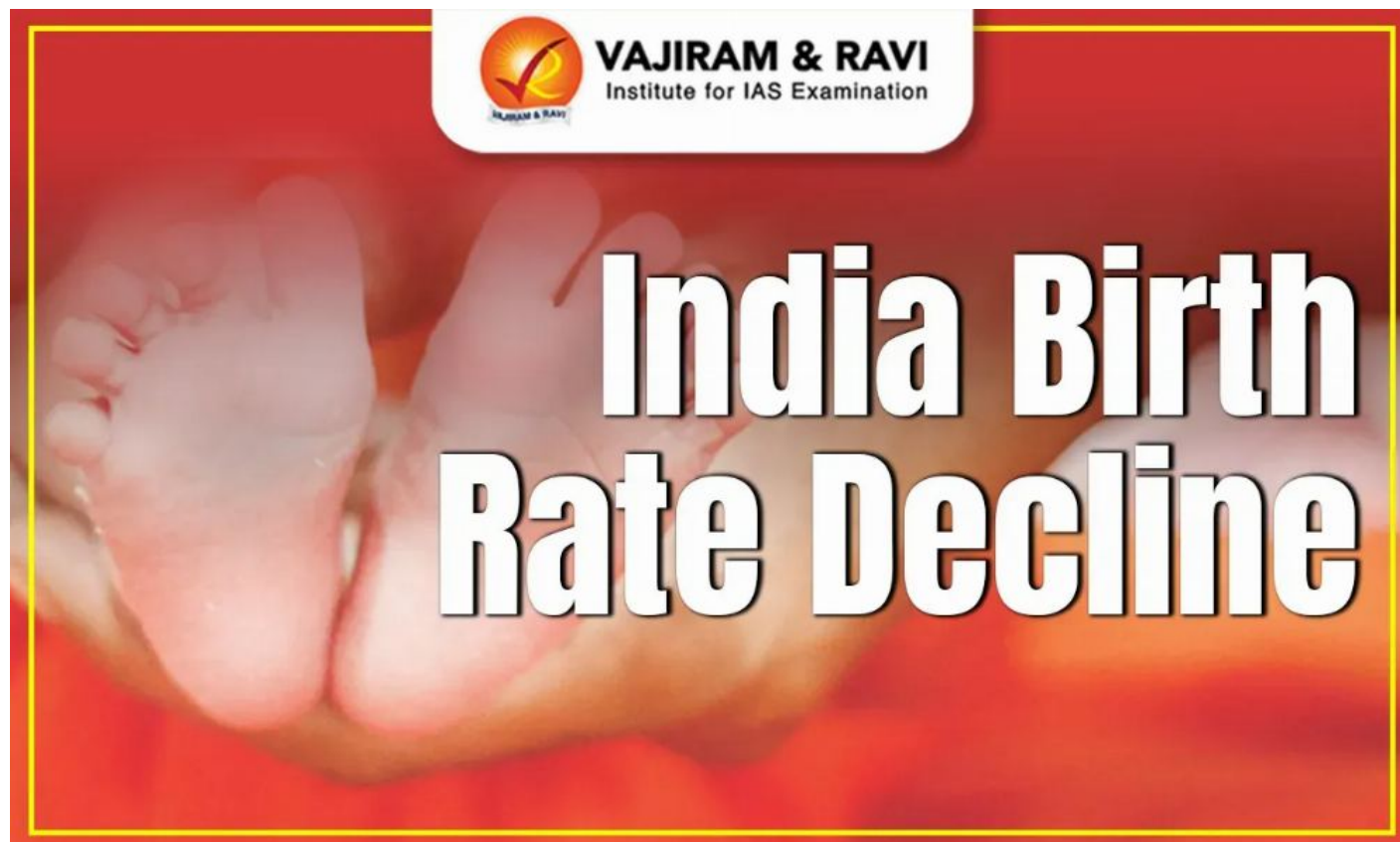


Southern States Witness Sharper Decline in Birth Rates Than National Average

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India's Birth Rate Decline Latest News

- Recently, the Registrar General of India released the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2021.

Introduction

- The **Sample Registration System(SRS) Statistical Report 2021**, released by the Registrar General of India, reveals a significant demographic shift in India.
- States like Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Kerala are experiencing a sharper decline in birth rates compared to the national average.
- This trend reflects a broader change in fertility patterns, lifestyle preferences, and access to health and family planning services.

National and State-Level Trends in Birth Rate Decline

Image Caption: Birth Rates in Decline

- As per the report, the **all-India crude birth rate (CBR)** in 2021 stood at **19.3 births per 1,000 population**, declining at an annual rate of **1.12%** from 2016 to 2021.
- However, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Kerala saw a decline at almost **double this rate**:
 - **Tamil Nadu:** 2.35% annual decline
 - **Delhi:** 2.23% annual decline
 - **Kerala:** 2.05% annual decline
- This accelerated drop is also visible across 13 large states and union territories, most of which include India's more urbanised and southern regions.

Regional Comparison of Birth Rate Trends

- Southern states such as **Andhra Pradesh (1.26%)**, **Telangana (1.67%)**, and **Karnataka (1.68%)** also showed a faster decline compared to the national average. In contrast, **northern and eastern states** showed much slower rates of decline:
 - **Rajasthan:** 0.48%
 - **Bihar:** 0.86%
 - **Chhattisgarh & Jharkhand:** 0.98%
 - **Assam & Madhya Pradesh:** 1.05%
 - **Uttar Pradesh:** 1.09%
- Notably, **Uttarakhand** was the **only state** to record a **rise** in birth rates during the same period.

Insights from Civil Registration System (CRS) 2021

- The Civil Registration System (CRS) 2021 data complements the SRS findings.
- While southern states like **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka** reported a consistent **decline in registered births since 2012**, many **northern and north-eastern states** have seen a **rise in registered births**, such as:

- Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal
- Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh
- Lakshadweep, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland
- This discrepancy indicates that while population growth is stabilising in parts of southern and western India, it remains robust in several northern and north-eastern states.

Fertility and Reproduction Metrics

- The report also assessed **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** and **Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR)**, key indicators for long-term population growth:
 - **India's TFR in 2021:** 2.0
 - **India's GRR:** 1.0
- Higher-than-average TFR and GRR were reported in:
 - **Bihar:** TFR 3.0, GRR 1.4
 - **Uttar Pradesh:** TFR 2.7, GRR 1.3
 - **Rajasthan:** TFR 2.4, GRR 1.2
 - **Madhya Pradesh:** TFR 2.6, GRR 1.2
- In contrast, **West Bengal** stood out with one of the **lowest TFR (1.4)** and **GRR (0.7)**, despite an increase in registered births and relatively slow decline in birth rate.

Implications and Policy Reflections

- The findings from the SRS 2021 and CRS 2021 underline India's **demographic divergence**.
- Southern states are heading toward **population stabilisation**, while some northern states may face the challenges of managing **youth bulge** and **resource distribution** for a still-growing population.
- These insights are crucial for shaping **targeted public policy** in areas such as **education, healthcare, urban planning**, and **employment**.
- They also reinforce the need for **differentiated policy frameworks**, given the contrasting demographic realities between states.

Conclusion

- India's demographic map is undergoing a complex transition, with southern states leading the way in achieving replacement-level fertility or lower, and parts of the north still exhibiting high fertility trends.
- The sharp decline in birth rates in states like Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Kerala indicates successful outreach of health, education, and awareness, but also raises concerns about ageing populations and shrinking workforces in the long run.
- Understanding and acting upon these trends will be key to India's social and economic planning for the coming decades.

India's Birth Rate Decline FAQs

Q1. Which states are witnessing the fastest decline in birth rates in India?

Ans. Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Kerala are seeing the fastest decline, at over 2% annually.

Q2. What is India's crude birth rate as per the SRS 2021 report?

Ans. India's crude birth rate in 2021 was 19.3 per 1,000 population.

Q3. Which state recorded an increase in birth rate between 2016–2021?

Ans. Uttarakhand was the only state to report a rise in birth rate during this period.

Q4. What was India's total fertility rate (TFR) in 2021?

Ans. India's TFR stood at 2.0 in 2021.

Q5. How do northern states like Bihar and UP compare in TFR to the national average?

Ans. Bihar (3.0) and UP (2.7) had significantly higher TFR than the national average of 2.0.

Source: TH

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/southern-states-witness-sharper-decline-in-birth-rates-than-national-average/>

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