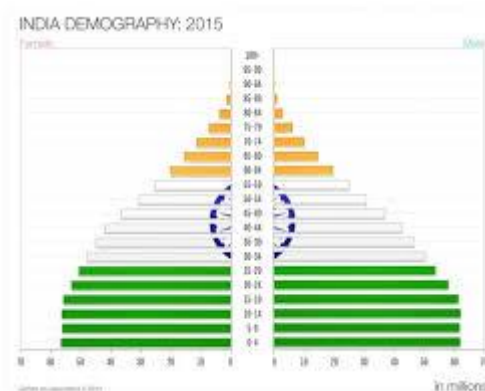




INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  
Chapter 2- Demographic Structure of Indian Society  
(GRADE XII)  
Question Bank with Answers



**SUB-UNITS OF THE CHAPTER:**

- THEORIES AND CONCEPTS IN DEMOGRAPHY
- SIZE AND GROWTH OF INDIA'S POPULATION
- AGE STRUCTURE OF THE INDIAN POPULATION
- DECLINING SEX RATIO IN INDIA
- LITERACY
- RURAL URBAN DIFFERENCES
- POPULATION POLICY IN INDIA

**Q1. Define Demography and differentiate between formal and social demography. (2mk)**

- Demography is a systematic study of population, it is a Greek term derived from two words 'demos' (people) and graphein (describe) description of people.
- It studies births, deaths, migration, sex composition etc.

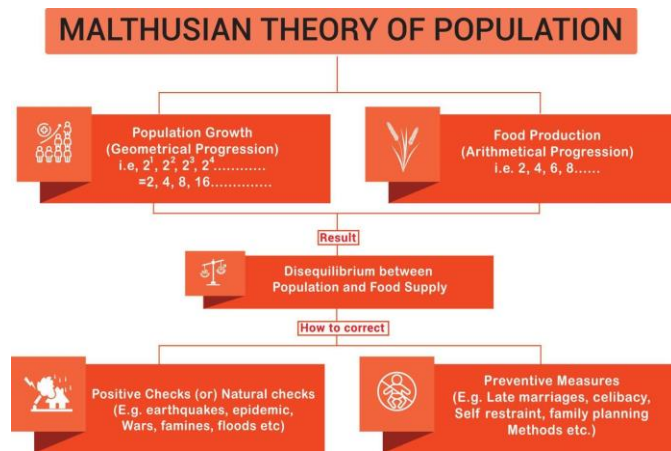
**Demography is broadly of two types: —**

- Formal demography which is concerned with quantitative measurement and analysis of population change.
- Social demography which deals with social, economic and political aspects of population.

**Q2. What are the uses/ Importance of Demographic Data (3pts):**

The demographic data collected is essential for:

- the planning and implementation of state policies,
- for economic development and
- public welfare.



**Q3. Why did Malthus believe that catastrophic events like famines and epidemics that cause mass deaths were inevitable? (4mk)**

**Ans.** English political economist **Thomas Robert Malthus** argued that human population tends to grow at a much faster rates than the rate at which means of human subsistence (land, agriculture) can grow.

He said **population rises in geometric**

**progression** whereas **agricultural production** can only grow in **Arithmetic progression**.

Malthus believed that **positive checks** to population growth in the form of famines and diseases, were inevitable. These are nature’s way of dealing with the imbalance between food supply and increasing population. In addition to this there are also ‘**preventive checks**’ like postponing marriage or practicing abstinence and celibacy. Through preventive checks Malthus explained humanity could voluntarily reduce population growth.

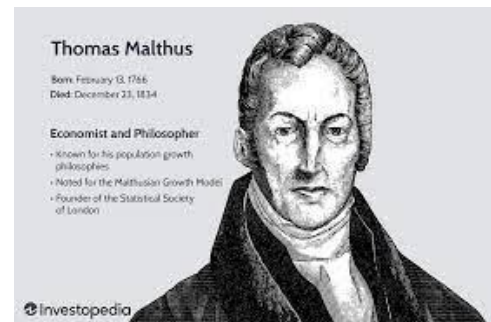
According to him, the positive checks are extremely painful and difficult. Although it helps to achieve a balance between population and subsistence by increasing the death rate.

**Q4. Why is the Malthusian theory criticized? (2mk)**

**Ans:** Malthus argued that human population tends to grow at a much faster rate than the rate at which means of human subsistence (land, agriculture) can grow. His theory was criticized on the following basis:

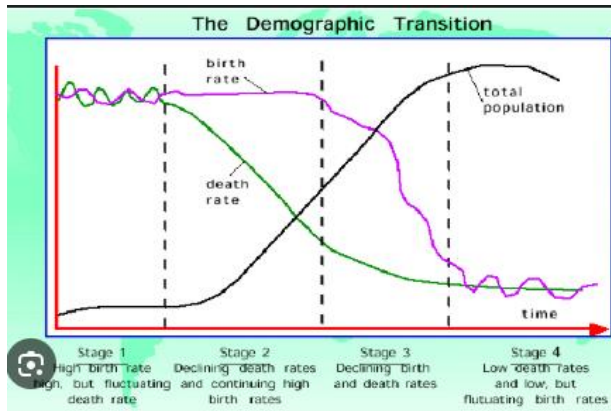
-**Food production and standards of living rise** despite rapid population growth as seen in the historical experience of European countries

- **Poverty and starvation** are caused not due to rise in population but **due to unequal distribution of economic resources** (liberal and Marxists).



**Q5. Explain the basic argument of the theory of the demographic transition. Why is the transition period associated with a ‘population explosion’? (6mk)**

**Ans.** Theory of demographic transition suggests that population growth is linked to overall levels of economic development and that every society follows a typical pattern of development related population growth.



There are three basic phases of population growth:

**Stage I:** Primitive Stage [Underdeveloped countries]

- Low population growth in a society that is underdeveloped and technologically backward.
- In such societies like Africa birth rate is high since people are unaware of the advantages of having small families, they are not educated.
- Death rate is also high since health and medical facilities are not available, therefore

population is low.

**Stage II:** [Developing countries]. The birth rate and death rate rank very high, the net growth rate remains low.

Birth rate is high as in this society people live in a patriarchal society in which men decide how many children must be born and male child is preferred. People are illiterate and ignorant. Death rate is also high since health and medical facilities are not available.

**Transitional Stage:** [The stage between backwardness and skilled people]: In this stage growth rate of population is very high whereas death rates are brought down due to better medical facilities, nutrition and better medical and technological advancement therefore this transition period is associated with a population explosion.

**Stage III:** [Developed countries]. Birth rate is low because people are educated and aware and use contraceptives, birth control is popularized. Death rate is also low because of availability of health and medical facilities; therefore, population is low.

**Q6: Define/explain Infant Mortality Rate.**

**Ans:** The **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** is the number of deaths of babies before the age of 1 year per 1000 live births.

**Q7: What is meant by ‘dependency ratio’ and what does it indicate? (2mk)**

Ans: The **dependency ratio** is a measure comparing the portion of the population which is composed of dependents (i.e. elderly people who are too old to work and children who are too young to work) with the portion that is in the working age group, generally defined in the age group of 15-64 years. This ratio is usually expressed as a percentage.

**Q8. Why is a rising ‘dependency ratio’ is cause for worry in countries that are facing an aging population?**

Ans: A rising dependency ratio is a cause of worry in many countries because these countries have a higher aging population and it is the working population who will have to carry the additional burden of supporting them.

**Q9. Why is a falling ‘dependency ratio’ a source of economic growth and prosperity?**

Ans: A falling dependency ratio can be a source of economic growth and prosperity due to the larger proportion of workers relative to non-workers. This is sometimes also referred to as ‘demographic dividend’.

**Q10. What is TFR and name the states with high and low TFR’s? (2mk)**

Ans: **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**’s refers to the total number of live births that a hypothetical woman would have if she lived through the reproductive age to give birth to children all through this period.

The **BIMARU states** namely Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh along with the newly formed states of Jharkhand and Chattisgarh have **very high TFR’s in India.**

**States with low TFR’S:** Kerala, Tamil Nadu Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra;

**Q11. How does India benefit from a ‘demographic dividend’? (4mk)**

Ans: **‘Demographic Dividend’** or the benefit flowing from the changing age structure where the proportion of working- age people (15-64yrs) is higher than the proportion of the dependents (the young and the ageing population) in a country. However this benefit is temporary because the larger pool of working age people will eventually turn into non-working age old people.

India currently is in the second phase of demographic transition wherein its birth rate is high but the death rate is going down. And majority of its population is in the working age- group, which could be a source of economic growth. But this potential can be converted to actual growth only if the rise in the working age group is accompanied by increasing levels of education and employment.

**Q12. What is ‘replacement level’? (2mk)**

Ans: **‘Replacement level’** refers to the rate of growth required for new generations to replace the older ones that are dying out. When the number of people replacing the older generation is more, a country can have a situation of population explosion. Whereas when parents are replaced by two children, there is a situation of zero level of replacement.

**Q13. What is meant by ‘sex ratio’?**

Ans: **Sex Ratio** refers to the number of females per thousand males in a given area at a specified period of time. This ratio is an important indicator of gender balance in population. Historically there were more females than males in most countries of the world.

**Q14. Name the technique used to determine the sex of a child (2mk)**

Ans: The technique used to determine the sex of a child is called Sonogram which is an x-ray like diagnostic device based on ultra- sound technology. Originally this was developed to identify the genetic or other disorders in the foetus, but it is also used to identify and selectively abort female foetuses.

**Q15. What are the causes of famines? (2mk)**

Ans: **Famines** are caused by high levels of continuing poverty and malnutrition in an agro-climatic environment that is affected by variations in rainfall, lack of adequate means of transportation and communication.

During a famine there is scarcity of food or shortage of food supply and production. Famines are of two types:

- a. Natural: excessive rainfall, no rainfall, drought
- b. Manmade: excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers, lack of proper public food distribution systems.

**Q16. Write a short note on the age structure of India’s population (4mk)**

Ans: 1. India is one of the youngest countries in the world—majority of Indians tend to be young.  
2. The average age is also less than that for most other countries.  
3. The share of the 15-60 age group has increased slightly, while the share of the 60+ age group is very small  
4. The present trend indicates that 0-14 age group will reduce, thus the changing age structure could offer a demographic dividend for India.  
5. There are wide regional variations in the age structure. While a state like Kerala is beginning to acquire an age structure like that of the developed countries, some states like Uttar Pradesh have high proportions in the younger age groups and relatively low proportions among the aged.

**Q17. How do economic development and growth impact the age structure of population? (6mk)**

**Ans:** Age structure of the population refers to the proportion of persons in different age groups relative to the total population. The economic growth and development impact the age structure in the following ways:

- Due to the advancement in medical sciences, public health measures and nutrition the life expectancy is at rise. This is due to economic development and growth.
- Need of family planning is being understood. Decrease in 0-14 years age group reveals that National population policy is implemented properly.
- Because of socio-cultural changes in Indian society and economic growth, Age structure of population is moving towards positive young India.
- Dependency ratio is decreasing and there's an increase in working population which is a positive growth in Indian economy.
- Economic development and improvement in quality of life improve life expectancy and changes the structures of the population.
- High infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate due to poor economic growth hence an adverse effect of age structure of the population.

**Q18. What is meant by 'birth rate' and 'death rate'? Explain why the birth rate is relatively slow to fall while the death rate declines much faster. (6mk)**

**Ans.** Birth rate and death rate are fundamental concepts in Demography.

**Birth rate:** It refers to the total number of births in a particular area, which can be the entire country, a state or any territorial unit during a specific period.

Birth rate gets significantly affected by Age of marriage, infertility, climatic conditions, social condition, religious beliefs and education.

**Death rate:** It is the number of deaths per thousand persons in a year in a particular area, which can be the entire country, a state or any other territorial unit.

**Causes of slow birth rate:**

Birth rate is relatively slow while the death rate can be brought down at much faster rate for the following reasons:

- Public health measures and medical advancement can control the death rate immediately. Everybody wants good health and wants to live a long life. Because of the love for life everybody adopts all medical and technological measures with high level of motivation. Birth rate continues to be high because it is related to attitude, beliefs and values of people. Birth rate is related to religious beliefs and by and large it is socio-cultural phenomena which is significantly slow to change.

**Q19. Which states in India have reached or are very near the ‘replacement levels’ of population growth? Which ones still have very high rates of population growth? In your opinion, what could be some of the reasons for these regional differences? (6mk)**

**Ans.** Replacement level refers to the rate of growth required for new generations to replace the older ones that are dying out.

Replacement level refers to giving birth to two children that replacement completes. States at the replacement level of population growth: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

**States very near to the replacement levels of population growth:** Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and West Bengal.

**States having very high rates of population growth:** U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh.

**Reasons of regional differences:**

• **Difference in Literacy Percentage** in different states.

• **Societal conditions** vary in different states. Terrorism, war-like conditions and insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East.

• **Socio-Economic conditions** vary in different states.

(i) Number of BPL people are highest among states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.

(ii) **Socio-cultural formation:** A belief that more children mean more hands to earn or religious beliefs.

**Q20. State the reasons for the decline in sex- ratio (4mk)**

**Ans:** **Sex Ratio** refers to the number of females per thousand males in a given area at a specified period of time. This ratio is an important indicator of gender balance in population. Historically there were more females than males in most countries of the world.

**The reasons responsible for the declining child sex ratio in India are as follows:**

- severe neglect of girl babies in infancy leading to their death
- sex selective abortions that prevent girl babies from being born.
- female infanticide



Lowest child sex ratios are found in the most developed states of India such as Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat which are the richest states of India with high per capita income. It is possible that these prosperous people decide to have fewer babies, and hence decide the sex of the children which becomes possible with modern medical technology such as ultrasound.

**Q21. There is a huge difference in literacy among genders, regions and social groups in India. Explain (6mk)**

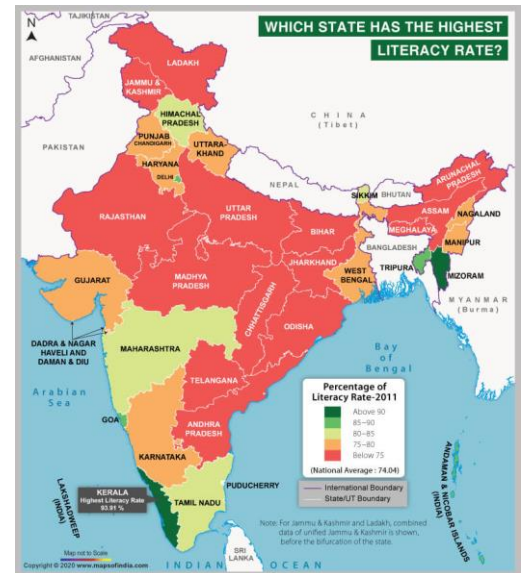
Ans: Literacy is a prerequisite to education which in turn is an instrument of empowerment. In India, the literacy levels have improved considerably after independence and almost two-thirds of India's population is now literate.

However, literacy varies considerably across gender, across regions and across social groups in India. According to the census of India 2011, the literacy rate for women is 16.3% less than the literacy rate of men. However, female literacy rose by about 10.4% between 2001 and 2011 compared to the rise in male literacy of 7.6% in the same period.

Literacy rates also vary by social group- historically disadvantaged communities like the Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have lower rates of literacy, and the rates of female literacy within these groups are even lower.

Regional variations are still wide in India with states like Kerala approaching universal literacy, while states like Bihar are lagging far behind.

The inequalities in the literacy rate are especially important because they tend to reproduce inequality across generations.



**Q22. Write a brief on the success and failures of National family planning programme (6mk)**

Ans: India was one of the first countries in the world to have a **National Family Planning Programme in 1952**. It was introduced with the objective of slowing down the rate & pattern of population growth, through birth-control methods & other coercive measures as introduced during the Emergency Period (1975-1976). With the coming of a new Govt after the emergency, the program was renamed as **National Family Welfare Program** with new set of guidelines to achieve the objectives.

**Success and failures of the family planning programme:**

**Success**

1. The growth rate of population has decreased.
2. People have started appreciating small family norms.
3. The infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate has been brought down.
4. Life expectancy has increased.
5. Achieved nearly universal awareness of the need for and methods of family planning.

**Failures**

1. The growth rate still continues to be high as compared to developed nations.
2. Coercive family planning programme (Vasectomy for men & Tubectomy for women) has been opposed by people
3. Lack of availability of reliable family planning methods.

**Q 23. Rural-urban differences also exist with respect to the vast majority of the population. Explain with example. (6mk)**

Ans: The vast majority of population of India have always lived in rural areas and continue to do so.

1. However, it is the mass media & communication channels that are gradually bringing in images of urban life styles & patterns of consumption into the rural villages, this bridges' the gap between rural & urban.

2. The rapid growth in urbanization (town or city) has been attracting the rural population.

3. Those who cannot find work (or sufficient work) in the rural areas go to the city in search of work.

4. This flow of rural-to-urban migration has also been accelerated by the continuous decline of common property resources like ponds, forests and grazing lands.

5. Now, these resources have been turned into private property, or they are exhausted. (Ponds may run dry or no longer provide enough fish; forests may have been cut down and have vanished)

6. People no longer have access to these resources, but on the other hand have to buy many things in the market that they used to get free. The opportunities for earning income are limited in the villages.

**Q24. What are the reasons that make the city an attractive destination for villagers (4mk)**

Ans: The city also may be preferred for social reasons, **especially the relative anonymity it offers.**

The fact that urban life involves interaction with strangers can be an advantage for different reasons.

For the socially oppressed groups like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, this may offer some partial protection from the daily humiliation they may suffer in the village where everyone knows their caste identity. The anonymity of the city also allows the poorer sections of the socially dominant rural groups to engage in low status work that they would not be able to do in the village. All these reasons make the city an attractive destination for the villagers.

**Q25. Explain briefly India's demographic achievement since Independence (4mk)**

Ans: The Census of India suggests that population growth is on the decline since 1991.

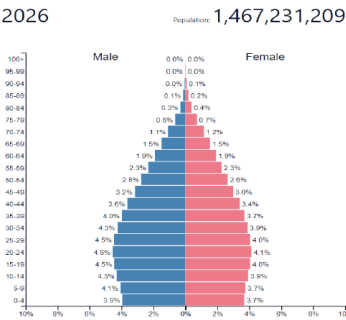
- Fertility rate was 3.8 in 1990, and this has fallen to 2.7 today
- The drop in Crude Death (CDR) and Birth Rates (CBR) for the past four decades indicates that India is progressing towards a post-transitional phase. However, during 1990s, the decline in CBR has been steeper than the decline in CDR which has resulted in reduced annual population growth rate of 1.6% today.

(Add 2 more points from textbook)

## Statistics of 15th census of India 2011 : -

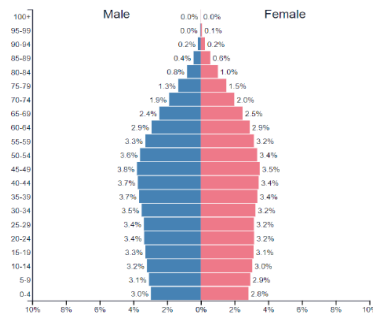
- Sex Ratio : 943: 1000
- Most populated state : Uttar Pradesh
- Least populated region : Sikkim
- State with maximum maternal mortality rate : Uttar Pradesh
- State with minimum maternal mortality rate : kerala
- State with maximum infant mortality rate : Madhya Pradesh
- State with minimum infant mortality rate : Manipur
- Literacy : Male - 80.9% , Female - 64.6%
- Largest state (in area) : Rajasthan
- Smallest state (in area) : Goa

India ▾  
2026



2050

Population: 1,670,490,595



Based on the given Population Pyramids of India for the year 2026 and 2050, answer the following questions.

- What is demographic dividend?
- What do you infer, on comparing the given graphics for the age group of 0-4 and 60-64?
- What, according to you, are the implications of this inference?

## OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS:



The cartoon primarily satirises the approach to population control in rural areas as:

- Dependence on voluntary migration rather than birth regulation
- Over-reliance on health infrastructure
- Effective integration of education and family planning
- Technological solutions to fertility decline

The rural demographic trend implied in the cartoon reflects:

- Natural decrease due to low fertility
- Out-migration driven by socio-economic push factors
- Balanced migration with high fertility
- Urban to rural migration increasing population pressure

State X, with a total population of 5 crore, shows significant demographic shifts. The working-age group (15–59 years) constitutes 62% of the population, giving a dependency ratio of 0.61. The Total Fertility Rate has reached 2.1, while life expectancy is 70 years. Literacy levels have improved to 88% for males and 78% for females, yet technical and higher education participation among women remains low. The child sex ratio has declined to 925, raising concerns about gender imbalance. Urbanisation stands at 58%, but rapid rural–urban migration has intensified unemployment in cities. An increasing share of elderly citizens suggests future strain on healthcare and social security systems. Despite the demographic advantage, economic gains are hindered by unequal skill distribution and underemployment in both rural and urban sectors.

The demographic stage of State X is best represented by:

- Early Expanding Stage
- Late Expanding Stage
- Low Stationary Stage
- Declining Stage

The potential demographic dividend in State X is constrained primarily by:

- Low life expectancy
- Gender disparity in skill acquisition
- High fertility rates
- Excessive agricultural dependence

The declining child sex ratio in State X indicates:

- Migration imbalance
- Persistent socio-cultural preference for male children
- High infant mortality

The rising proportion of elderly in State X suggests future policy priority in:

- Expanding industrial output
- Enhancing agricultural mechanisation
- Strengthening social security systems
- Increasing fertility incentives

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Identify the term describing systematic and regular collection of quantitative data on population and economy by the state.

- a) Social Stratification
  - b) Social Demography
  - c) Social Statistics
  - d) Formal Sociology
- 
- 

Select the theory predicting inevitable famines and diseases as nature's balance against population growth outstripping food supply.

- a) Marxist Theory
  - b) Malthusian Theory
  - c) Modernization Theory
  - d) Dependency Theory
- 
- 

Recognise the population growth stage with high birth rate, high death rate, and low net growth.

- a) First Stage
  - b) Second Stage
  - c) Transitional Stage
  - d) Third Stage
- 
- 

Determine the demographic measure expressed as number of live births per 1,000 population in a year.

- a) Fertility Rate
  - b) Growth Rate
  - c) Birth Rate
  - d) Infant Mortality Rate
- 
- 

Choose the demographic term representing the difference between birth rate and death rate.

- a) Fertility Ratio
  - b) Rate of Natural Increase
  - c) Dependency Ratio
  - d) Crude Population Ratio
-

## ASSERTION REASONING BASED

**Statement I:** The demographic dividend can convert into economic growth only when the working-age population is accompanied by rising education and employment levels.

**Statement II:** A low dependency ratio automatically ensures high economic productivity regardless of unemployment levels.

- a) Both statements are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- b) Both statements are correct but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

**Statement I:** Kerala's projected age structure for 2026 resembles that of developed countries, with higher proportions in older age groups.

**Statement II:** Uttar Pradesh's projected age structure for 2026 shows a narrower base in younger age groups than Kerala's.

- a) Both statements are correct and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- b) Both statements are correct but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.
- d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

**Assertion (A):** The birth rate in India has not fallen as sharply as the death rate since 1921.

**Reason (R):** Birth rate is influenced by socio-cultural factors that change slowly compared to medical and sanitary improvements affecting death rate.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

**Assertion (A):** States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will account for a major share of India's future population growth.

**Reason (R):** These states currently have Total Fertility Rates significantly below the replacement level.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

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