



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 15-07-2025

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1. Fertility Rate
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Fertility Rate

Syllabus: GS-1: Indian Geography – Population dynamics.

Context:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has said that the State has a sub-replacement fertility rate of 1.7.

Socioeconomic and Demographic Challenges

- **Ageing population** is on the rise, while the **youth demographic is shrinking**.
- **Teenage pregnancies, gender imbalances, and early hysterectomies** identified as critical issues.
- Disintegration of **joint family systems** and increasing **cost of living** discourage childbearing.

Need for Policy Intervention

- **Proactive Planning Required:**
 - Family support programs.
 - Focus on **women and elderly care**.
 - **Upskilling** the workforce.
 - Ensuring **balanced regional development**.
- Importance of **real-time data** to monitor:
 - Fertility trends.
 - Aging.
 - Migration patterns.

Policy Announcements

- **Comprehensive Population Management Policy** in pipeline:
 - Incentives to encourage population stability.
 - Support systems for larger families.
- **Shift in Policy Paradigm:**
 - Moving from **population control** to **population investment**.

- **"More people as an asset"** – Emphasis on human capital development.

National and Global Context

- India's population strength (1.4 billion) seen as a **competitive advantage** over countries like China.
- Globally, 1.8 billion people fall in the **10–24 age group**.
- Fertility rates declining **even in developed countries**.

Concerns on Political Representation

- **Population decline in Southern States** may affect **Parliamentary representation**.
 - Upcoming **delimitation** may reduce seats for less populous states.

Key Terms and Definitions

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

- **Definition:** The average number of children a woman would bear during her reproductive years (15–49), assuming current age-specific fertility rates remain constant.
- **Replacement level:** A TFR of **2.1** is considered necessary to maintain a stable population in the absence of migration.

Sub-Replacement Fertility

- **Definition:** A fertility rate **below 2.1**, leading to a **gradual decline in population** over time.
- **Implication:** Aging population, labour shortages, and socioeconomic challenges.

Geriatric Care

- **Definition:** Healthcare and social support provided to **elderly individuals**, typically those aged 60 years and above.
- **Importance:** With increasing life expectancy and lower birth rates, geriatric care is becoming a policy priority.

Urban-Rural Disparities

- **Definition:** **Uneven distribution** of resources, services, and development opportunities between urban and rural areas.
- **Example:** Better healthcare and education in cities compared to villages.

Teenage Pregnancies

- **Definition:** Pregnancies occurring in **girls aged 13–19 years**.
- **Concern:** Associated with health risks, poor maternal outcomes, and disruption of education.

Hysterectomy

- **Definition:** **Surgical removal of the uterus** in women.
- **Concern in A.P.:** Reports of **early and possibly unnecessary hysterectomies**, especially among rural women, raising ethical and health concerns.

Migration Patterns

- **Definition:** The **movement of people** from one region to another, often for employment or better living standards.
- **Relevance:** Affects labour availability, urbanisation, and demographic composition.

Human Capital

- **Definition:** The **skills, knowledge, and experience** possessed by individuals, viewed in terms of their value to the economy.

Population Management Policy

- **Definition:** A government framework aimed at regulating and supporting population growth through incentives, support systems, and planning.
- **Focus in A.P.:** Increasing fertility, family support, addressing gender and health concerns.

Delimitation

- **Definition:** The process of **redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies** based on population data.
- **Concern:** Southern States with declining populations may lose representation in Parliament post-delimitation.

Joint Family System

- **Definition:** A family structure where **multiple generations** live together under one roof, sharing income and responsibilities.
- **Trend:** Declining in India due to urbanisation and nuclear family preferences.

Chin Refugee

Syllabus: GS-1: Population Geography –Refugees.

Context:

Around 4,000 new refugees from Myanmar have entered Mizoram over the past few days following a renewed outbreak of fighting in the neighbouring country's Chin State.

Background

- **Location:** Myanmar's Chin State
- **Event:** Over 4,000 Chin refugees fled to **Champhai district** in Mizoram due to fresh violence between **Chin rebel groups** and Myanmar's military junta.

Who are the Chins?

- **Ethnic Identity:** Indigenous people from **Chin State**, Myanmar.
- **Linguistic Roots:** Speak **Tibeto-Burman languages**.
- **Religion & Culture:** Predominantly **Christian**, with elements of **indigenous customs**.
- **Ethnic Links:** Part of the **Zo ethnic group**, closely related to:
 - **Mizos** (India)
 - **Bawms** (Bangladesh)
 - **Kuki-Zos** (Manipur, India)

Conflict & Resistance

- **Rebel Forces Involved:**
 - **CNDF** (Chin National Defense Force)
 - **CDF-H** (Chinland Defense Force - Hakha)
- **Reason for Violence:** Resistance against the **Myanmar military junta** post-2021 coup.

Migration Hotspots

- Refugees entered through the **Champhai district** of Mizoram.
- **Key Entry Points:**
 - **Zokhawthar**

- Saikhumphai
- Vaphai
- Farkawn
- Tiau River (natural border)

Chin-Mizoram Dynamics

- **Ethnic Kinship:** Strong **cultural and familial bonds** between Chins and Mizos.
- **Traditional Movement:** Permitted under the **Free Movement Regime (FMR)** until 2024.
 - **FMR Suspended** in 2024 due to escalating border tensions.

Mizoram's Response

- **Support Measures:**
 - Food, shelter, and healthcare by **state government and civil society**.
- **Challenges Faced:**
 - Resource Pressure on local villages.
 - Illegal trade and movement across the border.
 - Limited support from the Central Government.

Legal and Political Aspects

- **Household Registers Bill (Mizoram):**
 - Aimed at identifying **non-citizens** for **security** and **resource management**.
 - Awaiting **Centre's assent**.

Key Issues to Watch

- Humanitarian vs. Security Dilemma
- Interstate Relations: Centre-State tension over refugee policy
- Regional Impact: India's Look East Policy and border management

Nomination to Rajya Sabha

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Parliament – Rajya Sabha.

Context:

The government has nominated four people of eminence to the Rajya Sabha.

Nominated Members of Rajya Sabha – Key Points

Constitutional Provision

- **Article 80** of the Indian Constitution deals with the composition of the Rajya Sabha.
- It allows for a **maximum of 12 nominated members**.
- **Article 80(3)** empowers the **President of India** to nominate members having **special knowledge or practical experience** in:
 - Literature
 - Science
 - Art
 - Social Service

Composition of Rajya Sabha

- **Total strength:** Up to **250 members**
 - **238** are elected by the legislatures of the States and Union Territories.
 - **12** are **nominated** by the **President of India**.

Ministry Involved

- As per the **Allocation of Business Rules, 1961**, the responsibility of Rajya Sabha nominations lies with the:
 - **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**
 - MHA **notifies** the appointments after the President makes the nominations.

Important Court Case

- **Case:** *Ram Gopal Singh Sisodia vs. Union of India* (2012)
- **Judgement:** The **Delhi High Court upheld** the nomination of **Sachin Tendulkar** under Article 80(3), confirming that individuals from sports (considered under "art") can be validly nominated.

The changing Landscape of Employment

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Employment.

Context:

Each year, lakhs of students graduate from universities, colleges, Industrial Training Institutes, and skill programmes in India.

India's Employment Landscape: Challenges and Opportunities

Youth Unemployment and Skill Mismatch

- **83%** of India's unemployed are **youth**, highlighting a growing disconnect between education and employment.
- Despite rising graduate numbers, **50% are not job-ready**, primarily due to lack of **digital and professional skills**.
- The **Economic Survey 2023–24** emphasizes the urgency of **reskilling** to meet the demands of a tech-driven job market.

EPFO and Formal Workforce Trends

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** supports over **7 crore organised sector members**, ensuring retirement security.
- Increasing enrolments, especially in the **18–25 age group**, signal rising formal workforce participation.

Informal Employment Concerns

- **90%** of jobs remain **informal**, with a decline in **salaried employment** post-2018.
- This raises alarms over **job security**, **social protection**, and **digital readiness**, particularly as job dynamics shift.

Future Job Market Projections

- By **2030**, an estimated **170 million new jobs** will emerge, while **92 million may be displaced**.
- **Digital and adaptive skills** will be critical to navigating this transformation.

Policy Recommendations

- **Strengthen Industry-Academia Collaboration**
 - Make **formal partnerships** mandatory.

- **Institutional Accountability**
 - Track and report **student placement outcomes**.
- **Curriculum Reform**
 - Integrate **Idea Labs, Tinker Labs, humanities, and soft skills**.
- **Skilling for Global Markets**
 - Equip youth for opportunities in **ageing global economies**, especially in the West.
- **Create Indian Education Services**
 - Attract **top talent** into the education sector.
- **Bring Industry Experts into Classrooms**
 - Bridge the gap between **theory and practice**.

Conclusion

India's demographic dividend is at risk unless **strategic, systemic reforms** are made. Enhancing employability, embracing digital transformation, and fostering meaningful industry-academic cooperation are key to unlocking India's employment potential and preparing for the **future of work**.

3I/Atlas – Third-Ever Interstellar Object

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Space Science.

Context:

The mysterious interstellar object, named 3I/Atlas, which was discovered earlier in July could be the oldest comet ever seen, scientists said on Friday (July 11).

What is 3I/Atlas?

- **3I/Atlas** is a **confirmed interstellar object**, meaning it originated **outside our Solar System**.
- It's the **third such object** discovered, after:
 - 1I/'Oumuamua (2017)

- 2I/Borisov (2019)

Key Features of 3I/Atlas

- **Hyperbolic Orbit:** Its path is **open-ended**, not elliptical, proving it's not bound to the Sun.
- **Speed:** Travels at **~60 km/s** — much faster than typical solar system objects.
- **Current Location:** Near **Jupiter's orbit**, ~917 million km from Earth.
- **Age:** Estimated to be **7 billion years old**, making it **older than the Solar System** itself (which is ~4.6 billion years old).

Discovery

- Detected by the **ATLAS telescope** (Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System) in **Río Hurtado, Chile**.
- First seen when it was **670 million km from the Sun**.

Why is 3I/Atlas Important?

- **Clues to Other Solar Systems:** Its material may help understand how other planetary systems form and evolve.
- **Rare Opportunity:** It's a **direct sample from outside our solar system** — extremely rare and scientifically valuable.
- **Builds on Previous Discoveries:** Helps deepen knowledge gained from 1I/'Oumuamua (a rocky object) and 2I/Borisov (a comet-like body).

How Do Scientists Know It's Interstellar?

- **Trajectory Analysis:**
 - It follows a **hyperbolic orbit**, unlike most solar system objects which have closed, elliptical paths.
- **Initial Speed:**
 - It approached at **high speed** from deep space — not something the Sun's gravity could create or trap.