

Trend of population growth in West Champaran

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INTRODUCTION

West Champaran (Paschimi Champaran) is Located in the Extreme north western corner in Bihar state in India. It is located on the global map between $26^{\circ} 16'$ and $27^{\circ} 31'$ North latitude and $83^{\circ} 50'$ and $85^{\circ} 18'$ east latitude . The district occupies an area of 5228 square kilometre. It ranks first Position from area point of view in Bihar and its population was 39.35 lakh in 2011 census but it increases upto 49.15 lakh in 2021.

It is bounded by the hilly region of Nepal in the north and on the south by Gopalganj district and part of East Champaran district on the west by state of Uttar Pradesh and on the east by part of East Champaran district and Nepal. As a district, it has its border with Nepal. It has an international importance. The international border is open with five blocks of the district, namely Bagaha, Ramnagar, Gaunaha, Mainatand and sikta extending from north-west corner to south-west corner to south-east covering a distance of 35 km. Thus, it is a fully land locked district.

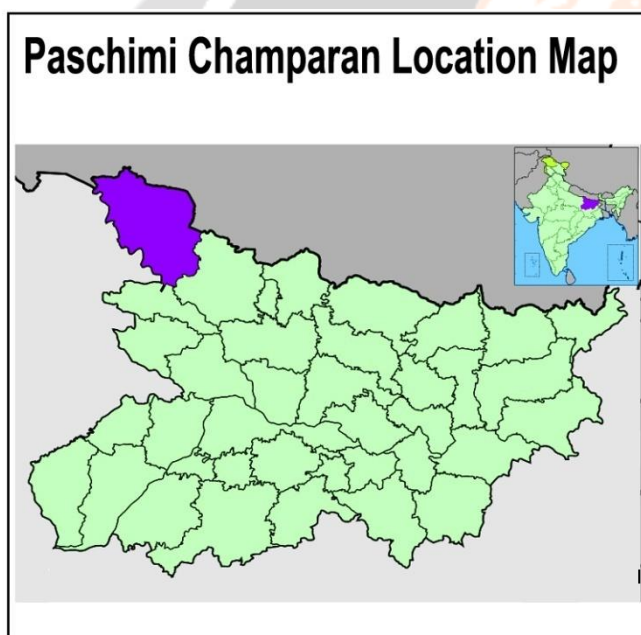


Fig - 1.1

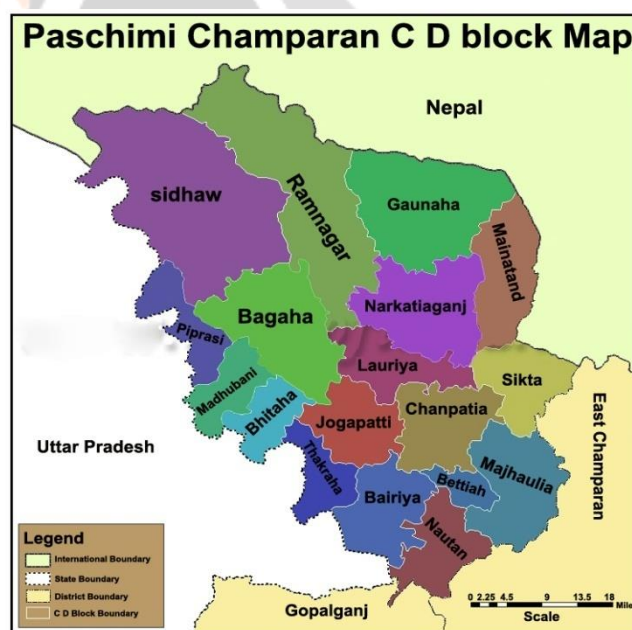


Fig-1.2

GROWTH OF POPULATION

Demographic dynamism has become a burning issue of discussion among social scientists including population geographers. Demographic dynamism is greatly affected by the growth of population. "Population growth refers to the change in number of population inhabiting a territory during a specific period of time, irrespective of the fact whether the change is positive or negative" (Sindhu and Chandanan,(1980). Population growth is an index of the economic development, social awakening , cultural background, historical events and political ideology (Sindhu and Chandana 1980). It is an inscription of multiplying month from a few to many reflecting its pressure upon land. In fact population growth is a dynamic phenomena reflecting the state of equilibrium between the forces of increment and the forces of decrement. Population growth is affected by four important factors i.e. fertility, mortality, migration and immigration.

Along with the rest of the country the first ever census in Paschimi Champaran district was conducted in 1872 but it was merely an estimate rather than counting the heads. The 1881 census was relatively more through. In 1872 the total population of the old Champaran district was 1440815 Which rose to 1721608 in 1881 registering an increase of 19.48 percent. The spectacular rise of 19.48 Percent in the total population of the district during the decades not be taken as natural because 1872 census has faced popular apathy. During the next 10 years the population total remained practically static. The total population of the district rose to 1859465 in 1891 recording only 8.0 percent growth rate. The ravages caused by the great famine of 1897 and subsequent spread of epidemic and diseases led to decade many of 3.7 percent in the total population of old Champaran district during 1891-1901 period. During the early part of the decade fever was very much prevalent which was followed by cholera. Both caused heavy tolls of life. In 1891-92 the region was affected by wide spread famine which caused great damage to both winter rice and Rabi crops. 1896-97 was a period of great distress with large scale crop failure and rise in the prices of food grains. At the same times the spread of plague epidemics in Bettiah town forced many of the people to leave their homes and take shelter in temporary sheds constructed outside the main settlements areas. Many of them moved away to other neighbouring districts also. The epidemic appeared first in Bettiah town and then spread to greater part of the district. Thus, the census results of 1901 were affected in three ways, first by mortality far in excess of that indicated in the death returns. Secondly by the departure to their own homes of temporary shelters from other districts and thirdly by deaths and desertion among the census staff and partly also.

DECADAL VARIATION IN TOTAL POPULATION 1901-2011

TABLE-1.1

CENSUS YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	ABSOLUTE GROWTH	PERCENTAGE GROWTH
1901	784253	—	—
1911	806887	22634	2.80
1921	817227	10340	1.29
1931	906898	89671	10.97
1941	1008470	101572	11.20
1951	1071382	62912	6.24
1961	1325122	253740	23.69
1971	1587019	261897	19.77
1981	1967579	380560	23.98
1991	2333666	366087	18.61

2001	3043466	709800	30.40
2011	3935042	891576	29.29
2021	4915000	979958	24.90

Source : District gazetteer, distinct census hand book and P.C.A

Through C.D. of Paschimi champaran.

**PASCHIMI CHAMPARAN, DISTRICT
GROWTH OF POPULATION (1901-2021)**

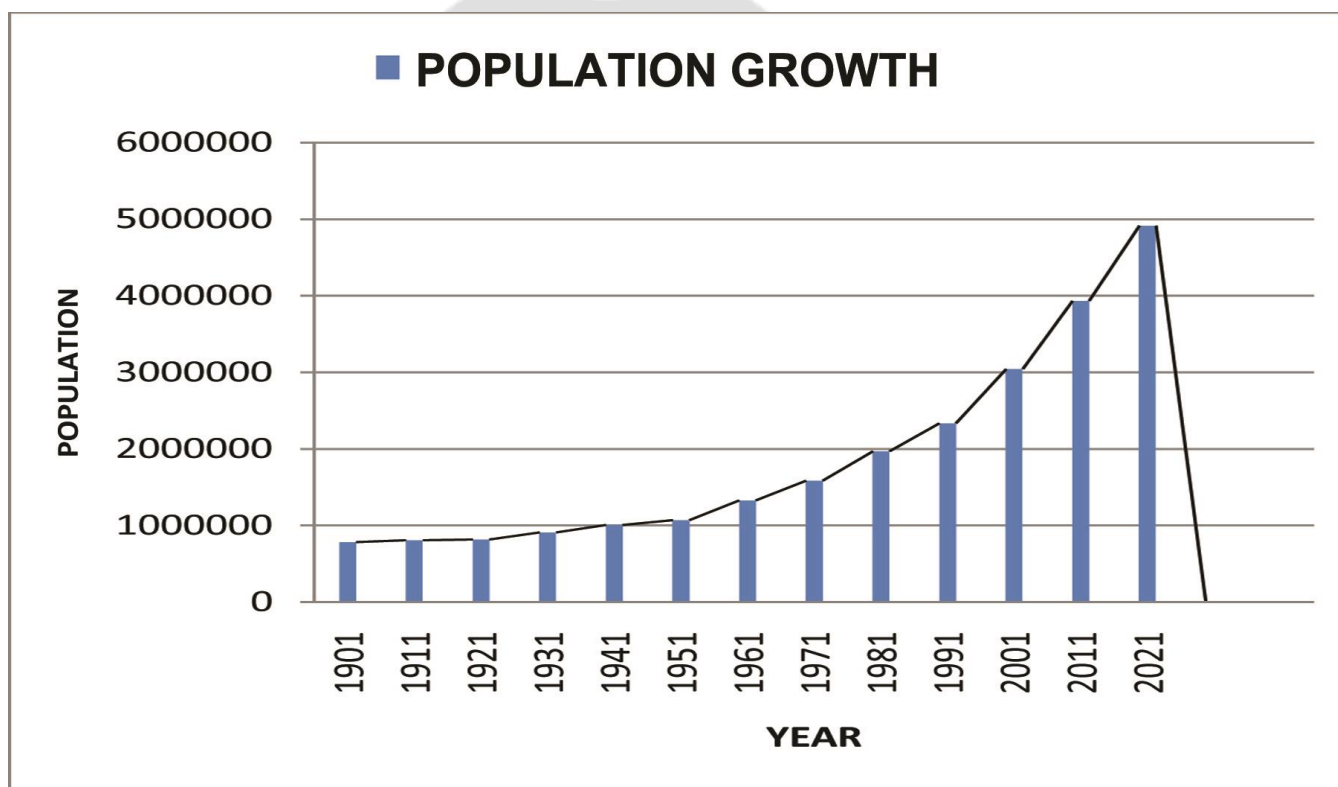
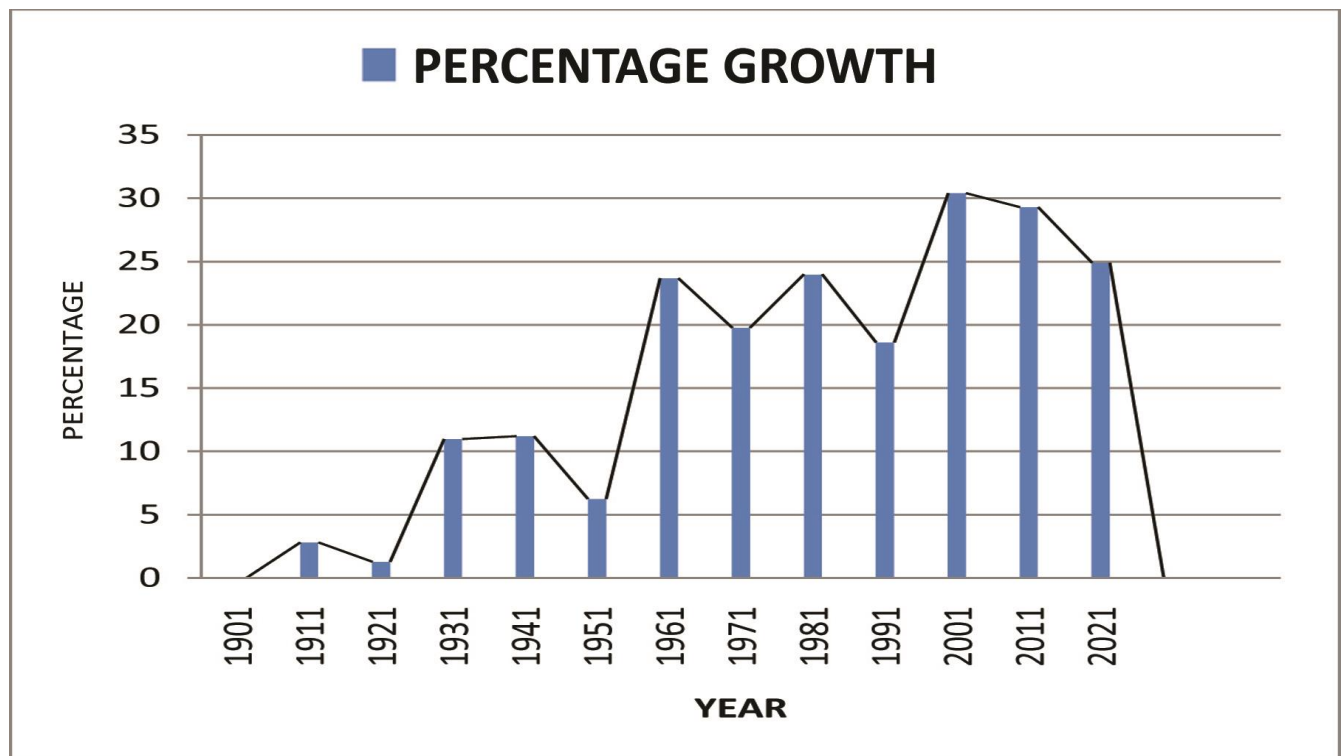


Fig -1.3



Through C.D. of Paschimi champaran

Fig -1.4

By the difficulty of enumeration panic-stricken villages

Fig. 1.1 Shows the decadal variation in the growth of population in Paschimi Champaran district since 1901. 1951 forms a great divide in the history of the growth of population. Prior to 1951 the district recorded a slow but steady growth. In 1901 the total population of the district was 7.84 lakh which increased to 10.71 lakh in 1951. During the last 50 years the increase was the order of 194.11 percent. The history of population growth of Paschimi Champaran district can be divided into three distinct stages. These are:

1. The period of slow growth (1901-1921)
2. The period of moderate growth (1921-1951)
3. The period of rapid growth (1951 Onwards)

1. Period of slow growth

In 1901, the total population of Paschimi Champaran district (Present territory) was 7.84 lakh which increased to 8.06 lakh in 1911 registering an increase of 22634 persons or 2.8 percent during the period. There was great regional variation in the growth rate. The increase in the total population was related partly to immigration and partly to the opening of sugar mills and some other industries in the district.

The ravage caused by natural calamities such as epidemics and crop failure are well reflected in extremely low growth rate of population during 1911-1921 decade. There was a series of natural calamities such as, outbreak of cholera, plague and influenza epidemics and serious drought leading to acute food scarcity during the Period. Plague claimed heavy toll of human lives in 1918. It was followed by influenza epidemic which was more severe in Paschimi Champaran district than any other district of Bihar. There was perceptible decrease in women population as females are more sensitive to these epidemics. The decade was characterized by high birth and high death rates. With the addition of 10340 persons the population of the district rose to 8.17 lakh in 1921 registering a growth rate of only 1.29 percent. There was wide variation in the growth rate varying between in Bagaha revenue Thana and in Bettiah revenue Thana.

2. Period of moderate growth

The period between 1921 and 1951 was a period of moderate population growth in Paschimi Champaran district. In 1921 the total population of the district was 8.17 lakh which increased to 10.71 lakh in 1951, 2.88 lakh persons were added during the period.

1931 Provides the first sign of population explosion in the district. The district gained by 10.97 percent in its total population during 1921-31 decade. The growth rate was moderate in rural areas while it was high in urban centers. The reasons of accelerated growth rate is obvious i.e. succession of good harvesting and control on epidemics. Population in the district grew by leaps and bounds in every part of the district.

The growth rate further accelerated during 1931-41 decade. The total population of the district rose to 10.08 lakh. A total of 101572 persons were added during the decade. The rate of growth was 11.20 percent . Rural areas witnessed moderate growth rates while urban areas recorded spectacular growth.

The next decade (1941-51) was a period of political turmoil and unrest in India. Due to the outbreak of second world war and political unrest, agriculture suffered by neglect. In 1947 the country was divided and India became independent. The partition of the country was followed by transfer of population from one country to the other. These conditions led to decline in the rate of population growth during 1941-1951 decade. The growth rate during this decade fell to 6.24 percent, with the addition of 62912 persons the total population reached 1071382 in 1951.

3.Period of Rapid growth

Period of rapid population growth in Paschimi Champaran district started in 1951 and it is still continuing. In 1951 the total population of the district was 10.71 lakh which increased to 39.36 lakh in 2011 registering an increase of 194.11 percent during the last 50 years.

During the decade 1951-61 Paschimi Champaran district showed upward surge in its population registering an increase of 23.69 percent. The beneficial effects of five year plans were well reflected in all the development blocks were seen in every nook and corner of the district. Growing health consciousness and better hygienic care were other factors responsible for rapid growth rate. The rural development programmes , improved medical facilities, control of death rate and increase in the expectancy of life contributed much to this accelerated growth rate during the decade.

The population increased from 13.26 lakh in 1961 to 15.88 lakh in 1971 registering an increase of 19.77 percent during the decade. The district experiences a wide spread drought affecting adversely to the population growth in the middle of the decade. The growth rate was further accelerated in 1971-81 decade (23.98 percent).

The total population of the district rose from 15.88 lakh in 1971 to 19.68 lakh in 1981 registering a net increase of 3.84 lakh persons during the decade.

Table 1.2 shows the spatial variations in the growth of population in Paschimi Champaran district for the decades 1991-2001 and 2001-2011

Table -1.2
Block - wise decadal growth of population 1991-2011 (in percent)

Sl. No.	Blocks	1991-2001	2001-2011
1	Sidhaw	27.37	30.76
2	Ramnagar	23.21	28.94
3	Gaunaha	22.19	32.00
4	Mainatand	24.23	32.10

5	Narkatiaganj	19.82	29.29
6	Lauriya	22.88	27.95
7	Bagaha	24.69	26.39
8	Piprasi	23.19	22.64
9	Madhubani	29.91	36.63
10	Bhitaha	26.73	26.94
11	Thakraha	17.11	20.25
12	Jogapatti	29.71	31.54
13	Chanpatia	27.40	31.43
14	Sikta	28.07	36.87
15	Majhaulia	25.97	29.57
16	Bettiah	19.71	21.24
17	Bairiya	21.96	29.05
18	Nautan	28.94	32.75

Source : 1. District Census Hand book -1991,2001

2. Provision population Totals -200

PASCHIMI CHAMPARAN, DISTRICT SPATIAL VARIATION IN GROWTH OF POPULATION

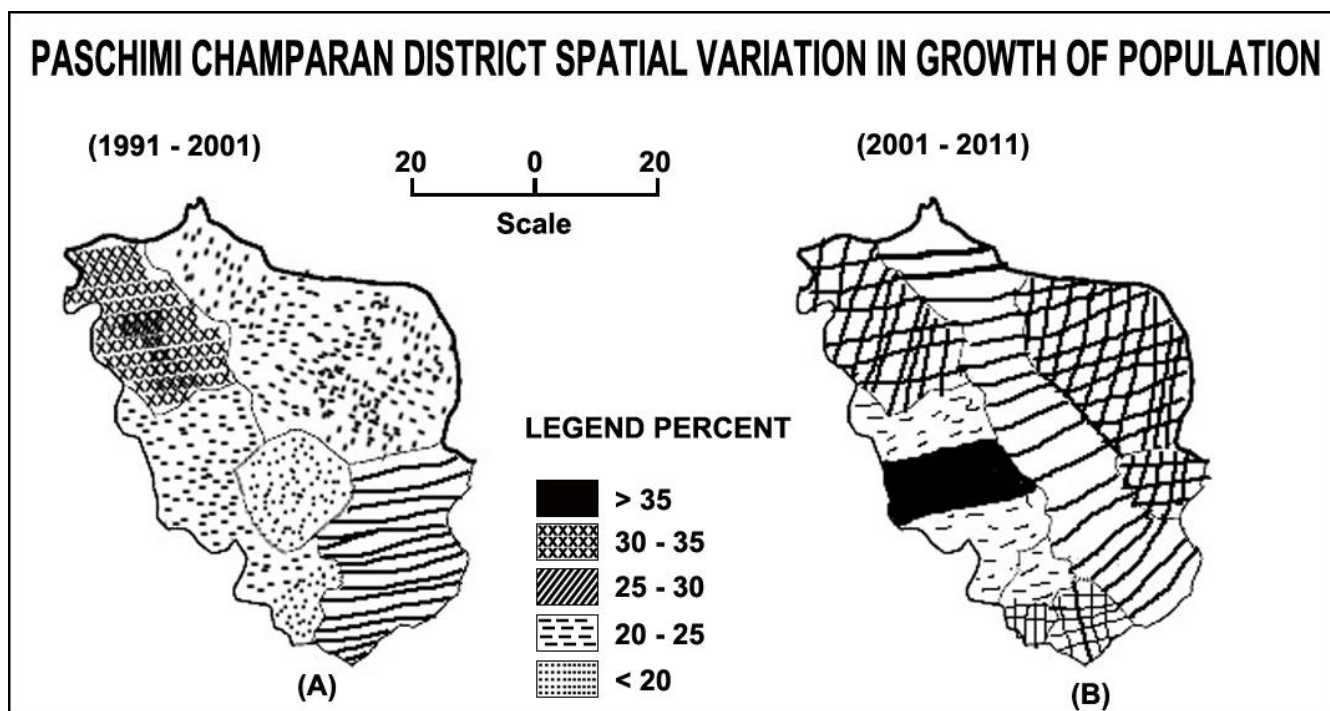


Fig- 1.5

Factors responsible for accelerated growth rate during the eighties continued to operate in 1981-91 decade. The total population of the district increased from 19.68 lakh in 1981 to 23.34 lakh in 1991, registering an increase of 18.61 percent. A total of 3.67 lakh persons were added during the decade.

The growth rate was further accelerated in 1991-01 decade (30.41 Percent). the total population of the district rose from 23.34 lakh in 1991 to 30.44 lakh in 2001 registering a net increase of 7.09 lakh persons during the decade. There was wide variation in the growth rate from one block to the other. The maximum growth rate was registered in Madhubani (29.91%) and Jogapatti (29.71%) blocks and the minimum in Thakraha block (17.11%). As many as 8 blocks recorded above 25 percent growth rate. 7 blocks located in the plain portion of the district formed a compact belt of 20 - 25 percent growth rate while Bettiah, Thakraha and Narkatiaganj blocks from the isolated pockets of less than 20% growth rate.

The district registered further acceleration in the rate of population growth in 2001-11 decade. The total population of the district touched 39.36 lakh in 2011 with a decadal growth rate varied between 21.24 percent in Bettiah and 36.63 percent in Madhubani. As many as 8 blocks recorded the growth ranging between 30 and 35 percent while 7 blocks represented 25-30 percent growth. Bettiah, Thakraha and Piprasi blocks, on the other hand witnessed very slow growth rate (below 25 percent)

Factors Affecting Population Growth

In fact the growth of population in a region is determined by three factors fertility , mortality and mobility . The ratio between the birth rate and death rate forms natural growth of population birth is a natural process by which new members enters the population at the age of zero (Sidhu and Chandana 1980) the death, on the other hand, refers to the disappearance of the member of population due to increase in health care, medical facilities and control on natural calamities the death rate in the district has declined during the post independence period. On the other hand, birth control measures are applied only in educated families and the families belonging to landed class, land less families do not care for it as their children are the asset for them. Birth rate depends upon the fertility of the mother. Fertility refers to the number of children a woman has actually born (Sidhu and Chandana, 1980)

Fertility rate depends upon a number of factors such as types of families, level of education, socio-economic condition, age of marriage, ethnic and religious groups and rural urban differential.

Mortality

As stated above mortality refers to the disappearance of the member of population through death. The mortality rate declines as the child matures but begins to rise in the middle age and continues to increase in old age. Excess of male Mortality appears at all ages in most countries . But in the less developed countries female death exceeds male death. Similarly rural mortality is higher than urban mortality. The income of an individual determines one's capability to avail of medical facilities. In the absence of medical services the death knocks at the door of rich and poor alike but when medicines begin or make advances the death rate of rich people decline while that of poor people remains high.

Migration

Migration of people is one of the important factors determining population growth. Out migration decreases the number of population in an area while immigration increases the number of population migration has been prevalent in Paschimi Champaran district since the time immortal male has described in 1906 that there was large volume of emigration from Bettiah and number of emigration from Bettiah and number of emigrants for exceeded the immigrants (Chaudhary, P.C 1957) it has also been mentioned that large number of population leaved the district each year in search of work . They return their home when agricultural operation started with the burst of monsoon. It is important to note that the pattern of migration of population in the district to day quite different from the time of past time. Today there is craze among male adults to leave their village and go to towns of the adjacent districts or other states. According to 1951 census, a large number of persons hailing from other districts reside in Paschimi Champaran district. On the other hand many people from the district have moved to the tea gardens of Assam and the collieries of Jharkhand. Improvement in transport facilities has increased this trend of out migration.

Conclusion

Considering the above all description it can be said that West Champaran (Paschimi Champaran) is a fast population growing district of Bihar. Improvement in sanitary, health conditions, development of the means of communication and area improvement in the C.D.B's situated in Gandak diaras and tharu belt has opened the brilliant chapter in the growth rate of population.

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