

## Quadrant II – Notes

**Paper Code: ECG104**

**Module Name: State-Wise Distribution of Population And Population Density**

**Module No: 06**

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### **1) State-wise Distribution of Population**

India is a union of 28 states and 9 Union Territories however the state-wise distribution of population reveals that there is uneven distribution of population. Some states are highly populated while others are not.

According to the 2011 census Uttar Pradesh continues to be the most populous state in the country followed by Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Almost half of the country's population lives in these five states. Uttar Pradesh has a total population of 19,95,81,477 crores accounting for 16.49% of the country's population, Maharashtra has a total population of 11,23,72,972 crores which accounts for 9.29% of the nation's population, Bihar has a total population of 10,38,04,637 crores accounting for 8.58% of the total population, West Bengal with a total population of 9,13,47,736 crores accounts for 7.55 % and Andhra Pradesh with a population of 8,46,65,533 crores accounts for 7.0% of the nation's Population.

With almost 200 million people living the state of Uttar Pradesh has population which is more than the population of Brazil the 5th most populous country in the world.

The combined population of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra at 312 million is substantially greater than the population of USA the third most populous country of the world. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have held on to the top five slots in terms of their ranking in 2011 as compared to 2001. Madhya Pradesh which has moved on to take the 6th position from its 7th position, pushing Tamil Nadu to the 7th spot and little more than 6 of every 10 Indians live in one of these seven states.

While on the other hand, states like Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Nagaland are not so populated. Sikkim has a total population of 6,07,668 crores accounting for 0.05% of the country's population, Mizoram with the population of 10,91,014 crores accounts 0.09%, Arunachal Pradesh with the total population of 13,82,611 crores accounts for 0.11%, Goa with the total population of 14,577,23 crores accounts for 0.12% and finally Nagaland with the population of 19,80,602 crores accounts for 0.16% of the country's population.

Though Rajasthan is the largest state in size, its population contributes to only 5.5% of the total population of India.

This uneven distribution of the population is due to the varying population density of the country. Population density is largely dependent on the geographical location and geological factors. India, has uneven distribution of population due to several factors like (a) Low birth and high death rates areas. (b) Topography Rugged terrain and unfavourable climatic conditions are primarily responsible for sparse population in states like Rajasthan and the hill states. (c) Hilly, dissected and rocky nature of the terrain, moderate to low rainfall, shallow and less fertile soil are responsible for lesser population.

## **2)Population Density**

The term density of population implies the average number of persons living per square kilometre. From a small figure of 77 persons living per square kilometre in 1901, the density of the population of India rose to 90 per square kilometre in 1931, signifying an increase of only 17% but, during the next 30 years, density went up to 142 persons per square kilometre, indicating a sharp increase of about 58%.

But during 1961-81 density increased to 216 per square kilometre in 1981 indicating an unprecedented increase of 52 % during the last 20 years. In 1991 the density of population rose to 267 per square kilometre and further shot up to 382 per square kilometre in 2011. However, density of population is very unevenly distributed among the different states of India. Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are some of the highly densely populated states but Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland are on the other hand such states which have a low density of population. Density of population figures indicate the man land ratio. Obviously, India does not either rank among countries with a very high man land ratio or among those with a very low man land ratio. Density of population that can be supported in any country depends upon the availability of natural resources and the extent of the use of technology to exploit the resources. In other words natural resources coupled with the level of economic development determine the extent to which a higher density of population can be supported.