

Mains PYQs - GS-I (2026) (Q. 19, 20)

19. Critically examine the challenges of demographic transition in contemporary India. (250 words, 15 marks)

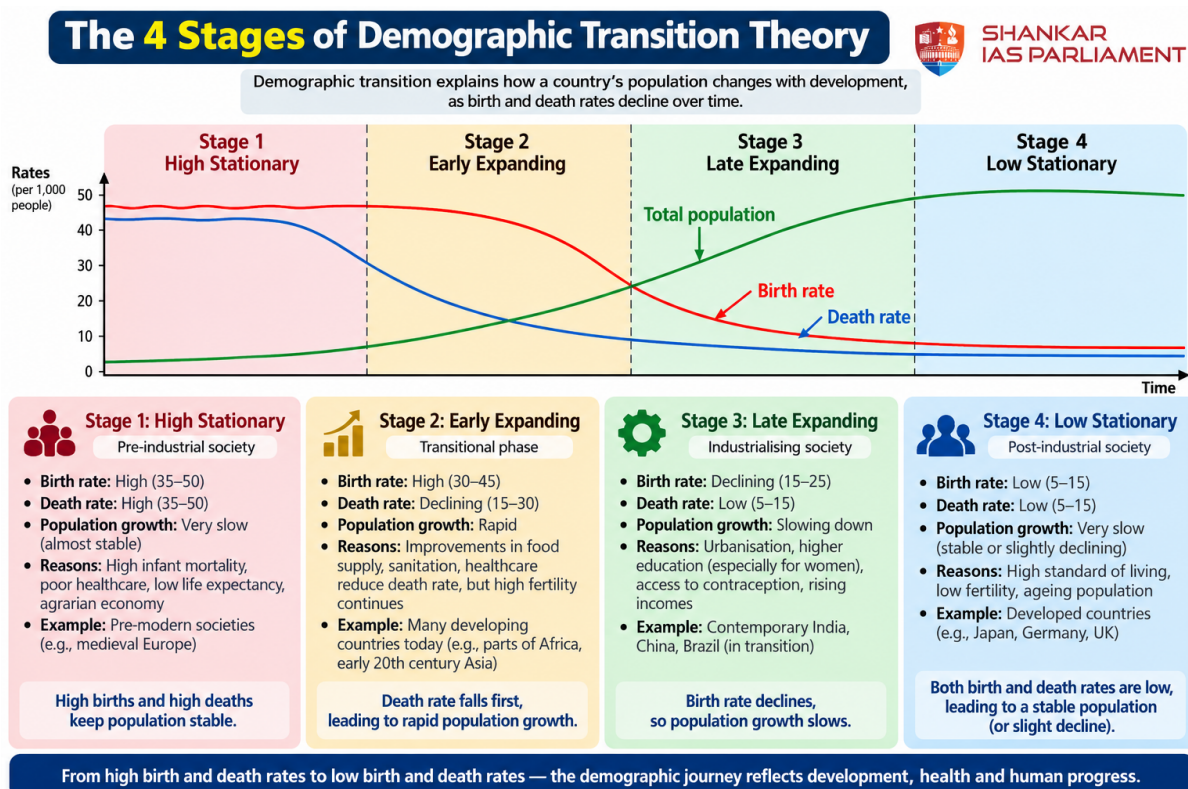
Directions: Intro-----Challenges + Critical examine-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Describe demographic transition.

Contemporary India is currently spanning the late third and early fourth stages of the Demographic Transition Model.

National Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has dropped to 1.9, falling below the replacement level of 2.1.



Main Body

Key Challenges

- Rise in ageing population

- Low birth rates
- Health security
- Jobless growth
- Uneven economic development
- Rise in interstate migration
- Widening of north-south divide
- Rise in poverty
- Political tension

Critically Examine

- The demographic transition is not inherently a demographic crisis. Its impact will depend on India's ability to convert demographic change into higher productivity.
- A large working-age population can generate growth only when supported by quality education, healthcare, skills, employment opportunities, women's participation and labour mobility.

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion and suggest some way forward measures.

20. Evaluate the impact of globalisation on Indian youths with reference to social, political, economic and cultural spheres. (250 words, 15 marks)

Direction: Intro-----Impacts-----Conclusion.

Introduction:

Briefly describe globalisation.

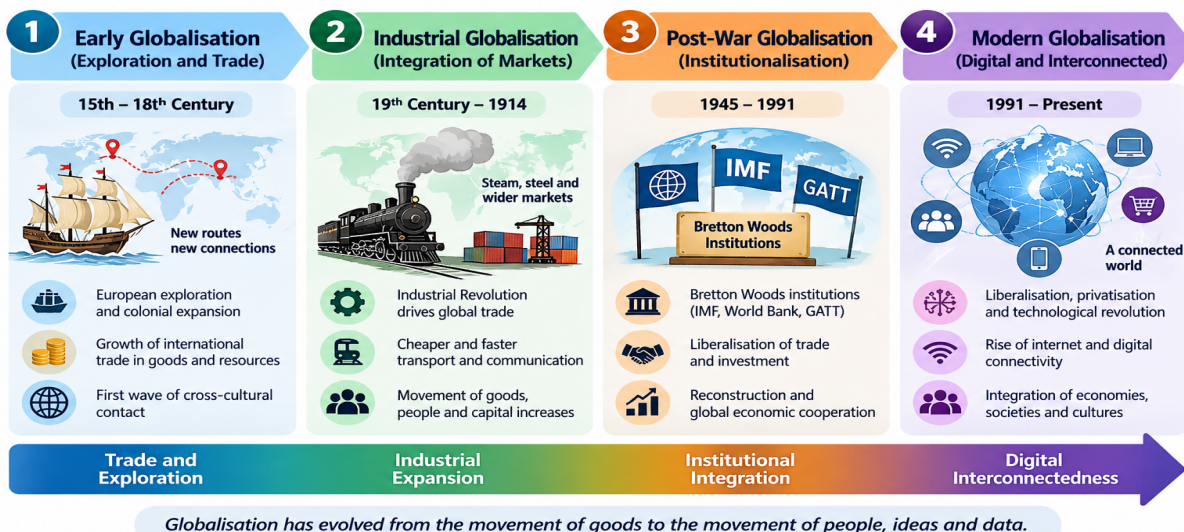


Phases of Globalisation

From local connections to a globally integrated world



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT



Main Body

Impacts

Spheres	Positive impacts	Challenges
Social	Awareness of gender equality, human rights and social justice Wider access to global education, knowledge and social networks. Access to diverse food & lifestyle patterns.	Consumerism and status-driven lifestyles - westernisation. Social-media comparison, misinformation and online vulnerabilities
Political	Awareness of democratic values, human rights, civil society activities. Digital platforms enable youth participation and mobilisation Exposure to international political debates	Ideological polarisation Rapid spread of misinformation & disinformation Digital activism may not always translate into sustained institutional participation
Economic	Expansion of IT, startups, BPO, e-commerce and gig economy Access to global jobs, markets and skills. Greater entrepreneurial opportunities and exposure to global work practices	Jobless/unequal growth and informalization Gig work - income insecurity and limited social protection Skill mismatch and digital divide
Cultural	Cross-cultural exchange and greater appreciation of global diversity Fusion of Indian and global cultural forms in music, cinema, fashion and food Gains global platforms through diaspora and digital media - Yoga, dance, etc.	Concerns over cultural homogenization. Commercialisation/westernisation of traditions Possible weakening of some local languages, practices and traditional knowledge

Conclusion:

Give a balanced conclusion.

Globalisation has transformed Indian youth from a largely domestic social group into an increasingly globally connected generation

