

For XAT , CMAT , SNAP , MAT , IIFT Exam

THE WORLD POPULATION

- The population of the world is unevenly distributed. The remark of George B. Cressey about the population of Asia that “Asia has many places where people are few and few place where people are very many” is true about the pattern of population distribution of the world also.
- The 10 most populous countries of the world contribute about 60 per cent of the world’s population. Of these 10 countries, 6 are located in Asia. Identify these six countries of Asia.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

- Geographical Factors
 - (i) Availability of water
 - (ii) Landforms
 - (iii) Climate
 - (iv) Soils
- Economic Factors
 - (i) Minerals
 - (ii) Urbanisation
 - (iii) Industrialisation
- Social and Cultural Factors
 - Some places attract more people because they have religious or cultural significance. In the same way – people tend to move away from places where there is social and political unrest.

Migration

- Apart from birth and death there is another way by which the population size changes.
- When people move from one place to another, the place they move from is called the Place of Origin and the place they move to is called the Place of Destination. The place of origin shows a decrease in population while the population increases in the place of destination
- Migration may be permanent, temporary or seasonal. It may take place from rural to rural areas, rural to urban areas, urban to urban areas and urban to rural areas.
- **Immigration:** Migrants who move into a new place are called Immigrants.
- **Emigration:** Migrants who move out of a place are called Emigrants.
- People migrate for a better economic and social life. There are two sets of factors that influence migration.

- The **Push factors** make the place of origin seem less attractive for reasons like unemployment, poor living conditions, political turmoil, unpleasant climate, natural disasters, epidemics and socio-economic backwardness.
- The **Pull factors** make the place of destination seem more attractive than the place of origin for reasons like better job opportunities and living conditions, peace and stability, security of life and property and pleasant climate.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

- Demographic transition theory can be used to describe and predict the future population of any area. The theory tells us that population of any region changes from high births and high deaths to low births and low deaths as society progresses from rural agrarian and illiterate to urban industrial and literate society. These changes occur in stages which are collectively known as the demographic cycle.

SEX COMPOSITION

- The number of women and men in a country is an important demographic characteristic.
- The ratio between the number of women and men in the population is called the Sex Ratio.
- On an average, the world population reflects a sex ratio of 102 males per 100 females. The highest sex ratio in the world has been recorded in Latvia where there are 85 males per 100 females. In contrast, in Qatar there are 311 males per 100 females.

The Government of India has introduced Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme to address the issue of decline in child sex ratio. Discuss with your peers how it will lead to more meaningful life for girls.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- The concept of human development was introduced by Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq. Dr Haq has described human development as development that enlarges people's choices and improves their lives. People are central to all development under this concept.

- Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq and Prof Amartya Sen were close friends and have worked together under the leadership of Dr Haq to bring out the initial Human Development Reports. Both these South Asian economists have been able to provide an alternative view of development.
- A man of vision and compassion, Pakistani economist Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq created the Human Development Index in 1990. According to him, development is all about enlarging people's choices in order to lead long, healthy lives with dignity. The United Nations Development Programme has used his concept of human development to publish the Human Development Report annually since 1990.

- The human development index (HDI) ranks the countries based on their performance in the key areas of health, education and access to resources. These rankings are based on a score between 0 to 1 that a country earns from its record in the key areas of human development.
- Since 1990, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been publishing the Human Development Report every year. This report provides a rank-wise list of all member countries according to the level of human development. The Human Development index and the Human Poverty index are two important indices to measure human development used by the UNDP.
- Bhutan is the only country in the world to officially proclaim the Gross National Happiness (GNH) as the measure of the country's progress.