

# A digital world out of reach

Globally, there are **1.1 billion** persons aged 60 years or above.

The number of older persons **worldwide is expected to double by 2050.**

The share of elders will **rise to 22%** of the total population.

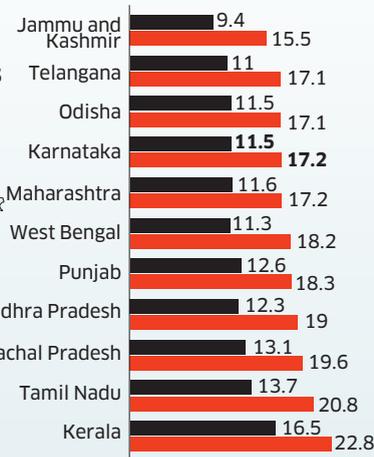
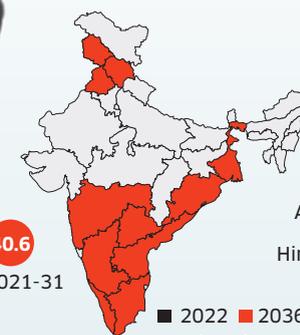
**In India, there were 149 million persons aged 60 years and above as of 2022.**

Older persons comprise around **10.5%** of the country's population.

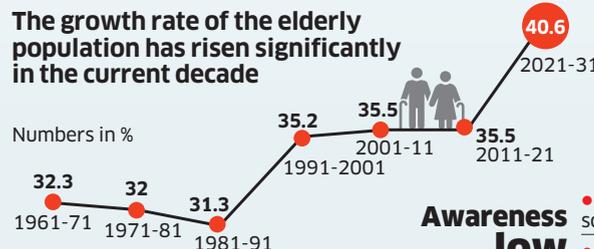
By 2050, the share of older persons will double to **20.8%.**

**70.8%** of the elderly population resides in rural India.

## The proportion of elders in the population varies significantly across states



## The growth rate of the elderly population has risen significantly in the current decade



## Awareness low

- Only 55% of elderly persons are aware of India's old age pension scheme (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme - IGNOAPS)
- Around 44% are aware of the widow pension scheme.
- Only 12% are aware of the Annapurna scheme.

According to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, 1991, national programmes for elderly persons must provide for:

- 1 Independence**  
Older persons should have access to adequate food, water, shelter, clothing and health care. Older persons should have the opportunity to work.
- 2 Participation**  
Older persons should remain integrated in society and participate actively in the formulation of policies.
- 3 Care**  
Older persons should have access to health care to help them maintain the optimum level of physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- 4 Self-fulfilment**  
Older persons should be able to pursue the full development of their potential and have access to educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources.
- 5 Dignity**  
Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security.

**2020-30 has been declared the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing. The key goals are:**

- Creating age-friendly environments
- Combating ageism
- Providing integrated care
- Building long-term care systems