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9 Population Distribution
The way in which people are spread across the Earth is known as population distribution. It is affected by physical and human factors.

10 Population Density
Population density is the number of people living in a particular area. It is measured in people per square kilometre.

11 Population Distribution
Population distribution is uneven across the world. Some areas are densely populated, while others are sparsely populated.

12 Factors Affecting Distribution and Density of Population
Physical factors such as climate, topography, and soil affect population distribution. Human factors such as economic development and social services also play a role.

13 Physical Factors - Relief

FOR SEMESTER 2 GEOGRAPHY (H) PAPER - CC3 (THEORY)
STUDENTS TOPIC : 7

FACTORS AFFECTING DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION DENSITY AND GROWTH

PREPARED BY
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KOLKATA -700023

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1 FACTORS AFFECTING DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION DENSITY AND GROWTH

2 World Population density

	Pop 2008 (Millions)	Pop density (km ²)	Projected Population	
			2025	2050
World	6,705	329	8,000	9,352
MEDCs	1,227	158	1,269	1,294
LEDCs	5,479	433	6,731	8,058
Africa	967	205	1,358	1,932
N.America	338	111	393	480
Latin America & Caribbean	577	184	687	778
Asia	4,052	839	4,793	5,427
Europe	736	212	726	685
Oceania	35	26	42	49

3

4 Why are some areas sparsely populated?

- Physical - unfavourable/undesirable relief
- Climate - too hot & / too wet / too dry / too cold & short growing season (S. Canada)
- Vegetation - Coniferous forests (N. Europe) and the tundra (Siberia) are not suitable for agriculture
- Soils - light soils - Podsol (Siberia), thin soils (Peru), washed soils (Australia)
- Water resources
- Climate & soils - Sahara/Caribb. Africa
- Resources
- Geopolitical - Amazon, Sahara
- Political - areas of least value were least touched

5 Why are some areas densely populated?

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FACTORS AFFECTING DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION DENSITY AND GROWTH

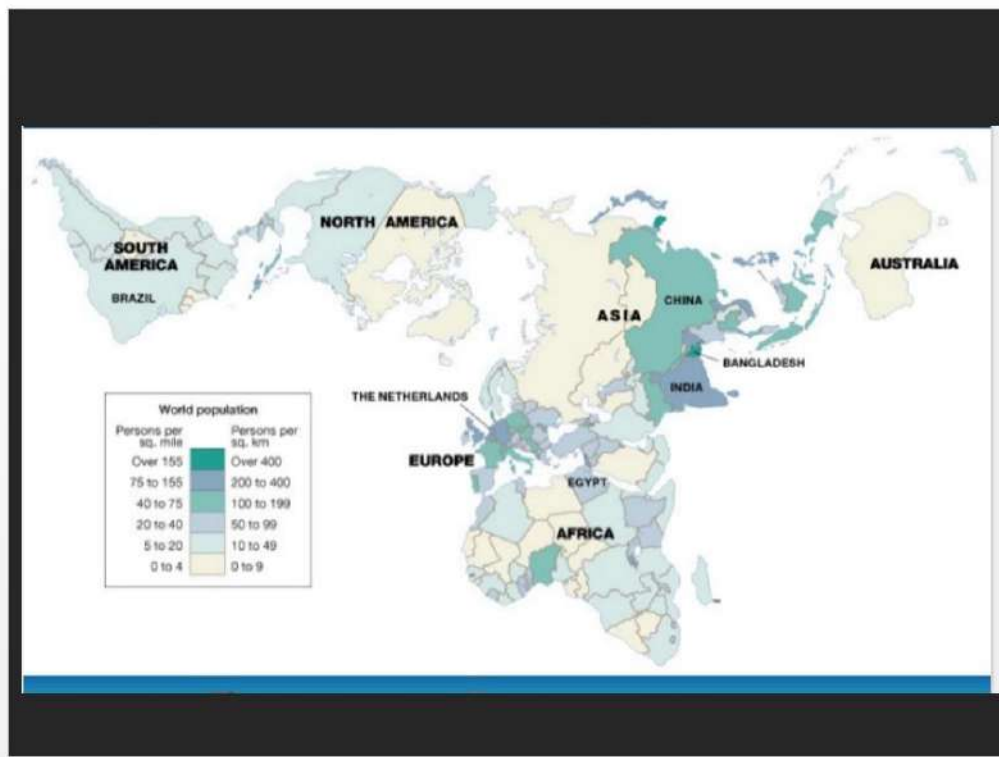
World Population density

Continent	Pop. 2019	Pop. 2050	Projected Population
Asia	4,540,000,000	5,000,000,000	5,000,000,000
Europe	740,000,000	740,000,000	740,000,000
North America	370,000,000	370,000,000	370,000,000
South America	430,000,000	430,000,000	430,000,000
Africa	1,200,000,000	1,800,000,000	1,800,000,000
Australia	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000
Antarctica	0	0	0



Why are some areas sparsely populated?

- Physical - water availability, mountains, relief
- Climate - too hot, too cold, too dry, too wet
- Topography - mountainous terrain, high altitudes
- Relief - rugged terrain, steep slopes, high altitudes
- Water - arid regions, low rainfall
- Distance & access - remote Central Africa
- Resources - limited natural resources
- Political - international borders, administrative boundaries



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2 World Population density

Region	Pop. Density (per sq. km)	Pop. (millions)	Area (sq. km)
Asia	150	4,500	30,000
Europe	230	700	3,000
North America	30	300	10,000
South America	20	300	15,000
Africa	30	1,000	33,000
Oceania	3	35	14,000
Antarctica	0	0	14,000,000
World	19	7,000	369,000,000

3

4 Why are some areas sparsely populated?

- Physical - active volcano/mountainous relief.
- Climate - too hot & little rain (Sahara) or too cold & short growing season (N. Canada)
- Vegetation - Coniferous forests (N.Eurasia) and the rainforests.
- Soils - Frozen soils - Permafrost (Siberia), thin soils (Nepal), leached soils (Amazon)
- Water supplies
- Disease & pests - malaria Central Africa.
- Resources.
- Communications - Amazon, Sahara.
- Political - Interior of Brazil, where state failed to invest.

5 Why are some areas densely populated?

- Physical - flat land and access to waterways (Netherlands)
- Climate - moderate (N.Eurasia) levels of heat (China) and rainfall (India)
- Vegetation - arable lands
- Soil - deep, fertile (flat) and well-irrigated (Netherlands)
- Water supply - rivers
- Disease & pests - mostly not a major problem
- Resources - fuel
- Communications
- Political - investment in infrastructure (India)
- Population - high density (India, China) due to high birth rates

6 Factors affecting the distribution of the population

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Why are some areas densely populated?

- **Physical** – flat land and areas surrounding Volcanoes (Etna).
- **Climate** – no extremes (N.Europe) plenty of sun (Costa del Sol) or snow (Alps).
- **Vegetation** – grasslands.
- **Soil** – deep, humus filled soil (Paris) and river deposited silt (Ganges Delta).
- **Water supply** – reliable.
- **Disease & pests** – unlikely or money to eradicate.
- **Resources** – Ruhr.
- **Communications**.
- **Political** – decisions may affect distribution EPZs or New Towns.
- **Economic** – regions with intensive farming need a large number of people.

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Factors affecting the distribution of the population

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    PC[Population change] --> PD
    F[Fertility] --> PC
    M[Mortality] --> PC
    Mig[Migration] --> PC
    F1[Physical] --> CC
    F2[Biological] --> CC
    F3[Economic] --> CC
    F4[Social] --> CC
    F5[Technological] --> CC
    F6[Political] --> CC
    F7[Historical] --> CC
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4 Why are some areas sparsely populated?

5 Why are some areas densely populated?

6 Factors affecting the distribution of the population

7 Population Concepts

8 Population Concepts

Population is defined as the number of people living in an area at a particular time.

Population Concepts

(i) Over-population: is a situation whereby the population is considered too large for the available resources

(ii) Under-population: is a situation where the population is less than the available resources of a country.

(iii) Optimum Population: is a situation where the number of people that can be supported is the same as the available resources.

(iv) Population Density: is defined as the number of persons per unit area of land or per square kilometer of land.

$$\text{Population density} = \frac{\text{Total population}}{\text{Land Area}}$$

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5 Why are some areas densely populated?

6 Factors affecting the distribution of the population

7 Population Concepts

8 Population Concepts

9 Population Distribution

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Population Concepts

(v) **Birth rate:** this is the number of live babies born per thousand of the population per year, also called natality rate.

(vi) **Death rate:** this is the number of death per thousand of the population per year, also called mortality rate.

(vii) **Natural increase:** The difference between the birth rate and the death rate.

(viii) **Migration:** the number of people moving in or out of a region.

(ix) **Total Fertility Rate** - the average number of children a women will have in her childbearing years.

(x) **Infant Mortality Rate** – the number of deaths of children under the age of one *per thousand live births*. The rate ranges from as low as 3 (Singapore, Iceland) to as much as 150 (Sierra Leone, Afghanistan).

(xi) **Life Expectancy**- the average number of years a person is expected to live

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6 Factors affecting the distribution of the population

7 Population is defined as the number of people living in an area on a particular date

Population Concepts

(i) Over population is a situation where the population is considered too large for the available resources

(ii) Under population is a situation where the population is less than the available resources of a country.

(iii) Optimum Population is a situation where the number of people that can be supported is the same as the available resources.

(iv) Population Density: defined as the number of persons per unit area of land or per square kilometers of land.

Population Density = Total population / Land Area

8 Population Concepts

Population Density: It is the number of people per unit area of land. It is measured in persons per square kilometer.

(i) **High Density:** It is the number of people per square kilometer of the population per year. It is called a high density area.

(ii) **Low Density:** It is the number of people per square kilometer of the population per year. It is called a low density area.

(iii) **Optimum Population:** It is the number of people that can be supported in an area.

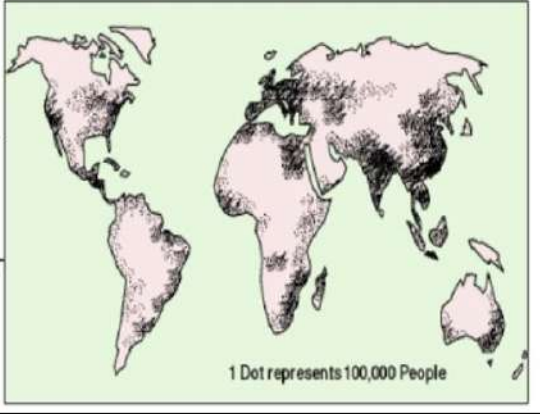
(iv) **Over Population:** It is a situation where the number of people is more than the available resources.

(v) **Under Population:** It is a situation where the number of people is less than the available resources.

9 Population Distribution

The way in which people are spread across a given area is known as **population distribution**. Geographers study population distribution patterns at different scales: local, regional, national, and global

Patterns of population distribution tend to be uneven. For example, in the UK there are more people living in the south-east of England and London than in Wales. It follows that populations are more or less **sparse** or **dense** in different locations, regions and countries.



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7 Population Concepts
 Population Concepts
 (i) Population is a statistic which is recorded at a particular time.
 (ii) Population is a statistic which is recorded at a particular time.
 (iii) Population is a statistic which is recorded at a particular time.
 (iv) Population is a statistic which is recorded at a particular time.
 (v) Population is a statistic which is recorded at a particular time.
 Population Density = Total population / Land Area

8 Population Concepts
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 (iii) Population is a statistic which is recorded at a particular time.
 (iv) Population is a statistic which is recorded at a particular time.
 (v) Population is a statistic which is recorded at a particular time.
 Population Density = Total population / Land Area

9 Population Distribution
 Population Distribution
 The way in which people are spread across a particular area is known as population distribution. It is a way of measuring population distribution. It shows whether an area is sparsely or densely populated.

10 Population Density
 Population Density
 Population density is the average number of people per square kilometre. It is a way of measuring population distribution. It shows whether an area is sparsely or densely populated.

11

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Population density

Population density

Population density is the average number of people per square kilometre. It is a way of measuring population distribution. It shows whether an area is sparsely or densely populated.

Like population distribution, population density can be calculated at a local, regional, national or global scale. The graphic shows patterns of population density on a global scale. Note that:

Inhabitants per Km²

- Over 100
- 26 - 29
- 1 - 25
- Under 1

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8 **Population Change**
 9 **Population Distribution**
 10 **Population Density**
 11 **Population Density**
 12 **Factors Affecting Distribution and Density of Population**

Population density

The map shows patterns of population density on a global scale. Note that:

- areas of high and low population density are unevenly spread across the world
- the majority of places with high population densities are found in the **northern hemisphere**

Densely populated Moderately populated Sparsely populated

Map of the world showing population density

The population density of a country is has very little to do with its level of economic development. For example, both Bangladesh and Japan are very densely populated, but Bangladesh is a **LEDC** and Japan is a **MEDC**.

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9 Population Distribution

10 Population Density

11 Population Density

12 Factors Affecting Distribution and Density of Population

Factors Affecting Distribution and Density of Population

Physical

(i) **Relief**- Areas with flat plains encourage a dense population and areas with high or rugged mountain have a sparse population. e.g Bangladesh, Andes

(ii) **Climate**- Areas with moderate rainfall encourage a dense population (Northwest Europe) while those with little or too much rainfall discourage population Sahara desert.

(iii) **Vegetation**- Areas in the world having a good grassland encourage population.

(iv) **Soil**- Fertile soils encourage a large population while a barren soil discourage population location. E.g Nile valley & Delta, Northern Scandinavia.

Human

(i) **Economic**- Existence of good roads, railways, Industries and tourism

(ii) **Political**- government Investment, New town, Reclamation of land

(iii) **Social**- Better housing opportunities, Education, health facilities, Retirement areas

(v) **Water resources**- The existence of water in an area leads to a large population living there while regions in the world that have little or no availability of water discourage population. E.g Northwest Europe and Afghanistan.

(vi) **Natural routes**- Regions in the world that have accessible routes encourage a large population

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Physical factors Climate

High density
These areas have a climate which is not too wet or dry, not too cold or too hot. The climate is moderate enough to allow food to be grown and and pleasant to live in. Eg the UK.

Low density
Some areas are too dry for soils to exist, so no food can be grown (deserts), or too wet so that a soil's nutrients are washed out of it (rainforest). Extreme cold can also mean a permafrost layer limits what can be grown there, and also make transport and building difficult (tundra). Eg the Sahara or Alaska.

Reasons for distribution
The reasons for the uneven distribution of population can be divided into two categories: - **Physical** and **Human**

Physical factors Climate

High density
UK.

Low density
Sahara or Alaska.

1 Del represents 100,000 People

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Physical factors **Soil fertility**

High density
 Areas that have soils with plenty of nutrients will be able to grow plenty of food and be able to support a high population. Eg the Netherlands.

Low density
 Areas with poorer soils – either because there is too much rain, or too little or it is too cold – will have problems growing food and so much fewer people will be able to live there. Eg Amazonia.

Physical factors **Soil fertility**

High density
 Netherlands.

Low density
 Amazonia.

1 Dot represents 100,000 People

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Physical factors Water supply

High density
Places with a moderate climate which receives good amounts of rainfall will have enough water for all the needs of humans – drinking, cleaning, cooking, transport. Eg East coast of China.

Low density
Much drier areas will have problems since soils are more easily blown away, and are left useless. Similarly, areas that have too much rain also have poor soils because the nutrients are washed out of them (leaching). Eg Arabian peninsula.

Physical factors Water supply

High density
East coast of China.

Low density
Arabian peninsula.

1 Dot represents 100,000 People

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Human factors **Resources**

High density
If an area has plenty of natural resources eg coal or iron ore, then this will attract people to go to that place for work in industry.

Low density
Areas that don't have resources will not attract so many people as there is less chance of making a living there, and consequently population density will remain low.

Human factors **Resources**

High density
Europe

Low density
Sahara

1 Dot represents 100,000 People

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Human factors Political

High density
Countries with stable governments tend to have a high population density and this encourages further growth e.g. Singapore

Low density
Unstable countries tend to have lower population densities as people migrate, and this hinders further growth e.g. Afghanistan.

Human factors Political

High density
Singapore

Low density
Afghanistan

1 Dot represents 100,000 People

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Factors affecting population density
 There are a number of different environmental and human factors which affect why people are not spread evenly across the world.
 The world is made up of a vast number of contrasting environments: Some areas have a temperate or mild climate, others are covered in ice. Some areas are **fertile**, others are desert. Some of these environments attract settlers while other environments **repel** settlers - as shown in the diagram below.

	
<p>Factors attracting settlers and leading to high population densities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Temperate climate (moderate climate) e.g. the UK 2.) Low-lying flat fertile land e.g. the Bangladesh Delta (shown above) 3.) Good supplies of natural resources e.g. energy and building resources, such as wood 	<p>Factors repelling settlers and leading to low population densities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Extreme climates e.g. Sahara Desert (shown above) 2.) Mountainous or highland areas e.g. the Scottish Highlands 3.) Dense vegetation e.g. the Amazon Rainforest

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Physical Factors	High Density	Low Density
1. Relief (Shape and Height of land)	Low land which is flat eg. Ganges valley of India	High land that is mountainous eg. Himalayas.
2. Resources	Areas rich in resources (eg. Coal, oil, wood, fishing etc.) tend to be densely populated eg. Wn Europe	Areas with few resources tend to be sparsely populated eg. The Sahel
3. Climate	Areas with temperate climate tend to be densely populated as there is enough rain and heat to grow crops eg. UK.	Areas with extreme climate of hot and cold tend to be sparsely populated eg. The Sahara Desert.
4 Political	Countries with stable Governments tend to have a high population density eg. Singapore	Unstable countries tend to have lower population densities as people migrate eg. Afghanistan.
5. Social	Group of people want to live closer for security eg. USA.	Other groups of people prefer to be isolated eg. Scandinavian countries
6. Economic	Good job opportunities encourage high population densities eg. all big cities in MEDCs and LEDCs around the world.	limited job opportunities causes areas to be sparsely populated eg. Amazon rainforest

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39 Reasons why L.E.D.C countries have a high birth rate
(1) Need for children not to work to earn money working in the town (2) Lack of contraception which is not easily available in rural areas.
(3) Men are considered of higher status if they have more children etc.)
(4) Improvements in medical facilities like hospitals
(5) Religious belief- where a man can marry more than one wife, giving birth to many children
(6) Lack of education especially for women

40 Factors Influencing the Distribution and Density of Population in India

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39 Reasons why L.E.D.C countries have a high birth rate

40 Factors influencing the Distribution and Density of Population in India

41


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Terrain of land is a potent factor which influences the concentration and growth of population. Normally speaking, plain areas encourage higher density of population as compared to mountain regions. The steep slope in mountain areas restrict the availability of land for agriculture, development of transport, industries and other economic activities which may tend to discourage concentration of population and its proper growth.



It is because of these adverse circumstances that the Himalayan region, though occupies about 13 per cent of India's land area, supports only 1-2 per cent of the country's population. In contrast to this, the Great Plain of North India is a land of extremely gentle slope and offers great opportunities for the growth of agriculture, transport and industries.

This results in higher concentration of population. Although the Great Plain of North India covers less than one fourth of the country's land area, it is the home to more than half of India's population.

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Slide 43: Factors Influencing the Distribution and Density of Population in India

Climate is as important as terrain in influencing population. Of all the climatic factors, twin elements of rainfall and temperature play the most important role in determining the population of an area. Man cannot go beyond the limits set by climate. Extremes of climate discourage the concentration of population. Such climates include the too cold climate of Himalayas, and the too hot and dry climate of the Thar Desert. A moderate climate, on the other hand, is favourable for population.

Of the twin factors of rainfall and temperature, rainfall is more effective in determining the distribution of population. It is generally said that the population map of India follows its rainfall map. Rainfall supplies sufficient water for agriculture which is the main occupation of Indian masses. As we move from the Ganga-Brahmaputra Delta in the east towards the Thar Desert in the west, the amount of rainfall and consequently the density of population decrease. However, there are a few exceptions to this general observation. The Assam valley in the north-east and the Circars coast on the Bay of Bengal has moderate density of population although these areas receive heavy rainfall. Similarly, southern face of the Himalayas is scarcely populated though this area receives sufficiently high rainfall.



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Some of the adverse factors such as steep slope, frequent floods, infertile soils and dense forests counterbalance the positive effect of rainfall. Increased use of irrigation facilities in north-west India comprising Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh has resulted in higher concentration of population than normally expected considering the amount of rainfall received by this region.

Since India is a tropical country, temperature is fairly high and does not play as important a role as is done by rainfall except in extreme cases. On high altitudes, in the Himalayan region, climate is too cold beyond 2,000 m and population is sparse there. There is practically no population in areas over 3,000 m above sea level.

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Soil Factor

Some of the adverse factors such as steep slope, frequent floods, infertile soils and dense forests counterbalance the positive effect of rainfall. Increased use of irrigation facilities in north-west India comprising Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh has resulted in higher concentration of population than normally expected considering the amount of rainfall received by this region.

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Therefore, this is an area of high population density. The coastal plains also have fertile soils and are areas of high population density. The Black soil of the Deccan Plateau also supports high population density. On the other hand, desert soils, mountain soils, laterite soils are infertile soils and are not capable of supporting high population densities. However, new technology in agricultural field may change the future population scenario to some extent.

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45 Soil Factor

46 Availability of water

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48 Industrial growth

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Minerals act as great source of attraction for people from different areas, which results in higher density of population. The higher population densities in the Chhota Nagpur Plateau of Jharkhand and in the adjoining areas of Orissa are largely due to the availability of minerals.

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Industrial growth offers massive employment opportunities and acts as a great magnet to attract people, particularly from the neighbouring areas. This results in higher population density. Industrial areas are almost invariably associated with areas of high population densities.



One hectare of industrial land is capable of supporting several thousand persons, while the most fertile area devoted to agriculture may not support more than a few hundred persons per hectare. One of the major causes of high population density in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Maharashtra and Gujarat is the phenomenal growth of industries in these states.

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48 Industrial growth, which means expansion of manufacturing, has led to a sharp increase in population. This is because of the following reasons: 1. Industrial growth creates jobs, which attracts people to the area. 2. Industrial growth leads to the development of transport facilities, which makes it easier for people to travel to and from the area. 3. Industrial growth leads to the development of social services, which makes the area more attractive to people.

49 Growth of population is directly proportional to the development of transport facilities. The northern plain of India has a dense network of transport routes and is densely populated region. The peninsular plateau has moderate network of transport route and is moderately populated area. The Himalayan region badly lacks transport facilities and is scarcely populated.

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48 Industrial growth

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Urbanization and population concentration go hand-in-hand and are closely related to each other. All the urban centres are marked by high density of population. The minimum density, that an area should have to be designated as urban, is 400 persons per sq km. The highly urbanized districts of Kolkata, Chennai, Greater Mumbai, Hyderabad, Delhi and Chandigarh have population densities of over 6,000 persons per sq km.



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48 Industrial growth

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