

UNDERSTAND UPSC

GS I

SYLLABUS: POPULATION ISSUES.

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "What are the costs of population decline?"

"India's demographic transition is much ahead of its socio-economic transition."

- **Total Fertility Rates (TFR):** defined as the average number of children born to women during their child-bearing years.
- **Demographic Dividend:** large workforce of young people (age 15-64), who don't have to worry about caring for many minor or elderly dependents.

Demographic Transition in India:

- **After decades of family planning policies** seeking to slow population growth, their success led to an increasingly ageing population.
- **Results of such policies are not uniform**—southern States, as well as smaller northern States have seen a much sharper decrease in TFR.
- **Following data is based on Office of the Registrar General of India 2019 and 2021 report**
 - **TFR 1.4:** Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
 - **TFR 1.5:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.
 - **TFR > 2:** Bihar (3), Uttar Pradesh (2.7), MP (2.6).
- **States with lower TFR** have largely developed faster, but are now facing spectre of a rapidly ageing population.
- **India's elderly population is projected to rise** from 10% in 2021 to 15% by 2036— **India Ageing report published by UNFPA 2023.**
- **Demographic transition** is more advanced in some states:
 - **In Kerala**, senior citizens accounted for 15% of the population in 2021, a figure that is set to rise to 25% by 2036;
 - **In TN and Andhra Pradesh**, elderly will make up 20% of its population in 2036.
 - **In Bihar**, only 8% were elderly in 2021, and this is projected to rise to just 11% in 2036.

Impacts of Demographic Transition:

- **States unable to tap benefits of Demographic dividend due to old age dependency ratio**, leaving an impact on economic growth: Eg. Kerala, Tamil Nadu.
- **Promotion of pro-natalist policies:** Eg. CMs of TN, Andhra Pradesh incentivising women to have more babies.
- **Reduction in women's participation in the labour force**, which will hurt economies of States.
- **Southern States expressing concerns with Finance Commission:** saying they are **being punished** for successful implementation of population policies.
- **Impact on Delimitation of constituencies:** with current status of population States like UP, Bihar, Rajasthan gain more seats in parliament while TN, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh lose. **This weakens the federal structure.**

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Old age dependency ratio:

- how many older people are there for every 100 people of working age, between 18 to 59 years.
 - "**When this ratio goes above 15%**, that is the **onset of an ageing crisis.**"
- Currently, Kerala (26%), TN (20%), Himachal Pradesh (19%) Andhra Pradesh (18%).
- The **above States cannot reap the benefits of demographic dividend.** And health expenses are on rise.
- Southern States, with just one-fifth of India's population, spent 32% of the country's total **out-of-pocket expenditure.** While eight Hindi-belt States with half the country's population, spent just 24%.

What are pro-natalist policies:

- Under such policies, **governments try to encourage young couples to have kids by providing incentives** like:
 - Increase maternity leave or paternity leave.
 - Increase child support or reduce taxation.
 - Provide cash incentives for people to have children.
- Since 2015, **countries like Hungary, Poland, Greece, Finland, and Sweden**, where aging is a major issue, have adopted pro-natalist policies.
- **Success of Pro-natalist policies is limited due to:**
 - Rise of cost of living on welcoming child.
 - Need for adequate housing.
 - **What is the cost of raising a child:** like kindergarten and then school?
 - **Big opportunity cost for women:** who are largely responsible for the unpaid care of babies had to drop out of work, either permanently or for a short period.

In summary, "Educated women know they are not reproductive machines, and forced fertility will not work, nor will incentives that do not recognise what families actually need."

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LIVESTOCK

PRE-CONTEXT

H5N1 VIRUS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "Why Cambodia's H5N1 reassortant virus needs close monitoring."**H5N1 virus:**

- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza** but can occasionally infect humans and other animals.
- **Caused widespread global outbreak**, carried by migratory birds.
- The outbreak is estimated to have **killed millions of birds** and the virus has infected over 200 mammalian species including humans.

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HEALTH

PRE-CONTEXT

TUBERCULOSIS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 11.

News: "India will fail to meet 2025 TB 'elimination' target."

"India had the highest tuberculosis (TB) burden in 2023."

Tuberculosis:

- **Caused by:** *Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb)*.
- **Preventive Vaccine:** Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG).
- Mtb coevolved with humans for a millennia (1000 years).
- Those with **nutritional deficiencies, diabetes, and a habit of smoking** are at the highest risk of contracting TB
- **Multiple Drug Resistance:** microorganisms like bacteria or viruses, develop resistance to multiple antimicrobial drugs, making infections harder to treat.
 - **Mtb developed its ability to grow in macrophages** (white blood cells).

India and Tuberculosis:

- India contributes to **25% of global TB cases** in 2022.
- TB is **one of the top 10 causes of deaths** in India.
- India has a significant number (**~75, 000**) of **Multi-Drug Resistant TB** in 2022.
- SDG goal 3 is to end TB by 2030.

National TB Elimination Programme (2017-2025)

- Eliminate TB **by 2025** under **National Health Mission**.
- TB elimination means there should be under **one case of TB for a population of 10 lakh**.
- **Progress in reduction of TB incidence cases:** 280 cases per lakh in 2005 to 190 cases per lakh in 2024 (it was 199 in 2020)–**WHO World TB report 2024**.
- **To reach the target under the programme:** incidence cases of TB must be reduced to 120 by 2025. Which is not possible by 2025.

Key components of Programme:

- Early detection and diagnosis using **Rapid TB detection kits**.
- **Nikshay Poshan Yojana:** Direct Benefit Transfer of Rs. 1000 monthly nutritional support to TB patients.
- **Nikshay digital platform** to monitor TB treatment.
- **Preventive Vaccine BCG** for newborns.

About New regimen tackling microbial resistance:

- It is comprised of **four drugs** — Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin.
- The BPaLM regimen is reputed **to cure drug-resistant TB** in just **six months**, with a **high success rate**.

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EXAMPLES FROM TODAY'S NEWS PAPER

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

Inclusion of Vulnerable

News: "Accessibility for disabled persons is a fundamental right, rules top court".

"Disability is not inherent in the person, but is created by external factors such as physical, organisational, and attitudinal barriers"—**Supreme Court of India 2024**.

Challenges faced by PwDs [people with disabilities]:

- **Emotional and relational challenges:**
 - Particularly regarding access to love, desire, and intimacy.
 - **Society did not even bother** to enquire into the "right to relationships" of persons with disabilities.
 - This **exacerbates the feeling of Exclusion**.
- **Accessibility standards:**
 - Low floor wheelchair-accessible CNG buses for public transport. Eg. **Many cities lack such buses**.
 - Restrooms for persons with disabilities.
 - Highlights the **lack of compassion and human dignity**.
- **Privacy of PwDs is often overlooked.**
- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules:**
 - Prescribing accessibility standards **were not even mandatory by nature**.
 - Shows **lack of compliance** at ground level.

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Thank you!