



Elder Line: Toll-Free Number for Elderly

Why in News

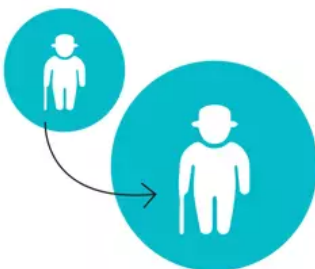
Recently, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched the **Elder Line**, the first **Pan-India toll-free helpline number** (14567) for **Senior Citizens**, ahead of **International Day of Older Persons**, which is observed on 1st October every Year.

- Earlier **SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) initiative** was launched.

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300M ELDERLY BY 2050

30 years from now, the elderly population in India is expected to triple from **104 million** in 2011 to **300 million** in 2050



Elderly population in **India (134m)** in 2020) is fast reaching the current size of population of **Mexico (130m)** or **Russia (143m)**

The 2050 population of elderly will be close to the population of the **US (326m)** in 2018) today

India's **12 million** population of 80+ is equal to the total population of countries such as Belgium, Greece, or Cuba



Key Points

▪ About:

- It provides **information, guidance, emotional support** - particularly on pension, medical and legal issues - besides immediate assistance in cases of abuse.
- It is devised **to provide all senior citizens, or their well-wishers, with ONE platform** across the country **to connect and share their concerns** and get information and guidance on problems that they face on a day-to-day basis.

▪ Need:

- According to the **Longitudinal Ageing Study of India**, India will have over 319 million elderly by 2050 compared to the 120 million now.
- The senior citizen population faces several challenges such as mental, financial, emotional, physical, and legal.
- The **Covid-19 pandemic** has aggravated the situation of senior citizens.

▪ Other Initiatives Related to Elderly:

- [Integrated Programme for Older Persons \(IPOP\).](#)
- [Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana \(RVY\).](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana \(PMVVY\).](#)
- [Vayoshreshtha Samman.](#)
- [Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens \(MWPSC\) Act, 2007.](#)

Ageing

- Ageing is a continuous, irreversible, universal process, which starts from conception till the death of an individual.
- However, the age at which one's productive contribution declines and one tends to be economically dependent can probably be treated as the onset of the aged stage of life.
- The **National Elderly Policy defines people in the 60+ age group as elderly.**

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