

*Notes*

POPULATION COMPOSITION

In the previous lesson, we studied about distribution, density and growth of population of India. We also looked into the causes and consequences of distribution and density of population. We pondered over the causes and consequences of rapid growth of population for the past hundred years. In this lesson we will study composition of Indian population along certain dimensions. Firstly, we would like to note the location and size of settlements in which people prefer to live and why they do so. This constitutes the rural and urban composition of population. Next we will find out if males and females are equal in number and more importantly in status. Age composition of Indian population and its implication would be yet another focal point of our inquiry. Then we would move away from purely demographic to socio-cultural dimensions of our population composition. This will help us to know the linguistic and religious composition of our society. Finally, we have a glance at scheduled caste and scheduled tribes population with regard to their numbers, location and distribution. Last but not the least important focal point of our study would be the levels of literacy in our country. All these analytical aspects would help us to look at our population not only as mere numbers but as a human resources as well.



OUTCOMES

After studying this lesson, learner:

- explains the rural-urban, Sex ratio and age composition of Indian population;
- describes the spatial and temporal change in levels of literacy;
- analyses the concentration of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, religious and linguistic composition of population and
- describes recent population issues related to gender equality and reproductive health.

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India**Notes****22.1 RURAL-URBAN COMPOSITION**

Population is divided into two parts-rural and urban on the basis of the size and occupation of settlements. The rural population consists of small sized settlements scattered over the countryside. Urban population is one that lives in large size settlements i.e. towns and cities. However, more importantly this division is based on occupational structure. In India, rural area is defined as one where three-fourths or more of its population is engaged in primary occupations such as farming, animal rearing, forestry, fishing, quarrying etc. On the other hand, urban area is one where three-fourths or above of its population is engaged in non-agricultural activities such as manufacturing, trade, transport, communication, banking and social services like health, education, administration etc.

Table 22.1 Rural and Urban Population in India (1911-2011)

Census year	Percentage of total Population	
	Rural	Urban
1901	89.2	10.8
1911	89.7	10.3
1921	88.8	11.2
1931	88.0	12.0
1941	86.1	13.9
1951	82.7	17.3
1961	82.0	18.0
1971	80.1	19.9
1981	76.7	23.3
1991	74.3	25.7
2001	72.2	27.8
2011	68.8	31.2

Source: Census of India

The total population of India spreads over more than 6, 40, 867 villages and 7,935 towns. India, proverbially, is considered to be a country of villages. Even today, about 69% of the



total population of India lives in villages. But the proportion of rural population has been decreasing in each successive census (See Table 22.1). Consequently the proportion of urban population to total population has been increasing slowly but steadily. It was as low as 10.8% in 1901 and rose to 31.2% by 2011. The question arises why is it so? It is because the rate of growth of urban population is higher than that of rural population. The Growth in Urban population is significantly higher at 31.8% that in Rural population (12.18%) during 2001-11. Growth in Rural Population in India is steadily declining since 1991. However all this growth is not a result of only the natural increase of population. In fact, much of the growth of urban population is due to high rate of migration of people from rural to urban areas. Very often limits of municipal or city Corporation areas are extended to cover neighbouring villages or suburbs.

Half of the total urban population of India lives only in five states. These five states are Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Union Territory of Delhi, have about 32 per cent of urban population of the country. Rest of the urban population (about 18%) is spread over the remaining states and Union Territories

According to 2011 census, 53 cities have more than 1000000 population each. They are called the metropolitan or million plus cities. These 53 metropolitan cities alone account for 37.8% of the total population. This highly rapid growth of metropolitan cities will bring several problems like supply of housing, electricity, water, school, dispensaries, ration shops etc. Let us now find out the distribution of these metropolitan cities in India.

All the 53 metropolitan cities are arranged in terms of descending orders of population. These are Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Jaipur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Ghaziabad, Indore, Coimbatore, Kochi, Patna, Kozhikode, Bhopal, Thiruvananthapuram, Vadodara, Agra, Vishakhapatnam, Mallapuram, Thiruvananthapuram, Ludhiana, Kanur, Nasik, Vijaywada, Madurai, Varanasi, Meerut, Faridabad, Rajkot, Jamshedpur, Srinagar, Jabalpur, Asansol, Vasai-Virar, Dhanbad, Allahabad, Aurangabad, Amritsar, Jodhpur, Ranchi, Raipur, Kolam, Gwalior, Durg-Bhilainagar, Chandigarh, Tiruchirapalli, and Kota.



Fig. 22.1 India: Major Metro Cities



INTEXT QUESTIONS 22.1

- Fill in the blanks with suitable words from those given in the bracket
(Secondary and tertiary, increasing, 53, lower, primary)



- (a) The growth rate of rural population is -----than the growth rate of urban population in India.
- (b) The rural population is mainly engaged in ----- activities whereas the urban population is primarily engaged in ----- activities.
- (c) Proportion of urban population has been --- since 1921.
- (d) Altogether there are --- "million cities".

22.2 SEX-RATIO

Sex Ratio refers to the number of females per thousand males of an area. According to the Census of India 2011, there are only 943 females per thousand males. So sex composition in India is unfavourable. It means there are less number of females than the number of males. When the number of females is more than the males it is said to be favourable. If we analyse the data over a period of 100 years (1911-2011), it has been observed that there has been steady decline of sex ratio in the country except some marginal increases in the 1951, 1981, 2001 and now in 2011.

Table 22.2: Sex Ratio in India 1911-2011

Census Year	Sex Ratio
1911	964
1921	955
1931	950
1941	945
1951	946
1961	941
1971	930
1981	934
1991	927
2001	933
2011	943

Source: Census of India

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As far as states are concerned only Kerala has favourable sex ratio (1058). It has the highest sex ratio in the country. The lowest sex ratio among states is found in Haryana (877). Among the Union Territories, Pondicherry has the highest sex ratio in the country with (1001) females per thousand males, whereas the lowest sex ratio is found in Daman and Diu where there was 618 females per thousand males. The significant trend with regard to the sex ratio in the country is that it has been a steadily declining except some marginal increases in the 1951, 1981, 2001 and now in 2011 censuses.

Why is there a decline in the sex ratio in India? The major reasons for the declining sex ratio in India are the higher rate of maternal mortality and a high child mortality among the female children. These two causes are related to the comparatively lower status of the women in our society. Apart from this our socio-cultural values and beliefs like male preference in our society are responsible for the declining sex ratio. The female mortality rate is likely to be reversed with the improving status of the women and also due to better health facilities and education particularly of the females. The improved medical facilities have helped in checking the rate of child mortality and the deaths of mothers during child birth.

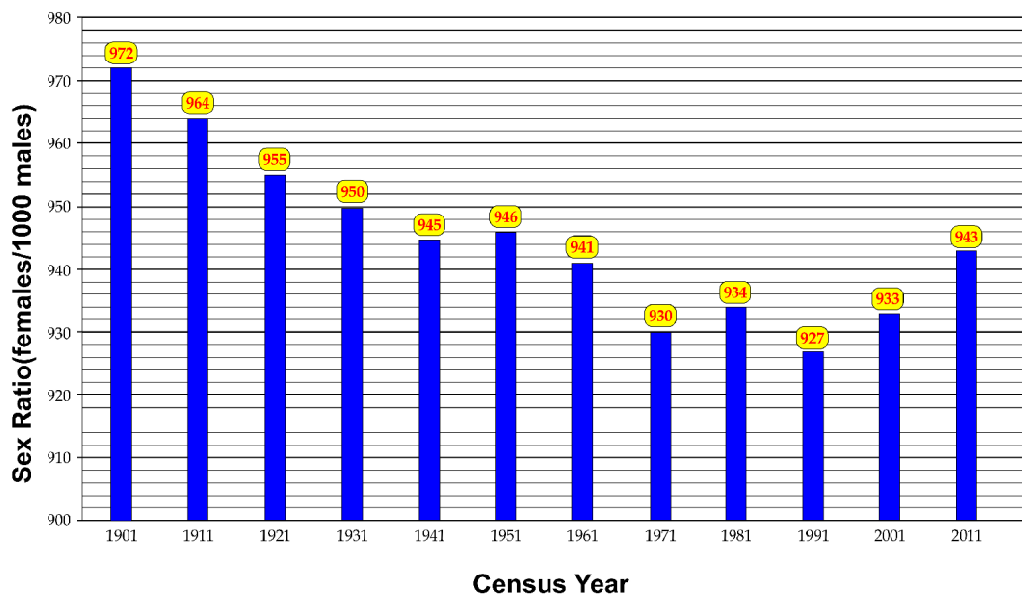


Fig. 22.2 India: Trends of Sex Ratio 1901-2011

Gender Equity, Equality and Empowerment of Women

Gender equity and equality is a human right. Women are entitled to live with dignity and with freedom from want and from fear. Gender equality is also a precondition for advancing development and reducing poverty: Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities, and they improve prospects for the next generation. Still, despite solid evidence demonstrating the centrality of women's empowerment to realizing

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human rights, reducing poverty, promoting development and addressing the world's most urgent challenges, gender equality remains an unfulfilled promise.

Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights

Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. It implies that people have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this is the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility, which are not against the law, and the right of access to health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth. Reproductive health care also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations.

Reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other relevant UN consensus documents. These rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. They also include the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence. Full attention should be given to promoting mutually respectful and equitable gender relations and particularly to meeting the educational and service needs of adolescents to enable them to deal in a positive and responsible way with their sexuality.

Reproductive health-care programmes should be designed to serve the needs of women, including adolescents, and must involve women in the leadership, planning, decision-making, management, implementation, organization and evaluation of services. Innovative programmes must be developed to make information, counselling and services for reproductive health accessible to adolescents and adult men. Such programmes must both educate and enable men to share more equally in family planning, domestic and child-rearing responsibilities and to accept major responsibility for the prevention of STDs



INTEXT QUESTIONS 22.2

Answers the following questions in brief:

- Name the state having the highest sex ratio in India
- Name the state having lowest sex ratio in India



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- (c) What is the sex ratio of India according to Census of India, 2011?
- (d) Define sex ratio.

22.3 AGE COMPOSITION

Age-sex pyramid refers to the composition of population in terms of the age and sex of people. It gives an indication regarding the growth rate of population and the nature of population in terms of working and non-working sections. As per the census of India 2011, children up to 14 years of age account for 30.80% of the total population. The age group of 15-59 years accounts for 60.7% of total population and the age group of 60 years and above for 8.4% of population. The age structure has been undergoing some gradual changes during the recent decades. One of the trends is that proportion of the younger population i.e. in the age group of 0-14 years is declining and the percentage of persons on the working age group, i.e. 15 to 59 age group as well as old age population i.e. 60 years and above is increasing. But in 2001 Census, the percentage of persons in the age group of 15-59 has increased from 56.9% in 2001 Census to 60.7% in 2011 Census. However, the proportion of people in old age group has increased from 7.4% in 2001 to 8.7% in 2011 census. The proportion of young population i.e. 0-14 years declined from 35.3% in 2001 census to 30.80% in 2011 census (Fig.22.3).

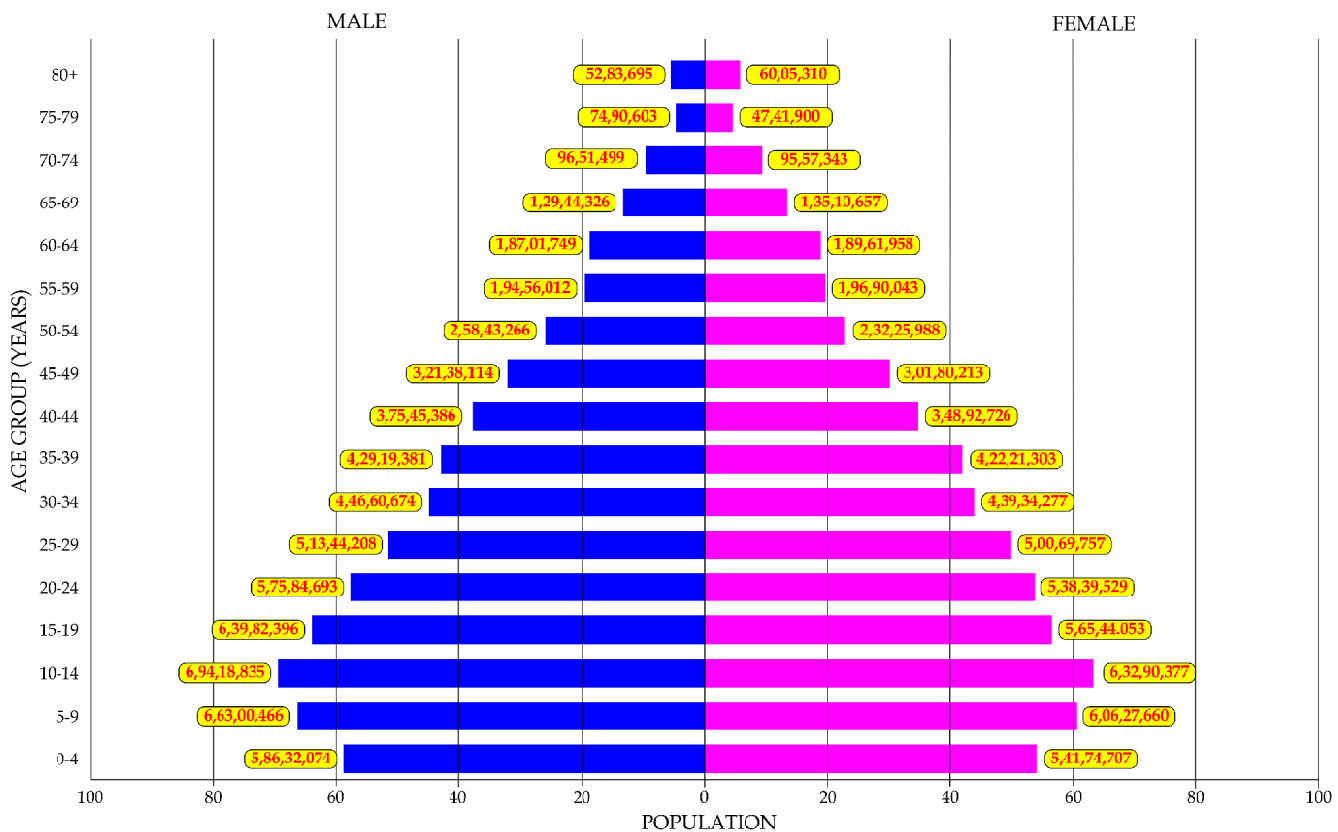


Fig. 22.3 India: Age-Sex Composition 2011

**Notes****DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND**

Have you heard this term? Now a day's planners, policy makers, political leaders and academics have been talking about this for quite some time. It has been clear from the discussion in the previous section that India has been adding large number of population each year in terms of absolute number. If you look at their age composition, you will find that a significant proportion of them are youth population (15-35 years). According to 2011 India there were 62.5 per cent population in the age group 15-59. As you know this is the active working population. This increase in share of active working population helps in reaping the benefits of 'Demographic Dividend'. In simple terms demographic dividend can be expressed as a limited time 'window of opportunity' for rapid economic growth. However, the challenge before the nation is to make them skilled human resource so that they can contribute significantly for nation building in general and improve their standard of living in specific.

22.4 LINGUISTIC COMPOSITION

India has also linguistic diversity like physical environment. The languages spoken and their dialects number is in hundreds. In 1961 census, 1652 languages were listed as mother tongues in India. Out of these only 23 languages together accounted for 97% of total population of the country. Out of these 23 numerically major languages, Constitution of India recognizes only 22 languages besides English in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. These languages are Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati, Oriya, Punjabi, Kashmiri, Sanskrit, Konkani, Sindhi, Nepali, Manipuri, Urdu, Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali. Out of these above mentioned 22 languages, Hindi is spoken by most of the people whereas Sanskrit is spoken by the least. Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Sindhi language was added in 1967. Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992. Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali were added in 2004.

The languages also vary slightly in terms of the meaning of different words and their pronunciation. Thus the people speaking one particular languages speak it with some difference in vocabulary and pronunciation from one place to the other. Such variations in the way of speaking of a language lead to emergence of dialects of language. Thus, a dialect is something akin to a part of some language and they can be thought as regional language also. Some of the examples of the dialects of Hindi are Rajasthani, Harayanavi, Bhojpuri or Poorvi dialects etc. Language is an important constituent of culture and various languages and their dialects are spoken in different parts of India. It makes Indian culture rich and diversified. Also, the languages have an almost complete regional identity in the country and the distribution of major languages has been considered as a basis for re-organization of states after independence.

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On the basis of numerical strength, India can be divided into twelve principal linguistic regions. So linguistic region is an area in which most of the people speak a common language. The languages forming linguistic regions in India are Kashmiri, Punjabi, Hindi/Urdu, Bengali, Assamese, Oriya, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

CLASSIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

Though all the languages spoken in India seem to be different from each other, they can be grouped into four linguistic families on the basis of their roots and genesis. The four linguistic families are: Austric, Dravidian, Sino-Tibetan and Indo-European Family.

- (i) The speeches of the Austric family are spoken by tribal people in Meghalaya, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and in parts of Central Indian tribal belt, especially in the districts of Santhal Praganas, Ranchi and Mayurbhanj.
- (ii) The languages and dialects of Sino-Tibetan family are spoken by tribal people in North-Eastern region of the country and in the Sub-Himalayan region in the north and North West. These languages are spoken by people living in the Union Territory of Ladakh, parts of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim also.
- (iii) The speakers of the languages of Dravidian family are more numerous in southern part of India. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala are the states Union Territory of Pondicherry where these languages are spoken by the majority of population. A large number of tribal living in peninsular plateau region also speak speeches of this family.
- (iv) The speaker of the languages of Indo-Aryan family are concentrated more in the northern and central parts of the country. The entire North Indian plain is inhabited by the speakers of this family. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh also have large population of speakers of these languages.

The proportion of the speakers of languages of different families in the total population varies significantly. While the Indo-Aryan family languages are spoken by more than 70% of the people, the Sino-Tibetan languages are spoken by only about 0.85 percent of the population and Dravidian languages are spoken by about 20 percent of the people.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 22.3**

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words out of those given in the brackets:

1. (a) One of the languages belonging to the Austric Family of languages is -----
(Santhali, Hindi, Bengali)



- (b) Hindi is a languages belonging to the --- family of languages
(Dravidian, Aryan, Austric)
- (c) Speakers of Austric languages are concentrated primarily in --- -
(tribal areas of central India, western Himalayas, Konkan region)

22.5 RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION

Indian society has a large number of religious communities. But, broadly there are seven major religions. The majority of people follow one of these seven major religions. These are Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Zoroastrians. Hindus are the largest religious community in India .

Table 22.4 Population by Religion in 2011 Census

S. No.	Religion	In Crore (%)
1	Hindu	96.63 (79.8%)
2	Islam	17.22 (14.2%)
3	Christian	2.78(2.3%)
4	Sikh	2.08 (1.7%)
5	Buddhism	0.84 (0.7%)
6	Jain	0.45 (0.4%)
7	Other Religions and Pursuations	0.79 (0.7%)
8.	Religion Not Stated	0.25 (0.2%)

According to 2011 census, 79.8% percentage of population follow Hindu religion. Followers of this religion are more concentrated in the northern plains and the northern parts of the plateau region. However they are numerous in all parts of the country except a few north-eastern states and union territory of Lakshadweep. But the distribution of the other religious communities is less continuous and there are only some pockets in which they have larger concentration.

The largest number of Muslim population is in Uttar Pradesh followed by West Bengal and Bihar. But the Muslim population make a large proportion of the total population in Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Apart from these above mentioned states and Union Territory, other states where Muslims have significant presence (more than national average) are Assam and Kerala. If we look at spatial distribution, then it is observed that most

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of these states stretch over Northern Plains except Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir.

The largest concentration of Christians is found in the state of Kerala followed by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. But if we look at the proportion to total population, then it is found in some of the north eastern states namely Mizoram, Meghalaya and Nagaland. As far as Sikhs are concerned more than $\frac{3}{4}$ th Sikh population are found in Punjab alone. Besides Punjab, neighbouring districts of Haryana and Rajasthan also have concentration of Sikh population. Apart from these states, Terai region of Uttarakhand and National Capital Territory of Delhi have significant number of Sikh population. As far as Buddhists and Jains are concerned, Maharashtra has the largest number of population belong to both the religion. Apart from Maharashtra, traditional pockets of Buddhists are Union Territory of Ladakh, Dharamsala (McLeodganj) and surrounding districts of Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. Similarly, besides Maharashtra, Jains have significant presence in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 22.4**

1. In which part of India do most of the Zoroastrians live?
2. In which states do most of the Indian Christians live?
3. Name one state having a large concentration of Muslim population of India.
4. In which states of India do most of the Indian Buddhists live?

22.6 SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES COMPOSITION AND DISTRIBUTION

The Constitution of India recognises a number of castes and tribal groups. These castes and tribes are called Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) respectively. They are the major constituents of the population of India. According to the census of India 2011 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 16% and 8.2% respectively. Their distribution is very uneven throughout the country.

(A) Scheduled Castes

Numerically they have the largest concentration in Uttar Pradesh followed by West Bengal and Bihar. Mizoram has the least SC population. The state of Nagaland and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands do not have any notified SC Population. In terms of the proportion of the total population of a state they are most numerous in Punjab where they account for more than 28.85% percent of its total population followed by Himachal Pradesh (24.7%) and West Bengal (23.3%). The Scheduled Castes are by and large landless



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The tribal people have a number of distinct characteristics which set them apart from the rest of the people. Generally, they live in isolation in the forested and hilly regions and they profess very old religious beliefs. Most of these groups are illiterate and do not have script of their languages. Most of them believe in super natural powers and super natural beings. The Scheduled Tribes are not uniformly distributed all over the country.

There are three main regions in which most of their population lives. These regions are

- (i) the Central Indian belt comprising parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal,
- (ii) the North-Eastern region comprising the hilly areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh and
- (iii) the southern region comprising the hilly tracts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Island.

It is evident from the above discussion and also from the map that the tribal population of India is more concentrated in a few specific regions. It will also be clear after a close study of the map that most of the tribal people live in the forested and hilly regions and areas of lower agricultural productivity. Most of these areas suffer from natural difficulties like rough terrain and climatic difficulties and the level of economic development in all these regions is very low. The natural resources have not been developed much and there is little development of means of transport and communication and this factor is also responsible for the low levels of development. Sometimes, it is thought that the levels of economic development in areas of tribal population is low because these areas are inhabited by the tribal people. This, however, is not true. These areas suffer from lower levels of development partly due to inhospitable life in these regions is difficult and therefore these areas are occupied by the tribal people. In fact the tribal people originally did not settle in these areas of harsh environmental conditions by their own choice. They were rather pushed by the expanding modern civilization into these areas. Under the pressure of the successive invaders and the migrants, the earlier settlers of the country who could not fight with new powerful comers had to migrate into remote areas to save their cultural identify.

22.7 LITERACY

Literacy is generally defined as a person's ability to read, write and able to understand as well as to do some simple calculation. Despite this liberal definition, the rate of literacy in India is not very high. According to the Census of India 2011, the average literacy rate in India is 74.04 per cent. This percentage does not include the population below 7 years of age-group. The rate of literacy varies a great deal from one part of the country to the other. On the one hand, it is the state of Kerala having literacy rate as high as the 94.00 percent and on the other extreme is the state of Bihar, where this rate is only 61.80 per cent. In the Union Territories,

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Lakshadweep has the highest rate of literacy where it is 91.85 percent and the lowest rate is in Dadra & Nagar Haveli (76.24 per cent).

The rate of literacy varies between males and females also. The average rate of literacy among the males in India is 82.14 per cent which is higher than the females (65.46 per cent). Kerala has the distinction of highest literacy among both, males and females (96.11 and 92.07 per cent respectively), whereas Bihar has the lowest literacy rate among both males and females (71.20 and 51.50 percent respectively). Though the rate of literacy in India is moderate, it is increasing in each successive census. In 1911 it was less than 6 percent and it could rise to only about 16.7 percent by 1951. The most noteworthy progress in this regard has been made after 1951 census. In 1961, the literacy rate was about 24 percent which rose to 74.04 percent by 2011. The most significant development in this regard has been the rate of increase in female literacy. The proportion of literate among the females was only 1.1 percent in 1911 which has increased to 65.46 percent in 2011. To a great extent, this is a result of the policies of the government, emphasising upon the universalisation of Elementary Education. The extended facilities of schools in the rural areas have helped considerably in raising the literacy rate in the country, especially among the females.

Though the literacy rate is increasing percentage wise in successive censuses, the number of illiterate is also increasing in absolute number in each successive census. For the first time in 2001 census, there is a decline in number of illiterates in comparison to previous census i.e. 1991. However their number is still very high. To solve this problem, Government has taken up various programmes like National Literacy Mission, Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, New India Literacy Programme etc.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 22.5**

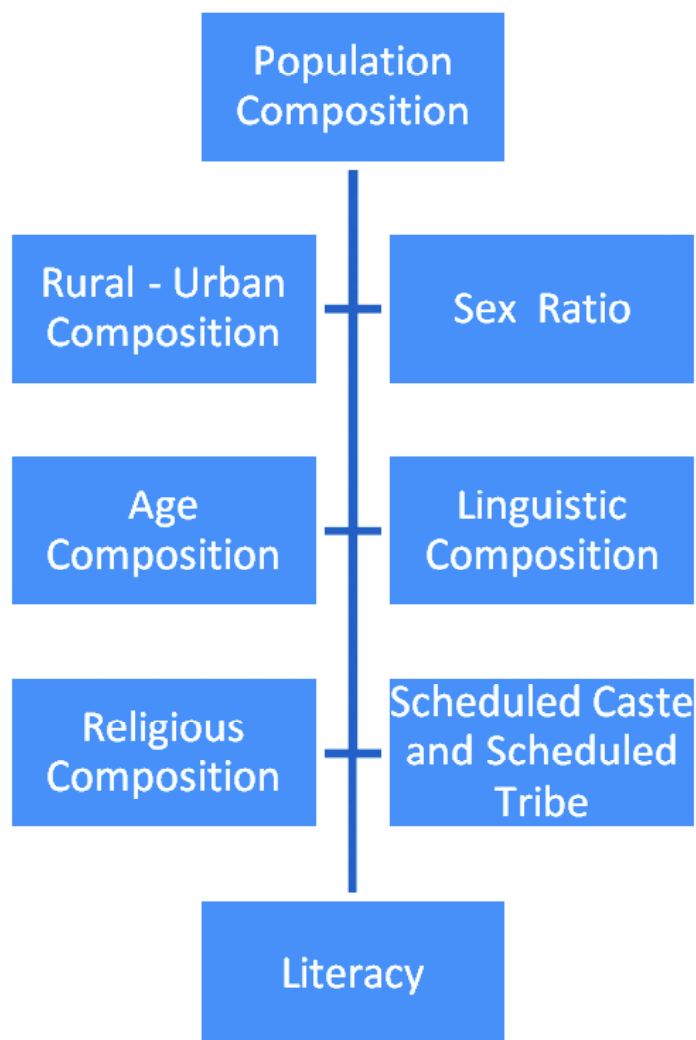
Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words out of those given in brackets.

1. (a) One of the areas of large concentration of tribal population in India is _____ . (Punjab, Haryana, Jharkhand)
- (b) Scheduled castes population constitute the most significant proportion of the total population in the state of _____ . (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab)
- (c) According to the census of India 2011, the average literacy rate of India is _____ percent. (65.38, 74.04, 68.01)
2. Name any two programmes taken by Government of India to increase literacy rate.
 - (i) _____
 - (ii) _____



Notes

3. Which state having highest literacy among both males and females?

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT****TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss in brief the following characteristics of Indian population.
 - (a) age structure
 - (b) rural-urban ratio and
 - (c) sex ratio.

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2. Give an account of literacy in India. .
3. What are the factors responsible for the decline in sex ratio? Discuss in brief.
4. Discuss the regional distribution of tribal population in India.
5. To which major linguistic families do most of the Indian languages belong? Give a brief account of the distribution of various linguistic families in the country

**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****22.1**

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) lower | (b) primary, secondary and tertiary |
| (c) increasing | (d) 53 |

22.2

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (a) Kerala | (b) Haryana |
| (c) 943 | |
| (c) It refers to the number of females per thousand males in an area. | |

22.3

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| (a) Santhali | (b) Aryan |
| (c) Tribal areas of central India | |

22.4

1. In and around Mumbai.
2. TamilNadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & North-Eastregion
3. Uttar Pradesh
4. Maharashtra & Arunachal Pradesh

22.5

1. (a) Jharkhand (b) Punjab
(c) 74.04
2. National Literacy Mission, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, New India Literacy Programme etc.
3. Kerala