

1 Land and the People

INDIA is one of the oldest civilisations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. It has achieved all-round socio-economic progress during the last 61 years of its Independence. India has become self-sufficient in agricultural production and is now the tenth industrialised country in the world and the sixth nation to have gone into outer space to conquer nature for the benefit of the people. It covers an area of 32,87,263¹ sq km, extending from the snow-covered Himalayan heights to the tropical rain forests of the south. As the 7th largest country in the world, India stands apart from the rest of Asia, marked off as it is by mountains and the sea, which give the country a distinct geographical entity. Bounded by the Great Himalayas in the north, it stretches southwards and at the Tropic of Cancer, tapers off into the Indian Ocean between the Bay of Bengal on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west.

Lying entirely in the northern hemisphere, the mainland extends between latitudes 8°4' and 37°6' north, longitudes 68°7' and 97°25' east and measures about 3,214 km from north to south between the extreme latitudes and about 2,933 km from east to west between the extreme longitudes. It has a land frontier of about 15,200 km. The total length of the coastline of the mainland, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands is 7,516.6 km.

PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

Countries having a common border with India are Afghanistan and Pakistan to the north-west, China, Bhutan and Nepal to the north, Myanmar to the east and Bangladesh to the east of West Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow channel of sea formed by the Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The mainland comprises four regions, namely, the great mountain zone, plains of the Ganga and the Indus, the desert region and the southern peninsula.

The Himalayas comprise three almost parallel ranges interspersed with large plateaus and valleys, some of which, like the Kashmir and Kullu valleys, are fertile, extensive and of great scenic beauty. Some of the highest peaks in the world are found in these ranges. The high altitudes admit travel only to a few passes, notably the Jelep La and Nathu La on the main Indo-Tibet trade route through the Chumbi Valley, north-east of Darjeeling and Shipki La in the Satluj valley, north-east of Kalpa (Kinnaur). The mountain wall extends over a distance of about 2,400 km with a varying depth of 240 to 320 km. In the east, between India and Myanmar and India and Bangladesh, hill ranges are much lower. Garo, Khasi, Jaintia and Naga Hills, running almost east-west, join the chain to Mizo and Rkhine Hills running north-south.

The plains of the Ganga and the Indus, about 2,400 km long and 240 to 320 km broad, are formed by basins of three distinct river systems - the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. They are one of the world's greatest stretches of flat alluvium and also one of the most densely populated areas on the earth. Between the Yamuna at

¹ Provisional as on 31 March 1982

Delhi and the Bay of Bengal, nearly 1,600 km away, there is a drop of only 200 metres in elevation.

The desert region can be divided into two parts - the great desert and the little desert. The great desert extends from the edge of the Rann of Kutch beyond the Luni river northward. The whole of the Rajasthan-Sind frontier runs through this. The little desert extends from the Luni between Jaisalmer and Jodhpur up to the northern wastes. Between the great and the little deserts lies a zone of absolutely sterile country, consisting of rocky land cut up by limestone ridges.

The Peninsular Plateau is marked off from the plains of the Ganga and the Indus by a mass of mountain and hill ranges varying from 460 to 1,220 metres in height. Prominent among these are the Aravalli, Vindhya, Satpura, Maikala and Ajanta. The Peninsula is flanked on the one side by the Eastern Ghats where average elevation is about 610 metres and on the other by the Western Ghats where it is generally from 915 to 1,220 metres, rising in places to over 2,440 metres. Between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea lies a narrow coastal strip, while between Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal there is a broader coastal area. The southern point of plateau is formed by the Nilgiri Hills where the Eastern and the Western Ghats meet. The Cardamom Hills lying beyond may be regarded as a continuation of the Western Ghats.

GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

The geological regions broadly follow the physical features and may be grouped into three regions: the Himalayas and their associated group of mountains, the Indo-Ganga Plain and the Peninsular Shield.

The Himalayan mountain belt to the north and the Naga-Lushai mountain in the east, are the regions of mountain-building movement. Most of this area, now presenting some of the most magnificent mountain scenery in the world, was under marine conditions about 60 crore years ago. In a series of mountain-building movements commencing about seven crore years ago, the sediments and the basement rocks rose to great heights. The weathering and erosive agencies worked on these to produce the relief seen today. The Indo-Ganga plains are a great alluvial tract that separate the Himalayas in the north from the Peninsula in the south.

The Peninsula is a region of relative stability and occasional seismic disturbances. Highly metamorphosed rocks of the earliest periods, dating back as far as 380 crore years, occur in the area; the rest being covered by the coastal-bearing Gondwana formations, lava flows belonging to the Deccan Trap formation and younger sediments.

RIVER SYSTEMS

The river systems of India can be classified into four groups viz., (i) Himalayan rivers, (ii) Deccan rivers, (iii) Coastal rivers, and (iv) Rivers of the inland drainage basin. The Himalayan rivers are formed by melting snow and glaciers and therefore, continuously flow throughout the year. During the monsoon months, Himalayas receive very heavy rainfall and rivers swell, causing frequent floods. The Deccan rivers on the other hand are rainfed and therefore fluctuate in volume. Many of these are non-perennial. The Coastal streams, especially on the west coast are short in length and have limited catchment areas. Most of them are non-perennial. The streams of inland drainage basin of western Rajasthan are few and far apart. Most of them are of an ephemeral character.

The main Himalayan river systems are those of the Indus and the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna system. The Indus, which is one of the great rivers of the world, rises near Mansarovar in Tibet and flows through India and thereafter through Pakistan and finally falls in the Arabian sea near Karachi. Its important tributaries flowing in Indian territory are the Sutlej (originating in Tibet), the Beas, the Ravi, the Chenab and the Jhelum. The Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna is another important system of which the principal sub-basins are those of Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda, which join at Dev Prayag to form the Ganga. It traverses through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal States. Below Rajmahal hills, the Bhagirathi, which used to be the main course in the past, takes off, while the Padma continues eastward and enters Bangladesh. The Yamuna, the Ramganga, the Ghaghra, the Gandak, the Kosi, the Mahananda and the Sone are the important tributaries of the Ganga. Rivers Chambal and Betwa are the important sub-tributaries, which join Yamuna before it meets the Ganga. The Padma and the Brahmaputra join at Bangladesh and continue to flow as the Padma or Ganga. The Brahmaputra rises in Tibet, where it is known as Tsangpo and runs a long distance till it crosses over into India in Arunachal Pradesh under the name of Dihang. Near Passighat, the Debang and Lohit join the river Brahmaputra and the combined river runs all along the Assam in a narrow valley. It crosses into Bangladesh downstream of Dhubri.

The principal tributaries of Brahmaputra in India are the Subansiri, Jia Bhareli, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Pagladiya and the Manas. The Brahmaputra in Bangladesh fed by Tista, etc., finally falls into Ganga. The Barak river, the Head stream of Meghna, rises in the hills in Manipur. The important tributaries of the river are Makkhu, Trang, Tuivai, Jiri, Sonai, Rukni, Katakhal, Dhaleswari, Langachini, Maduva and Jatinga. Barak continues in Bangladesh till the combined Ganga—Brahmaputra join it near Bhairab Bazar.

In the Deccan region, most of the major river systems flowing generally in east direction fall into Bay of Bengal. The major east flowing rivers are Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, Mahanadi, etc. Narmada and Tapti are major West flowing rivers.

The Godavari in the southern Peninsula has the second largest river basin covering 10 per cent of the area of India. Next to it is the Krishna basin in the region, while the Mahanadi has the third largest basin. The basin of the Narmada in the uplands of the Deccan, flowing to the Arabian Sea, and of the Kaveri in the south, falling into the Bay of Bengal are about the same size, though with different character and shape.

There are numerous coastal rivers, which are comparatively small. While only handful of such rivers drain into the sea near the delta of east coast, there are as many as 600 such rivers on the west coast.

A few rivers in Rajasthan do not drain into the sea. They drain into salt lakes and get lost in sand with no outlet to sea. Besides these, there are the desert rivers which flow for some distance and are lost in the desert. These are Luni, Machhu, Rupen, Saraswati, Banas, Ghaggar and others.

CLIMATE

The climate of India may be broadly described as tropical monsoon type. There are four seasons: (i) winter (January-February), (ii) hot weather summer (March-May); (iii) rainy south-western monsoon (June-September) and (iv) post-monsoon, also known as north-east monsoon in the southern Peninsula (October-December). India's

climate is affected by two seasonal winds - the north-east monsoon and the south-west monsoon. The north-east monsoon commonly known as winter monsoon blows from land to sea whereas south-west monsoon known as summer monsoon blows from sea to land after crossing the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The south-west monsoon brings most of the rainfall during the year in the country.

FLORA

With a wide range of climatic conditions from the torrid to the arctic, India has a rich and varied vegetation, which only a few countries of comparable size possess. India can be divided into eight distinct-floristic-regions, namely, the western Himalayas, the eastern Himalayas, Assam, the Indus plain, the Ganga plain, the Deccan, Malabar and the Andamans.

The Western Himalayan region extends from Kashmir to Kumaon. Its temperate zone is rich in forests of *chir*, pine, other conifers and broad-leaved temperate trees. Higher up, forests of *deodar*, blue pine, spruce and silver fir occur. The alpine zone extends from the upper limit of the temperate zone of about 4,750 metres or even higher. The characteristic trees of this zone are high-level silver fir, silver birch and junipers. The eastern Himalayan region extends from Sikkim eastwards and embraces Darjeeling, Kurseong and the adjacent tract. The temperate zone has forests of oaks, laurels, maples, rhododendrons, alder and birch. Many conifers, junipers and dwarf willows also occur here. The Assam region comprises the Brahmaputra and the Surma valleys with evergreen forests, occasional thick clumps of bamboos and tall grasses. The Indus plain region comprises the plains of Punjab, western Rajasthan and northern Gujarat. It is dry and hot and supports natural vegetation. The Ganga plain region covers the area which is alluvial plain and is under cultivation for wheat, sugarcane and rice. Only small areas support forests of widely differing types. The Deccan region comprises the entire table land of the Indian Peninsula and supports vegetation of various kinds from scrub jungles to mixed deciduous forests. The Malabar region covers the excessively humid belt of mountain country parallel to the west coast of the Peninsula. Besides being rich in forest vegetation, this region produces important commercial crops, such as coconut, betelnut, pepper, coffee and tea, rubber and cashewnut. The Andaman region abounds in evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests. The Himalayan region extending from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh through Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Meghalaya and Nagaland and the Deccan Peninsula is rich in endemic flora, with a large number of plants which are not found elsewhere.

India is rich in flora. Available data place India in the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity. From about 70 per cent geographical area surveyed so far, over 46,000 species of plants have been described by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata. The vascular flora, which forms the conspicuous vegetation cover, comprises 15,000 species. The flora of the country is being studied by BSI and its nine circle/field offices located throughout the country along with certain universities and research institutions.

Ethno-botanical study deals with the utilisation of plants and plant products by ethnic races. A scientific study of such plants has been made by BSI. A number of detailed ethno-botanical explorations have been conducted in different tribal areas of the country. More than 800 plant species of ethno-botanical interest have been collected and identified at different centres.

Owing to destruction of forests for agricultural, industrial and urban development, several Indian plants are facing extinction. About 1,336 plant species are considered vulnerable and endangered. About 20 species of higher plants are categorised as possibly extinct as these have not been sighted during the last 6-10 decades. BSI brings out an inventory of endangered plants in the form of a publication titled *Red Data Book*.

FAUNA

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), with its headquarters in Kolkata and 16 regional stations is responsible for surveying the faunal resources of India. Possessing a tremendous diversity of climate and physical conditions, India has great variety of fauna numbering over 89,000 species. Of these, protista number 2,577, mollusca 5,070, anthropoda 68,389, amphibia 209, mammalia 390, reptilia 456, members of protochordata 119, pisces 2,546, aves 1,232 and other invertebrates 8,329.

The mammals include the majestic elephant, the *gaur* or Indian bison—the largest of existing bovines, the great Indian rhinoceros, the gigantic wild sheep of the Himalayas, the swamp deer, the thamin spotted deer, *nilgai*, the four-horned antelope, the Indian antelope or black-buck – the only representatives of these genera. Among the cats, the tiger and lion are the most magnificent of all; other splendid creatures such as the clouded leopard, the snow leopard, the marbled cat, etc., are also found. Many other species of mammals are remarkable for their beauty, colouring, grace and uniqueness. Several birds, like pheasants, geese, ducks, *myanahs*, parakeets, pigeons, cranes, hornbills and sunbirds inhabit forests and wetlands.

Rivers and lakes harbour crocodiles and *gharials*, the latter being the only representative of crocodylian order in the world. The salt water crocodile is found along the eastern coast and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A project for breeding crocodiles which started in 1974, has been instrumental in saving the crocodile from extinction.

The great Himalayan range has a very interesting variety of fauna that includes the wild sheep and goats, markhor, ibex, shrew and tapir. The panda and the snow leopard are found in the upper reaches of the mountains.

Depletion of vegetative cover due to expansion of agriculture, habitat destruction, over-exploitation, pollution, introduction of toxic imbalance in community structure, epidemics, floods, droughts and cyclones, contribute to the loss of flora and fauna. More than 39 species of mammals, 72 species of birds, 17 species of reptiles, three species of amphibians, two species of fish and a large number of butterflies, moth and beetles are considered vulnerable and endangered.

DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

CENSUS

The Census of India 2001, is historic and epoch making being the first census of the twenty-first century and the third millennium. It reveals benchmark data on the state of abundant human resources available in the country, their demography, culture and economic structure at a juncture, which marks a centennial and millennial transition.

The population enumeration of 2001 census was undertaken during 9-28 February 2001 with a revisional round from 1-5 March 2001. The census moment, the referral time at which the snapshot of the population is taken was 00.00 hours of

1 March 2001. Until the 1991 Census, the sunrise of 1 March was taken to be the census moment. The houseless population, as has been the usual practice, was enumerated on the night of 28 February 2001.

POPULATION

India's population as on 1 March 2001 stood at 1,028 million (532.1 million males and 496.4 million females). India accounts for a meagre 2.4 per cent of the world surface area of 135.79 million sq km. Yet, it supports and sustains a whopping 16.7 per cent of the world population.

The population of India, which at the turn of the twentieth century was around 238.4 million, increased to reach 1,028 million at the dawn of the twenty-first century. The population of India as recorded at each decennial census from 1901 has grown steadily except for a decrease during 1911-21. Decadal growth of population from 1901 is shown in table 1.1.

Table 1.2 gives the selected indicators of population growth in different States and Union Territories. The per cent decadal growth of population in the inter-censal period 1991-2001 varies from a low of 9.43 in Kerala to a very high 64.53 in Nagaland. Delhi with 47.02 per cent, Chandigarh with 40.28 per cent and Sikkim with 33.06 per cent registered very high growth rates. In addition to Kerala, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh registered low growth rates during 1991-2001.

POPULATION DENSITY

One of the important indices of population concentration is the density of population. It is defined as the number of persons per sq km. The population density of India in 2001 was 324 per sq km.

The density of population was increased in all States and Union Territories between 1991 and 2001. Among major states, West Bengal is still the most thickly populated state with a population density of 903 in 2001. Bihar is now the second highest densely populated state pushing Kerala to the third place. Ranking of the States and Union Territories by density is shown in table 1.3.

SEX RATIO

Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per thousand males is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time. The sex ratio in the country had always remained unfavourable to females. It was 972 at the beginning of the 20th century and thereafter showed continuous decline until 1941. The sex ratio from 1901-2001 is given in table 1.4.

LITERACY

For the purpose of census 2001, a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not literate. In the censuses prior to 1991, children below five years of age were necessarily treated as illiterates.

The results of 2001 census reveal that there has been an increase in literacy in the country. The literacy rate in the country is 64.84 per cent, 75.26 for males and 53.67 for females. The steady improvement in literacy is apparent from the table 1.5.

Kerala retained its position by being on top with a 90.86 per cent literacy rate, closely followed by Mizoram (88.80 per cent) and Lakshadweep (86.66 per cent).

TABLE 1.1 : POPULATION 1901-2001

Census years	Population		Decadal Growth		Change in decadal growth		Per cent	Average annual exponential growth rate (per cent)	Progressive growth rate over 1901 (per cent)
	2	3	Absolute	Per cent	Absolute	Per cent			
1901	23,83,96,327	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1911	25,20,93,390	1,36,97,063	5.75	-	-	-	0.56	5.75	
1921	25,13,21,213	-7,72,177	-0.31	-1,44,69,240	-6.05	-	-0.03	5.42	
1931	27,89,77,238	2,76,56,025	11.00	2,84,28,202	11.31	1.04	1.04	17.02	
1941	31,86,60,580	3,96,83,342	14.22	1,20,27,317	3.22	1.33	1.33	33.67	
1951 ¹	36,10,88,090	4,24,27,510	13.31	27,44,168	-0.91	1.25	1.25	51.47	
1961 ¹	43,92,34,771	7,81,46,681	21.64	3,57,19,171	8.33	1.96	1.96	84.25	
1971	54,81,59,652	10,89,24,881	24.80	3,07,78,200	3.16	2.22	2.22	129.94	
1981 ²	68,33,29,097	13,51,69,445	24.66	2,62,44,564	-0.14	2.20	2.20	186.64	
1991 ³	84,64,21,039	16,30,91,942	23.87	2,79,22,497	-0.79	2.14	2.14	255.05	
2001 ⁴	1,02,87,37,436	18,23,16,397	21.54	1,92,24,455	-2.33	1.95	1.95	331.47	

Notes :

1. In working out 'Decadal Growth' and 'Percentage Decadal Growth' for India 1941-51 and 1951-61 the population of Tuensang district for 1951 (7,025) and the population of Tuensang (83,501) and Mon (5,774) districts for 1961 Census of Nagaland state have not been taken into account as the areas went in for census for the first time in 1951 and the same are not comparable.
2. The 1981 Census could not be held owing to disturbances in Assam. Hence the population figures for 1981 of Assam have been worked out by 'interpolation'.
3. The 1991 Census could not be held owing to disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence the population figures for 1991 of Jammu and Kashmir have been worked out by 'interpolation'.
4. The population figures of 2001 includes estimated figures for those of the three sub-divisions, viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Pural of Senapati district of Manipur as census result of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.

TABLE 1.2 : TOTAL POPULATION AND POPULATION GROWTH DURING 1991-2001,
INDIA/STATE/UNION TERRITORY

Sl. No.	India State/Union territory	1991				2001				1991-2001	
		Person	Males	Females	Person	Males	Females	Person	Males	Females	Population growth
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
	India**	846,421,039	439,358,440	407,062,599	1,028,737,436	532,223,090	496,514,346	21.54			
1.	Jammu and Kashmir*	7,837,051	4,142,082	3,694,969	10,143,700	5,360,926	4,782,774	29.43			
2.	Himachal Pradesh	5,170,877	2,617,467	2,553,410	6,077,900	3,087,940	2,989,960	17.54			
3.	Punjab	20,281,969	10,778,034	9,503,935	24,358,999	12,985,045	11,373,954	20.10			
4.	Chandigarh	642,015	358,614	283,401	900,635	506,938	393,697	40.28			
5.	Uttarakhand	7,050,634	3,640,895	3,409,739	8,489,349	4,325,924	4,163,425	20.41			
6.	Haryana	16,463,648	8,827,474	7,636,174	21,144,564	11,363,953	9,780,611	28.43			
7.	Delhi	9,420,644	5,155,512	4,265,132	13,850,507	7,607,234	6,243,273	47.02			
8.	Rajasthan	44,005,990	23,042,780	20,963,210	56,507,188	29,420,011	27,087,177	28.41			
9.	Uttar Pradesh	132,061,653	70,396,062	61,665,591	166,197,921	87,565,369	78,632,552	25.85			
10.	Bihar	64,530,554	33,838,238	30,692,316	82,998,509	43,243,795	39,754,714	28.62			
11.	Sikkim	406,457	216,427	190,030	540,851	288,484	252,367	33.06			
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	864,558	465,004	399,554	1,097,968	579,941	518,027	27.00			
13.	Nagaland	1,209,546	641,282	568,264	1,990,036	1,047,141	942,895	64.53			
14.	Manipur**	1,837,149	938,359	898,790	2,293,896	1,161,952	1,131,944	24.86			
15.	Mizoram	689,756	358,978	330,778	888,573	459,109	429,464	28.82			
16.	Tripura	2,757,205	1,417,930	1,339,275	3,199,203	1,642,225	1,556,978	16.03			
17.	Meghalaya	1,774,778	907,687	867,091	2,318,822	1,176,087	1,142,735	30.65			
18.	Assam	22,414,322	11,657,989	10,756,333	26,655,528	13,777,037	12,878,491	18.92			
19.	West Bengal	68,077,965	35,510,633	32,567,332	80,176,197	41,465,985	38,710,212	17.77			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20.	Jharkhand	21,843,911	11,363,853	10,480,058	26,945,829	13,885,037	13,060,792	23.36
21.	Orissa	31,659,736	16,064,146	15,595,590	36,804,660	18,660,570	18,144,090	16.25
22.	Chhattisgarh	17,614,928	8,872,620	8,742,308	20,833,803	10,474,218	10,369,585	18.27
23.	Madhya Pradesh	48,566,242	25,394,673	23,171,569	60,348,023	31,443,652	28,904,371	24.26
24.	Gujarat	41,309,582	21,355,209	19,954,373	50,671,017	26,385,577	24,285,440	22.66
25.	Daman and Diu	101,586	51,595	49,991	158,204	92,512	65,692	55.73
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	138,477	70,953	67,524	220,490	121,666	98,824	59.22
27.	Maharashtra	78,937,187	40,825,618	38,111,569	96,878,627	50,400,596	46,478,031	22.73
28.	Andhra Pradesh	66,508,008	33,724,581	32,783,427	76,210,007	38,527,413	37,682,594	14.59
29.	Karnataka	44,977,201	22,951,917	22,025,284	52,850,562	26,898,918	25,951,644	17.51
30.	Goa	1,169,793	594,790	575,003	1,347,668	687,248	660,420	15.21
31.	Lakshadweep	51,707	26,618	25,089	60,650	31,131	29,519	17.30
32.	Kerala	29,098,518	14,288,995	14,809,523	31,841,374	15,468,614	16,372,760	9.43
33.	Tamilnadu	55,858,946	28,298,975	27,559,971	62,405,679	31,400,909	31,004,770	11.72
34.	Puducherry	807,785	408,081	399,704	974,345	486,961	487,384	20.62
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	280,661	154,369	126,292	356,152	192,972	163,180	26.90

Note : * The 1991 census figures of Jammu & Kashmir are interpolated as no census was conducted there due to disturbances.

** India and Manipur figures include estimated figures for those of the three sub-divisions viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Puru of Senapati district of Manipur as census results of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.

Source : Office of the Registrar General, India

Bihar with a literacy rate of 47.00 per cent ranks last in the country preceded by Jharkhand (53.56 per cent) and Jammu and Kashmir (55.52 per cent). Kerala also occupies the top spot in the country both in male literacy with 94.24 per cent and female literacy with 87.72 per cent. On the contrary, Bihar has recorded the lowest literacy rates both in case of males (59.68 per cent) and females (33.12 per cent). Table 1.6 shows the literacy rate among persons, male and female in States and UTs, and their ranking.

TABLE 1.3 : STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES BY DENSITY

Rank in 2001	State/ Union territories	Density		Rank in 1991
		2001	1991	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	9,340	6,352	1
2.	Chandigarh	7,900	5,632	2
3.	Puducherry	2,034	1,683	5
4.	Lakshadweep	1,895	1,616	3
5.	Daman and Diu	1,413	907	4
6.	West Bengal	903	767	6
7.	Bihar	881	685	7
8.	Kerala	819	749	9
9.	Uttar Pradesh	690	548	8
10.	Punjab	484	403	10
11.	Tamilnadu	480	429	11
12.	Haryana	478	372	12
13.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	449	282	14
14.	Goa	364	316	13
15.	Assam	340	286	15
16.	Jharkhand	338	274	17
17.	Maharashtra	315	257	16
18.	Tripura	305	263	18
19.	Andhra Pradesh	277	242	19
20.	Karnataka	276	235	20
21.	Gujarat	258	211	21
22.	Orissa	236	203	22
23.	Madhya Pradesh	196	158	23
24.	Rajasthan	165	129	24
25.	Uttarakhand	159	133	25
26.	Chhattisgarh	154	130	26
27.	Nagaland	120	73	27
28.	Himachal Pradesh	109	93	28
29.	Manipur*	111	82	30
30.	Meghalaya	103	79	29
31.	Jammu and Kashmir	100	77	31
32.	Sikkim	76	57	32
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	43	34	33

34.	Mizoram	42	33	34
35.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	10	35

Notes :

- * Manipur figures include estimated figures for those of the three sub-divisions, viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul of Senapati district of Manipur as census results of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.

TABLE 1.4 : SEX RATIO : 1901-2001

Census Year	Sex Ratio (females per 1,000 males)
1901	972
1911	964
1921	955
1931	950
1941	945
1951	946
1961	941
1971	930
1981	934
1991	926
2001	933

Notes :

1. For 1981, interpolated figures for Assam have been used.
2. For 1991, interpolated figures based on final population of 2001 census for Jammu and Kashmir have been used.
3. India figures for 2001 census exclude those of the three sub-divisions, viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul of Senapati district of Manipur as population Census results of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.

TABLE 1.5 : LITERACY RATE : 1951-2001

Census Year	Persons	Males	Females
1951	18.33	27.16	8.86
1961	28.3	40.40	15.35
1971	34.45	45.96	21.97
1981	43.57	56.38	29.76
1991	52.21	64.13	39.29
2001	64.84	75.26	53.67

Notes :

1. Literacy rates for 1951, 1961 and 1971 Censuses relates to population aged five years and above. The rates for the 1981, 1991 and 2001 Censuses relate to the population aged seven years and above.
2. The 1981 Literacy rates exclude Assam where the 1981 Census could not be conducted.
3. The 1991 Literacy rates exclude Jammu and Kashmir where the 1991 Census could not be conducted due to disturbed conditions.

TABLE 1.6 : RANKING OF STATES/UTs BY LITERACY RATE AMONG PERSONS, MALES AND FEMALES, 2001 CENSUS

Rank	Persons			Males			Females								
	State/ Union Territories	Literacy Rate	3	State/ Union Territories	Literacy Rate	4	State/ Union Territories	Literacy Rate	5	State/ Union Territories	Literacy Rate	6	State/ Union Territories	Literacy Rate	7
1.	Kerala	90.86		Kerala	94.24		Kerala	87.72							
2.	Mizoram	88.80		Lakshadweep	92.53		Mizoram	86.75							
3.	Lakshadweep	86.66		Mizoram	90.72		Lakshadweep	80.47							
4.	Goa	82.01		Puducherry	88.62		Chandigarh	76.47							
5.	Chandigarh	81.94		Goa	88.42		Goa	75.37							
6.	Delhi	81.67		Delhi	87.33		Andaman & Nicobar Islands	75.24							
7.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	81.30		Daman and Diu	86.76		Delhi	74.71							
8.	Puducherry	81.24		Andaman and Nicobar Islands	86.33		Puducherry	73.90							
9.	Daman and Diu	78.18		Chandigarh	86.14		Himachal Pradesh	67.42							
10.	Maharashtra	76.88		Maharashtra	85.97		Maharashtra	67.03							
11.	Himachal Pradesh	76.48		Himachal Pradesh	85.35		Daman and Diu	65.61							
12.	Tamilnadu	73.45		Uttarakhand	83.28		Tripura	64.91							
13.	Tripura	73.19		Tamilnadu	82.42		Tamilnadu	64.33							
14.	Uttarakhand	71.62		Tripura	81.02		Punjab	63.36							
15.	Manipur ¹	70.53		Manipur ¹	80.33		Nagaland	61.46							
16.	Punjab	69.65		Gujarat	79.66		Manipur ¹	60.53							
17.	Gujarat	69.14		Haryana	78.49		Sikkim	60.40							
18.	Sikkim	68.81		Chhattisgarh	77.38		Uttarakhand	59.63							
19.	West Bengal	68.64		West Bengal	77.02		West Bengal	59.61							
20.	Haryana	67.91		Karnataka	76.10		Meghalaya	59.61							

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Karnataka	66.64	Madhya Pradesh	76.06	Gujarat	57.80
22.	Nagaland	66.59	Sikkim	76.04	Karnataka	56.87
23.	Chhattisgarh	64.66	Rajasthan	75.70	Haryana	55.73
24.	Madhya Pradesh	63.74	Orissa	75.35	Assam	54.61
25.	Assam	63.25	Punjab	75.23	Chhattisgarh	51.85
26.	Orissa	63.08	Assam	71.28	Orissa	50.51
27.	Meghalaya	62.56	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	71.18	Andhra Pradesh	50.43
28.	Andhra Pradesh	60.47	Nagaland	71.16	Madhya Pradesh	50.29
29.	Rajasthan	60.41	Andhra Pradesh	70.32	Rajasthan	43.85
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	57.63	Uttar Pradesh	68.82	Arunachal Pradesh	43.53
31.	Uttar Pradesh	56.27	Jharkhand	67.30	Jammu and Kashmir	43.00
32.	Jammu and Kashmir	55.52	Jammu and Kashmir	66.60	Uttar Pradesh	42.22
33.	Arunachal Pradesh	54.34	Meghalaya	65.43	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	40.23
34.	Jharkhand	53.56	Arunachal Pradesh	63.83	Jharkhand	38.87
35.	Bihar	47.00	Bihar	59.68	Bihar	33.12

Notes :

- 1 Manipur figures exclude those of the three sub-divisions, viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul of Senapati district of Manipur as census results of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.
Literacy rates relate to the population aged seven years and above.

**TABLE 1.7 : TOTAL POPULATION AND PERCENTAGE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES : 2001 CENSUS**

Sl. No.	India/State/ Union Territory	Total Population (‘000)	Scheduled Caste Population (‘000)	Percentage of total population	Scheduled Tribe Population (‘000)	Percentage of total population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	INDIA¹	1,028,610	166,636	16.20	84,326	8.20
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	10,144	770	7.59	1,106	10.90
2.	Himachal Pradesh	6,078	1,502	24.72	245	4.02
3.	Punjab	24,359	7,029	28.85	0	0.00
4.	Chandigarh	901	158	17.50	0	0.00
5.	Uttarakhand	8,489	1,517	17.87	256	3.02
6.	Haryana	21,145	4,091	19.35	0	0.00
7.	Delhi	13,851	2,343	16.92	0	0.00
8.	Rajasthan	56,507	9,694	17.16	7,098	12.56
9.	Uttar Pradesh	166,198	35,148	21.15	108	0.06
10.	Bihar	82,999	13,049	15.72	758	0.91
11.	Sikkim	541	27	5.02	111	20.60
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,098	6	0.56	705	64.22
13.	Nagaland	1,990	0	0.00	1,774	89.15
14.	Manipur ¹	2,167	60	2.77	741	34.20
15.	Mizoram	889	0	0.03	839	94.46
16.	Tripura	3,199	556	17.37	993	31.05
17.	Meghalaya	2,319	11	0.48	1,993	85.94
18.	Assam	26,656	1,826	6.85	3,309	12.41
19.	West Bengal	80,176	18,453	23.02	4,407	5.50
20.	Jharkhand	26,946	3,189	11.84	7,087	26.30
21.	Orissa	36,805	6,082	16.53	8,145	22.13
22.	Chhattisgarh	20,834	2,419	11.61	6,617	31.76
23.	Madhya Pradesh	60,348	9,155	15.17	12,233	20.27
24.	Gujarat	50,671	3,593	7.09	7,481	14.76
25.	Daman and Diu	158	5	3.06	14	8.85
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	220	4	1.86	137	62.24
27.	Maharashtra	96,879	9,882	10.20	8,577	8.85
28.	Andhra Pradesh	76,210	12,339	16.19	5,024	6.59
29.	Karnataka	52,851	8,564	16.20	3,464	6.55
30.	Goa	1,348	24	1.77	1	0.04
31.	Lakshadweep	61	0	0.00	57	94.51
32.	Kerala	31,841	3,124	9.81	364	1.14
33.	Tamilnadu	62,406	11,858	19.00	651	1.04
34.	Puducherry	974	158	16.19	0	0.00
35.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	356	0	0.00	29	8.27

Note :

1. India and Manipur figures exclude those of the three sub-divisions, viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul of Senapati district of Manipur as census results of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.

TABLE 1.8 : RURAL AND URBAN POPULATION

Census Year	Population (Million)		Percentage of total population	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4	5
1901	213	26	89.2	10.8
1911	226	26	89.7	10.3
1921	223	28	88.8	11.2
1931	246	33	88.0	12.0
1941	275	44	86.1	13.9
1951	299	62	82.7	17.3
1961	360	79	82.0	18.0
1971	439	109	80.1	19.9
1981	524	159	76.7	23.3
1991	629	218	74.3	25.7
2001	743	286	72.2	27.8

Note :

1. India and Manipur figures are final and include estimated figures for those of the three sub-divisions, viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul of Senapati district of Manipur as census results of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.
2. The 1991 Census could not be held owing to disturbed conditions prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence the population figures for 1991 of Jammu and Kashmir have been worked out by 'interpolation' on the basis of 2001 final population.
3. The 1981 census could not be held in Assam. The figures for 1981 for Assam have been worked out by interpolation.

TABLE 1.9 : POPULATION BY CLASS OF TOWN, INDIA-2001 CENSUS

(in 000's)

	Class of Town	2001
I	1,00,000 and above	178,224
II	50,000-99,999	34,452
III	20,000-49,999	42,119
IV	10,000-19,999	22,614
V	5,000-9,999	7,890
VI	Less than 5,000	821
	All Classes	286,120
	Urban population as percentage to total population	27.82

TABLE 1.10 : DISTRIBUTION OF VILLAGES ACCORDING TO POPULATION 2001 CENSUS AND TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITED VILLAGES

Sl. No.	States/UTs	10000 and above	5,000 9,999	2,000-4,999	1,000-1,999	500-999	200-499	Less than 200	Total No. of inhabited villages.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Jammu and Kashmir®	10	135	886	1,546	1,664	1,499	677	6,417
2.	Himachal Pradesh	1	8	174	660	2,094	5,645	8,913	17,495
3.	Punjab	26	273	1,987	3,405	3,378	2,130	1,079	12,278
4.	Chandigarh	2	6	7	2	2	1	3	23
5.	Uttarakhand	13	69	350	752	1,890	4,912	7,775	15,761
6.	Haryana	97	504	2,015	2,091	1,205	582	270	6,764
7.	Delhi	24	26	60	29	9	4	6	158
8.	Rajasthan	100	661	4,660	8,777	11,058	9,151	5,346	39,753
9.	Uttar Pradesh	296	2,266	16,573	27,218	25,614	16,879	9,096	97,942
10.	Bihar	630	2,306	8,571	10,113	8,498	5,662	3,235	39,015
11.	Sikkim	0	9	40	120	157	82	42	450
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	3	26	126	266	682	2,760	3,863
13.	Nagaland	5	50	171	253	372	323	104	1,278
14.	Manipur*	6	28	157	202	326	731	749	2,199
15.	Mizoram	1	1	31	76	198	258	142	707
16.	Tripura	28	106	370	188	99	55	12	858
17.	Meghalaya	0	4	60	185	690	2,090	2,753	5,782
18.	Assam	19	185	2,495	5,439	6,233	6,018	4,735	25,124
19.	West Bengal	354	1,526	6,819	8,490	8,930	7,553	4,273	37,945
20.	Jharkhand	28	174	1,642	4,173	7,442	9,234	6,661	29,354
21.	Orissa	5	180	2,404	6,814	11,428	14,054	12,644	47,529

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22.	Chhattisgarh	6	80	1,264	4,185	6,465	5,498	2,246	19,744
23.	Madhya Pradesh	19	362	3,551	10,434	16,277	14,330	7,144	52,117
24.	Gujarat	153	807	4,154	5,615	4,262	2,297	778	18,066
25.	Daman and Diu	2	5	5	4	5	2	0	23
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	7	28	15	12	7	1	70
27.	Maharashtra	262	1,018	5,862	11,570	12,074	7,367	2,942	41,095
28.	Andhra Pradesh	498	1,788	6,915	6,475	4,467	3,402	3,068	26,613
29.	Karnataka	131	703	4,024	6,378	7,367	5,563	3,315	27,481
30.	Goa	3	23	96	77	56	60	32	347
31.	Lakshadweep	1	2	3	0	0	1	1	8
32.	Kerala	1,072	207	69	10	0	4	2	1,364
33.	Tamilnadu	168	1,254	4,870	4,484	2,801	1,344	479	15,400
34.	Puducherry	2	20	45	18	7	0	0	92
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	2	23	52	62	90	272	501
ALL INDIA		3,962	14,798	80,407	129,976	145,408	127,510	91,555	593,616

Note :

@ India and Jammu & Kashmir State excludes the villages of the areas under unlawful occupation of Pakistan and China where Census could not be taken.

* India and Manipur excludes villages for those of the three sub-divisions viz. Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul of Senapati district of Manipur as census results of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.

Source : Office of the Registrar General India.

TABLE 1.11 : POPULATION OF MILLION PLUS CITIES/TOWNS

Sl.No.	City/Town	Population				0-6 Population				Literates	
		Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1.	Greater Mumbai (M Corp.)	11,978,450	6,619,966	5,358,484	1,364,423	709,777	654,646	9,207,877	5,388,552	3,819,325	
2.	DMC (U) (M Corp.)	9,879,172	5,412,497	4,466,675	1,352,656	724,171	628,485	7,075,280	4,110,213	2,965,067	
3.	Kolkata (M Corp.)	4,572,876	2,500,040	2,072,836	390,282	202,527	187,755	3,382,103	1,925,008	1,457,095	
4.	Chennai (M Corp.)	4,343,645	2,219,539	2,124,106	433,340	219,720	213,620	3,336,695	1,799,981	1,536,714	
5.	Bangaluru (M Corp.)	4,301,326	2,242,835	2,058,491	484,982	249,652	235,330	3,265,702	1,787,677	1,478,025	
6.	Hyderabad (M Corp.)	3,637,483	1,883,064	1,754,419	463,150	238,386	224,764	2,498,234	1,374,955	1,123,279	
7.	Ahmedabad (M Corp.)	3,520,085	1,867,249	1,652,836	441,022	240,797	200,225	2,552,731	1,447,380	1,105,351	
8.	Kanpur (M Corp.)	2,551,337	1,374,121	1,177,216	317,756	171,263	146,493	1,758,807	997,001	761,806	
9.	Pune (M Corp.)	2,538,473	1,321,338	1,217,135	302,960	158,672	144,288	1,930,063	1,064,508	865,555	
10.	Surat (M Corp.)	2,433,835	1,372,415	1,061,420	340,582	186,746	153,836	1,736,939	1,043,703	693,236	
11.	Lucknow (M Corp.)	2,185,927	1,156,151	1,029,776	273,401	143,232	130,169	1,474,733	827,793	646,940	
12.	Nagpur (M Corp.)	2,052,066	1,059,765	992,301	249,827	129,283	120,544	1,609,126	873,739	735,387	
13.	Jaipur (M Corp.)	2,322,575	1,237,765	1,084,810	352,661	187,351	165,310	1,537,850	908,969	628,881	
14.	Indore (M Corp.)	1,474,968	774,540	700,428	200,081	105,478	94,603	1,064,912	598,339	466,573	
15.	Bhopal (M Corp.)	1,437,354	757,408	679,946	208,587	108,172	100,415	979,770	555,051	424,719	
16.	Ludhiana (M Corp.)	1,398,467	793,142	605,325	169,273	93,050	76,223	981,383	573,886	407,497	

Sl.No.	City/Town	Population											
		Population						0-6 Population					
		Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
17.	Patna (M Corp.)	1,366,444	746,344	620,100	182,037	96,034	86,003	961,681	564,625	397,056			
18.	Vadodara (M Corp.)	1,306,227	684,013	622,214	148,034	80,610	67,424	1,014,014	557,051	456,963			
19.	Agra (M Corp.)	1,275,134	690,599	584,535	179,411	96,850	82,561	766,860	452,770	314,090			
20.	Thane (M Corp.)	1,262,551	675,147	587,404	161,698	84,334	77,364	973,195	551,086	422,109			
21.	Kalyan-Dombivli (M Corp.)	1,193,512	633,508	560,004	144,097	75,256	68,841	944,745	525,907	418,838			
22.	Varanasi (M Corp.)	1,091,918	582,096	509,822	161,172	84,256	76,916	670,367	392,103	278,264			
23.	Nashik (M Corp.)	1,077,236	575,737	501,499	147,919	78,579	69,340	802,695	458,005	344,690			
24.	Meerut (M Corp.)	1,068,772	568,081	500,691	163,570	87,893	75,677	610,636	355,282	255,354			
25.	Faridabad (M Corp.)	1,055,938	581,069	474,869	158,603	85,805	72,798	714,578	430,274	284,304			
26.	Pimpri Chinchwad (M Corp.)	1,012,472	547,050	465,422	143,034	75,688	67,346	745,317	431,785	313,532			
27.	Haora (M Corp.)	1,007,532	547,068	460,464	94,330	48,678	45,652	768,655	438,450	330,205			

TABLE 1.12 : STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES BY POPULATION IN DESCENDING ORDER AND RANK IN 1991 AND 2001 CENSUS

Rank in 2001	State/ Union territories	Population 2001	Per cent to total Population of India		Rank in 1991
			2001	1991	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Uttar Pradesh	166,197,921	16.16	15.59	1
2.	Maharashtra	96,878,627	9.42	9.33	2
3.	Bihar	82,998,509	8.07	7.62	5
4.	West Bengal	80,176,197	7.79	8.04	3
5.	Andhra Pradesh	76,210,007	7.41	7.86	4
6.	Tamilnadu	62,405,679	6.07	6.60	6
7.	Madhya Pradesh	60,348,023	5.87	5.74	7
8.	Rajasthan	56,507,188	5.49	5.20	9
9.	Karnataka	52,850,562	5.14	5.31	8
10.	Gujarat	50,671,017	4.93	4.88	10
11.	Orissa	36,804,660	3.58	3.74	11
12.	Kerala	31,841,374	3.10	3.44	12
13.	Jharkhand	26,945,829	2.62	2.58	14
14.	Assam	26,655,528	2.59	2.65	13
15.	Punjab	24,358,999	2.37	2.40	15
16.	Haryana	21,144,564	2.06	1.95	17
17.	Chhattisgarh	20,833,803	2.03	2.08	16
18.	Delhi	13,850,507	1.35	1.11	18
19.	Jammu and Kashmir ²	10,143,700	0.99	0.93	19
20.	Uttarakhand	8,489,349	0.83	0.84	20
21.	Himachal Pradesh	6,077,900	0.59	0.61	21
22.	Tripura	3,199,203	0.31	0.33	22
23.	Meghalaya	2,318,822	0.23	0.21	24
24.	Manipur ¹	2,293,896	0.22	0.22	23
25.	Nagaland	1,990,036	0.19	0.14	25
26.	Goa	1,347,668	0.13	0.14	26
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,097,968	0.11	0.10	27
28.	Puducherry	974,345	0.09	0.10	28
29.	Chandigarh	900,635	0.09	0.08	29

30.	Mizoram	888,573	0.09	0.08	30
31.	Sikkim	540,851	0.05	0.05	31
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	356,152	0.03	0.03	32
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	220,490	0.02	0.02	33
34.	Daman and Diu	158,204	0.02	0.01	34
35.	Lakshadweep	60,650	0.01	0.01	35

Notes :

1. India and Manipur figures include estimated figures for those of the three sub-divisions viz., Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul of Senapati district of Manipur as census results of 2001 in these three sub-divisions were cancelled due to technical and administrative reasons.
2. The 1991 Census could not be held owing to disturbed conditions prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence the population figures for 1991 of Jammu and Kashmir have been worked out by 'interpolation'.