

# A digital world out of reach



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

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.

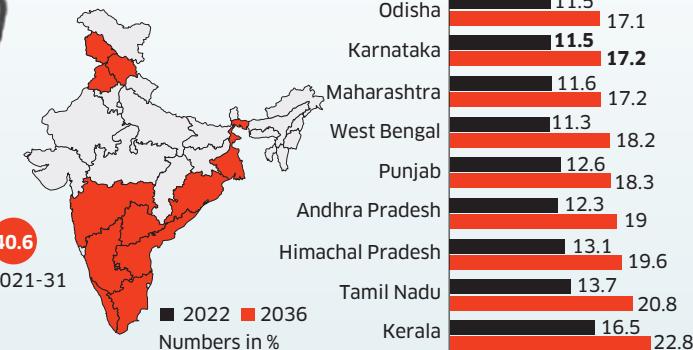
In India, there were 149 million persons aged 60 years and above as of 2022.

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

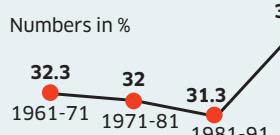
By 2050, the share of older persons will double to 20.8%.

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 - IGNOPS)
- Around 44% are aware of the widow pension scheme.
- Only 12% are aware of the Annapurna scheme.