

26

POPULATION DENSITY, DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH IN INDIA

26.1 INTRODUCTION

So far we have had a look at the natural resources of India. They include land, soil, water, forests, mineral and wild life resources. We have noted the direction and pace of their development. Both of these are to be studied in relation to people who inhabit the country. By people we mean not only their numbers as consumers but also as developers or managers of natural resources. For this purpose we look at their educational and health status, their vocational, technical, managerial and social skills and above all their aspirations, value system including work habits or "work ethic". In this context you would realise that people are not mere consumers but rightly constitute in themselves the most important resource of a country.

In this lesson, we will examine the size of Indian population in the world context. We will study distribution and density of population and various factors influencing them. We have a look at man-land ratio to have an idea of adequacy of our natural resources. Finally, we will also analyse trends in population growth, their determinants and consequences. In other words this and the next lesson are devoted to the theme of Human Resources of India and their Development.

26.2 OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to :

- explain the size of Indian population in a world perspective;
 - analyse factors responsible for uneven distribution of population;
 - locate on a map areas of dense, moderate and sparse population;
 - interpret data about distribution, density and growth of population;
 - narrate the trends in population growth spread over 20th century;
 - identify factors responsible for rapid population growth;
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- define various demographic terms such as birth rate, death rate etc.
- appreciate the dire need for lowering the growth rate of population, and
- analyse causes and consequences of in and out migration in the country.

26.3 POPULATION OF INDIA

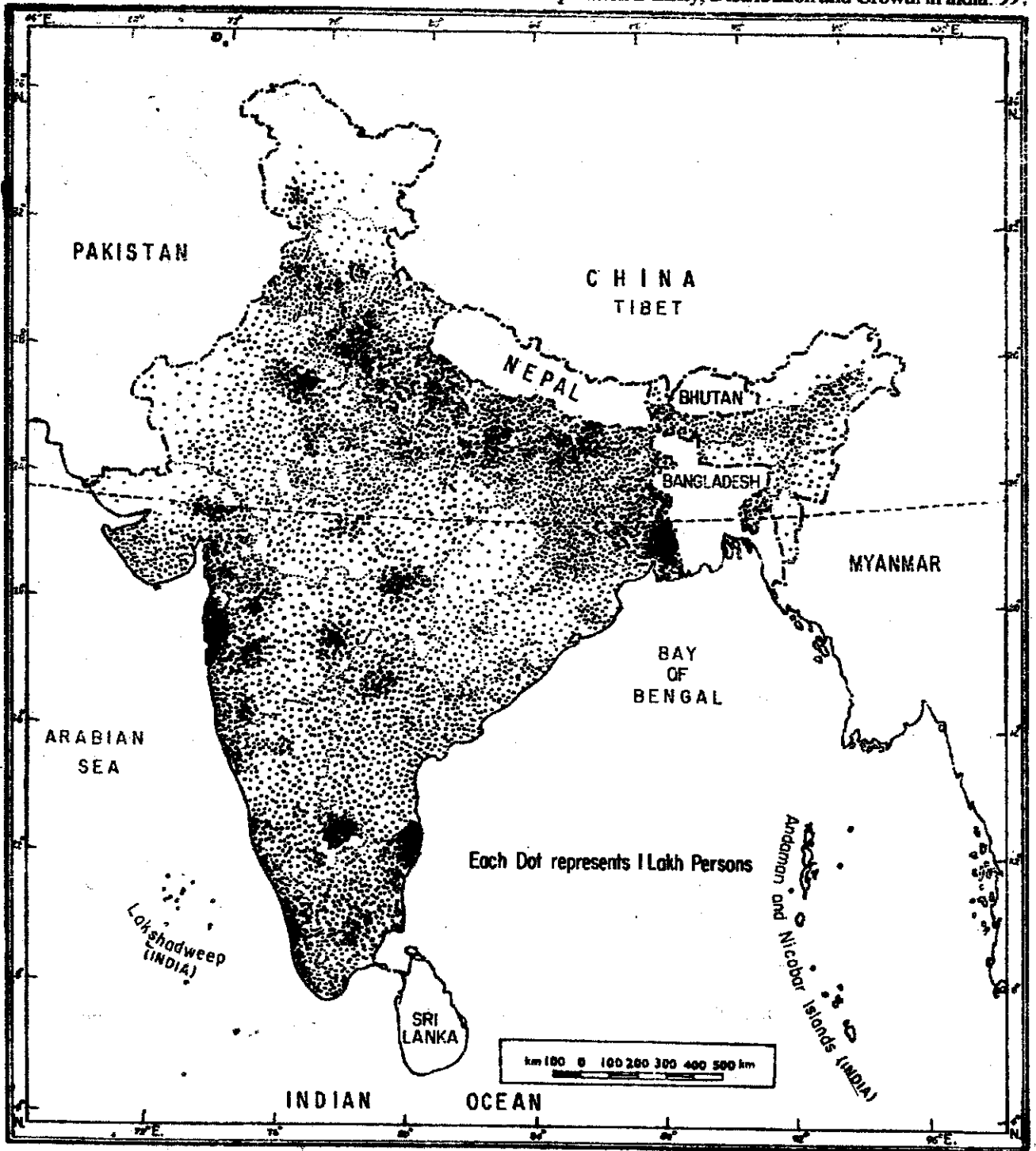
India is the second most populous country in the world standing next only to China. On March 1, 1991, at the sun-rise, the total population of India stood at 846.3 million. This accounted for 16% of the world's total population. In other words, every sixth person in the world is an Indian. China, the most populous country of the world, is a step ahead of us as every fifth person in the world is a Chinese. While India possesses only 2.42% of the world's total land area, she is required to sustain 16% of the world's population. The average density of population in India is over 6 times the world's average.

In terms of area, India stands seventh preceded by Russia, Canada, China, the United States of America, Brazil and Australia. Barring China, the total population of these large five countries is far less than that of India. The total area of these five countries is over sixteen times whereas their total population is hardly 706 million, much less than that of India. This may partly explain how handicapped we are because of our huge population. On the top of it, we are adding over 17 million people each year. It is more than the total population of Australia. In fact the net addition to Chinese population each year is less than what we have been doing in India.

26.4 DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

Population of the world or of any country is not uniformly distributed over all its parts. The same is true about India also. Some parts of the country are densely populated, some parts moderately populated and some parts are sparsely populated (see figure 26.1)

The size of population of different areas can be compared in many ways. One of the ways can be to compare the absolute size of the population. But it does not provide any idea about the relationship of population with the area or resource base of the country. This type of comparison is therefore not adequate. For example, population of Singapore State is 2.7 millions and that of People's Republic of China is 957 million. Indeed one is too small the other is too big. Now take into consideration that the area of Singapore is just 630 sq. km whereas China has an area of 9.5 million sq. km. This helps us to know how crowded Singapore is compared to China as a whole. Therefore, the population of various countries are generally compared in terms of density of population. This is a method of comparing the man-land ratios of different regions. For this purpose, the population of a region is assumed to be distributed evenly in all its parts and the number of people per square kilometre is thus calculated. This is called **average density of population**. It can be calculated by dividing the total population of a country or a region by the total area. The density of population is expressed as the number of persons per square kilometre. In India, the density of population is 274 persons per square kilometre. When we say that the density of population of India is 274 persons per square kilometre, this does not mean that population distribution is exact 274 persons in each and every square kilometre.



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In reality, the distribution of population in India is highly uneven. The uneven density of population in India is clear from the fact that in Arunachal Pradesh the average density of population is only 10 persons per square kilometre, whereas it is 6352 persons per square kilometre in Delhi as per 1991 census.

* Comparison of populations of different countries of region becomes more meaningful if it is done by comparing the average density of population of each area.

* This is an expression of man-land ratio.

* The density of population can be expressed as

$$\text{Density} = \frac{\text{Total number of people of a country}}{\text{Total area of the country}}$$

26.5 FACTORS INFLUENCING DENSITY OF POPULATION

As we discussed earlier, the spatial spread of population in India is not uniform. There are very wide regional variations. Let us see what factors are responsible for these wide variations in the densities of population. All such factors affecting the population distribution and density may broadly be grouped into two major categories. They are (A) physical factors and (B) socio-economic factors.

(A) Physical Factors

Physical factors play a vital role in the density and distribution of population. Physical factors include landform, climate, soil, etc. Though there is a lot of improvement in technology but the patterns of population distribution all over the world continues to reflect the influence of varied varieties of physical factors.

(i) **Landforms** : It influences the distribution pattern of population. The most important attributes of landforms which determine population density and distribution are the altitude and slope. The most striking evidence of the influence of altitude and slope on population density and distribution have been observed in mountains and plains. For example, take the case of most densely populated Indo-Ganga plains on the one hand and a highly mountainous state of Arunachal Pradesh on the other.

Other than this, factors like drainage and water table have also been affecting population distribution.

(ii) **Climate** : is one of the essential elements of the physical factors which influence the spatial distribution of population through temperature conditions and the amount of precipitation. Take the case of hot and dry deserts of Rajasthan and the cold and wet Eastern Himalaya region where very low temperatures and heavy precipitations prevail. This is the reason for distribution and low density of population. Almost even distribution and high density of population are found in plains of Kerala and West Bengal where rainfall is high. It is low in the regions of Rajasthan and lee-ward sides of Western Ghats where precipitation is low.

(iii) **Soil** : is another factor which affects the density and distribution of population. One may be tempted to question the validity of the role of soil in the present day highly industrialised society. But even today about 75 percent of population in India lives in villages. People there mostly earn their livelihood from agriculture which depends upon the quality of soil. That is why alluvial region of Northern Plains and coastal and deltaic regions of India continue to support high densities of population. On the other hand, it may be worth mentioning that vast tracts of land in desert areas like Rajasthan, Rann of Kachchh in Gujarat, Terai region in Uttar Pradesh have been suffering from problems like soil erosion and soil efflorescence support only low density of population.

However, North-Eastern region has a typical situation. Here more than one factor is responsible for low density of population. These factors are high rainfall, rough terrain, dense forests and poor quality of soil.

(B) Socio-Economic Factors

Like physical factors socio-economic factors also play an equally important vital role in density and distribution of population. However, there may not be a perfect agreement upon the relative importance of these two determinants. In certain places physical factors play a vital role whereas in some places socio-economic factors have a greater impact. It has generally been agreed that the role of socio-economic (non-physical) determinants increases. Due to advancement of science and technology various socio-economic factors which have impact upon the population spread are (i) socio-cultural-politics factors; (ii) availability of economic resources.

(i) **Socio-Cultural-Politics Factors** : Mumbai-Pune industrial complex is a good example to show how social, cultural, historical and political factors collectively have contributed to its rapid growth of population and its density. Less than 200 years ago, there were small insignificant islands of the Thana Creek on the Western coast. The adventurous Portuguese seamen claimed these islands for their monarch. He in turn gifted these islands to the Royal Family of England by way of a dowry. These couple of sleepy fishing villages located on these islands could never guess that they would shortly turn into India's largest population conglomeration. East India Company of England set up a trading centre on these islands and later made it the capital city of Bombay Presidency. Enterprising trading and business communities of Parsis, Kutchchhis and Gujaratis played a leading role in setting textile mills, development of water power and laying roads and railways across the Western Ghats connecting with its hinterland. Unexpectedly, the Suez international navigation canal made Mumbai the nearest Indian port to Europe. Availability of educated youth from Mumbai and Pune and inexpensive and disciplined labour from Konkan also contributed to the rapid population growth. The discovery of Bombay High oil and natural gas fields gave boost to its petrochemical industry. Today, Mumbai is known as commercial capital of India backed by international and domestic airports, major sea ports and national road and rail terminals.

(ii) **Availability of Natural Resources** : The Chotanagpur Plateau region has all along been a rocky and rugged terrain. This rainy and forested region has been a home of several

tribes and was one of the sparsely populated parts of the country. However, a string of industrial towns and centres have sprung up over the past century soon after rich minerals such as iron-ore, manganese, limestone, coal etc. were found in unusual abundance and close to one another. The rich coal and iron fields have attracted heavy industries particularly iron and steel, heavy engineering, metallurgy and transport equipment industries. The region has also important super-power thermal stations from which power is supplied to far off areas.

26.6 POPULATION DENSITY AT BROAD LEVEL

Population data can be plotted and described or interpreted in a couple of ways depending upon its purpose. For finding out a broad distribution pattern, population is collected and plotted on the basis of large units like states or their major parts. If information is needed for more accuracy, the smaller units like districts or even tehsils are used. Let us first find out a broad pattern of population distribution and density in India.

On the basis of the density of population India can be broadly divided into three zones: the areas of high density, the areas of moderate density and the areas of low density.

(i) Areas of High Density

In the map given below the areas having a density of population more than 400 persons per square kilometre are included in this category. These areas have a high density due to fertile land and high amount of precipitation e.g. Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. In these regions, a larger number of people can be provided sustenance per unit of area due to fertile soil which can produce more food for a large number of people. But the situation is entirely different in the case of Union Territories like Delhi, Chandigarh and Pondichery. These regions are highly urbanised and offer job opportunities in industrial and service sectors. Thus we can say that the areas having fertile soil and those having good employment opportunities are densely populated.

(ii) Areas of Moderate Density of Population

In this category, those states and union territories are included, where the density of population ranges between 100 and 400 persons per square kilometre. They are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tripura. This region includes largest part of the country in terms of area. Broadly speaking moderate densities are characteristic of the areas of a particular state where the agriculture is handicapped by rugged topography, lower amount of precipitation and paucity of water for irrigation. The scope for developing primary and secondary activities is quite large if the facilities are provided in this area. For example, at the time of independence Chhotanagpur region was a sparsely populated area. The development in the field of mining and industries in this part of the country has been mainly responsible for giving moderate densities to the region.

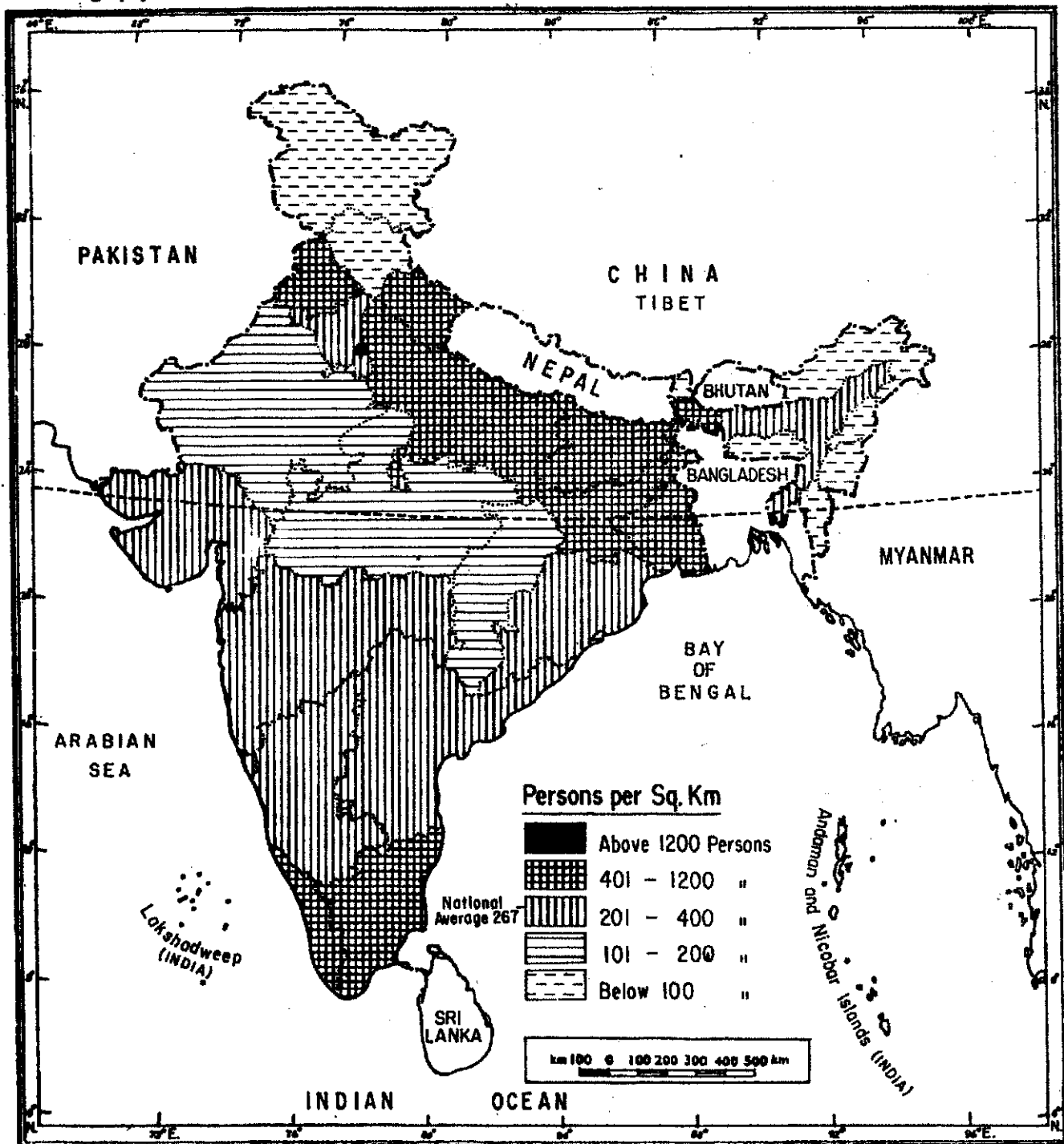
(iii) Areas of Low Density of Population

All parts of India having a density of population less than 100 persons per square kilometre are included in this category. The areas included are Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This category includes areas of rough terrain, low rainfall or unhealthy climate. Due to one or a combination of these factors, the prospects of earning a livelihood are low in these areas. Agriculture can not be developed in too dry or cold areas. Uneven topography and poor agricultural resources put a limit on urbanisation and industrialisation. Therefore, the number of persons that can be supported per unit area is low in such regions. Difficulties of transport and communication in the hilly and mountainous areas hinder not only communication but also the overall levels of economic development. That is why the density of population in all these areas is low.

- * The areas of high density include the states of West Bengal, Kerala, Bihar, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and Union Territories of Delhi, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Pondichery and Daman and Diu.
- * All these areas provide good scope for earning a livelihood through either agriculture or through jobs in various types of secondary and tertiary activities.
- * The areas of low density of population in India include Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- * These areas suffer from either low rainfall or rough terrain or harsh climatic condition or a combination of these factors.

26.7 POPULATION DENSITY AT DISTRICT LEVEL

But a minute observation shows that in each state there are variations in distribution of population and more than one category of population density is found. The geographical or spatial distribution becomes clearer by making an analysis of district level pattern. The great unevenness in distribution is mainly because of the diverse physical condition as well as the variations in distribution of natural resources and stages of economic development. It varies from 2 persons per square kilometre in Ladakh to 32,000 per square kilometre in Calcutta. The densities are generally high over two marked continuous stretches of land. They are (a) large part of Northern plains from Punjab to West Bengal and (b) Coastal plains from Orissa coast in the east to Konkan coast in the west. A belt of moderately high densities extends over the entire Maharashtra plains of Gujarat, Telangana, coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, parts of Tamil Nadu, southern Karnataka and the Chhotanagpur region of Bihar. The areas of low density are generally found over the hilly forested and drier parts of the country, mainly situated in the Himalayan states as well as in the interior parts of Madhya Pradesh, Western Rajasthan and South West Orissa.



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INTEXT QUESTIONS 26.1

1. Name three states having a high density of population
(i) _____ (ii) _____ and (iii) _____
2. Name a Union Territory in India which comes under the area of high density of population _____
3. Name three states having moderate density of population
(i) _____ (ii) _____ and (iii) _____
4. Name three states falling under the category of areas of low density of population
(i) _____ (ii) _____ and (iii) _____
5. Name One Union Territory having a low density of population _____
6. Fill in the blanks with most appropriate words given in the brackets.
 - (a) Areas receiving ample precipitation and having fertile soils are likely to have a _____ density of population (high, moderate, low).
 - (b) Areas suffering from droughts and having a rough terrain are likely to have a _____ density of population (high, moderate, low)

26.8 GROWTH OF POPULATION

The growth of population in a region depends upon fertility, mortality and migration. Fertility or the birth rate is measured in terms of live births per thousand population per year. Generally, the fertility rate is affected by the age structure of the population; a youthful population is generally more fertile. Mortality or the death rate is measured in terms of number of deaths per thousand population per year. The difference between these two rates is called the annual rate of natural increase in population. The term migration refers to the movement of people from one area to the other or from one country to another. The rate of migration affects the growth of population of a region by increasing or decreasing the number of people living there.

The growth rate of population may be positive or negative. A positive growth rate of population mean an increase in the number of people living in a region, whereas negative growth rate means declining population. A positive growth rate occurs when the number of births and immigration exceeds the number of deaths and out migration and a negative growth rate means vice versa.

Table 26.1
INDIA : POPULATION GROWTH 1901-1991

Census Year	Population in Millions	Net Difference over Previous Census	Average Density of pop. per sq. km.
1901	238	—	77
1911	252	+14	82

1921	251	-1	81
1931	279	+28	90
1941	318	+39	103
1951	361	+43	117
1961	439	+78	142
1971	548	+109	177
1981	685	+137	216
1991	846	+161	274

Look at the table 26.1, you will find the absolute population at the beginning of each decade. In the year 1901, the total population of our country (as per political frontiers of today) was 238 million people. By 1991, it had risen to a phenomenal figure of 846.3 million. It represents an increase by a little more than three and a half times ! This huge figure can be reduced to a manageable small area of just one square kilometre so that we can comprehend it rather easily. In 1901, such a small area of one square kilometre on an average had 77 persons. Mind well that this figure in itself was a result of several centuries since the advent of man. By 1971 i.e. within 70 years the average density of population per square kilometre had risen to 177 - i.e. a net addition of another 100 persons. More importantly, for adding another 97 (only three less than a hundred) per sq.km., it took just 20 years. Such a rapid population growth from generation to generation takes place in geometric progression and not in arithmetic progression. (e.g. $3+3=6$ is arithmetic progression but $3 \times 3=9$ is a case of geometric progression) Note how in a single decade of 1981 to 1991 as many as 161 million people were added.

Table No.26.2
Annual Birth rates, Death rates and Natural growth rates

Decade	Birth Rate Per Thousand (%)	Death Rate Per Thousand (%)	Natural Growth Per Thousand (%)	Natural Growth (in percentage) (%)
1901-11	49.2	42.6	6.6	0.3
1911-21	48.1	47.2	0.9	0.03
1921-31	46.4	36.3	10.1	1.01
1931-41	45.2	31.2	14.0	1.4
1941-51	39.9	27.4	12.5	1.25
1951-61	41.7	22.8	18.9	1.89
1961-71	41.2	19.0	22.2	2.22
1971-81	37.2	15.0	22.2	2.22
1981-91	32.7	11.7	21.0	2.1
1995	28.3	9.0	19.0	1.9

Look at the table - Annual Birth Rates, Death Rates and Natural Growth Rates. Note that the Birth rate, death rate and natural growth rate are per thousand population. The last column makes things more easy by stating natural population growth rate in percent to which we are more used. In 1901 to 1911 population of the country grow very slowly - less than one percent per year.

In the next decade it grow very slowly or at a much reduced rate of .09 only. If you move to a period of 20 years from 1961 to 1981 the population growth rate had reached to its highest namely 2.2 percent per annum. During the past one and a half decades the population has been growing but with a little reduced growth rate of 1.9 instead of 2.2. What is it due to? The next paragraph may explain this.

During 1911-1921 the birth rate was 48.1 and death rate 47.2 per thousand people. Thus the natural increase was 0.9 per thousand per year. In other words it was 0.09 percent. By 1981-91 the birth rate came down to 32.7 per thousand population in a year. But the death rate had come down drastically to mere 11.7 per thousand. It means there was a net addition of 21 persons (32.7-11.7=21) per thousand or 2.1 percent. By 1995 it was estimated that birth rate was 28.3 per thousand and death rate 9.0 per thousand i.e. natural growth of 19.3 per thousand or 1.93 percent.

- * Growth rate of population is a function of the fertility, the mortality and the migration. The difference between the fertility and mortality rates is called natural increase of population.
- * The population of India has been increasing at an ever increasing rate since 1921. The major factor responsible for it has been a very rapid decline in the death rate.

26.9 STATE LEVEL PATTERN OF POPULATION GROWTH

The actual rate of growth of population is not uniform in all parts of the country. The rate is higher in some parts than in others. A brief description of the areas of high, moderate and low growth rates is as follows:

(i) Areas of High Growth Rate:(1981-1991)

According to 1991 census, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Delhi, Chandigarh and Nagaland registered a growth more than 40 percent during the last decade. These are considered to be the areas of high growth rate of population. The population of Delhi and Chandigarh increased more rapidly mainly because of migration of large numbers of peoples from rural areas while in case of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Nagaland, the high rate of growth is mainly a result of high birth rate and low death rates. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands migration from main land is also partly responsible for high growth rate.

(ii) Areas of Moderate Growth Rate : (1981-91)

Most of the areas in the country come under the region of moderate growth rate of population. The states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Dadra & Nagar

Haveli, Lakshadweep and Pondichery have all witnessed a growth rate of 30 to 40 per thousand. In all these regions, the growth rate has been slightly higher than the national average and it is mainly due to high birth rates and thus high rate of natural increase. So these areas can be called the areas of higher moderate growth rate. The areas including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujrat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Daman & Diu have witnessed a lower moderate growth rate which is almost equal to the national average i.e. 23.85. All these later mentioned states have witnessed a growth rate of 20 to 30 per thousand. These are the areas where the impact of the government efforts to reduce the birth rate has been more or where the death rate is slightly higher thus causing a slightly lower rate of natural increase.

(iii) Areas of Low Growth Rate :(1981-91)

This region includes all those areas where the rate of growth of population has been less than the national average. In these areas this rate has been less than 20 per thousand. This region includes the state of Kerala, Goa and Tamilnadu. The low rate of growth is due to low birth rate.

- * Delhi, Chandigarh, Nagaland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have a high rate of growth of population. In Delhi and Chandigarh, the higher rate is mainly the result of migration from rural areas while in case of Nagaland and Andaman & Nicobar Island it is more a result of natural increase.
- * Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu are the areas of low growth rate of population. This has been a result of comparatively lower birth rates.

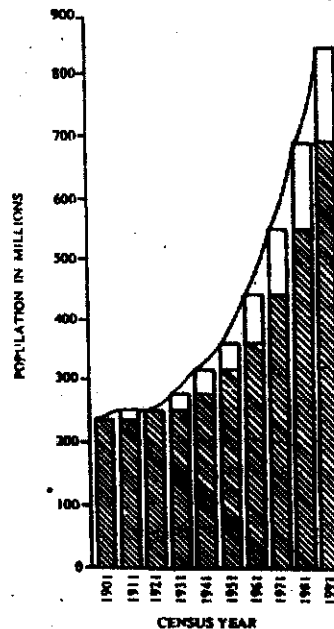


Fig. 26.3 Population Growth in India

26.10 DISTRICT LEVEL PATTERN

The variation in population growth is distinctly marked at the district level. It reveals the interaction of various factors. The national average of the growth rate is taken as the benchmark for judging the variation in growth rate. The higher growth rate is reported from a large number of districts in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.

The districts with a higher growth rate do not reveal any distinct pattern in the geographical distribution. They are however concentrated in Gujarat plains, Bombay-Pune region, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Coastal Orissa, Central Madhya Pradesh, Chotanagpur Region of Bihar, hilly tract of Jammu and Kashmir and the North East Region. Growth in these areas are supposed to have been contributed more by the migration than by natural increase. The thickly populated districts of the country with a high concentration of population reported low growth rates. Obviously they have reached saturation level. The areas in between these two are moderate growth areas

INTEXT QUESTIONS 26.2

- 1 Tick (✓) Mark the most appropriate answers
 - (a) The major reason for the high growth rate of population in India is
 - (i) rapidly rising birth rate
 - (ii) rapidly falling death rate
 - (iii) high in-migration from outside
 - (iv) very high birth rate and death rate
 - (b) The growth rate of population in India has been constantly rising right since
 - (i) 1901
 - (ii) 1921
 - (iii) 1951
 - (iv) 1981
 2. Name two States/UTs where the growth rate of population is high
 - (i) _____
 - (ii) _____
 3. Name two states where the growth rate of population is moderate
 - (i) _____
 - (ii) _____
 4. Name two states where the growth rate of population is low
 - (i) _____ and (ii) _____
-

26.11 MIGRATION

We have discussed earlier that the growth of population depends upon the birth rate, death rate and migration. Movement of people from one area to the other area is called migration.

Migration can be of a number of types. According to the nature of movement, this can be divided into (i) permanent and (ii) temporary. Permanent migration involves movement of

people from one place to the other and these people do not go back to their original place. A common example of this type of migration is provided by the movement of the people from rural to urban areas for permanent settlement. In case of temporary migration, the people move from one place to the other for some duration and then return to their original place of living. An example is movement of people from one area to the other for seasonal employment. Migration of agricultural labourers from Bihar to Punjab and Haryana during the harvesting season is a temporary migration. Migration can be on daily basis also. You might have observed that a large number of people commute to the cities every day in the morning from the surrounding areas for work and they all go back in the evening. This is called daily or diurnal migration.

It is seen in mountainous regions that many people move from valleys to the higher reaches of mountains along with their cattle during summer and come back to the valleys during the winter. These people have their permanent homes in the valleys and they move to the higher areas to graze their cattle there. When the higher reaches of the mountains become too cold for grazing, they shift back to the warmer lower valley areas. Their annual movement is always along some fixed routes and generally their grazing areas are also fixed. This type of altitudinal migration is called *trans-humance*. Gaddi tribes of Himachal Pradesh practise this type of migration.

On the basis of source of origin and destination of migrant population, migration can be divided into four types:

- (a) Rural to Rural
- (b) Rural to Urban
- (c) Urban to Urban
- (d) Urban to Rural

- * Movement of people from one area to the other is called migration.
- * Migration can be called permanent or temporary on the basis of the fact whether the people involved in it go back to their original place of living or not. It can occur on a daily basis also.
- * Seasonal movement of people along with their cattle between two areas along fixed routes is called *trans-humance*.

26.12 MIGRATION TRENDS IN INDIA

Migrational pattern in India can be studied by grouping migrant population into two groups. These are (a) intra-state migration i.e. migration within the state and (b) inter-state migration i.e. movement between the states.

(a) Intra-State Migration

The majority of the migrants belong to this category. According to 1981 Census, 172 millions of people are intra-state migrants. Among these migrants, overwhelming population i.e. 70.23 percent were rural to rural migrants whereas only 8.6 percent belonged to the category of

urban to urban migrants. Out of the rest, 15 percent migrants belonged to the category of rural to urban and 5.83 belonged to the urban to rural areas.

Among intra-state migrants 73 percent were females. This high percentage was mainly due to marriages. Three fourth of the female migrants were from rural to rural migration. About 7 percent of female migrants moved from one urban centre to another, 11 percent moved from rural to urban areas and only 5.35 percent from urban to rural areas.

In the case of male migrants, 52.32 percent belonged to the category of rural to rural migrants, 13.88 percent belonged to urban to urban, 26.46 percent belonged to rural to urban and 7.15 percent were urban to rural. The major chunk of population who moved from rural to rural areas are mainly moved out in search of employment. High proportion of such migrants belonged to relatively less developed states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan.

(b) Inter-State Migration

In India inter-state migration is limited in comparison to intra-state migration. According to 1981 Census, 24 million people were inter-state migrants. Out of these 24 million people, 30 percent belonged to the category of rural to rural migrants, 29.24 belonged to the category of urban to urban, 33.61 belonged to rural to urban and 6.96 percent belonged to urban to rural.

About half of all inter-state migrants were males. Among them 42 percent moved from rural to urban areas, about 31 percent from urban to urban areas, about 21 percent from rural to rural areas and 6 percent from urban to rural area.

There were 12.5 million females inter-state migrants. Among them 37.57 percent moved within the rural areas, a little more than 28 percent moved within the urban areas. About 26 percent of migrants moved from rural to urban areas and 7.82 percent from urban to rural areas.

It was found that Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are the major areas from where out-migration took place. On the other hand, the states of West Bengal and Maharashtra and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh and Delhi were mostly in-migrating regions.

26.13 CAUSES OF MIGRATION

Migration is a result of an inter-play of a large number of factors. Generally factors affecting migration can be grouped in to two categories of push and pull factors. The push factors are responsible for making people move from their original place of living. The pull factors are responsible for attracting people to some particular areas. Unless both these factors are operating simultaneously, no migration of people can be possible. The push and pull factors include the economic, social and political components. A brief description of these factors is given below:

- * Migration is the result of inter-play of a number of factors. These factors can be grouped as push and pull factors.
- * The push and pull factors can be economic, social and political in nature.

(a) Economic Factors

The people generally like to live in those areas where they can make a livelihood. Thus they would like to move away from areas of poor soils, less developed means of transport, low levels of industrialisation, less job opportunities to the areas where the soils are fertile or job opportunities are more. These are the push factors. On the other hand, the areas offering good employment, better living standard attract large number of people. These are the pull factors. Thus all areas of fertile soil, deposits of minerals, better means of transportation and communication and higher levels of development of industries and urban areas provide more means of making a living. You might have observed that a large number of people move to the cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai from neighbouring and different parts of the country like Bihar and Orissa where opportunities are less. The most important factor for which they move is the expected improvement in their economic conditions. Many are attracted by an apparent glare of city life with all its modern comforts and attractions.

However, the large scale migration of unskilled people from rural areas to the big cities and towns leads to various consequences such as development of most unhygienic slums devoid of safe drinking water and drainage facilities. The shortages of housing, drinking water, electricity, schools, dispensaries and means of transport and communication have all reached a breaking point in most cities.

- * The important economic pull factors causing migration are fertile soils, availability of minerals, good means of transport and communication, high levels of industrialisation and urbanisation and more job opportunities.
- * The important economic push factors are poor soils, lack of developed means of transport and communication, low levels of industrialisation and urbanisation and lack of job opportunities.

(b) Social Factors

Man is a social being and he likes to live with his kith and kin. Generally the people having a common religion or language or social customs like to live together. On the other hand a person would like to migrate to some other place if he is living among the people belonging to some other culture or customs. Many people migrate to places of religious importance. Migration of people to places like Badrinath, Tirupati and Varanasi though generally temporary is due to religious factors. The impact of the social factors is more clearly seen in the concentration of people belonging to a particular community in one locality in urban area or in a particular city. Religious or social suppression of the minority communities can be an important push factor if the majority community is not tolerant to the other community.

- * People like to live with those following the same religion or customs.
- * Suppression of the minorities at the hands of majority community can be an important push factor leading to migration.

(c) Political Factors

Political factors related to the government policy are responsible for migration. This factor is becoming increasingly important in the modern times. Government can influence the incidence rates and directions of the migrations to a great extent. In some cases the minority communities are discriminated against and they are thus forced out of the countries. Partition of India into India and Pakistan at the time of independence resulted in large scale migration of people between the two countries

It is clear from the foregoing discussion that the causes of migration are numerous and any combination of factors may be more important in a particular instance. Generally the causes of migration can be studied in terms of the push and pull factors. For any migration to start, there must be some factors forcing the people to move to some other places. These are push factors. At the same time, there must be some possible destination also to which people can be attracted which is a pull factor. In the absence of any of these two factors, no migration is possible. People won't leave their place of origin unless they have some difficulty there and also unless they have a possible destination where their problems are likely to be solved.

26.14 CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION

Consequences of migration are as diverse as the causes. The consequences are felt in both the regions i.e. the areas of origin of the migrants and the areas of destination. The consequences of migration can be broadly grouped as demographic and socio-economic.

(a) Demographic Consequences

Due to migrations, the characteristics of the populations in both the regions undergo changes. Not only the age and sex structure of the population but also the rate of growth of population is altered. Generally the proportion of the old, children and females is increased in the population of the source areas due to migration. On the other hand the proportion of these persons in the population of the receiving areas is generally lowered. So this is one of the reason for high sex ratio in source areas and low sex ratio in the receiving areas. This happens because it is the youthful male population which is mostly involved in migration. Thus not only the number of people but also the structure of population in both the regions involved in migration is changed. This results in changes in rates of fertility, mortality and consequently in the growth of population. The source regions are depleted of the youthful population and this results in lowered rates of births and comparatively lower rates of growth. An inverse impact is observed in case of the population structure of the receiving areas.

- * The proportion of the children, women and old people becomes more in the source areas of the migration and these proportions are lowered in the receiving areas. This results in change of age and sex structure and the growth rates of population of both source and receiving regions.

(b) Social Consequences

Migration involves interaction of different cultures. The receiving areas might receive through migration, people belonging to different cultures and this might lead to cultural enrichment. India is a country which received migrants belonging to different cultural groups and the modern culture of India is a result of this inter-mixing of different cultures. Sometimes however, coming together of people having different cultures might result in cultural conflicts also.

(c) Economic Consequences

Among the economic consequences, the effects on the resource-population ratio is most significant. This ratio undergoes change in both the areas involved. The resource-population ratio may be such in an area which might be called either under populated or over populated or adequately populated. The condition of under population means a condition of too low a population to allow development and utilisation of its resources. On the other hand, over population is a condition, when the pressure of population on resources is very high and generally results in low standards of living. A country having enough number of people to enable development and utilisation of its resources without lowering the quality of life is called adequately populated. If the people are moving from an area of over-population to an area of under population, the result is in the direction of balancing the resource-population ratio. On the other hand if the migration is from an area of under population to over populated or adequately populated, the consequences may be harmful to both the areas.

Migration affects the occupational structure of the population in both the regions. Generally the proportion of working population in source areas is lowered and the same proportion in the receiving areas is increased. Thus the population of the receiving areas tends to become more productive and in the source areas it results in increasing the dependancy ratio by reducing the proportion of the working people in the population. One of the serious consequences of migration is 'brain drain'. This refers to the migration of the skilled persons from the poorer countries to the developed countries in search of better economic opportunities. An example can be of the migration of the doctors and engineers etc. from India to the U.S.A. the U.K. and Canada. This type of migration does not alter the resource-population ratio significantly as the number of people involved in migration is not very large. However the quality of human resource in the source region suffers a lot. The resource of the source regions which are generally poorer countries can not be developed fully because of the huge size of the population.

- ^ Migration may generally result in cultural enrichment in the receiving areas although at times it may also lead to cultural conflicts
- * The resource-population ratios in both source regions and receiving regions is altered through migration.
- * Brain-drain is also a serious consequence of migrations besides changes in the occupational structure.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 26.3

1. Fill in the blanks with suitable words choosing the appropriate words given in the bracket.
- (a) Movement of people from one place to the other is called _____
(migration/transhumance)
- (b) Daily movement of people to cities from neighbouring areas is called _____
(diurnal/seasonal)
- (c) Seasonal movement of people with their cattle along some fixed routes is called _____
(commutation/transhumance)
- (d) Due to migration the proportion of the youth in the total population of the source region is likely to _____
(increase/decline)
- (e) The proportion of working population in the areas of immigration is likely to _____
(increase/decrease)
- (f) Migration of the skilled people from the developing countries like India to the developed countries is known as _____
(emigration/brain drain)

WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

- Human resource is the most important resource in an area. It is the quality rather than quantity of this resource which is important for the economic development of a country.
- India is the second most populous country of the world after China. The distribution of population is generally studied in terms of density. The density of population in India is not uniform. On the basis of density of population, India can be divided into three broad regions: the areas of high density, the areas of moderate density and the areas of low density. The factors which affect density and distribution can be grouped into two categories. They are physical factors and socio-economic factors.
- The population of India has been increasing very rapidly since 1921 and the rate of growth has been increasing. The growth rate of population is determined by the birth rate, death rate and migration of an area. Like density and distribution, the growth rate is also not uniform throughout the country.
- Migration is an important factor for the growth rate of population. Migration can be divided into various types on different basis. It can be divided as permanent and temporary. On the basis of source of origin and destination of migrant population it can be divided into rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban and urban to rural. These four types can be grouped under two categories i.e. inter-state migration and intra state migration.

- People move from one place to the other under the influence of economic, social and political factors. The causes of migration can be studied in terms of push and pull factors. The consequences of migrations are numerous and they can be studied in terms of demographic, social and economic consequence.

TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Discuss in brief the distribution of population in India. Outline some of the areas of high, moderate and low density of population.
 2. What are the major trends in population growth in India? Discuss the factors responsible for it with suitable examples.
 3. What is meant by migration? Define various types of migration with suitable examples.
 4. Outline the major causes and consequences of migration briefly.
-

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS**INTEXT QUESTIONS**

26.1

- 1 West Bengal, Kerala and Bihar
- 2 Delhi
- 3 Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat
- 4 Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland
- 5 Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- 6 (a) High
(b) Low

26.2

- 1 (a) (ii)
(b) (ii)
- 2 Delhi and Nagaland
- 3 Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh
- 4 Kerala and Tamil Nadu/Goa

26.3

- (a) Migration
- (b) Daily or Diurnal Migration
- (c) Trans-humance
- (d) Decline
- (e) Increase
- (f) Brain-drain

TERMINAL QUESTIONS

- 1 The distribution in the country is highly uneven. India can be divided into three major regions on the basis of the density of population: the areas of high density, the areas of moderate density and the areas of low density. Give the main characteristics of these regions in terms of the density of population. Name the areas of high, moderate and low density. (For detail refer to section 26.4).
- 2 The growth rate of Indian population has been increasing since 1921. Highlight this fact and provide the causes of this in brief. (For details refer section 26.8)
- 3 Migration is the movement of people from one place to the other. It can be temporary, seasonal and permanent on the basis of the duration of movement and the period of time for which people migrate. Migration can be called national and international also on the basis of whether it occurs within the country or between two or more countries. (For detail refer to section 26.11)
- 4 Discuss briefly causes and consequences of migration. (For details refer to section 26.13)