

# 5

## GENDER COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION

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# Gender Composition of the Population

**“Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace”**  
**Beijing platform for Action.(UN Fourth Conference on Women)**

## INTRODUCTION

The Census of India has been customarily collecting and presenting disaggregated data for male and female population. The composition of population by gender is one of the primary demographic characteristics of human population around which meaningful analysis is woven.

Gender composition reflects natality, mortality and migration character of a given population. Distribution pattern of male and female in a population affects relative roles and economic relationships. There are different tools to measure gender equity in a population. Sex ratio is one such widely used tool for cross sectional analysis to measure gender balance. Sex ratio is defined in the Census of India as the number of females per 1,000 males in the population.

According to the provisional population totals of Census 2011, out of a total population of 1,21,01,93,422 persons, 62,37,24,248 are males and 58,64,69,174 females. As per this, the sex ratio of India is 940. The sex ratio at the National level has risen by seven points since the last Census in 2001. This is the highest since 1971.

## Composition of Population by Gender-World Trends



The composition of population by gender is not uniform and shows diverse patterns across different countries of the world. Statement-11 and Figure 17 present the sex ratio in the ten most populous countries in the world during 2001 and 2011. It has been estimated that around the year 2011, the world will have 984 females against 1000 males. As is evident from the Statement, in USA, Russian Federation, Japan and Brazil females outnumber males, in the other six countries the balance is tilted towards the males. When compared to the previous decade, China, Indonesia, Nigeria and USA have shown a decline in the sex ratio in the present decade. The decline has been particularly sharp in Nigeria and Indonesia. The sex ratio in USA, Russian Federation and Japan has always remained above unity despite minor variations.

**Statement 11****Sex ratio of selected countries**

Sl. No	Country	2001	2011
1	2	2	3
	<b>World</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>984</b>
1	China	944	926
2	India	933	940
3	U.S.A.	1,029	1,025
4	Indonesia	1,004	988
5	Brazil	1,025	1,042
6	Pakistan	938	943
7	Russian Fed.	1,140	1,167
8	Bangladesh	958	978
9	Japan	1,041	1,055
10	Nigeria	1,016	987

**Source**

1. 2001-World Population Prospects (mid year estimates) 1998
2. 2011-World Population Prospects 2008 revision UN.

Rates have been worked out for India based on the provisional Census 2011 and those of Indonesia and Brazil on 2010 round of Census

**Figure 17****Trends of sex ratio in ten most populous countries: 2001 - 2011**

India among its neighbours 2001-2011		
Countries	2001	2011
India	933	940
China	944	926
Pakistan	938	943
Bangladesh	958	978
Sri Lanka	1010	1034
Nepal	1005	1014
Afghanistan	930	931
Bhutan	919	897
Myanmar	1011	1048

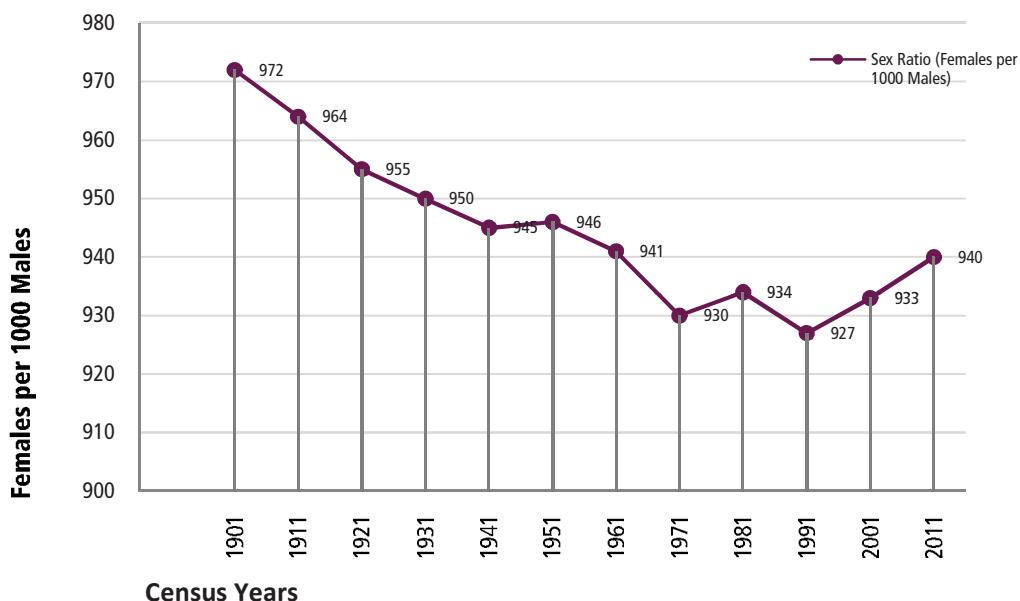
The situation in the immediate neighbourhood of India reveals a mixed picture. Myanmar (1048), Sri Lanka (1034) and Nepal (1014) have more females in their populations whereas in all other countries the sex ratio shows male domination.

#### TRENDS IN SEX RATIO IN INDIA –AN OVER VIEW

The sex ratio in India has been historically negative or in other words, unfavourable to females. A look at the Figure 18 reveals that in the pre-independence period, the sex ratio declined consistently up to 1951 when it rose marginally (Statement-12). In the post independence period, the trend continued and the sex ratio slipped down for two consecutive decades after 1951 to reach 930 in 1971. During 1961-71 a steep fall of 11 points was seen in the sex ratio.

 **Figure 18**

**Sex ratio in India: 1901-2011**



**Statement 12****Sex ratio, India: 1901-2011**

Census Year	Sex ratio (Females per 1,000 males)
1	2
1901	972
1911	964
1921	955
1931	950
1941	945
1951	946
1961	941
1971	930
1981	934
1991	927
2001	933
2011	940

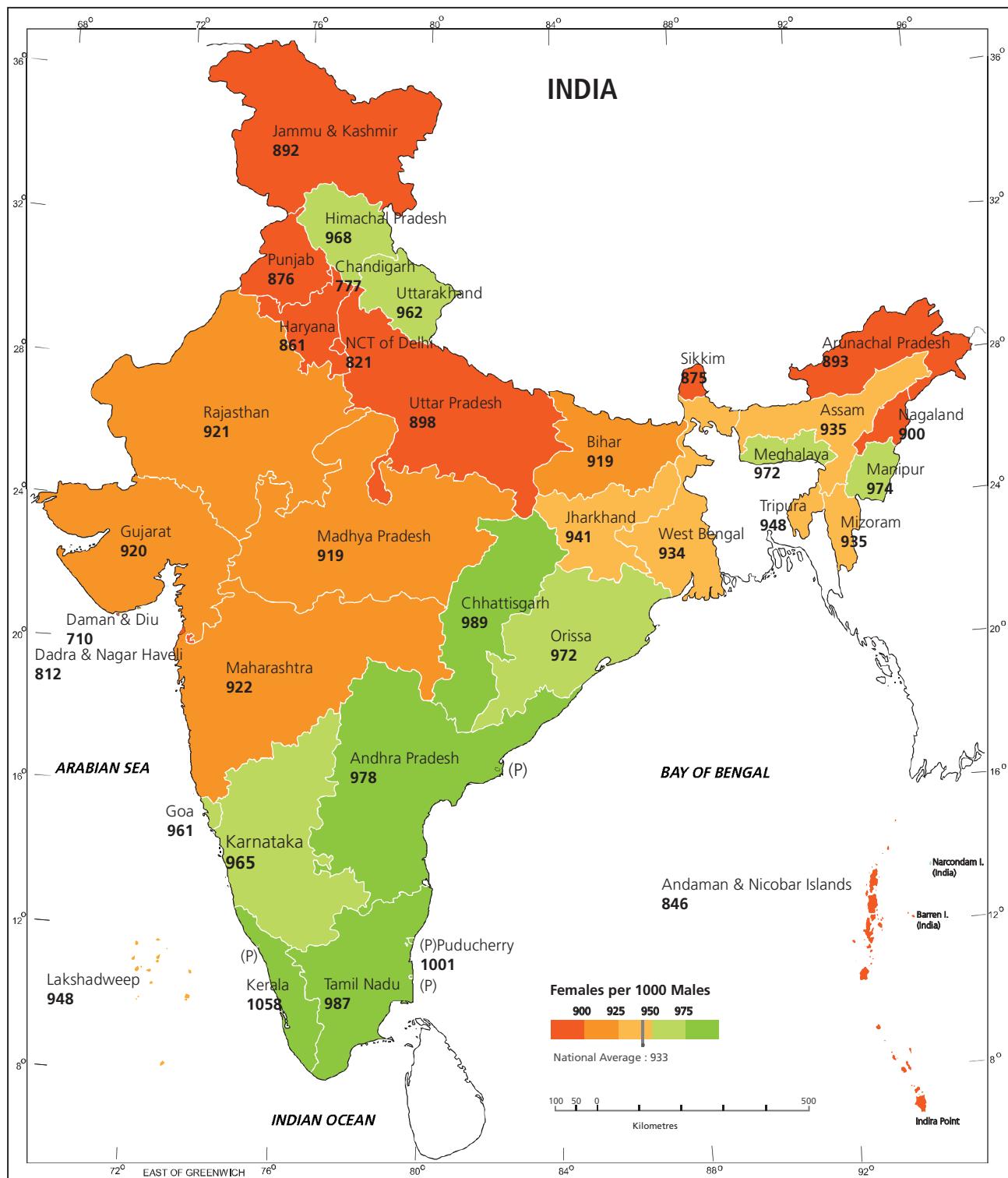
 **Note:** Please see notes behind Figures at a Glance.

After 1971 Census , trends were not consistent, showing increase in one decade and decline in the next. However, it was hovering around 930. The sex ratio as per provisional results is the highest since 1971 and a shade below the level of 1961.



Map 10

Sex Ratio, 2001 (States/Union Territories)



Map 11

## Sex Ratio, 2011 (States/Union Territories)

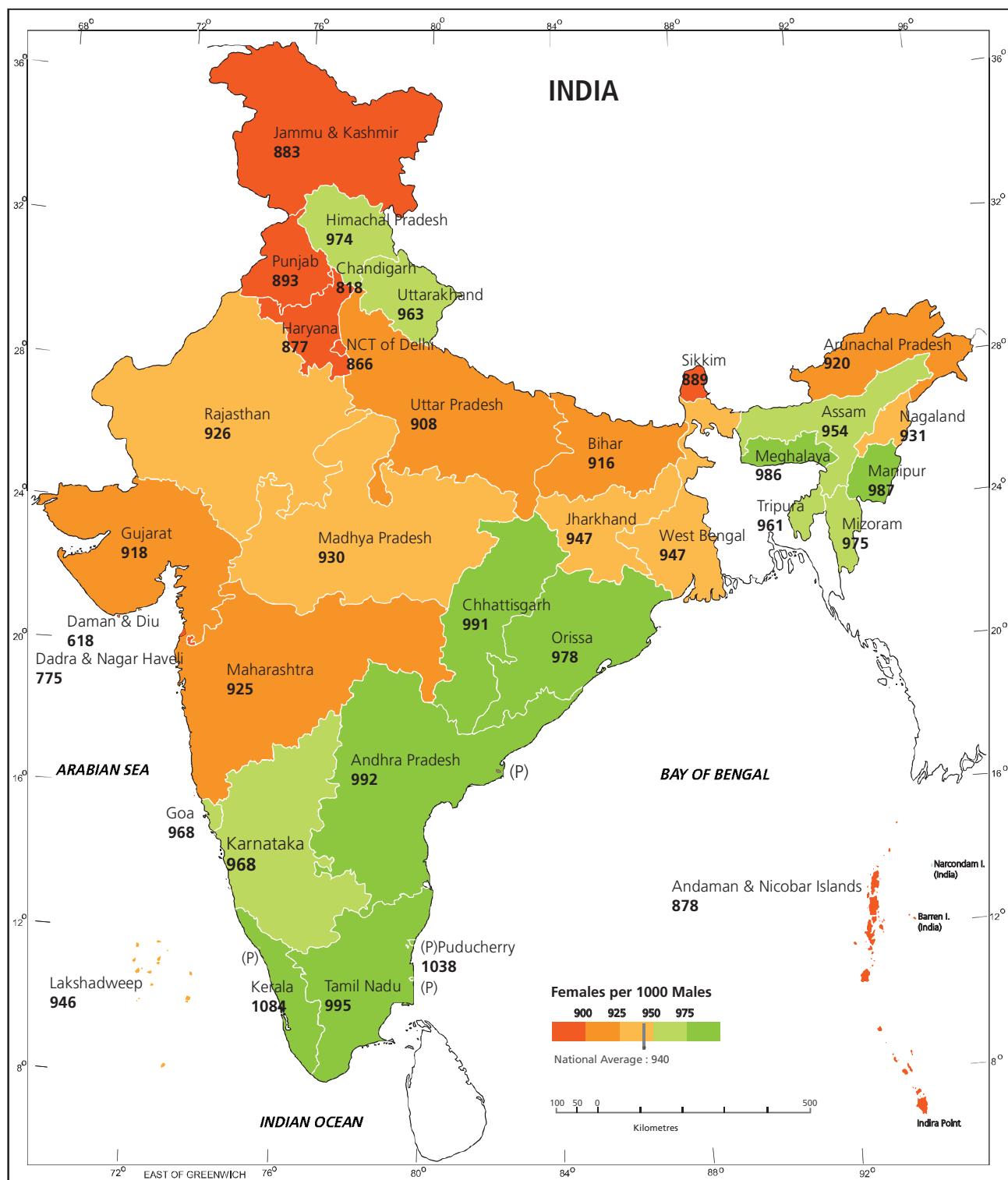


Figure 19

Sex ratio trends in some of the major States: 1951-2011

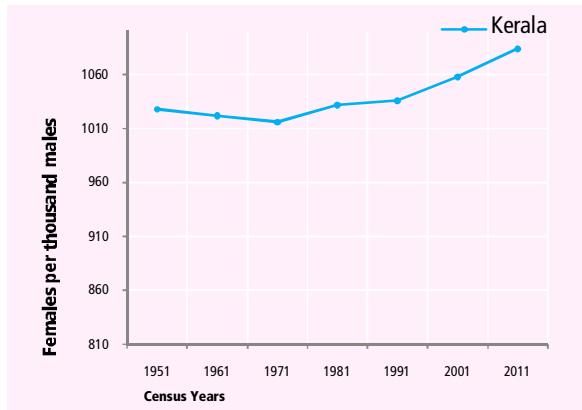
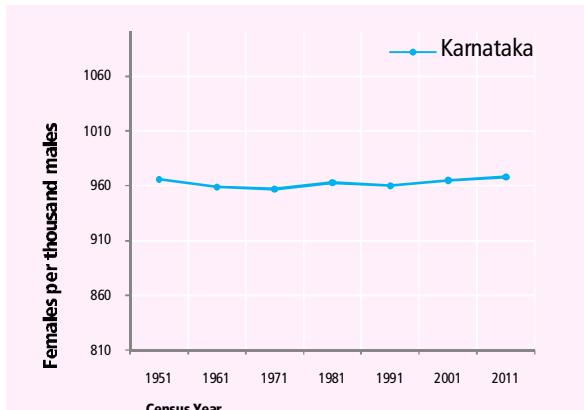
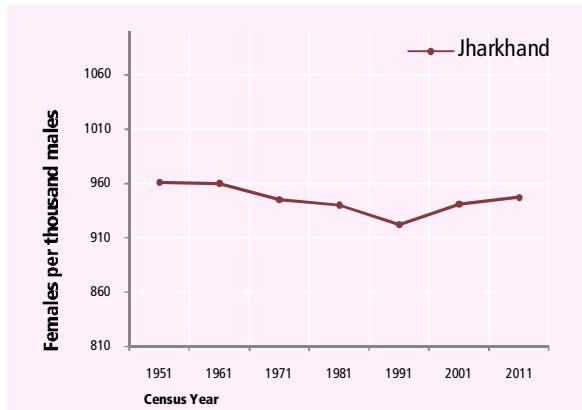
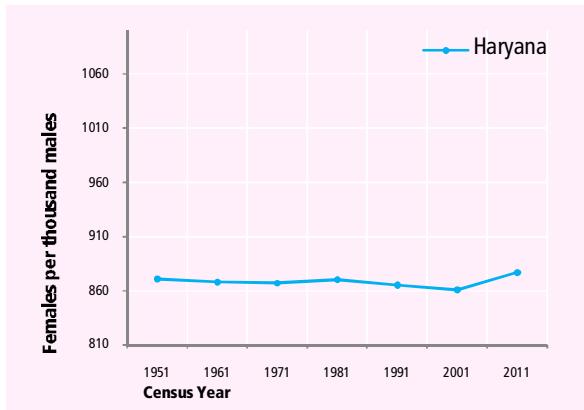
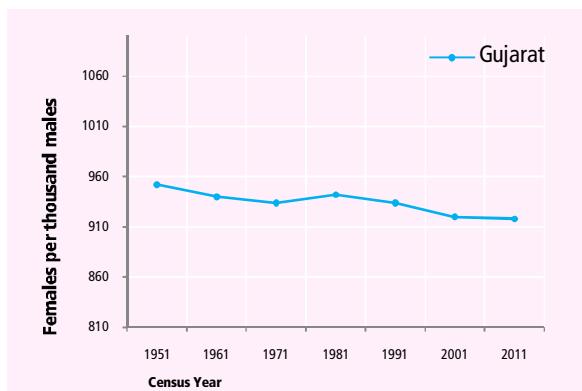
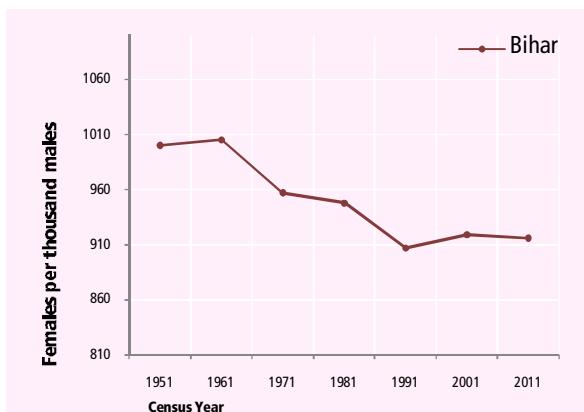
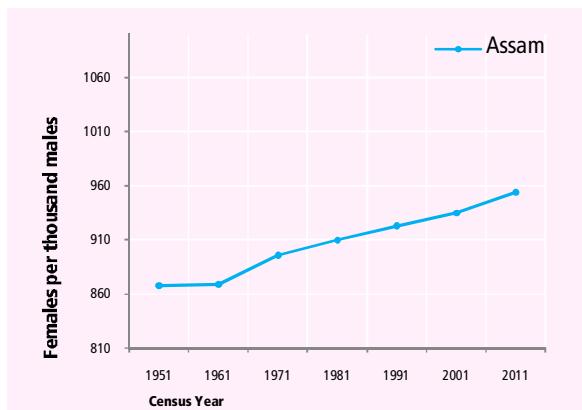
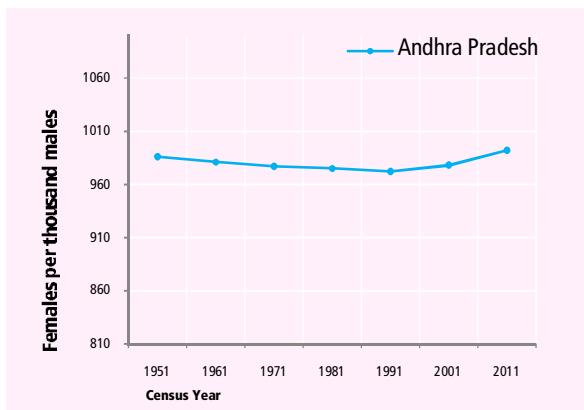




Figure 19

## Sex ratio trends in some of the major States: 1951-2011

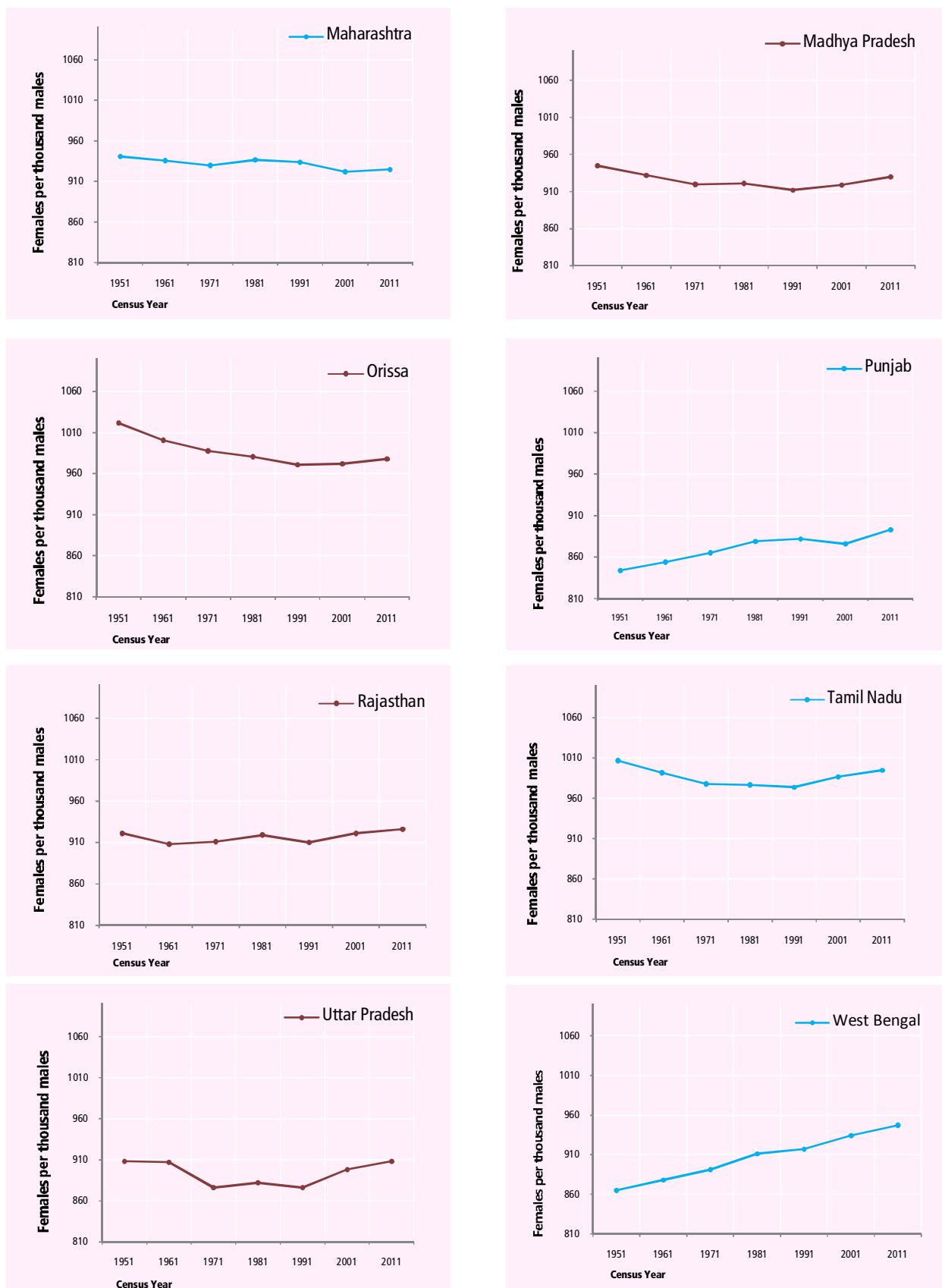


Table 11 gives the trends in sex ratio since 1901 for all the States and Union Territories. The trends in sex ratio for the post independence period from 1951-2011 for some of the major States are also depicted in Figure 19 as line graphs.

The Table reveals that in 1951, there were as many as eleven States and Union Territories that had sex ratio of more than unity or above 1000. This number declined to nine in 1961, three in 1971 and two in 1981 and one in 1991. In 2001, the State of Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry reported above unity sex ratio. Both these States have not only retained their status but have also shown considerable increase in 2011. Besides these two, the number of States and Union Territories registering an upward trend has risen from 24 in 2001 to 29 in 2011. The increase ranged from one point in Uttarakhand to fourty five points in the highly urbanised National Capital Territory of Delhi. In 18 States and Union Territories, the increase has been over ten points during 2001-2011.

#### Monitorable Goals of 11th Five Year Plan

1. Increase child sex ratio from 927 in 2001 to 935 by 2011-2012
2. Increase child sex ratio to 950 by 2016-2017
3. The 11th Plan committed support to initiatives that "raise awareness to ensure that market economy, increasing consumerism and resultant family planning practices do not enhance gender inequality and lead to male child planning".

Among the major States, Bihar, Jammu Kashmir and Gujarat have experienced a fall in the sex ratio. The decline ranged from 2 points in Gujarat to 9 points in Jammu & Kashmir. Other smaller Union Territories showing steep decline are Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Perceptible increase has been observed in the major States such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and all the States located in the North East.

A point to be noted is that the States having historically low sex ratio such as Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Chandigarh have shown appreciable increase in the sex ratio in Census 2011. Majority of the States identified as gender critical for special attention and intervention as part of the Census 2011 have shown increasing trend in the sex ratio as per the provisional results.

#### Trends in sex ratio in States and UTs: 2001-2011

The patterns in sex ratio among the States and Union Territories are distinct. The top three States recording the highest value of overall sex ratio are neighbours located in the southern part of India namely Kerala (1084), Tamil Nadu (995), and Andhra Pradesh (992). Among the UTs, the top three are Puducherry (1038), Lakshadweep (946) and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (878). Figure 20 presents sex ratio in the States and Union Territories at the 2011 Census.

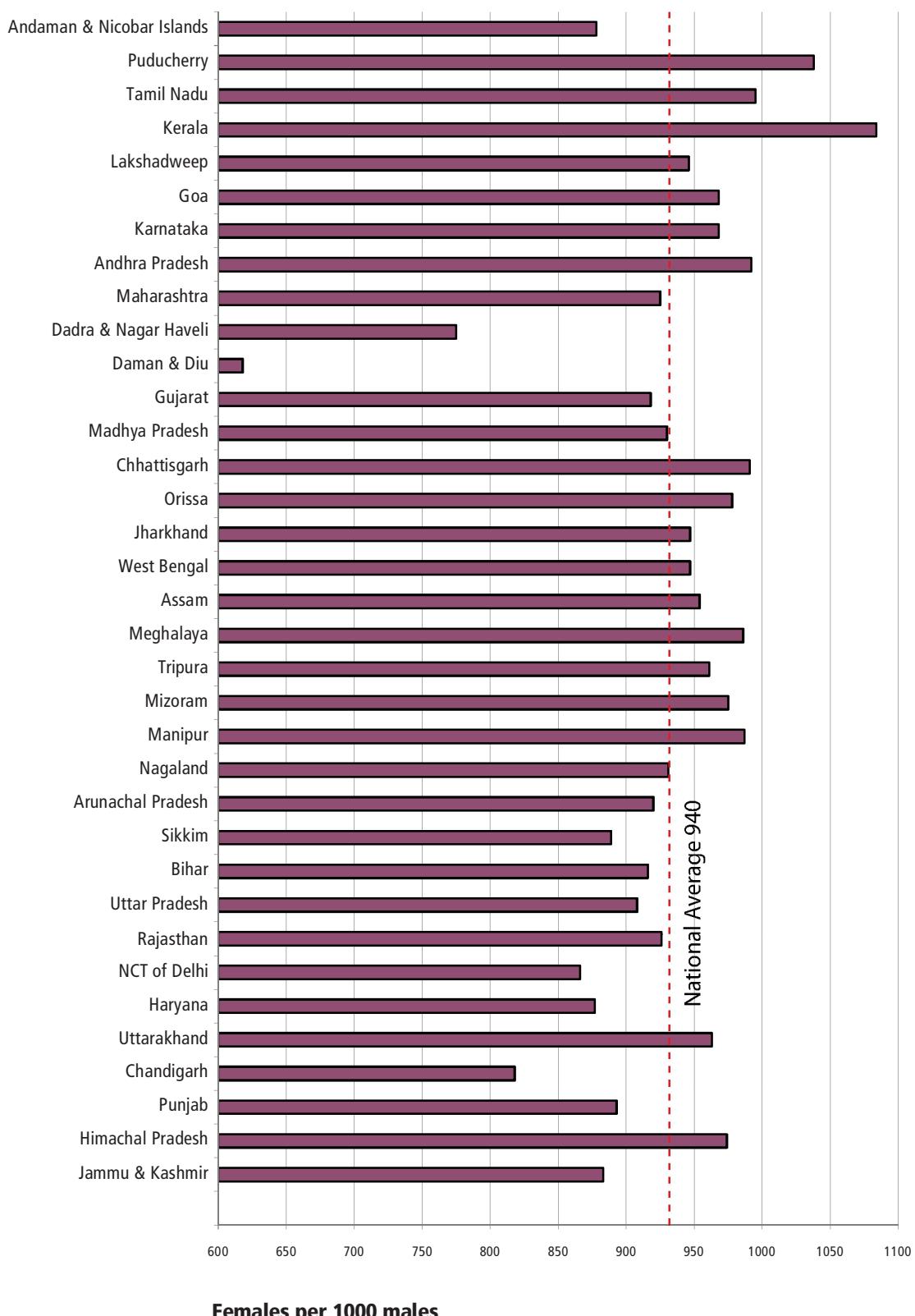
The lowest sex ratio among the States has been recorded in Haryana (877), Jammu & Kashmir (883) and Sikkim (889). Among the UTs the lowest sex ratio has been returned in Daman & Diu (618), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (775) and Chandigarh (818).

Only three major States, Bihar, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir have shown decline in the sex ratio. The other Union Territories registering decline in overall sex ratio include Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep. Maps 10 and 11 depict patterns of sex ratio in different States and Union Territories during 2001 and 2011 respectively.

Statement 13 provides recent trends of sex ratio of the total population, sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years and sex ratio of population aged 7 years and above for 2001 and 2011 for all the States and Union Territories.

Figure 20

## Sex ratio in States and Union Territories: 2011



Females per 1000 males



### Statement 13

#### Sex ratio of total population and child population in the age group 0-6 and 7+ years: 2001-2011

State/ UT Code	India/States/Union Territory <sup>#</sup>	Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males)					
		Total population		Child population in the age group 0-6		Population aged 7 and above	
		2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>944</b>
01	Jammu & Kashmir	892	883	941	859	884	887
02	Himachal Pradesh	968	974	896	906	980	983
03	Punjab	876	893	798	846	888	899
04	Chandigarh <sup>#</sup>	777	818	845	867	767	812
05	Uttarakhand	962	963	908	886	973	975
06	Haryana	861	877	819	830	869	885
07	NCT of Delhi <sup>#</sup>	821	866	868	866	813	866
08	Rajasthan	921	926	909	883	923	935
09	Uttar Pradesh	898	908	916	899	894	910
10	Bihar	919	916	942	933	914	912
11	Sikkim	875	889	963	944	861	883
12	Arunachal Pradesh	893	920	964	960	878	913
13	Nagaland	900	931	964	944	890	929
14	Manipur	974	987	957	934	977	995
15	Mizoram	935	975	964	971	930	976
16	Tripura	948	961	966	953	945	962
17	Meghalaya	972	986	973	970	971	989
18	Assam	935	954	965	957	929	953
19	West Bengal	934	947	960	950	929	946
20	Jharkhand	941	947	965	943	935	948
21	Orissa	972	978	953	934	976	985
22	Chhattisgarh	989	991	975	964	992	995
23	Madhya Pradesh	919	930	932	912	916	933
24	Gujarat	920	918	883	886	927	923
25	Daman & Diu <sup>#</sup>	710	618	926	909	682	589
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli <sup>#</sup>	812	775	979	924	779	752
27	Maharashtra	922	925	913	883	924	931
28	Andhra Pradesh	978	992	961	943	981	997
29	Karnataka	965	968	946	943	968	971
30	Goa	961	968	938	920	964	973
31	Lakshadweep <sup>#</sup>	948	946	959	908	946	951
32	Kerala	1058	1084	960	959	1,072	1,099
33	Tamil Nadu	987	995	942	946	993	1,000
34	Puducherry <sup>#</sup>	1001	1038	967	965	1,006	1,047
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands <sup>#</sup>	846	878	957	966	831	868

**Note:** # Union Territories

### States and Union Territories by ranges of sex ratio

It is interesting to note that although the number of States and Union Territories with sex ratio less than 916 declined from twelve to ten in 2011 but percentage share of these States' population has remained almost constant. In contrast, the number of States and Union Territories with high sex ratio of 986 and above rose sharply from four in 2001 to seven in 2011 with corresponding increases in the share of population. Movement of large States (Andhra Pradesh) in this category resulted in the increase in the population share. However, overall increasing trend in the sex ratio at the Census 2011 has boosted the sex ratio of India.

The distribution of States and Union Territories by the different ranges of sex ratio and their share in the total population of the country is presented in the Statement-14.

#### ■ Statement 14

##### Distribution of States/Union Territories by range of sex ratio of India: 2001 and 2011

Sex ratio	2001	Percentage of population to total population, 2001	2011	Percentage of population to total population, 2011
1	2	3	4	5
880 & below	8	5.98	6	3.65
881-915	4	17.44	4	19.87
916-950	11	47.18	10	45.08
951-985	8	18.12	8	13.01
986 & above	4	11.28	7	18.4

☞ **Note:** Please see notes behind Figures at a Glance.

The number of States and Union Territories with sex ratio below National average has remained constant over 2001 and 2011. In fact, the proportion of population in the first category has increased marginally, by less than a percent point (Statement 15).

#### ■ Statement 15

##### Distribution of States/Union Territories by sex ratio below National level and above National level: 2001 and 2011

Sex ratio	Number of States / Union Territories 2001	Percentage of population to total population 2001	Number of States / Union Territories 2011	Percentage of population to total population 2011
1	2	3	4	5
Below National average	17	57.19	17	58.31
Above National average	18	42.81	18	41.69

☞ **Note:** Please see notes behind Figures at a Glance.

## CHILD SEX RATIO IN THE AGE GROUP 0-6 YEARS

While the overall sex ratio presents encouraging trends across the country encompassing 29 States and Union Territories, the same is not true in the case of the girl child in the age group 0-6 years. Statement-16 and Figure-21 presents the sex ratio of the total population and the child population (0-6 years) from 1961 to 2001.

### Statement 16

#### Sex ratio of total population and child population in the age group 0-6, India : 1961-2011

Year	Sex ratio in age Group 0-6 years	Overall sex ratio
1961	976	941
1971	964	930
1981	962	934
1991	945	927
2001	927	933
2011	914	940

 **Note:** Please see notes behind Figures at a Glance.

### Figure 21

#### Child sex ratio 0-6 years and overall sex ratio, India: 1961-2011

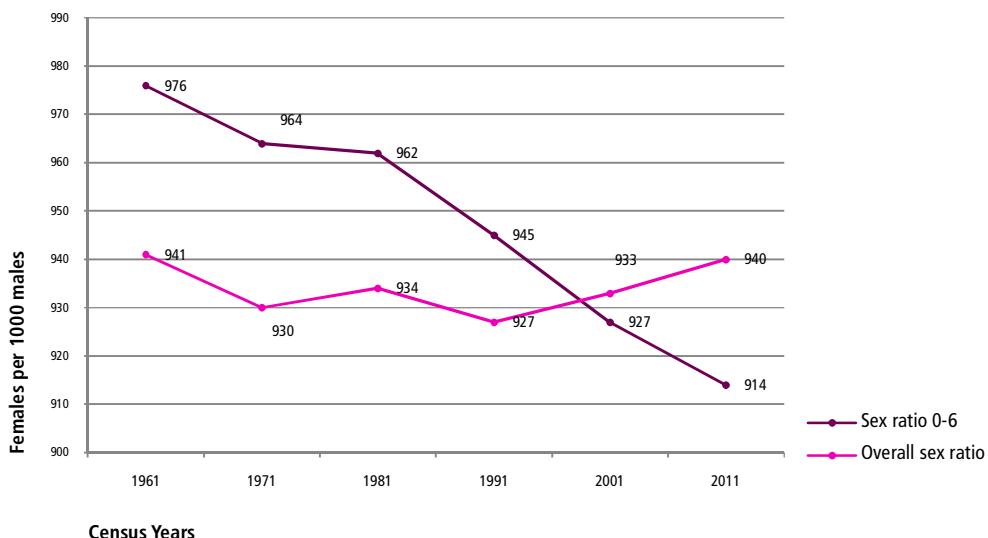


Figure-21 clearly brings out the fact that after 1991 there has been consistent rise in overall sex ratio. On the other hand, the fall in child sex ratio has been unabated since 1961. As per the provisional population totals of Census 2011, it has declined to reach an all time low of 914.

The pattern of child sex ratio (0-6 years) among the States/UTs in 2011 is provided in Statement 13. The top three States recording the highest value of child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years are Mizoram (971), Meghalaya (970) and Chhattisgarh (964). Among the UTs, the top three positions are held by Andaman & Nicobar Islands (966), Puducherry (965) and Dadra & Nagar Haveli (924).

This grim reality is also reflected in the National Family Health survey (NFHS-3), 2005-2006 in which estimate of child sex ratio 0-6 years has been reported as 918 at the National level. This matches the figure of 914 observed as per provisional totals of Census 2011.

The lowest child sex ratio (0-6 years) among the States have been observed in the States of Haryana (830), Punjab (846) and Jammu and Kashmir (859) while among the UTs, Delhi (866), Chandigarh (867) and Lakshadweep (908) occupy the bottom position.

A glance at the trend will show that in Census 2011, child sex ratio (0-6 years) has registered an increasing trend only in six States and two UTs. What gives some cause for cheer is the fact that the States where the child sex ratio had dropped alarmingly in Census 2001 have now shown a slight improvement. This increase is substantial in Punjab (798 to 846-48 points), Haryana (819 to 830- 11 points), Himachal Pradesh (896 to 906- 10 points), Chandigarh (845 to 867- 22 points), Gujarat (883 to 886- 3 points) and Tamil Nadu (942 to 946- 4 points). In addition, Mizoram (964 to 971-7 points) and Andaman & Nicobar Island (957 to 966- 9 points) have also shown increasing trend in the child sex ratio during 2001 -2011.

At the same time, situation in other States/UTs has been disconcerting. The child sex ratio (0-6 years) has declined in 27 States and Union Territories.

Sharp fall in the range of 22 to 82 points have been reported in child sex ratios in Jammu & Kashmir (82), Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Nagaland during 2001-2011. It is to be noticed that even North Eastern States like Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have shown a declining trend. Maps 12 and 13 depict child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years for 2001 and 2011 and show the pattern of decline in 2011.

Statement-17 gives the distribution of States and UTs by ranges of sex ratio of child population in the age group 0-6 years and their relative share in these ranges in terms of percentage of population to total population of the country for 2001 and 2011. It may be discerned from the above Statement that the number of States and UTs with sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years of 951 and above, has reduced to half from eighteen to nine in 2011 with corresponding decline in the share of population from 28 percent to only 8.12 percent. The number of States and UTs with child sex ratio 0-6 years below 915 has increased from nine in 2001 to fourteen in 2011. The share of population in this category has doubled.

## Statement 17

### Distribution of States/Union Territories by range of sex ratio of child population in the age group 0-6 years: 2001-2011

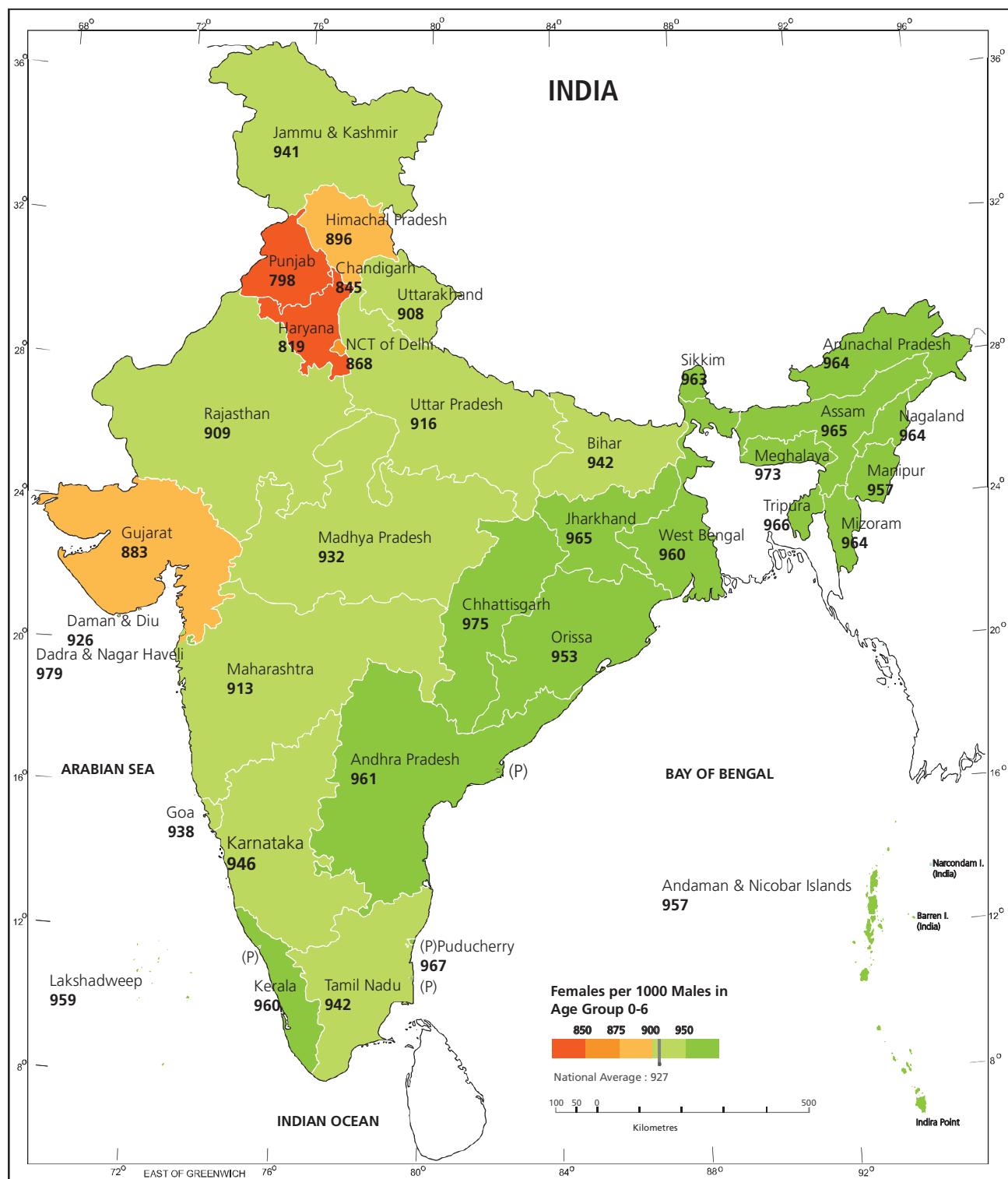
Sex ratio	Number of States/ Union Territories 2001	Percentage of population to total population 2001	Number of States/ Union Territories 2011	Percentage of population to total population 2011
1	2	3	4	5
880 & below	4	5.27	5	6.51
881-915	5	20.76	9	46.13
916-950	8	45.95	12	39.2
951-985	18	28.02	9	8.16
986 & above	0	0	0	0

 **Note:** Please see notes behind Figures at a Glance.



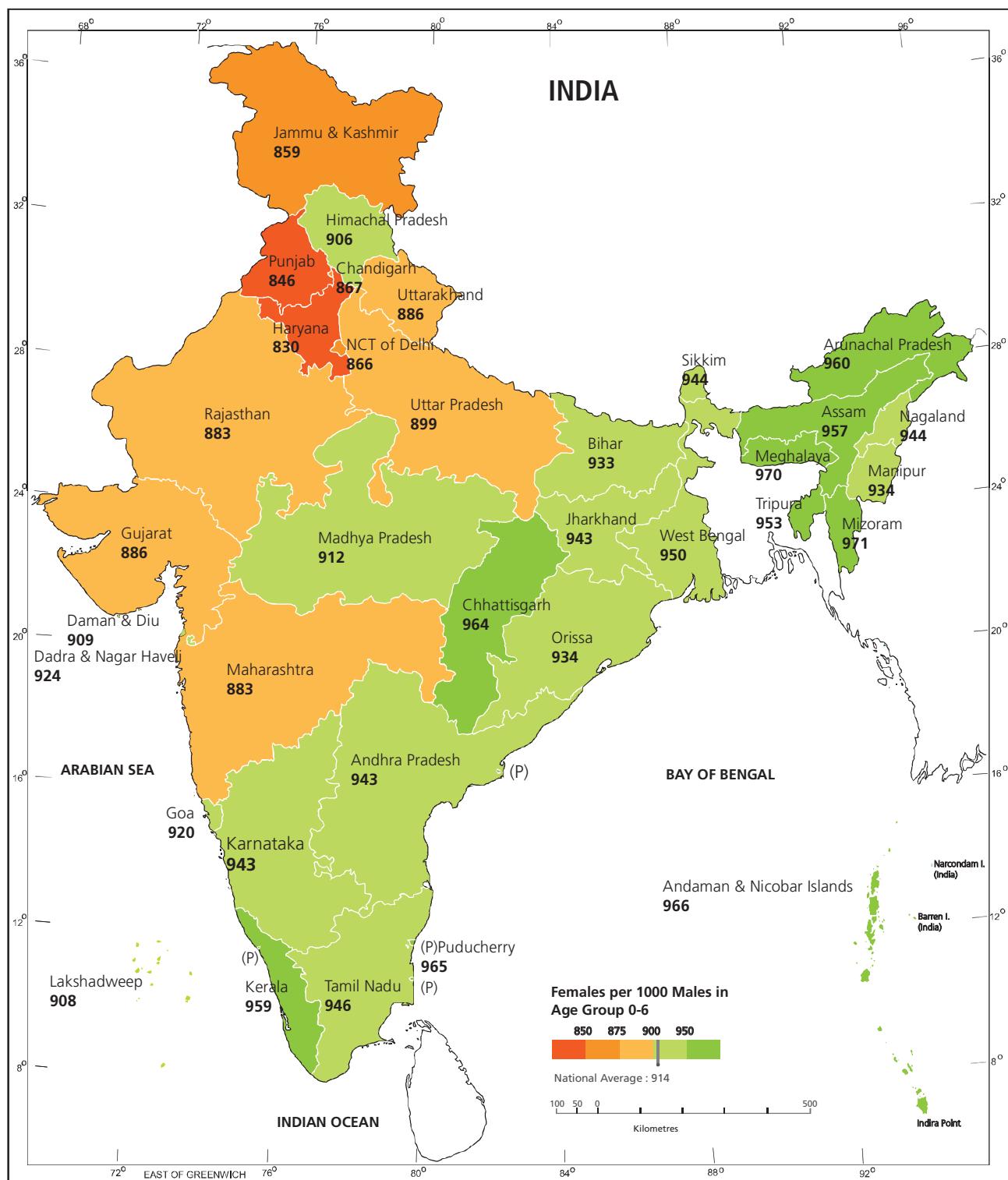
Map 12

### Child Sex Ratio in Age Group 0-6, 2001 (States/Union Territories)



Map 13

## Child Sex Ratio in Age Group 0-6, 2011 (States/Union Territories)





#### SEX RATIO OF AGE 7 YEARS AND ABOVE POPULATION

The sex ratio of population of age 7 years and above during 2001 and 2011 Censuses have been shown in the Statement- 13. It has increased from 942 in 2001 to 944 in 2011 at the National level. This increase is also noted in 23 States/UTs. However 8 States have shown slight decline as compared to 2001. In 4 States/UTs this ratio has remained constant.

Kerala (1099), Tamil Nadu(1000) and Andhra Pradesh (997) have recorded the highest sex ratio, while Punjab (899), Jammu & Kashmir (887) and Haryana (885) are at the bottom in the age group 7+ years.

Statement-18 provides the distribution of States and UTs by the ranges of sex ratio of population in the age group of 7+ years for 2001 and 2011 and their share of population to total population.

It may be seen from the Statement that the number of States and UTs and their corresponding share of population has increased significantly in the category with sex ratio 986 and above. On the other hand, there has been a decline in the number and proportion of population in the 916-950 category. The

#### Statement 18

##### Distribution of States/Union Territories by range of sex ratio of population 7 years and above: 2001 and 2011

Sex ratio	Number of States/ Union Territories 2001	Percentage of population to total population 2001	Number of States/ Union Territories 2011	Percentage of population to total population 2011
1	2	3	4	5
880 & below	8	3.75	5	1.58
881-915	5	26.86	7	29.88
916-950	10	39.11	7	36.45
951-985	8	18.57	9	13.15
986 & above	4	11.72	7	18.94

number and share of States and UTs having sex ratio 915 and below has not shown perceptible decline.

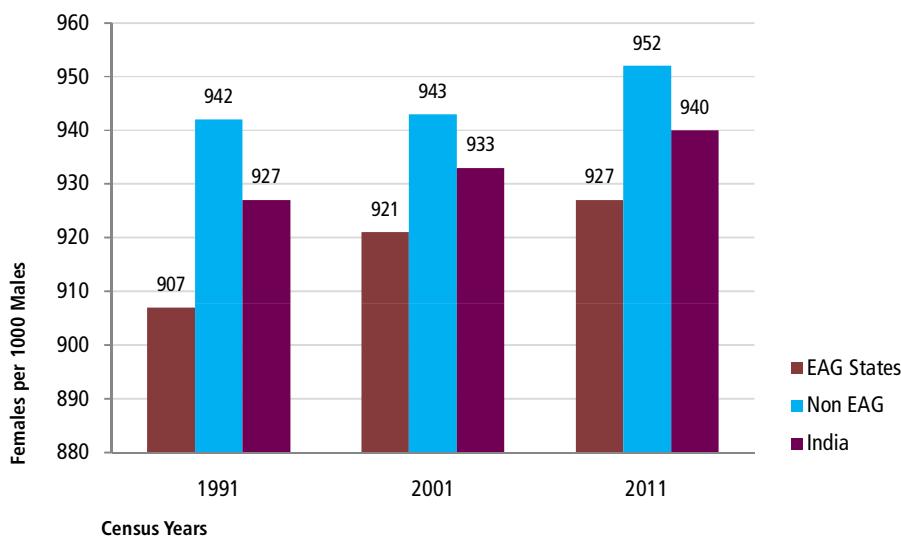
#### SEX RATIO IN THE EMPOWERED ACTION GROUP (EAG) STATES

It is heartening to note that the overall sex ratio has shown a consistent increase in both EAG as well as non EAG States in the last three decades. However, the disheartening fact is that the gap between EAG and non EAG States has increased slightly during 2001-2011. Almost similar trends have been observed in the category of seven plus population as illustrated in Figures 22 and 23.

Figure 24 exhibits trends of child sex ratio (0-6 years) in EAG and non EAG States. It is observed that in 1991, EAG States had lower value of child sex ratio as compared to non EAG States. This trend has reversed during 2001.

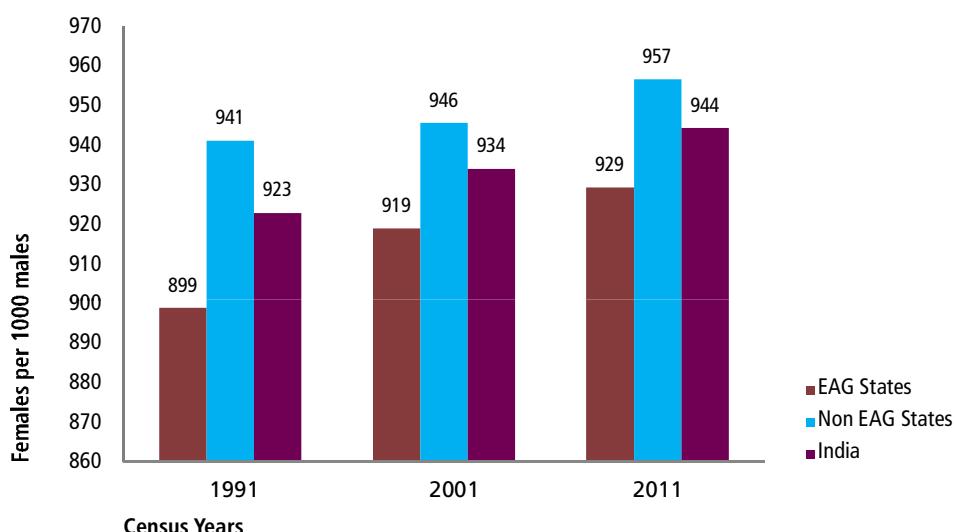
 **Figure 22**

#### Sex ratio in India, EAG and non EAG States: 1991-2011



 **Figure 23**

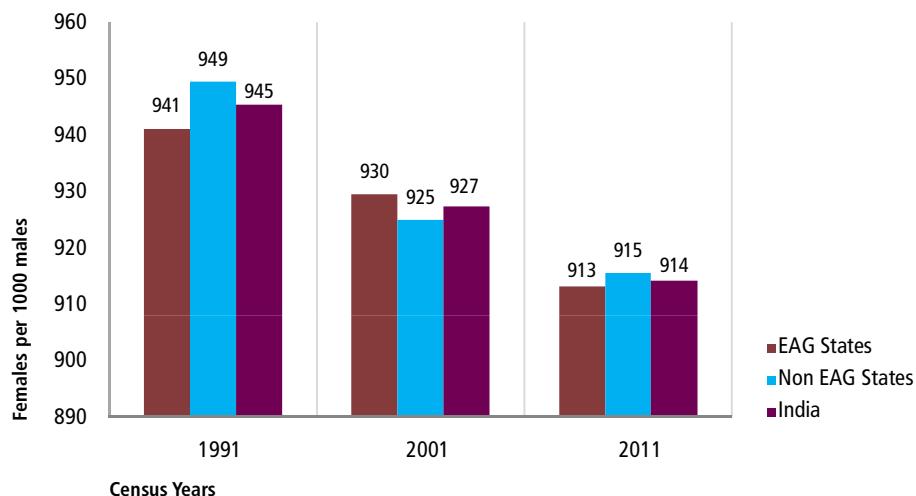
#### Sex ratio in the 7+ age group in India, EAG and non EAG States: 1991-2011



In the period 1991-2011, while there has been a fall of 28 points in the EAG States, the same has been to the tune of 34 points in non EAG States. In the last decade alone, the decline in EAG States has been 17 points while in the non EAG States the fall has been to the tune of 10 points. This is indeed a matter of grave concern.

 **Figure 24**

**Child Sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years in India, EAG and non EAG States: 1991-2011**



The decline in the sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years is an extremely distressing trend. The writing was clearly on the wall during the last Census itself. The last decade has seen slight improvements in Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Himachal, Gujarat, Mizoram and Andaman & Nicobar Islands where there has been an increase in the sex ratio of the 0-6 year population. In all the remaining 27 States/UTs, the ratio has declined. The decline ranges from nominal to alarming levels.

The overall sex ratio has shown an upward trend in 29 States/UTs. This is a positive sign and is indicative of an improvement in the status of women in the country. The improved trends in female literacy and the narrowing gender gap in the literacy rate, discussed later on in this Report corroborates this in substantial measure. Detailed analysis of trends would however be required for more meaningful conclusions.

