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CHAPTER:



POPULATION

Distribution, Density, Growth and Composition

1. India's population is 1,210 million larger than the total population of North America, South America and Australia put together.
2. Uttar Pradesh has the highest total population.
3. The density of population in India is 382 persons per sq km.
4. The annual growth rate of India's population is 1.64 per cent.
5. Kerala registered the lowest decadal growth rate (9.4) in India.
6. The share of adolescents (age group of 10-19 years) is about 20.9 per cent. Male adolescents 53 per cent and female adolescents 47 per cent.
7. National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship 2015 to provide an umbrella framework to all skilling activities being carried out within the country, and to align these to common standards and link skilling with demand centres.
8. About 31.2 per cent of total population of India lives in urban areas and 68.8 per cent lives in villages.
9. The smallest language groups are Sanskrit, Bodo and Manipuri speakers (2011).
10. Goa has low proportion of working population whereas Daman and Diu has large proportion of working population.

Definitions

1. Physiological density = total population / net cultivated area
2. Agricultural density = total agricultural population / net cultivable area.
3. Natural growth: it occurs due to change in birth and death rates.
4. Induced Growth: it is occurs due to change in immigration and emigration.

$$g = \frac{P_2 - P_1}{P_1} \times 100$$

5. Decadal growth rate:
where P1 = population of the base year
P2 = population of the present year
6. Work participation rate: The proportion of working population to the total population

Distribution of Population

Q.1 India has highly uneven patterns of population distribution. Justify this statement with four facts.

- Ans. India has a highly uneven pattern of population distribution.
- a. Uttar Pradesh has the highest total population followed by Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal.
 - b. Top 10 states together have about 76 per cent of the total India's population.
 - c. On the other hand, population is very small in the states like Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand even though they are large states.
 - d. Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Peninsular States have moderate to high proportion of population.
 - e. The urban regions of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Jaipur have high concentration of population due to industrial development and urbanisation drawing a large numbers of rural-urban migrants.

Q.2 Uneven distribution of population in India suggests a close relationship between population and physical, socioeconomic and historical factors. Justify

Ans.

- a. **Physical factors** such as Climate, Terrain and Availability of water influenced and determined the pattern of the population distribution.
 - i. **Example 1:** the North Indian Plains, deltas and Coastal Plains have higher proportion of population because they have climate suitable for agriculture and fertile plains.
 - ii. **Example 2:** Mountainous and forested regions of southern and central Indian States, Himalayan states, and some of the north-eastern states are less populated.
 - iii. **Example 3:** Development of irrigation (Rajasthan), availability of mineral and energy resources (Jharkhand) and development of transport network (Peninsular States) have resulted in moderate to high proportion of population.
- b. **Socio-economic and historical factors** also influence and determine the distribution of population of India.
 - i. **Example 1:** Traditional settled agriculture and early human settlement has resulted in large population in the river plains and coastal areas of India.
 - ii. **Example 2:** Development of transport and better agricultural development has resulted in large population in North Plains.
- c. **The industrialization and urbanization** also influenced the distribution of population.
 - i. **Example 1:** The urban regions of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, etc. have high concentration of population due to industrial development and urbanization. A large numbers of rural-urban migrants come to these towns.

DENSITY OF POPULATION

Q.3 Describe the spatial variations of population densities in our country.

Ans.

- a. Density of population ranges from as low as 17 persons per sq km in Arunachal Pradesh to 11320 persons in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- b. Among the northern Indian States, Bihar (1102), West Bengal (1029) and Uttar Pradesh (828) have higher densities,
- c. While Kerala (859) and Tamil Nadu (555) have higher densities among the peninsular Indian states.
- d. States like Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Orissa have moderate densities.
- e. The hill states of the Himalayan region and North eastern states of India (excluding Assam) have relatively low densities
- f. The Union Territories (excluding Andaman and Nicobar islands) have very high densities of population.

GROWTH OF POPULATION

Q.4 Explain four distinct phases of growth of India's population.

Ans. There are four distinct phases of growth identified:

Phase I:

- a. The period from 1901-1921 is referred to as a period of stagnant or stationary phase of growth of India's population
- b. In this period growth rate was very low, even recording a negative growth rate during 1911-1921.
- c. Both the birth rate and death rate were high keeping the rate of increase low.
- d. Poor health and medical services, illiteracy of people at large and inefficient distribution system of food and other basic necessities were largely responsible for a high birth and death rates in this period.

Phase II:

- a. The decades 1921-1951 are referred to as the period of steady population growth.
- b. An overall improvement in health and sanitation throughout the country brought down the mortality rate.
- c. At the same time better transport and communication system improved distribution system.
- d. The crude birth rate remained high in this period leading to higher growth rate than the previous phase.

Phase III:

- a. The decades 1951-1981 are referred to as the period of population explosion in India,
- b. It was caused by a rapid fall in the death rate but a high birth rate.
- c. The average annual growth rate was as high as 2.2 per cent.
- d. High birth rate was due to developmental activities and growing economy which improved living condition of people.
- e. Beside it, due to increased international immigration from Tibet, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan growth rate was high.

Phase IV:

- a. After 1981 till present, the growth rate has started slowing down gradually.
- b. It is due to decline in crude birth rate.
- c. It is also due to an increase in the mean age at marriage, improved quality of life particularly education of females in the country.

REGIONAL VARIATION IN POPULATION GROWTH

Q.5 Describe the wide regional variation in growth rates of population from one state to another in India.

Ans.

- a. The Southern States like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Pondicherry, and Goa show a low rate of growth.
- b. Kerala registered the lowest growth rate in India.
- c. A continuous belt of states from west to east in the north and central parts of the country has relatively high growth rate than the southern states.
- d. The growth rate of all states have registered a lower figure compare to previous decades.
- e. The percentage growth rates of six most populated states have declined.

Q.6 Mention some of the challenges for the adolescents in our country.

Ans.

- Some are: lower age at marriage, illiteracy – particularly female illiteracy,
- a. school dropouts, low intake of nutrients, high rate of maternal mortality of
 - b. adolescent mothers, high rates of HIV/AIDS infections, physical and mental
 - c. disability or retardedness, drug abuse and alcoholism, Juvenile delinquency
 - d. and commit of crimes.

Q.7 State the holistic vision proposed by the National Youth Policy 2014 for the youth of India.

Ans.

The National Youth Policy (NYP-2014) proposed 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". The NYP-2014 has defined 'youth' as persons in the age group of 15-29 years.

Rural – Urban Composition

Q.8 Describe the uneven distribution of rural population in India.

Ans.

- a. The states like Bihar and Sikkim have very high percentage of rural population.
- b. Whereas the states of Goa and Maharashtra have low per cent of rural population.
- c. The Union Territories have smaller proportion of rural population. Except Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- d. In the hilly states, Western Rajasthan and Rann of Kuchchh in Gujarat the size of villages is less than 200 persons.
- e. In the states of Kerala and Maharashtra the size of villages is 17 thousand persons.
- f. These variations at intra-State and inter-State levels are due to variations in degree of urbanization and extent of rural-urban migration.

Q.9 Describe the uneven distribution of urban population in India.

Ans. The distribution of urban population has a wide variation throughout the country.

- a. The degree of urbanization is high in regions which are well connected with the main road and rail links such as the North Indian Plains.
- b. The industrial areas around Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai etc have high rural-urban migration therefore these cities have large urban population.
- c. In the agriculturally stagnant parts of the middle and lower Ganga Plains urban population is low.
- d. Non-irrigated Western Rajasthan and remote hilly tribal areas of northeast also have low urban population.
- e. The flood prone areas of peninsular states have low urban population.
- f. In Eastern part of Madhya Pradesh the degree of urbanization is low.

Linguistic Composition

Q.10 Name the **four** language families in India. Which **one** of them is spoken by the largest number of people in the country? Name any **four** states in which this language is mainly spoken.

Ans. The four language families are

- a. Austric (Nishada)
- b. Dravidian (Dravida)
- c. Sino-Tibetan (Kirata)
- d. Indo-European (Aryan)

Among the four families Indo-European (Aryan) are spoken largest in India.

Four states in which this language is spoken are

- a) Jammu & Kashmir, b) Punjab, c) Himachal Pradesh, d) U.P., e) Rajasthan, f) Haryana.

Religious Composition

Q.11 Describe the religious composition of the population of India.

Ans.

a. **Hindus**

- i. Hindus are a major group in many states (ranging from 70 - 90 per cent and above)
- ii. except the districts of states along Indo-Bangladesh border, Indo-Pak border, Jammu & Kashmir, Hill States of North-East and in scattered areas of Deccan Plateau and Ganga Plain.

- b. Muslims,**
 - i. Muslims are the largest religious minority in India.
 - ii. They are concentrated in Jammu & Kashmir, some districts of West Bengal and Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, in and around Delhi and in Lakshadweep.
 - iii. They form majority in Kashmir valley and Lakshadweep.
- c. Christian**
 - i. They are distributed mostly in rural areas of the country.
 - ii. The main concentration is in the Western coast around Goa, Kerala and also in the hill states of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Hills of Manipur.
- d. Sikhs**
 - i. They are mostly concentrated in relatively small area of the country, particularly in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.
- e. Jains and Buddhists**
 - i. Jains and Buddhists are the smallest religious groups in India.
 - ii. They are concentrated only in the urban areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
 - iii. Buddhists are concentrated mostly in Maharashtra. The other areas of Buddhist majority are Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Ladakh.
- f. The other religions of India include Zoroastrians, tribal and other indigenous faiths and beliefs. These groups are concentrated in small pockets scattered throughout the country.

Composition of Working Population

Q.12 Name three groups of population of India classified according to their economic status.

- Ans. The population of India according to their economic status is divided into three groups, namely;
1. Main workers, (who works for at least 183 days in a year)
 2. Marginal workers (who works for less than 183 days in a year)
 3. Non-workers. (who is not engaged in any productive work)

In India, the proportion of workers (both main and marginal) is only 39.8 per cent and a vast majority of 60 per cent is non-workers. This indicates that there is a larger proportion of dependent population, and large number of unemployed or under employed people in India.

Q.13 Describe the variations in the proportion of working population in India.

- Ans. The work participation rate varies from state to state.
1. Goa has low proportion of working population whereas Daman and Diu has large proportion of working population.
 2. The states with larger percentages of workers are Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya.
 3. The work participation rate is higher in the areas of lower levels of economic development
 4. It is because large numbers of manual workers are needed to perform the subsistence or near subsistence economic activities.

Q.14 Describe the occupational composition of India's population.

Ans. The occupational composition of India's population shows a large proportion of primary sector workers compared to secondary and tertiary sectors.

- a. About 54.6 per cent of total working population is cultivators and agricultural labourers. Only 3.8% of workers are engaged in household industries. 41.6% are engaged in trade and commerce, construction and repair etc.
- b. Male workers out-number female workers in all sectors. The number of female workers is relatively high in primary sector.
- c. The proportion of workers in agricultural sector has decreased from 58.2% in 2001 to 54.6% in 2011. Thus it has increased in secondary and tertiary sectors.

Q.15 "If development is not engendered it is endangered". Elaborate the statement. / State the focus area of 'Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao' campaign.

Ans.

1. Discrimination, in general, and gender discrimination, in particular, is a crime against humanity.
2. 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.
3. A society, which fails to acknowledge and take effective measures to remove such discriminations, cannot be treated as a civilized one.
4. The Government of India has duly acknowledged the adverse impacts of these discriminations and launched a nationwide campaign called 'Beti Bachao – Beti Padhao'.