

In 1872, the first census is done in India and the first complete census was taken in the year 1881; The Indian Census is the comprehensive source of demographic, social and economic data. India has 2.4% of the total area of the world and its population is about 17.5% of the world population.

Note

The quantity of people has got its own value but it is so up to a certain point. Beyond that the excessive number becomes a liability rather than an asset. The quality of the people matters rather than the number. Where man is an asset, he is a curse as well. As far as our own country is concerned, our population is becoming a great liability on us. We population and should lay stress on improving the quality of the people by providing them balanced and nutritious food, necessary medical care and technical and professional training. The growth of population should also be checked by making the people aware of the small family norms.

Report of Census 2011 in India: Total population in India increased to 1.21 billion. The decadal growth for the total population was 17.64%. Rate of adult literacy showed a registered growth of 74.04%, where the decadal growth was 9.21% of the Census of 2011 in India.

Table: 4.1 Census 2011

Female population	Male population	Total population
586,469,174	623,724,248	1,210,193,422
Density: 382 per sq. km.	Sex ratio: 940 females per 1000 males	
Decadal Growth Rate (2001–2011)		
Sex ratio: 914 females per 1000 males		
Female: 8, 99, 54,828 (18.12 %)	Male: 9, 15, 01,158 (17.19 %)	Total: 18, 14, 55,986 (17.64 %)
Population (0–6 years)		
Girls: 7, 58, 37,152 (12.93 %)	Boys: 8, 29, 52,135 (13.30 %)	Total: 15, 87, 89,287 (13.12 %)
Literacy		
Females: 33, 42, 50,358 (65.46 %)	Males: 44, 42, 03,762 (82.14 %)	Total: 77, 84, 54,120 (74.04 %)

Literacy: Literacy rate of a place is calculated based on the fact that how many among the total inhabitants are literate. A person is regarded as literate, in case, he or she is within the age group of 7 years or above and is capable of reading,

writing and speaking in a particular language. Census 2011 literacy rate calculated by taking the total population of a place into account is known as Crude Literacy Rate. Whereas, the Effective Literacy Rate calculating, the population ageing between 7 years and above are taken into account. Within the years 2001 to 2011, the Effective Literacy Rate in India increased to 74.04%. Out of this, the percentage of male Effective Literacy Rate is 82.14 % and female Effective Literacy Rate is 65.46 %.

Population Size and Distribution: As per 2011 Census, India has a population of 1,028 million which account for 16.49% of the India's population with a population of 199.6 million is the most populous state of India.

- Half of India's population lives in just 5 states i.e., Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.
- In terms of area the biggest state is the Rajasthan, which has only 5.5% of the total population of India.
- Population density is the number of persons per unit area of Bihar has 1102 person per sq. km is the highest population density and the Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest i.e. 17 persons per sq. km.
- As per 2011 Census, the population density of India was 382 persons per sq. km.
- The Northern Plains and Kerala in the South have high to very high population densities because of the flat plains with fertile soils and abundant rainfall.

Population Growth and Processes of Population Change

The three processes namely births, deaths and migrations affect the population numbers, distribution and composition

- **Annual growth rate** is the rate of increase of population in a given year.
- India's population has steadily increased from 361 million in 1651 to 1028 million in 2001 and 1210.2 million in 2011.
- **Birth rate** is the number of live births per 1000 persons in a year.
- **Death rate** is the number of live deaths per 1000 persons in a year.
- **Migration** is the movement of people across regions and territories; migration can be **internal** (within the country) or **international** (between the countries).

Characteristics or Qualities of the Population: The **age composition** of a population refers to the number of people in different age groups in a country; children below 15 years (30.9% population) are economically unproductive; working population (15–59 years: population 61.6%) are economically productive and biologically reproductive; people above 59 years (7.5% population) thought they may be economically productive are not available for employment through recruitment as they may have retired.

- Urban population has increased from 17.29% (1951) to 31.16% (2011). There are 35 cities in our country with a population of 1 million and above.
- India sex ratio 940 female for every 1000 males; **Sex ratio** is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population.
- **Literacy** determines the level of economic development; literacy rate was 64.84% in 2001, now 74.4% in 2011; 82.14% of males and 65.46% for females for the population aged 7 years and above.

- **Occupational structure** is the distribution of population according to different types of occupation; occupations are classified as primary, secondary and tertiary with 67.37%, 12.13% and 20.50% respectively.
- Improvement in public health, prevention of infectious diseases and application of modern medical practices in diagnosis and treatment of ailments determine the health of the population.
- **Adolescent population** which constitute 1/5th of the total population are the most important resource for the future and their nutrition requirements are higher than those of a normal child or adult; but in India, the diet available to this category is inadequate in all nutrients
- **National Population Policy (NPP) 2000** provides to improve individual health and welfare through Family Planning Programme (1952) and Family Welfare Programme ; NPP 2000 identified adolescents as one of the major sections of the population and called for various programmes for their benefit.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Migration changes the number, distribution and composition of the population in
 - a. the area of departure
 - b. both the area of departure and arrival
 - c. the area of arrival
 - d. none of these
2. A large proportion of children in a population are a result of
 - a. high birth rates
 - b. high life expectancy
 - c. high death rates
 - d. more married couples
3. The magnitude of population growth refers to
 - a. the total population of an area
 - b. the number of persons added each year
 - c. the rate at which the population increases
 - d. the number of females per thousand males
4. According to Census 2011, a literate person is one who
 - a. can read and write his/her name
 - b. can read and write any language with understanding
 - c. is 7 years old and can read and write any language with understanding
 - d. knows the 3 'R's (reading, writing and arithmetic)
5. Population of India according to 2011 is
 - a. 981 million
 - b. 1210 million
 - c. 1031 million
 - d. 1042 million
6. What is India's area?
 - a. 2.38 million square km
 - b. 2.98 million square km
 - c. 3.28 million square km
 - d. 3.56 million square km
7. Which is the most populous state of India, according to the 2011 census?
 - a. Uttar Pradesh
 - b. Madhya Pradesh
 - c. Andhra Pradesh
 - d. Bihar
8. The number of persons per unit area is termed as
 - a. population growth
 - b. population change
 - c. population density
 - d. population distribution
9. What do we obtain by subtracting the earlier population (e.g. that of 2001) from the later population (e.g. that of 2011)?
 - a. absolute numbers
 - b. absolute increase
 - c. annual growth rate
 - d. population growth
10. Most migrations have been from rural to urban areas because of which factors?
 - a. pull factors
 - b. push factors
 - c. internal migration
 - d. none of these
11. Adolescents comprise of the group from
 - a. 1–10 years
 - b. 10–15 years
 - c. 10–19 years
 - d. 15–25 years
12. Kerala's literacy rate is:
 - a. 93.91%
 - b. 95%
 - c. 97%
 - d. 100%

13. The number of people in different age groups in a country
a. age structure **b.** age rates
c. age composition **d.** age groups
14. The large number of adolescent girls suffers from
a. malnutrition **b.** anaemia
c. goitre **d.** high blood pressure
15. The NPP 2000 provides a policy framework for free and compulsory
a. school education **b.** food
c. health **d.** immunisation
16. How many 'million plus' cities are there according to 2011 census?
a. 20 **b.** 23
c. 35 **d.** 40
17. Which are the most populous and least populous states of India?
a. Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh
b. Madhya Pradesh and Goa
c. Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh
d. Bihar and Manipur
18. Which are the biggest and the smallest states of India?
a. Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim
b. Uttar Pradesh and Nagaland
c. Rajasthan and Goa
d. Karnataka and Goa
19. What was the rank of India in world to cross the billion mark?
a. First **b.** Second
c. Third **d.** Fourth
20. Three most popular states of India are?
a. UP, Maharashtra, Bihar
b. UP, Maharashtra, West Bengal
c. UP, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh
d. UP, Maharashtra, Sikkim

ANSWERS

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
b	a	c	b	b	c	a	c	b	b
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
c	a	c	b	a	c	a	c	b	a

