

### Introduction:

The people are important to develop the economy and society. The people make and use resources and are themselves resources with varying quality. 'Resources', 'calamities' and 'disasters' are all meaningful only in relation to human beings. Their numbers, distribution, growth and characteristics or qualities provide the basic background for understanding and appreciating all aspects of the environment. Human beings producers and consumers of earth's resources. Therefore, it is important to know how many people are there in a country, where do they live, how and why their numbers are increasing and what are their characteristics.

POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

POPULATION GROWTH AND PROCESSES OF POPULATION CHANGE

- **Population Growth:** Growth of population refers to the change in the number of inhabitants of a country/territory during a specific period of time.
- **Processes of Population Change/Growth**
  1. **Birth rate** is the number of live births per thousand persons in a year. It is a major component of growth because in India, birth rates have always been higher than death rates.
  2. **Death rate** is the number of deaths per thousand persons in a year. The main cause of the rate of growth of the Indian population has been the rapid decline in death rates.
  3. **Migration** is the movement of people across regions and territories. Migration can be internal (within the country) or international (between the countries).
- **Age Composition:** The age composition of a population refers to the number of people in different age groups in a country. It is one of the most basic characteristics of a population. The population of a nation is generally grouped into three broad categories:
  1. **Children (generally below 15 years)** They are economically unproductive and need to be provided with food, clothing, education and medical care.
  2. **Working Age (15-59 years)** They are economically productive and biologically reproductive. They comprise the working population.
  3. **Aged (Above 59 years)** They can be economically productive though they may have retired. They may be working voluntarily but they are not available for employment through recruitment.
- **Sex Ratio.** Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population. This information is an important social indicator to measure the extent of equality between males and females in a society at a given time.
- **Literacy Rates:** Literacy is a very important quality of a population. Obviously, only an informed and educated citizen can make intelligent choices and undertake research and development projects. Low levels of literacy are a serious obstacle for economic improvement.
- **Occupational Structure:** The percentage of population that is economically active is an important index of development. The distribution of the population according to different types of occupation is referred to as the occupational structure

**Primary** activities include agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fishing, mining and quarrying etc.

**Secondary** activities include manufacturing industry, building and construction work etc.

**Tertiary** activities include transport, communications, commerce, administration and other services.

- **Health** : Health is an important component of population composition, which affects the process of development. Sustained efforts of government programmes have registered significant improvements in the health conditions of the Indian population.
- **Adolescent Population:** The most significant feature of the Indian population is the size of its adolescent population. It constitutes one-fifth of the total population of India. Adolescents are generally grouped in the age-group of 10 to 19 years. They are the most important resource for the future.
- **National Population Policy:** Recognising that the planning of families would improve individual health and welfare, the Government of India initiated the comprehensive Family Planning Programme in 1952. The Family Welfare Programme has sought to promote responsible and planned parenthood on a voluntary basis.
- **NPP 2000 and Adolescents:** NPP 2000 identified adolescents as one of the major sections of the population that need greater attention. Besides nutritional requirements, the policy put greater emphasis on other important needs of adolescents including protection from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STD). It called for programmes that aim towards encouraging delayed marriage and child-bearing, education of adolescents about the risks of unprotected sex, making contraceptive services accessible and affordable, providing food supplements, nutritional services, strengthening legal measures to prevent child marriage.

### Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ)

- Q.1 Which of the following provides us information regarding the population of our Country ?  
(a) The Census of India (b) Government of India  
(c) Central Statistical Organisation (d) Reserve Bank of India
- Q.2 Which is the most populous state of India ?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Utter Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) West Bengal
- Q.3 Which is the least populous state of India ?  
(a) Nagaland (b) Goa (c) Manipur (d) Sikkim
- Q.4 Which is the largest state of India ?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Utter Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Karnataka
- Q.5 Which state has the highest density of population ?  
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) West Bengal (c) Utter Pradesh (d) Haryana
- Q.6 Which of the following is not responsible for making population a dynamic phenomenon ?  
(a) Education (b) Migration (c) Birth rate (d) Death rate
- Q.7 Choose the right word : To change in the number of inhabitants of a country/ territory during a specific period of time.

- (a) Birth rate                      (b) Death rate                      (c) Migration                      (d) Growth of Population

Q.8 What is Migration ?

- (a) It is Movement of people across regions and territories.  
(b) It is Movement of people, goods and services.  
(c) It is the composition of population.  
(d) None of the mentioned above

Q.9 In which of the following age groups the dependency ratio will be the highest ?

- (a) Below 15 years                      (b) between 15-59 years                      (c) Above 60 years (d)

None of These

Q.10 As per Census 2011 What is sex ratio of India ?

- (a) 915                      (b) 940                      (c) 980                      (d) 1025

Q.11 As per Census 2011 What is the literacy rate of Male in India ?

- (a) 65.46                      (b) 74.05                      (c) 82.14                      (d) 85.12

Q.12 Which of the following is not a primary activity ?

- (a) Animal Husbandry (b) forestry                      (c) Communication                      (d) Fishing

Q.13 Which of the following programs aims towards encouraging delayed marriage and child-bearing, education of adolescence.

- (a) NPP                      (b) KPP                      (c) MPP                      (d) LPP

Q.14 Which of the following is responsible for a large proportion of children in a population ?

- (a) High Birth Rate                      (b) High Death Rate                      (c) High Life Expectations                      (d) More Married Couples

Q.15 Which is the most populous country of the world ?

- (a) United States                      (b) India                      (c) China                      (d) Pakistan

Q.16 Migrations change the number, distribution and composition of the population in

- (a) The area of departure                      (c) both the area of departure and arrival  
(b) The area of arrival                      (d) none of the above

Q.17 A large proportion of children in a population are a result of

- (a) High birth rates                      (b) high death rates                      (c) high life expectancies                      (d) more married couples

Q.18 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

Q.19 According to the Census 2001, a "literate" person is one who

- (a) Can read and write his/her name  
(b) Can read and write any language  
(c) is 7 years old and can read and write any language with understanding  
(d) knows the 3 'R's (reading, writing, arithmetic)

### Short Answer Questions

**Q.1 What is environmental resistance of population growth?**

**Ans** Environmental resistance of population growth are :

- i) Scarcity of food and shelter;
- ii) Natural calamities like drought, floods and;
- iii) Biotic factors like pathogens, parasites, predators is known as environmental resistance.

**Q.2 Distinguish between: Total population and Average density of population.**

**Ans**

Total Population	Average Density of Population
i) It is the number of people actually existing in the area.	i) It is the number of people in a unit area after the distribution of the total population uniformly.
ii) Its unit of measurement is number of people.	ii) Its unit of measurement is number of people per unit area.
iii) Its value depends on number of people only.	iii) Its value depends on both the number of people as well as the total area.

**Q.3 What is meant by the natural growth rate of population? What does the change in population of a territory indicate at?**

**Ans** The population increased in a particular region between two points of times termed as natural growth rate of population. It is calculated by Birth-Deaths.

The change in population of a territory is an important indicator of:

Economic development      Social upliftment      Historical background      Cultural background

**Q.4 Mention any three disadvantages of large population?**

**Ans Disadvantages of large population are:**

- (i) Per Capita Income goes down as the national income is distributed among large number of people.
- (ii) Increasing population results in increased pressure on land and it adversely affects productivity in agriculture.
- (iii) Poverty and unemployment conditions increase day by day.

**Q.5 What are the three special features of human resources of India?**

**Ans Three special features of human resources of India are:**

- (i) The human resource of India is very large.
- (i) Its distribution is quite uneven.
- (ii) It has been increasing very rapidly.

**Q.6 What are the three major questions about the population?**

**Ans** Three major questions about the population:

1. **Population size and distribution:** How many people are there and where are they located?
2. **Population growth and processes of population change:** How has the population grown are changed with time?



ii) Its value is calculated as the difference between the birth rate and the death rate during a certain period.	ii) Its value is directly received from births and deaths registration offices in the region.
iii) The current high population growth rate is due to the large size of the population in the reproductive age-group, higher fertility due to unmet need for contraception; and high wanted fertility due to prevailing high IMR.	iii) It was 22.50 in 2009, according to a World Bank report, published in 2010. The birth rate declined from 26.8 in 1998 to 22.8 in 2008.

**Q.2 Write a short note on the population distribution in India.**

**Ans** India is a vast country having diverse types of relief patterns, soils and climatic conditions. Owing to this fact, it is usual to have uneven distribution of population.

1. Climate: Areas having moderate climate have more population than the areas having extreme climatic conditions.
2. Types of Soil: India's northern plains are made up of alluvial soil which are very fertile and are densely populated. On the other hand hilly areas and deserts are sparsely populated.
3. Opportunity for jobs: Urban areas are thickly populated because of the good opportunity of job.
4. Religious and historical places: Like Allahabad, Varanasi, Rameshwaram, Agra, etc. are also thickly populated areas.

**Q.3** Give a brief account of economic advantages and disadvantages of large population.

**Ans** Advantages of large population: - A large population makes positive contribution to economic growth because of availability of larger manpower for productive activities in the fields of secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors.

Disadvantages of large population:

- i) Per capita income goes down as the national income is distributed among larger number of people.
- ii) Consumption trend gets upward, reducing the size of savings.
- iii) Increasing population results in increased pressure on land and it adversely affects productivity in agriculture.
- iv) Poverty and unemployment conditions increase day by day.

**Q.4 Describe the basic factors affecting the population of India.**

**Ans** The basic factors affecting the population of India are:

- i) Birth rate – It is the number of births per 1000 individuals of a country's population per annum. It increases both population size and population density.
- ii) Death rate – It is expressed as the number of deaths per 1000 individuals of a nation's population per year. It decreases both population size and density.
- iii) Immigration – It is the entry of more individuals into a local population of a species in a specific area from outside due to more favourable conditions in that area.
- iv) Emigration – It is the departure of some individuals from a local population to another area due

to unfavourable conditions in the former. It decreases population size of that area.

Q.5 What is the concept of value education adopted under national population policy, 2000 in India? Mention its components.

Ans Concept of value education is primarily aimed to inculcate moral, environmental, educational, democratic and literary values in the individuals. It is for the improvement of individuals themselves as well as of society, nation and universe as a whole.

Components of Value Education are:

- i) Moral education,
- ii) Environmental education,
- iii) Population education,
- iv) Human rights and duties,
- v) Health education,
- vi) Indian cultural education,
- vii) Physical education,
- viii) Yoga education and
- ix) History of Indian freedom movement.

### Map Question

Q.1 Four features from (i) to (iv) are shown in the given outline political map of India. Identify these features with the help of the following information and write their correct names in your answer book:

- (i) The state having highest density of population
- (ii) The state having lowest sex ratio
- (iii) The most populous state of India
- (iv) The state having lowest density of population



Q.2 Locate and label the following on the given outline political map of India:

- (i) The state having the highest sex ratio
- (ii) The state having the lowest density of population
- (iii) The least populous state of India
- (iv) The state having the lowest sex ratio

Q.3 Locate and label the following on the given outline political map of India:

- (i) The state having the highest sex ratio
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- (iii) The least populous state of India
- (iv) The state having the lowest sex ratio

### HOTS

Q.1 What are the significance features of the National Population Policy 2000

Q.2 Study of population is important. Why?

Q.3 How can you say that the population in urban areas have increased in India? Why is population in urban areas growing fast?

Q.4 Growing population in urban areas affect the development of a country. How?

Q.5 How can you say that the population in urban areas have increased in India?