

CHAPTER 1

Population Distribution, Density, Growth & Composition

India is the second most populous country after China in the world with its total population of 1,210 million (2011). India's population is larger than the total population of North America, South America and Australia put together.

Sources of Population Data

Population data are collected through Census operation held every 10 years in our country. The first population Census in India was conducted in 1872 but its first complete Census was conducted only in 1881.

Distribution of Population

The percentage shares of population of the states and Union Territories in the country show that Uttar Pradesh has the highest population followed by Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal.

An uneven spatial distribution of population in India suggests a close relationship between population and physical, socioeconomic and historical factor.

The North Indian Plains, deltas and Coastal Plains have higher proportion of population than the interior districts of southern and central Indian States, Himalayas, some of the north eastern and the western states.

Development of irrigation (Rajasthan), availability of mineral and energy resources (Jharkhand) and development of transport network (Peninsular States) have resulted in moderate to high concentration of population in areas which were previously very thinly populated.

It is observed that the regions falling in the river plains and coastal areas of India have remained the regions of larger population concentration.

On the other hand, the urban regions of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Jaipur have high concentration of population due to industrial development and urbanisation drawing a large numbers of rural-urban migrants.

Density of Population

The density of population in India (2011) is 382 persons per sq km. Among the northern Indian States, Bihar (1102), West Bengal (1029) and Uttar Pradesh (828) have higher densities, while Kerala (859) and Tamil Nadu (555) have higher densities among the peninsular Indian states.

Growth of Population

The annual growth rate of India's population is 1.64 per cent (2011). There are four distinct phases of growth identified within this period:

Phase I: The period from 1901-1921 is referred to as a period of stagnant or stationary phase of growth of India's population, since in this period growth rate was very low, even recording a negative growth rate during 1911-1921.

Phase II: The decades 1921-1951 are referred to as the period of steady population growth. An overall improvement in health and sanitation throughout the country brought down the mortality rate.

Phase III: The decades 1951-1981 are referred to as the period of population explosion in India, which was caused by a rapid fall in the mortality rate but a high fertility rate of population in the country.

Phase IV: In the post 1981 till present, the growth rate of country's population though remained high, has started slowing down gradually.

Regional Variation in Population Growth

A continuous belt of states from west to east in the north-west, north, and north central parts of the country has relatively high growth rate than the southern states.

During 2001-2011, the growth rates of almost all States and Union Territories have registered a lower figure compared to the previous decade, namely, 1991-2001.

An important aspect of population growth in India is the growth of its adolescents. At present the share of adolescents i.e., up to the age group of 10-19 years is

about 20.9 per cent (2011), among which male adolescents constitute 52.7 per cent and female adolescents constitute 47.3 per cent.

The National Youth Policy (NYP-2014) launched in February 2014 proposes a holistic 'vision' for the youth of India, which is "To empower the youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations".

Population Composition

Population composition is a distinct field of study within population geography with a vast coverage of analysis of age and sex, place of residence, ethnic characteristics, tribes, language, religion, marital status, literacy and education, occupational characteristics, etc.

Rural - Urban Composition: The states like Bihar and Sikkim have very high percentage of rural population. The states of Goa and Maharashtra have only little over half of their total population residing in villages.

A thorough examination of the pattern of distribution of rural population of India reveals that both at intra-State and interState levels, the relative degree of urbanization and extent of rural-urban migration regulate the concentration of rural population.

In the agriculturally stagnant parts of the middle and lower Ganga Plains, Telengana, non-irrigated Western Rajasthan, remote hilly, tribal areas of northeast, along the flood prone areas of Peninsular India and along eastern part of Madhya Pradesh, the degree of urbanisation has remained low.

Linguistic Composition: India is a land of linguistic diversity. According to Grierson (Linguistic Survey of India, 1903 - 1928), there were 179 languages and as many as 544 dialects in the country.

Among the scheduled languages, the speakers of Hindi have the highest percentage. The smallest language groups are Sanskrit, Bodo and Manipuri speakers (2011).

Religious composition: Religion is one of the most dominant forces affecting the cultural and political life of the majority of Indians. Hindus are distributed as a major group in many states (ranging from 70-90 per cent and

above) except the districts of states along IndoBangladesh border, Indo-Pak border, Jammu & Kashmir, Hill States of North-East and in scattered areas of Deccan Plateau and Ganga Plain.

Muslims, the largest religious minority, are concentrated in Jammu & Kashmir, certain districts of West Bengal and Kerala, many districts of Uttar Pradesh, in and around Delhi and in Lakshadweep. They form majority in Kashmir valley and Lakshadweep.

The Christian population is distributed mostly in rural areas of the country. The main concentration is observed along the Western coast around Goa, Kerala and also in the hill states of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Chotanagpur area and Hills of Manipur.

Sikhs are mostly concentrated in relatively small area of the country, particularly in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.

Jains and Buddhists, the smallest religious groups in India have their concentration only in selected areas of the country. Jains have major concentration in the urban areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra, while the Buddhists are concentrated mostly in Maharashtra.

Composition of Working Population: About 54.6 per cent of total working population are cultivators and agricultural labourers, whereas only 3.8% of workers are engaged in household industries and 41.6 % are other workers including non-household industries, trade, commerce, construction and repair and other services. As far as the occupation of country's male and female population is concerned, male workers out-number female workers in all the three sectors

Promoting Gender Sensitivity through 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' Social Campaign: All efforts need to be made to address the denial of opportunities of education, employment, political representation, low wages for similar types of work, disregard to their entitlement to live a dignified life, etc. The Government of India has duly acknowledged the adverse impacts of these discriminations and launched a nationwide campaign called 'Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao'.

Exercise

1. In which year first population Census in India was conducted?
 - (a) 1882
 - (b) 1872
 - (c) 1883
 - (d) 1873
2. When the first complete census was conducted in India?
 - (a) 1881
 - (b) 1891
 - (c) 1871
 - (d) 1892
3. Which of the following state has the highest population?
 - (a) Bihar
 - (b) Uttar Pradesh
 - (c) Maharashtra
 - (d) Madhya Pradesh
4. In which state/UT share of population is very small?
 - (a) Jammu and Kashmir
 - (b) Arunachal Pradesh
 - (c) Uttarakhand
 - (d) Bihar
5. As per the census (2011) what was the density of population in India?
 - (a) 382 persons per sq km
 - (b) 482 persons per sq km
 - (c) 582 persons per sq km
 - (d) 682 persons per sq km
6. Which Indian state has highest densities?
 - (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Maharashtra
 - (c) Bihar
 - (d) West Bengal
7. Which of the options given below is correct about Agricultural density?
 - (a) total agricultural population / net cultivable area
 - (b) total agricultural crops / net cultivable area
 - (c) total agricultural village / net cultivable area
 - (d) total agricultural season / net cultivable area
8. What is the annual growth rate of India's population?
 - (a) 1.54 percent
 - (b) 1.64 percent
 - (c) 2 percent
 - (d) 2.4 percent
9. Which of the following period is known as stagnant phase of growth of population?
 - (a) 1921-1951
 - (b) 1901-1921
 - (c) 1900-1921
 - (d) 1902-1922
10. Which of the following decades is known as the period of population explosion in India?
 - (a) 1951-1981
 - (b) 1952-1982
 - (c) 1961-1971
 - (d) 1971-1981
11. When was National youth Policy passed in India?
 - (a) February 2014
 - (b) February 2015
 - (c) July 2014
 - (d) February 2013
12. According to NYP- 2014 ,youth is defined as_____.
 - (a) as persons in the age group of 15-35 years.
 - (b) as persons in the age group of 12-29 years.
 - (c) as persons in the age group of 15-29 years.
 - (d) as persons in the age group of 15-59 years.
13. When National Policy was for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, was passed in India?
 - (a) 2017
 - (b) 2016
 - (c) 2015
 - (d) 2019
14. What percent of total population of India live in village?
 - (a) 68.8 percent
 - (b) 75 percent
 - (c) 50 percent
 - (d) 45 percent

- 15.** Which of the following is correct regarding Linguistic Survey of India?
 (a) 179 languages, 544 dialects
 (b) 100 languages, 544 dialects
 (c) 189 languages, 544 dialects
 (d) 199 languages, 544 dialects
- 16.** Which of the following is the largest religious minority in India?
 (a) Christian (b) Jain
 (c) Buddhism (d) Muslim
- 17.** Which of the following is defining Main worker?
 (a) Main Worker is a person who works for at least 183 days (or six months) in a year.
 (b) Main Worker is a person who works for more than 183 days (or six months) in a year.
 (c) Main Worker is a person who works for less than 183 days (or six months) in a year.
 (d) Main Worker is a person who works for atleast 362 days in a year.
- 18.** "If development is not engendered it is endangered" statement was used by which international organization?
 (a) UNSC
 (b) UNDP
 (c) IMF
 (d) WTO
- 19.** Which of the following is a crime against humanity?
 (a) Gender discrimination
 (b) Age discrimination
 (c) Religious discrimination
 (d) Region discrimination
- 20.** Which of the following scheme was launched by government of India for decreasing gender discrimination?
 (a) 'Beti Bhagao - Beti Padhao'.
 (b) 'Beta Bachao - Beta Padhao'.
 (c) 'Laado Bachao - Laado Padhao'.
 (d) Ladki Bachao - Ladki Padhao'.

Answers

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