

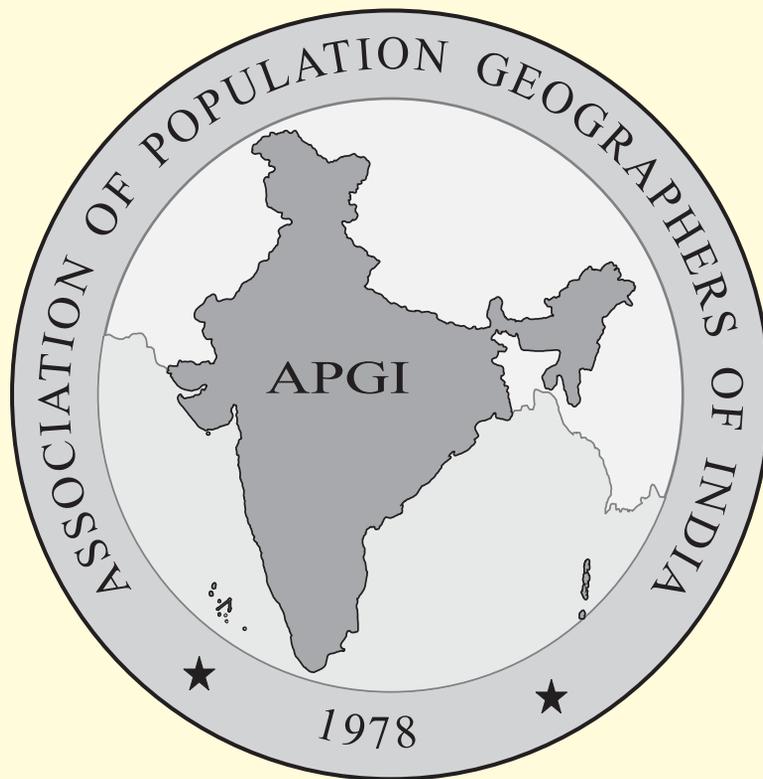
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From the Editor's Desk

In the first issue of 2025, the *Population Geography* journal features articles focused on various aspects of population, as diverse in thematic connotation, subject treatment, and focus areas as possible. These articles examine the attributes and activities of specific groups of people across different regions of the country. Some studies utilise secondary data, particularly Census data, which is limited to the year 2011.

A study examines the performance of political parties in an assembly constituency in Haryana, as well as the transactional and non-transactional factors that influence voter behaviour. In any election study, it is crucial to understand the elements that shape voting behaviour.

An article explores interstate labour migration to South India, highlighting that younger migrants seek employment, while the labour force is trending towards seasonal and informal work. Another study on Mysuru city examines the impact of migration on individual well-being, suggesting that understanding these dynamics can help policymakers and migrants tackle challenges and promote urban growth and integration.

An analysis of 20 community development blocks in Puruliya district reveals that agricultural workers are increasingly diversifying into non-agricultural jobs. Despite challenges, this trend holds promise for generating resources and creating jobs, which could potentially improve living standards in the rural economy.

One study highlights disparity in maternal healthcare access in Punjab, particularly among scheduled castes, and calls for improved education and outreach. Another one from West Bengal shows higher undernutrition rates in Scheduled Tribe children, underscoring the need for targeted education and better healthcare access.

An assessment of rapid urbanisation in a peripheral area of the Kolkata Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) focuses on changes in land use and predicts trends up to 2040. It highlights the need for detailed micro-level planning, phased implementation, conservation of designated spaces, and continuous monitoring to mitigate negative impacts.

Highlighting disparities in development levels in the Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts, a comprehensive approach to human resource development is essential, emphasising the need for proactive measures and diagnostic plans to achieve balanced regional development at the grassroots level.

Haryana has experienced a significant increase in the number of higher education institutions, including colleges and universities, particularly since 1991, largely due to private investment. However, some districts still lack these educational institutions.

An article explores everyday Hinduism and local sacred sites, highlighting that Hindu householders often visit these places throughout their lives. A survey in five villages in Haryana suggests that understanding grassroots Hinduism is crucial for grasping how the religion is practised by the masses in India.

Lastly, we deeply appreciate the reviewers' support in this endeavour. Their keen insights, interventions and timely delivery are gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

Nina Singh

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