

## India Ageing Report 2023

By IASToppers | 2023-09-29 16:10:00



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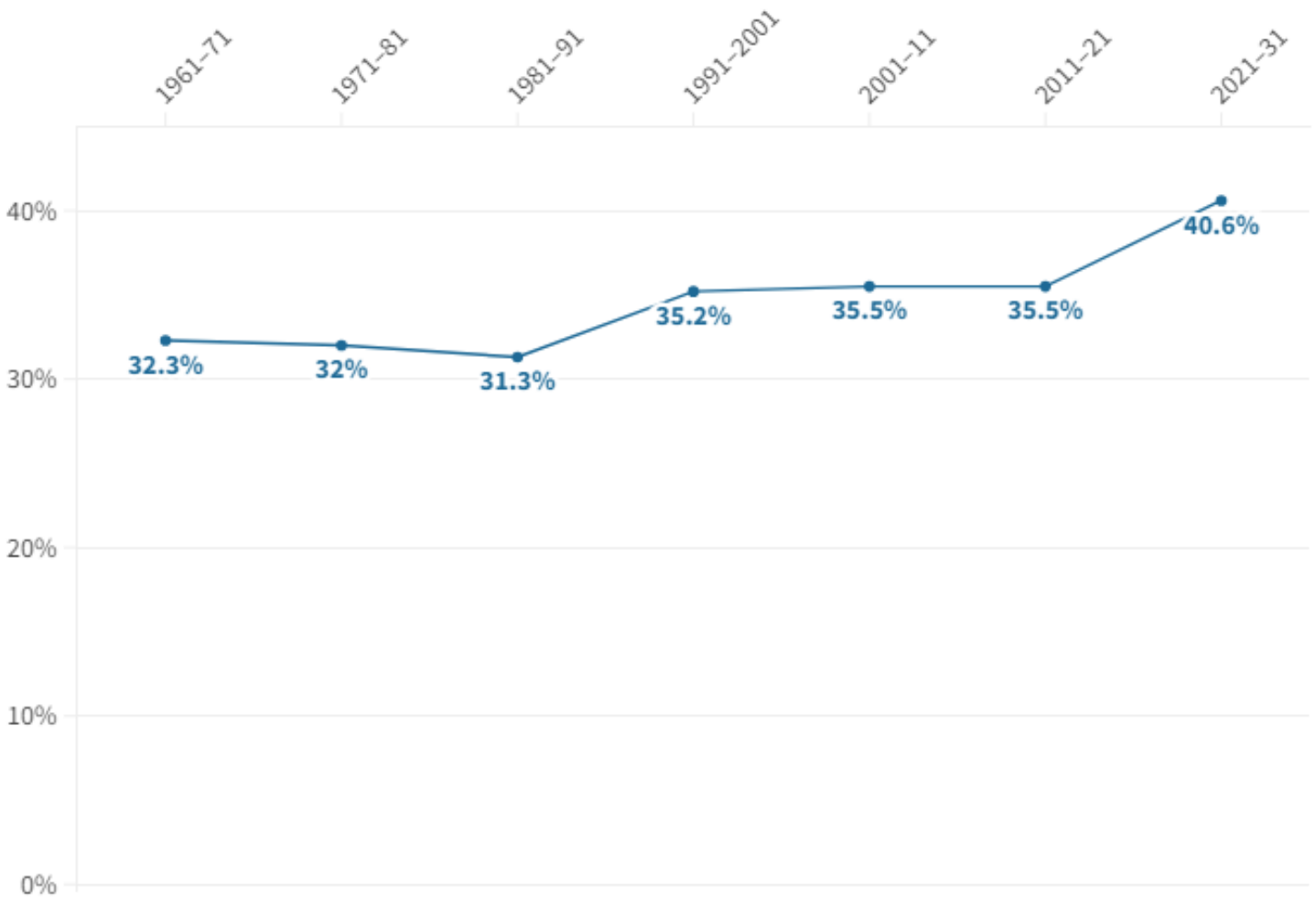
**UNFPA** (United Nations Population Fund) India, in collaboration with the International Institute for Population Sciences (**IIPS**) has recently released its **India Ageing Report 2023**.



[ref- newsclick]

**Key highlight of the report:**

**Decadal growth of the elderly population, 1961–2031**



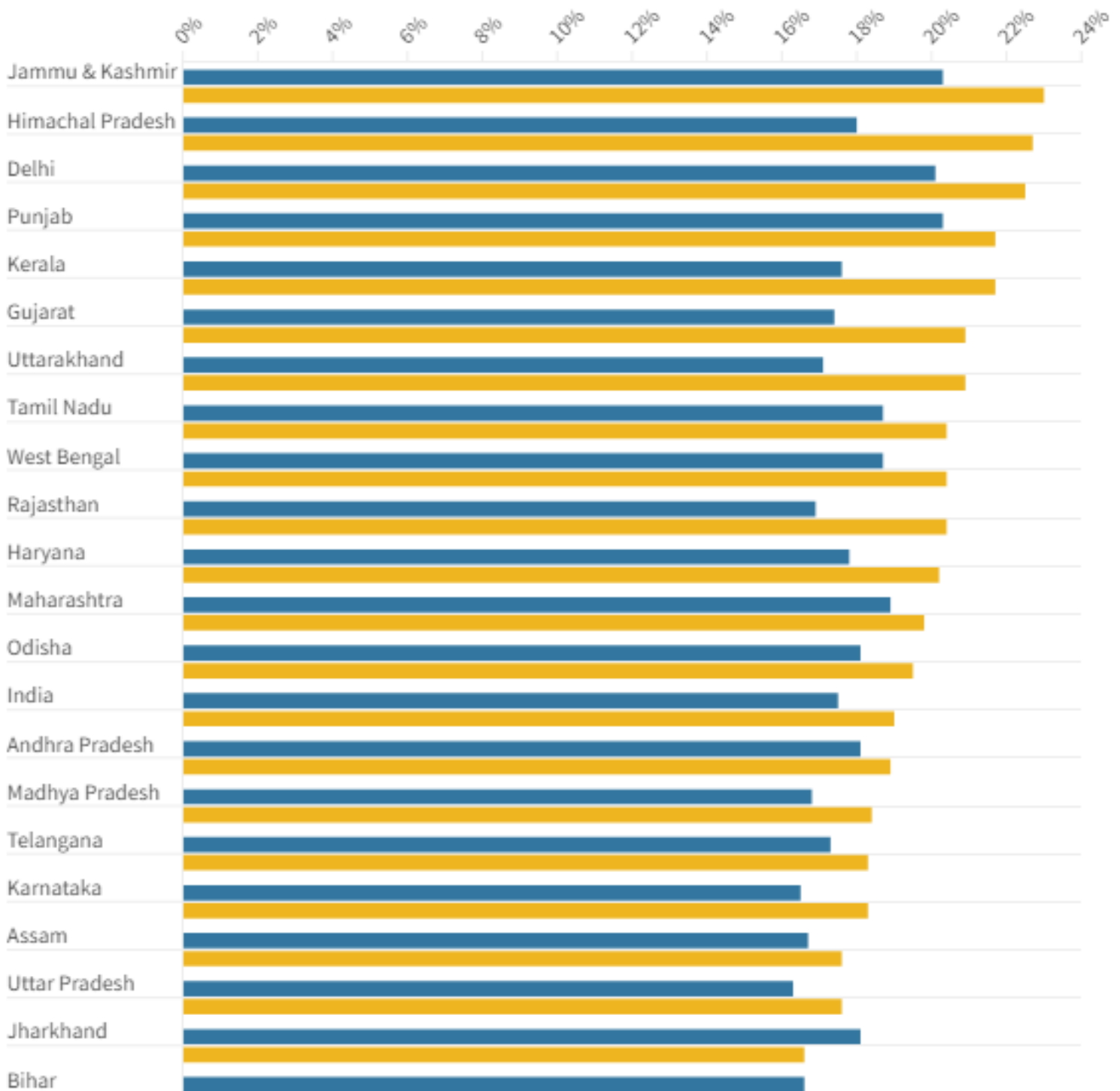
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- Decadal growth rate of the elderly population of India is currently **estimated to be at 41%**.
- In 2022, the number of people above **60 years of age** in India was **10.5% of its population** and by 2050 the share of the elderly in **India's total population** can reach more than 20%.
  - This number will reach over **36%** by the end of century.
- Population aged **60 or 65 years** and above are usually referred to as '**old**'.
- The **number of elderly** will be higher in **proportion** to the number of children (**0-15 years**) by **2046**.
- The **number of working-age** people in the age group of **15-59 years** will **decrease**.

**Life expectancy of women:**

**Life expectancy at 60 years differentiated by gender across states**

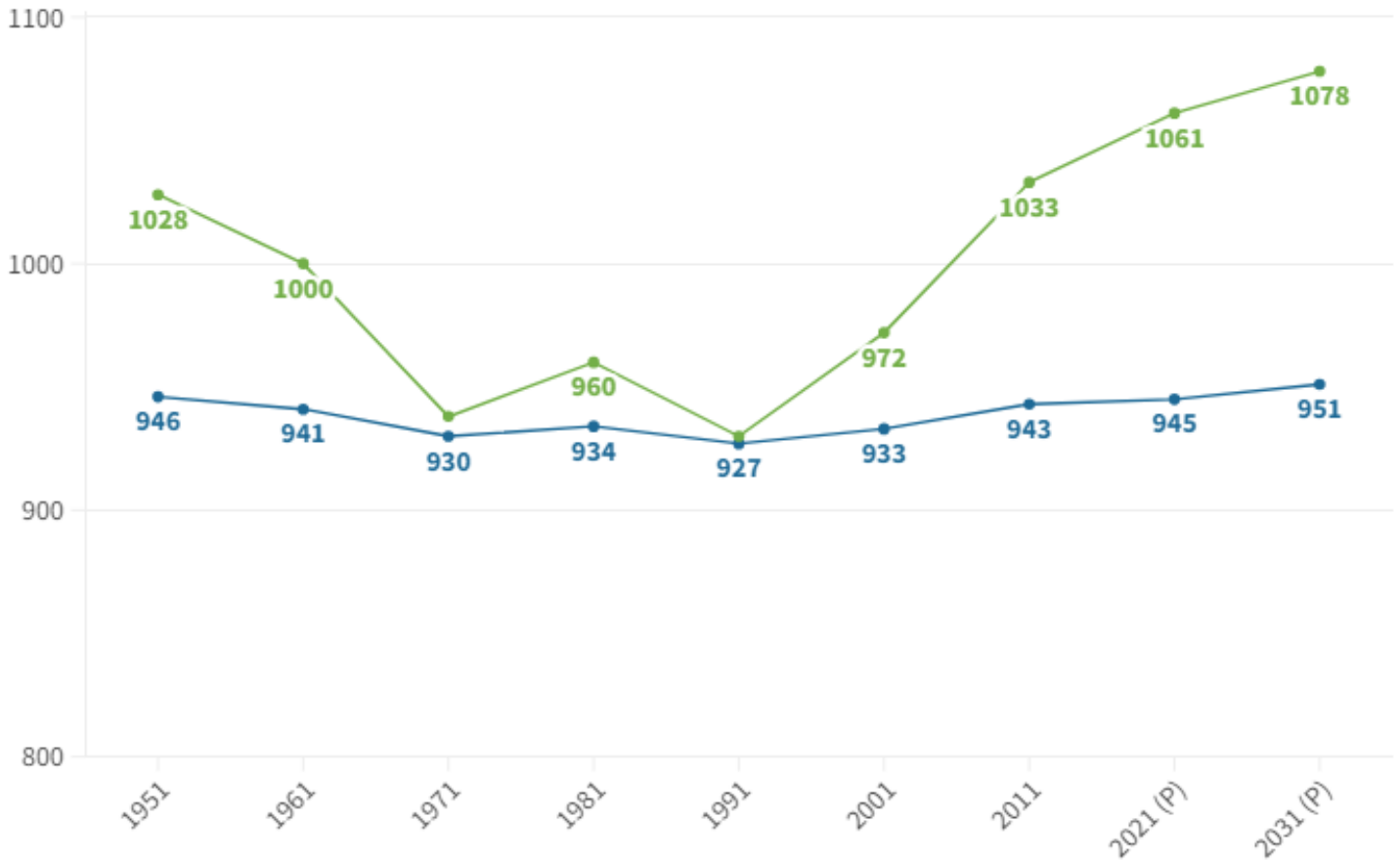
Male Female



- **Women will live longer than men, due to which the number of older women will be more than older men.**
  - Majority of them will be **rural women**.
- In India, a **man aged 60 years** can live another **18.3 years**, while women can live **19 years**.
  - There will be predominance of **widowed** and **highly dependent** very old women.
- In 1991, there were **930 elderly women per 1,000 men** and after 1991, the ratio started to change and will continue to do so.
  - The report estimates that **by 2031**, there will be **951 men for 1,078 women**.

## Sex ratio of the general and elderly population

■ General ■ Elderly



### Economic situation of elders in India:

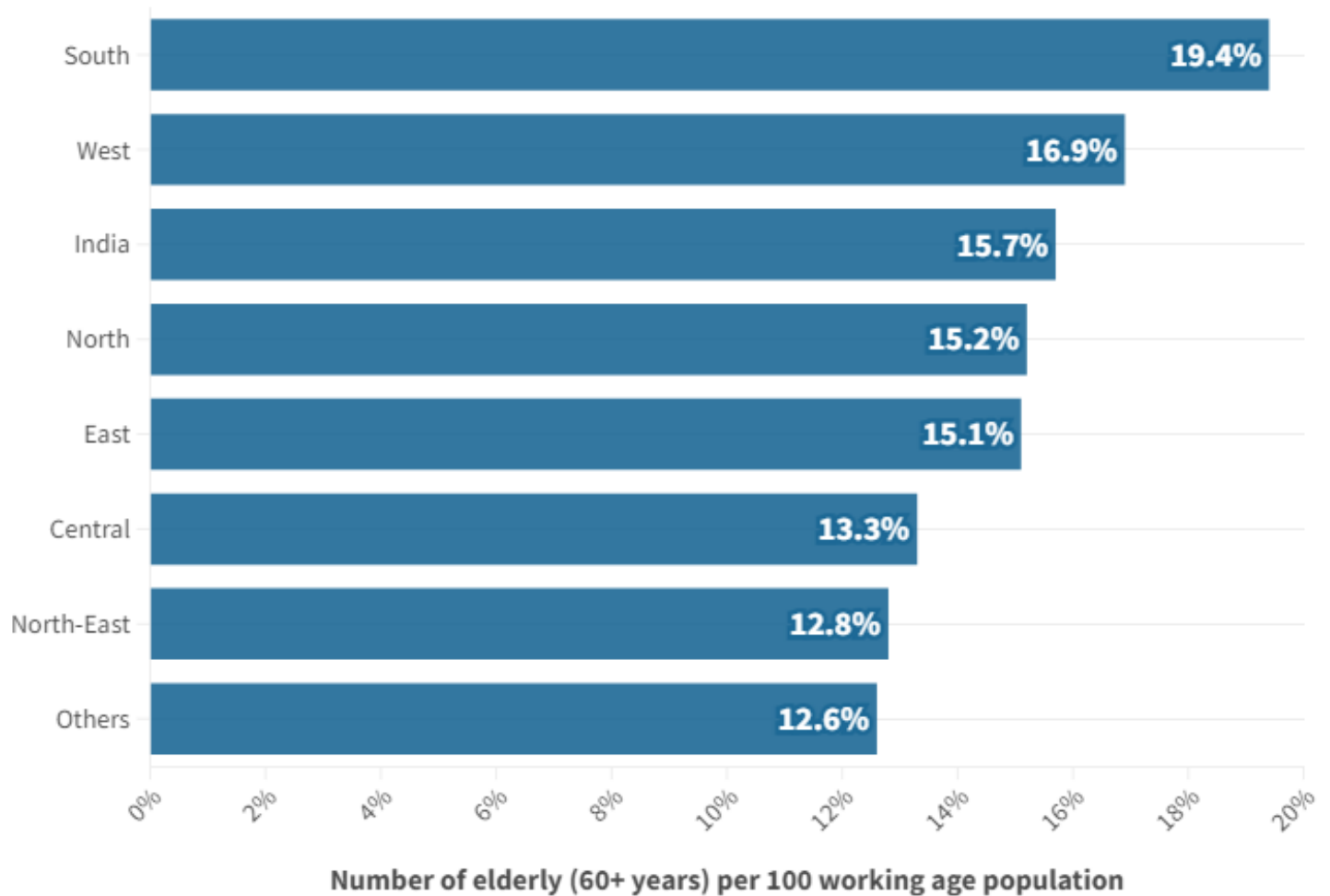
- More than **40% of the elderly in India** are in the **poorest wealth quintile**, with about 18.7% of them living without an income.
- **Older women** are more likely to be **widowed**, living alone, with **no income** and with fewer assets of their own, and **fully dependent on family for support**.

### Variations between states:



## Old-age dependency ratio across regions

Higher old-age dependency ratio indicates higher demand for support from the next generation in terms of caregiving, social and financial needs.



- Most States in the **southern region** and **northern States** such as **Himachal Pradesh** and **Punjab** reported a **higher share of the elderly population** than the **national average** in 2021.
- **States reporting higher fertility rates** and **lagging in demographic** transition, including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, expect to see an **increase in the share of the elderly population** between 2021 and 2036 but the level will remain lower than the Indian average,
- In the **southern region**, the **old-age dependency ratio** (elderly people per 100 people between 15 and 59 years) was **higher than the national average** at around 20
- In **western India** old-age dependency ratio was at around 17.
- **Union Territories** (13) and the **northeastern region** (13) reflected **lower old-age dependency ratios**.

### Global scenario:

- **Increasing life expectancy** and **declining fertility** have had an impact on all countries of the world, due to which both the **share and number of older persons** will increase worldwide in the coming years.

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***Recommendations:***

- There should be a special focus on older persons in **disaster-preparedness plans** that are formulated.
- Questions should be included on relevant and **emerging issues** related to **older persons** in the upcoming data collection exercises of the **National Sample Survey**, the **National Family Health Survey**, and the **Census of India**.
- The government must work on **increasing awareness** about **schemes** for older persons, bring all **Old Age Homes under regulatory purview** and focus on facilitating in-situ ageing to the extent possible.