



P.L. RAJ IAS & IPS ACADEMY

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1. SRS Report 2024 – India's Demographic Transition and Key Findings – Geography

1. Why in News

1. Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2024 released by Office of the Registrar General of India
2. Highlights India's continuing demographic transition
3. Key findings – CBR declined to 18.3, TFR at 1.9 (below replacement level 2.1 for 5th consecutive year), IMR improved to 24, CDR unchanged at 6.4
4. Non-communicable diseases account for ~60% deaths; cardiovascular diseases leading cause (32.1%)

2. About Sample Registration System (SRS)

Definition

1. India's largest demographic survey system estimating birth rate, death rate, fertility, mortality indicators
2. Provides reliable annual data on population dynamics at national, state levels

Conducted By

1. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (Ministry of Home Affairs)
2. Operational since 1969–70 on recommendations of statistical experts strengthening India's vital statistics system

Key Areas Covered

1. **Fertility indicators** – Birth Rate (BR), Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR)
2. **Mortality indicators** – Death Rate (DR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)
3. **Population and health trends** – Life expectancy at birth, sex ratio at birth, rural-urban demographic trends

3. Key Findings of SRS Report 2024

Birth Rate

1. India's Crude Birth Rate (CBR) declined marginally – 18.4 (2023) → 18.3 (2024)
2. Rural birth rate (20.2) remained higher than urban (14.7)
3. Sex ratio at birth improved slightly to 918 girls per 1000 boys (2022–24 average)

Fertility Trends

1. India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – 1.9 (below replacement level 2.1 for fifth consecutive year)
2. Urban TFR – 1.5 (significantly below replacement); Rural TFR – 2.1 (at replacement level)
3. Declining fertility reflects urbanization, women's education, changing socio-economic patterns

Death Rate

1. Crude Death Rate (CDR) – Unchanged at 6.4 (2024); still above pre-COVID levels
2. Rural death rate (6.8) higher than urban (5.6)
3. IMR improved slightly – 25 → 24 deaths per 1000 live births

Leading Causes of Death

1. Non-communicable diseases – ~60% of deaths

2. Cardiovascular diseases – Leading cause, increased to 32.1% of total deaths
3. Deaths from respiratory infections – Declined but remained above pre-pandemic levels

4. Key Demographic Indicators

About Crude Birth Rate (CBR)

1. Number of live births occurring in year per 1,000 population
2. Important demographic indicator measuring population growth trends, reproductive patterns

About Crude Death Rate (CDR)

1. Number of deaths occurring in year per 1,000 population
2. WHO – Key indicator of population health, mortality conditions

About Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

1. Average number of children woman expected to bear during reproductive years (15–49 years)
2. Replacement rate = 2.1
3. **At 2.1** – Population remains stable (woman-partner replace themselves assuming child survival)
4. **Above 2.1** – Population generally grows
5. **Below 2.1** – Population eventually shrinks without offsetting immigration
6. India at 1.9 = Below replacement; long-term population decline implications

5. Significance of SRS Report 2024

Demographic Transition Confirmed

1. India firmly in advanced demographic transition (declining fertility, improving mortality indicators)
2. Moving from high birth-death rates to low birth-death rates

Sub-Replacement Fertility Concerns

1. TFR 1.9 for fifth consecutive year indicating structural demographic shift
2. Potential workforce shrinkage (demographic dividend converting to demographic burden)
3. Aging population challenges – Social security, healthcare, elderly care costs
4. Rural-urban divergence – Urban TFR 1.5 indicating advanced demographic transition in cities

Gender Concerns

1. Sex ratio at birth (918 girls per 1000 boys) below natural ratio (952 girls per 1000 boys)
2. Reflects son preference, gender-biased sex selection despite improvement
3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme impact visible but concerns persist

NCD Burden

1. Non-communicable diseases (~60% deaths) indicating epidemiological transition
2. Cardiovascular diseases (32.1%) dominant; lifestyle diseases becoming primary killers
3. Requires shift from infectious disease-focused healthcare to NCD management

IMR Improvement

1. IMR 24 per 1000 live births; progressive decline reflecting improved maternal-child healthcare
2. However, rural-urban, state-level disparities persist

6. Way Forward

1. **Elderly care** – Develop social security systems, geriatric care infrastructure for aging population
2. **NCD management** – Strengthen primary healthcare for cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer prevention
3. **Rural healthcare** – Reduce rural-urban mortality disparities (CDR rural 6.8 vs urban 5.6)
4. **Gender equity** – Continue Beti Bachao Beti Padhao strengthening sex ratio at birth
5. **Workforce planning** – Address future labor shortages through skill development, productivity enhancement

6. **Women's empowerment** - Education, employment supporting voluntary fertility decisions

7. Conclusion

SRS Report 2024 confirms India's advancing demographic transition with CBR declining to 18.3, TFR at 1.9 (below replacement 2.1 for fifth consecutive year), CDR unchanged at 6.4, IMR improved to 24. Urban TFR (1.5) significantly below replacement while rural TFR (2.1) at replacement level; sex ratio at birth improved to 918 girls per 1000 boys. Non-communicable diseases (~60% deaths) with cardiovascular diseases leading cause (32.1%) indicating epidemiological transition. Declining fertility reflects urbanization, women's education, changing socio-economic patterns requiring stronger healthcare for NCD burden management, elderly support systems for aging population, gender equity reinforcing sex ratio improvements, human capital-focused policy interventions addressing rural-urban disparities ensuring India's demographic dividend translates into sustainable socio-economic development.

Source - <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/srs-indicates-india-in-throes-of-demographic-transition/article71011268.ece>