

TSPSC G 1 | UPSC - CSE | APPSC G 1
DAILY MAINS ANSWER WRITING**11/07/2024****(MODEL ANSWER)**

- Q. Discuss the demographic transition in India and its implications. How can India harness its demographic dividend while addressing the challenges of an ageing population and urbanization? 15 Marks

Answer Template:**Introduction:**

- Demographic transition refers to the shift from high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates as a country develops.
- This transition has significant implications for various socio-economic aspects such as poverty, health, and gender equality.
- According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, India's total fertility rate (TFR) decreased from 3.4 to 2 between 1992 and 2021, dropping below the replacement level of 2.1.

Body:

- **Demographic Transition in India and Its Implications:**
 - **Decline in Fertility Rate:**
 - The TFR in India decreased from 3.4 in 1992 to 2 in 2021.
 - This decline is attributed to increased female literacy, economic development, and family planning programs like the **National Family Planning Program**.
 - **Reduction in Mortality Rate:**
 - Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) decreased from 384.4 in 2000 to 102.7 in 2020.
 - Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) reduced from 66.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 25.5 in 2021, reflecting improvements in maternal and child healthcare.
 - **Increased Life Expectancy:**
 - Life expectancy in India has increased due to better healthcare infrastructure and living standards.
 - Public health initiatives such as the **National Health Mission** have contributed to this improvement.
 - **Impact on Poverty:**
 - The poverty rate reduced from 48% in 1990 to 10% in 2019, aided by economic growth and employment schemes like **MGNREGA**.
 - **Health Improvements:**
 - Significant improvements in healthcare, reflected in reduced mortality rates and increased life expectancy.
 - Nutrition programs like **POSHAN Abhiyaan** aim to address malnutrition, though challenges remain.
 - **Gender Equality:**

- Low female labour force participation and political representation hinder economic progress.
 - Initiatives like **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** promote gender equality and empowerment.
- **Harnessing the Demographic Dividend:**
 - Large Working-Age Population:
 - India has a substantial working-age population, presenting an opportunity for economic growth.
 - Policies to create job opportunities are crucial to leverage this demographic dividend.
 - Skill Development:
 - Programs like **Skill India** aim to enhance the employability of the youth.
 - Vocational training and education are essential to prepare the workforce for emerging sectors.
 - Employment Creation:
 - Focus on creating employment opportunities in various sectors, including manufacturing and services.
 - Government initiatives like **Make in India** promote industrial growth and job creation.
 - Economic Reforms:
 - Labour market reforms to make it more flexible and absorb the working-age population.
 - Ease of Doing Business initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and start-ups.
 - Technological Interventions:
 - Digital health solutions, telemedicine, and digital health records for better healthcare delivery.
 - Agricultural technology to improve productivity and ensure food security.
- **Addressing Challenges of Ageing Population and Urbanization:**
 - Ageing Population:
 - The proportion of elderly (60 years and above) is projected to rise from 8.6% in 2011 to 19.5% by 2050.
 - Need for a robust geriatric care system and social security benefits for the elderly.
 - Urbanization Challenges:
 - Rapid urbanization strains urban infrastructure and services.
 - Sustainable urban development initiatives like the **Smart Cities Mission** and **AMRUT** aim to address these challenges.
 - Affordable Housing:
 - Programs like **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** aim to provide affordable housing to urban poor.
 - Focus on improving urban living conditions and reducing slum areas.
 - Income Inequality:

- Addressing income inequality through progressive policies to ensure equitable distribution of development benefits.
- Fiscal policies and social spending to reduce the wealth gap.
- Health and Nutrition:
 - Strengthening health and nutrition programs with increased budget allocation.
 - Addressing the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Environmental Sustainability:
 - Promoting renewable energy and addressing the impacts of climate change on agriculture and health.
 - Improving urban waste management systems for sustainable development.

Conclusion

- India's demographic transition presents both opportunities and challenges. The country has made significant strides in reducing fertility and mortality rates, improving healthcare, and addressing poverty.
- However, challenges such as an ageing population, urbanization, and gender inequality remain.
- With multi-sectoral collaboration and strong political will, India can achieve its **SDG targets** and ensure sustainable development. Sustained investment in health and education, coupled with robust economic policies, can help India realize its demographic potential and secure a prosperous future for all its citizens.