

## **Quadrant II – Notes**

**Paper Code: ECG104**

**Module Name: Size and Growth of India's Population**

**Module No: 05**

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### **Size and Growth of India's Population**

India possesses 2.4% of the total land area of the world but the country has to support about 17% of the world population. At the beginning of this century India's population was 236 million and according to 2011 census the population of India is 1,210 million.

A study of growth rate of India's population falls into four phases:

1891 - 1921: Stagnant population.

1921-1951: Steady growth

1951-1981: Rapid high growth

1981-2011: High growth rate with definite signs of slowing down

During the first phase of 30 years that is 1891 to 1921 the population of India grew from 236 million in 1891 to 251 million in 1921 that is just by 15 million. The compound annual growth rate was negligible that is 0.19% per annum for the period. The growth rate of population was held in check by the prevalence of a high death rate against a high birth rate. Birth and death rates were more or less equal during this period. India was in the first stage of demographic transition in this period marked by stagnant population.

During the second phase of 30 years that is 1921 to 1951 the population of India grew from 251 million in 1921 to 361 million in 1951 that is by hundred and ten million. The compound growth rate of population was 1.22% per annum which can be considered as moderate. The main reason for the increase in population growth rate was a decline in death from about 49 per thousand to 27 per thousand but, compared with this there was a very small decrease in birth rate. The fall in death rate was largely due to the control of widespread epidemics like plague smallpox Cholera, etc. which took a heavy toll of human life. India had started its entry into the second phase of demographic transition during this period which mark a steady but low growth rate of population. During the third phase of 30 years that is 1951 to 1981 the population of India is derived from 361 million in 1951 to 683 million in 1981. In other words, there was a record growth of population by 322 million in a period of 30 years. With the advent of planning, the extension of hospitals and medical facilities was undertaken on a big scale and these measures resulted in a further and sharp decline of death rate to a level of 15 per thousand but, the birth rate fell from 40 to 37 per thousand during this period. As a result, there was a population explosion during this period. During 1981 to 2011 India entered the 4th phase of high population growth with definite signs of slowing down. Total population increased from 683 million in 1981 to 1,210 million in 2010-2011 indicating an increase of 77.2% during this period. During the decade 1991 to 2001 population grew from 844 million to 1,027 million and increase of 183 million. The annual average rate of growth registered a decline 1.61% during 2001 to 2011.