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# Population Ecology of North-Eastern Rajasthan

Dr. Prashant Kumar Sharma

Lecturer in Botany, Govt. Lohia College, Churu, Rajasthan, India

**ABSTRACT:** Rajasthan, state of India, located in the part of the subcontinent. It is bounded to the north and northeast by the states of Punjab and Haryana, to the east and southeast by the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, to the southwest by the state of Gujarat, and to the west and northwest by Pakistan. The capital city is Jaipur, in the east-central part of the state. Rajasthan, meaning "The Abode of the Rajas," was formerly called Rajputana, "The Country of the Rajputs" (sons of rajas [princes]). Before 1947, when India achieved independence from British rule, it comprised some two dozen princely states and chiefships, the small British-administered province of Ajmer-Merwara, and a few pockets of territory outside the main boundaries. After 1947 the princely states and chiefships were integrated into India in stages, and the state took the name Rajasthan. It assumed its present form on November 1, 1956, when the States Reorganization Act came into force. Area 132,139 square miles (342,239 square km). Pop. (2011) 68,621,012. The predominant vegetation of Rajasthan is scrub jungle. Toward the west there are typical arid-zone plants, such as tamarisk (genus Tamarix) and false tamarisk (genus Myricaria). Trees are scarce, limited mostly to small, scattered forest areas in the Aravallis and in the eastern part of the state. Less than 10 percent of Rajasthan is under forest cover. A number of notable large mammals are regular residents of Rajasthan. Tigers are found primarily in the Aravallis. Leopards, sloth bears, Indian sambar (dark brown Indian deer), and chital (spotted deer) occur in the hills and forests. Nilgais (bluebucks; large antelope) are also found in parts, and blackbucks are numerous in the plains. Common birds include snipes, quail, partridges, and wild ducks; they occur everywhere except in the desert. The northwest is well known for several species of sandgrouse. Numerous sanctuaries and wildlife parks have been established in the state. Among the most important of these are the Sariska National Park (established in 1955), near Alwar in the northeast, and the Desert National Park (established in 1980), near Jaisalmer in western Rajasthan.

**KEYWORDS:** Rajasthan, North Eastern, Rajputs, Aravallis, Desert, Biodiversity, Population, Ecology, India

#### **I.INTRODUCTION**

Most of North-Eastern Rajasthan's population consist of Indians of various social, occupational, and religious backgrounds. The Rajputs (various clans of landowning rulers and their descendants), though representing only a small percentage of Rajasthan's residents, are perhaps the most notable section of the population; indeed, the state draws its name from this community. In terms of caste structure, the Brahmans (highest caste) are subdivided into many gotras (lineages), while the Mahajans (trading caste) are subdivided into a bewildering number of groups. In the north and west the Jats (peasant caste) and Gujars (herding caste) are among the largest agricultural communities.[1,2]Aboriginal (tribal) peoples constitute more than one-tenth of the population of Rajasthan. In the eastern part of the state, these groups include the Mina (and the related Meo), most of whom are farmers; the Banjara, who have been known as traveling tradesmen and artisans; and the Gadia Lohar, another historically itinerant tribe, who traditionally have made and repaired agricultural and household implements.



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North-Eastern Rajasthan is one of the least densely populated states in India, with roughly three-fourths of its residents living in rural settlements. Traditional rural houses are huts with mud walls and roofs thatched with straw. They have a single door but no windows or ventilators. The houses of more-affluent farmers and artisans in larger villages have more than one room. They are roofed with tiles and have a veranda and large courtyard, whose main door will admit a loaded bull cart. The earthen floors are coated with mud and dung. The state is divided into more than 30 districts. In each district the collector, who is also the district magistrate, is the principal representative of the administration. The collector functions in close cooperation with the superintendent of police to maintain law and order in the district and also serves as the principal revenue officer. For administrative purposes, each district is split into a few subdivisions, which are divided into smaller units called tehsils, which, in turn, contain a number of villages.[3,4]

North-Eastern Rajasthan was the first state to experiment at the village level with panchayat raj (rule by panchayat, or village council), having enacted in 1959 the legislation necessary to implement this bold experiment in democratic decentralization. The system, embracing Gandhian concepts of the importance of traditional village institutions in Indian society, created three levels of local government within the state based on elected village panchayats. Villages were grouped into administrative units called community development blocks, each having a panchayat samiti (block council) composed of the chairmen of the panchayats, appointees, and ex officio members. There were also district-level councils (zila parishads), composed of the chairmen of the panchayat samitis, along with representatives of special-interest groups (such as women and disadvantaged social classes) and local members of the state and national legislatures. The key level in this organization was the community development block, which was assigned the responsibility of planning and implementing a wide range of community and development programs. Panchayat raj initially achieved a considerable measure of success, but, with increasing politicization of the system and conflicting interests with state-level development agencies, the system has become less effective. [5,6]

In general, Rajasthan State is the largest state in terms of geographical area of 342,239 sq km and seventh largest by population. As per Niti Aayog report, Total Fertility Rate is 2.7 higher than India's average of 2.3. One-Third of state constitute of desert area, popularly known as Thar desert which accounts for 102,000 sq km in Rajasthan. North-Eastern Rajasthan population is estimated to be 81.02 million (8.1 Crores), North-Eastern Rajasthan population is projected to be 8.01 crores as per Unique Identification Aadhar India, updated . Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan with more than 3 million and other popular cities are Jodhpur, Kota of more than one million population each, state economy is mainly dependent on agriculture, manufacturing and mining. North-Eastern Rajasthan is the major tourist state with many forts and palaces.[24,25]



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Census year	Persons	Absolute	Percentage	Males	Females
1901	10,294,090	-	-	5,403,989	4,890,101
1911	10,983,509	689,419	6.7	5,756,206	5,227,303
1921	10,292,648	-690,861	-6.29	5,429,378	4,863,270
1931	11,747,974	1,455,326	14.14	6,160,610	5,587,364
1941	13,863,859	2,115,885	18.01	7,274,679	6,589,180
1951	15,970,774	2,106,915	15.2	8,313,883	7,656,891
1961	20,155,602	4,184,828	26.2	10,564,082	9,591,520
1971	25,765,806	5,610,204	27.83	13,484,383	12,281,423
1981	34,261,862	8,496,056	32.97	17,854,154	16,407,708
1991	44,005,990	9,744,128	28.44	23,042,780	20,963,210
2001	56,507,188	12,501,198	28.41	29,420,011	27,087,177
2011	68,548,437	12,041,249	21.31	35,550,997	32,997,440

Source: A-2 Decadal Variation In Population Since 1901

#### II.DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

North-Eastern Rajasthani people make up the majority of the state, Hinduism is the main religion in Rajasthan state with 88.49%, followed by muslim with 9% of the population.[22,23] Other religions like Sikh, Buddhism, Jainism and Christianity are less than 1%. Religion wise Rajasthan Muslim population 6.2 Million is the second largest after Hindu population, followed by Sikh and Jain with 872,930 and 622,023 people.[7,8]

Religion	Persons	Percentage	Males	Females
Hindu	60,657,103	88.49	31,485,832	29,171,271
Muslim	6,215,377	9.07	3,193,530	3,021,847
Christian	96,430	0.14	48,887	47,543
Sikh	872,930	1.27	459,406	413,524
Buddhist	12,185	0.02	6,382	5,803
Jain	622,023	0.91	317,614	304,409
Others	4,676	0.01	2,399	2,277
Not Stated	67,713	0.10	36,947	30,766

Source: Details of Religion In Main Table C-1- 2011 (North East Rajasthan)



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Ethnic groups of North Eastern Rajasthan

Tribes	Population as per Census 2011
All Scheduled Tribes	9,238,534
Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava, Vasave	4,100,264
Bhil Mina	105,393
Damor, Damaria	91,463
Dhanka, Tadvi, Tetaria, Valvi	96,737
Garasia (excluding Rajput Garasia)	314,194
Kathodi, Katkari, Dhor Kathodi, Dhor Katkari, Son Kathodi, Son Katkari	4,833
Kokna, Kokni, Kukna	361
Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha, Kolgha	1,535
Mina	4,345,528
Naikda, Nayaka, Cholivala Nayaka, Kapadia Nayaka, Mota Nayaka, Nana Nayaka	8,355
Patelia	797
Seharia, Sehria, Sahariya	111,377
Generic Tribes etc.	57,697

Other than Hindi, Many of the neighbourhood state people have migrated to Rajasthan and almost every one in the state speaks Hindi. 3.3% enrolled as Punjabi and other languages like Sindhi, Gujarati, Bengali, Malayalam and Marathi is below 1%. Sindhi's have migrated from Pakistan's Sindh Province at the time of partition in 1947.[9,10]

Languages	Persons	Percentage	Rural	Urban
Hindi	61,274,274	89.3883	45,740,708	15,533,566
Bhili	3,592,208	5.2404	3,468,974	123,234
Punjabi	2,274,342	3.3179	1,860,271	414,071
Urdu	664,915	0.9700	113,738	551,177
Sindhi	386,569	0.5639	152,665	233,904
Bengali	81,658	0.1191	31,423	50,235
Gujarati	67,490	0.0985	29,036	38,454
Malayalam	24,439	0.0357	6,431	18,008
Marathi	23,240	0.0339	6,902	16,338



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Languages	Persons	Percentage	Rural	Urban
Odia	17,047	0.0249	6,047	11,000
Maithili	11,666	0.0170	2,646	9,020
Tamil	8,939	0.0130	2,450	6,489
Telugu	8,350	0.0122	2,548	5,802
Nepali	7,636	0.0111	1,849	5,787
Kannada	5,931	0.0087	1,639	4,292
Dogri	5,120	0.0075	1,583	3,537
Kashmiri	4,164	0.0061	2,372	1,792
Assamese	2,877	0.0042	972	1,905
Sanskrit	2,375	0.0035	1,461	914
Manipuri	2,168	0.0032	1,295	873

Source: 2011 Census: Language and Mother Tongue

Type of disability	Total Persons	Cultivators	Agriculture labor	ННІ	Other workers
Total disabled population	541,842	235,244	95,010	15,336	196,252
In Seeing	115,414	52,603	19,621	3,315	39,875
In Hearing	90,150	40,353	15,634	2,562	31,601
In Speech	29,132	11,878	4,547	796	11,911
In Movement	150,430	61,596	24,317	4,403	60,114
Mental Retardation	22,558	9,864	5,283	517	6,894
Mental Illness	10,889	5,239	2,421	245	2,984
Any Other	90,552	37,597	16,372	2,541	34,042
Multiple disability	32,717	16,114	6,815	957	8,831

Source: 2011 Census: Distribution of Disabled(North eastern Rajasthan)

Thakur Deshraj has given an analysis of Jat population in north-east Rajasthan as on 1931. Rajasthan was called Rajputana prior to independence. As per 1931 census the population of Jats in Rajasthan was as under:

Rajputana.....1042152

Ajmer-Merwara.....30000

Bisnoi Jats......69873

Total Jat population.... 1142025

The population of jats in then princely states where they were in sizable proportion was as under:



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Bharatpur state......72378[11,12]
Bikaner state......215947
Jaipur state......313609
Marwar sate......283933

Bisnoi jats mainly inhabited the areas of Bikaner, Jaipur, Bharatpur, Marwar, Kishangarh and Mewar and their combined population was 69873.[20,21]

Thakur Deshraj has mentioned that the maximum density of Jats was in following tehsils in each princely state as under:

- Bharatpur state Dyodi, Deeg, Kumher and Nadwai
- Bikaner state All tehsils
- Jaipur state Malpura, Sambhar, Shekhawati, Torawati, Khetri and Sikar
- Kishangarh state Arai, Kishangarh, Rupnagar and Sarwar
- Marwar state Bilada, Didwana, Jodhpur, Malani, Merta, Nagaur, Parbatsar and Sambhar
- Mewar state Bhilwara, Kapasan and Rashmi[13,14]

#### **III.CONCLUSIONS**

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has demanded the national project status for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP). The main advantage of a project which has received national project status is that 90% of the funding for the project will be given by the central government. The estimated cost of the ERCP is around Rs. 40,000 crore. According to the state Water Resources Department, Rajasthan, the largest state of India with a geographical area of 342.52 lakh hectares which amount to 10.4% of the entire country, holds only 1.16% of India's surface water and 1.72% of groundwater. [19]

Among the state's water bodies, only the Chambal river basin has surplus water but this water cannot be tapped directly because the area around the Kota barrage is designated as a crocodile sanctuary. Through the help of diversion structures, interbasin water transfers, linking channels and construction of pumping main feeder channels, the ERCP aims to create a network of water channels which will cover 23.67 % area of Rajasthan along with 41.13 % population of the state. About the North and South Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project:[17,18]

It aims to harvest surplus water available during rainy season in rivers in Southern Rajasthan such as Chambal and its tributaries, including Kunnu, Parvati, Kalisindh, and use this water in south-eastern districts of the state, where there is scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation. ERCP is planned to meet drinking and industrial water needs of the southern and south eastern Rajasthan, for humans and Livestock. It proposes to provide drinking water to 13 districts of Rajasthan and provide irrigation water for 2.8 lakh hectares of land through 26 different large and medium projects. 13 districts: Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Tonk, Jaipur, Karauli, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa and Dholpur. [15,16]



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Benefits: A significant area of land will get irrigation facilities. It intends to improve the ground water table in the north east rural areas of the state. Positively influencing the socio-economic conditions of the peoplein north east rajasthan. It adds special emphasis on the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and envisages that sustainable water sources will enhance and help industries grow in these north east areas, resulting in investment and revenue. [25]

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