



International Day of Older Persons

Why in News

The International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is observed on **1st October** (designated in 1990 by the United Nations General Assembly) every year.

Key Points

- The **2020 theme** aims to:
 - Promote **Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)**.
 - The Decade of Healthy Ageing has been endorsed by the **73rd World Health Assembly** (decision making body of the **World Health Organisation**) in 2020.
 - It is an opportunity to bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, the media, and the private sector for ten years of concerted, catalytic and collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.
 - **Healthy Ageing** is the process of developing and maintaining the **functional ability** that enables wellbeing in older age. Functional ability is about **having the capabilities** that enable all people to be and do what they have reason to value.
 - Reduce the health disparities between older persons in the developed and developing countries, so as to **“Leave no one behind”**.
 - **Appreciate the role of the health care workforce** in maintaining and improving the health of older persons, with special attention to the nursing profession.
 - The **year 2020** has also been recognised as the **“Year of the Nurse and Midwife”**.
 - **Increase understanding of the impact of Covid-19** on older persons.
- **Related Data:**
 - By 2020, the number of **people aged 60 years and older will outnumber children younger than 5 years**.
 - Over the next three decades, the **number of older persons worldwide is projected to more than double**, reaching more than 1.5 billion persons in 2050, and **80% of them will be living in low- and middle-income countries**.
 - The **Covid-19 pandemic may significantly lower older persons’ incomes** and living standards. Already, less than 20% of older persons of retirement age receive a pension.
- **India Specific Data:**
 - As per Census 2011, the total population of Senior Citizens (people aged 60 years and above) is 10.38 crore, of which the population of males and females are 5.11 crore and 5.27 crore respectively.
 - The **share of senior citizens in the total population** as per Census 2011 is **8.57%**. As per the May 2006 Report of the “Technical Group on Population Projections” constituted by the National Commission on Population published by the Office of the Registrar General of India this share is **expected to increase to 10.70% in 2021** and to **12.40% in 2026**.

▪ Initiatives Taken by India:

- The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is the **Nodal Ministry** for matters relating to the **Senior Citizens**.
- **Article 41 of the Constitution** states that the State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, **old age**, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.
- **Integrated Programme for Older Persons:** It is a **central sector scheme**. Financial assistance is provided to Government/ Non-Governmental Organizations/Panchayati Raj Institutions/local bodies etc. for running and maintenance of various projects for the welfare of indigent Senior Citizens.
- **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana:** It is a **pension scheme** for senior citizens that comes with guaranteed returns on monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or on an annual basis for a period of 10 years. It is **exclusively available to those who are 60 years of age and above**.
- **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPSC) Act, 2007:** To ensure need-based maintenance for Parents and Senior Citizens and their welfare.
- **Vayoshreshtha Samman:** Conferred as a National award (part of celebrations of International Day of Older Persons), and given to eminent senior citizens & institutions in recognition of their services towards the cause of the elderly persons.

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