



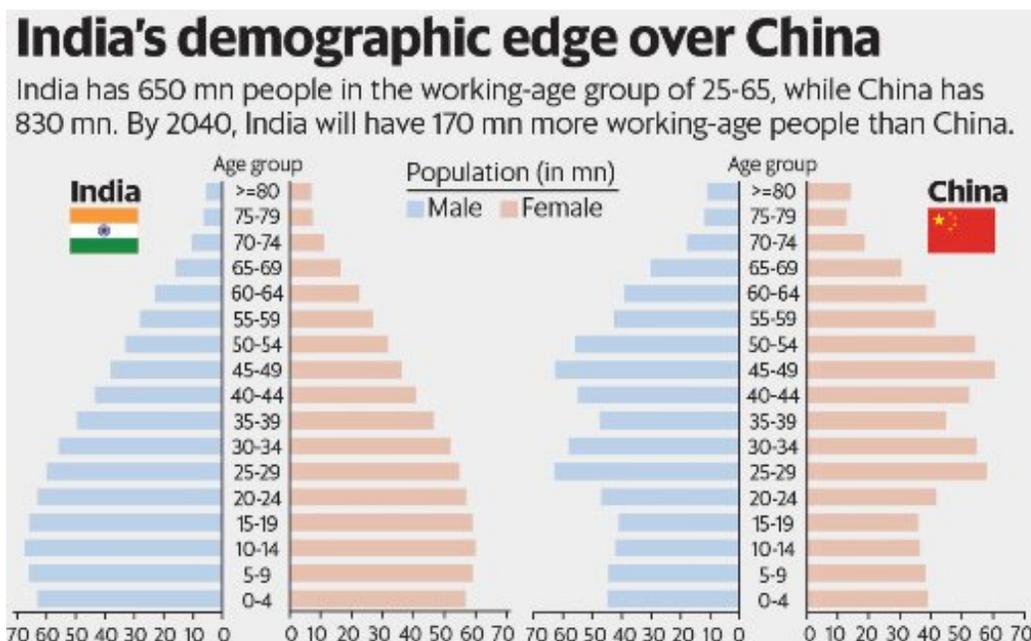
Population Pyramid

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/population-pyramid

A population pyramid is a graphical representation of the **age and sex** composition of a specific population.

- It consists of **two histograms, one for each gender** (by convention, men on the left and women on the right) where the **numbers are shown horizontally** and the **ages vertically**.
- The numbers by gender and by age **depend on interactions between fertility, mortality and migrations**.
- The shape of the pyramid and its variations over the years depend, above all, on the **variations in fertility**.
- The pyramid can also assume a columnar shape (with vertical sides rather than sloped sides), or have an irregular profile.

India vis-a-vis China



- **India's pyramid is bottom heavy** i.e. the Indian population has a **larger proportion of children, teenagers and young adults compared to China's.**
- **Population Distribution**
 - **India**
 - **The country's population for the age cohorts of 0-4, 5-9, 10-14 and 15-19 is roughly equal**, whereas the numbers for older groups become progressively smaller.
 - This means that the country's younger age groups have stopped growing in numbers now and are likely to shrink slightly soon.
 - This, however, does not mean that India's population will also start shrinking soon.
 - Except for the oldest groups, **India seems to have more males than females for every cohort.**
 - **China**

The country's largest cohort is in its late 40s, although it is **more gender balanced** than its younger cohorts, suggesting that sex-selective abortions are likely to have taken off in the last few decades.
- **Working Age Population**
 - In 25-65 age group, India currently has around 650 million people and China 830 million.
 - By 2040, India is likely to reach 900 million, whereas China will have around 730 million.
 - In other words, **India will go from having 180 million less working-age people than China today to about 170 million more**—a net gain of a third of a billion in 20 years.

Way Forward

- Just having people in the working age is not enough. **How many are in the labour force and their productivity are important.** The government needs to focus on the same.
- India needs to **invest** more, and efficiently, in **human capital and infrastructure.**
 - **For the former**, investments in **health and sanitation** have to be sustained and more **Public Private Partnership (PPP)** models are required to ensure basic education.
 - **For the latter**, a bigger push for **affordable rental housing** in cities has to be considered, along with more investments in rail connectivity.

Source: Mint