

About Matua Community

- The Matua community, a **marginalized Hindu sect** with roots in the 19th century, holds a significant socio-religious presence in the **Bengal region**, particularly across **Bangladesh and West Bengal**.
- **Founded by Harichand Thakur in the 1860s**, the Matua movement arose as a **response to the deep-seated caste discrimination** present within Hindu society at the time.
- **Religious Beliefs:**
 - As followers of the **Matua faith**, the community primarily belongs to the **“Namashudra” caste**, **traditionally regarded** as a **lower-caste group** within Hinduism.
 - **Harichand Thakur’s teachings** centered on principles of **social equality, human dignity**, and the **empowerment of marginalized groups through education and religious reform**, making the

Matua movement a powerful counterforce to caste oppression.

- The Matua sect is **monotheist**. It **does not follow Vedic rituals**, and **singing hymns in praise of the deity** is their way of prayer and meditation.
- They believe that salvation lies in faith and devotion. Their **ultimate objective** is to **attain truth through meditation and worship**.
- The Matua have **no distinctions of caste, creed, or class**. They believe that everyone is a child of God.
- **Shrishriharililamrta** is a **principal religious scripture** of the Matua.
- **Following the partition of Bengal** in 1947, the Matua community experienced profound **socio-political shifts**.
- **Many Matua families migrated to India** to escape religious and political persecution, although **a large portion** of the community remained in what later became Bangladesh.
- Today, Matuas constitute the **second largest SC population of West Bengal**.

Source: **TH**

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