

The background of the entire slide is a photograph of several children wearing blue surgical face masks. The children are slightly out of focus, with the one in the foreground being more prominent. The image has a soft, muted color palette. Decorative geometric shapes are overlaid on the image: a teal bar at the top, a teal bar at the bottom, and teal arrow-like shapes on the left and right sides. There are also small clusters of colored squares (teal, yellow, brown) in the top right and bottom left corners.

Indian minister announces

CASH INCENTIVE

To parents with the highest number of children



[VIRONIKA](#)



[@vironika_om](#)
([@vironika_om](#))



[t.me/vironika_om](#)



[@vironikaom](#)



vironika.studyiq@gmail.com

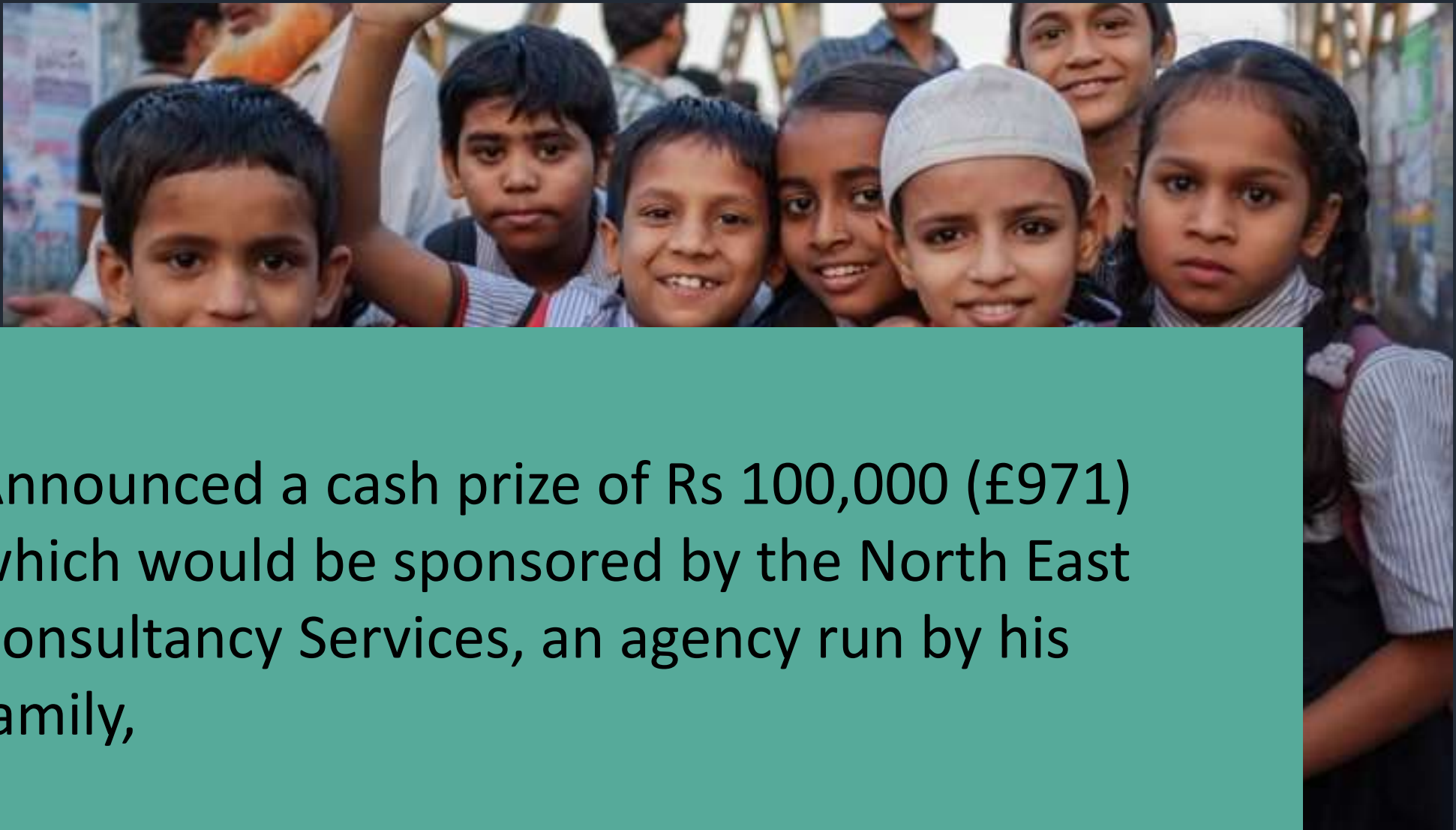


A minister in the Indian state of Mizoram has reportedly announced a cash incentive to parents who have the highest number of children in his constituency, in an attempt to encourage population growth.



Mizoram's sports, youth affairs and tourism minister Robert Romawia Royte made the announcement , but did not specify the minimum number of children a person must have to be eligible for the reward.

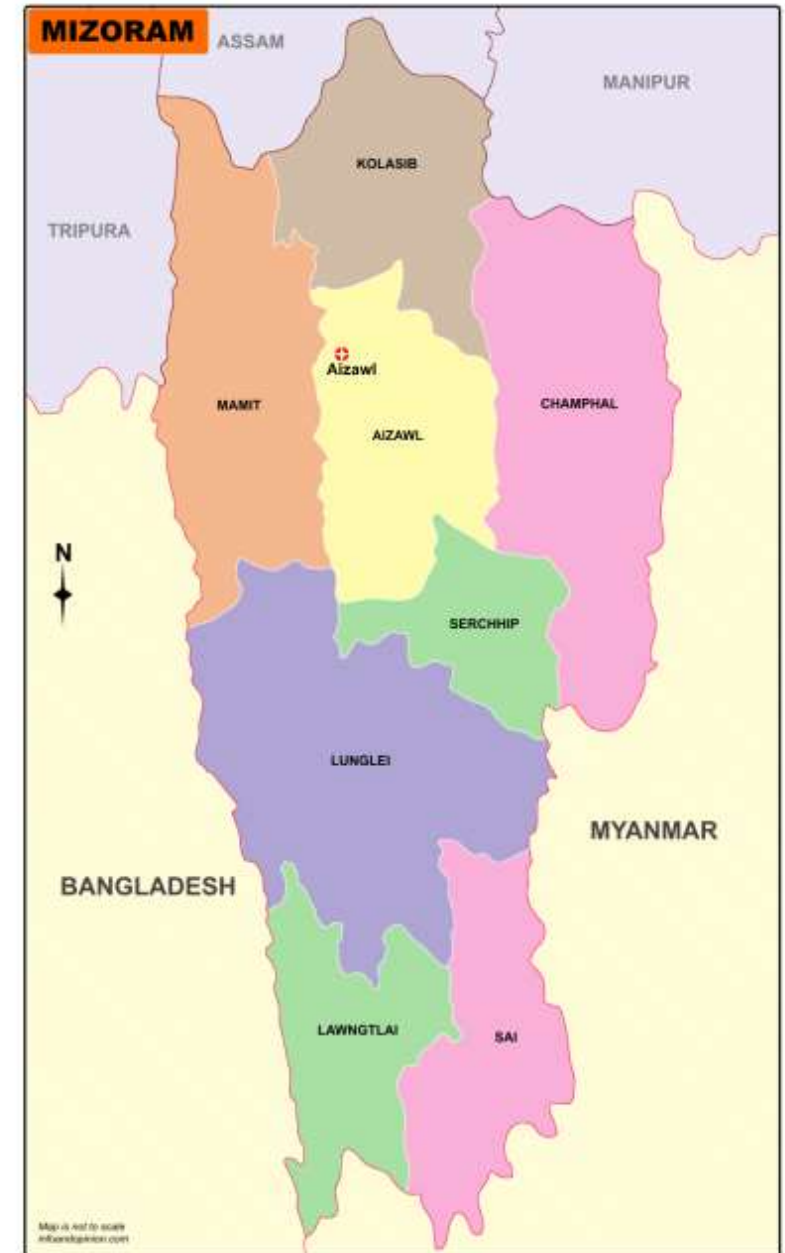




Announced a cash prize of Rs 100,000 (£971) which would be sponsored by the North East Consultancy Services, an agency run by his family,

Mizoram has a population density of only 52 persons per sq km, whereas the national average is 382 persons per sq km.

The “infertility rate and the declining growth rate of the Mizo population” has been a serious concern for many years



Mizoram has the second lowest population density in the country after the state of Arunachal Pradesh which has 17 persons per sq km, according to [India](#)'s 2011 census.





- Mizoram is far below the optimum number of people to develop in various fields

- He also said that a low population “is a serious issue and hurdle for small communities or tribes like Mizos to survive and progress.



Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has recently announced that his government will gradually implement a two-child policy for availing benefits under certain schemes funded by the state.

In 2019, the state administration decided that those with more than two children would not be eligible for government jobs from January 2021.


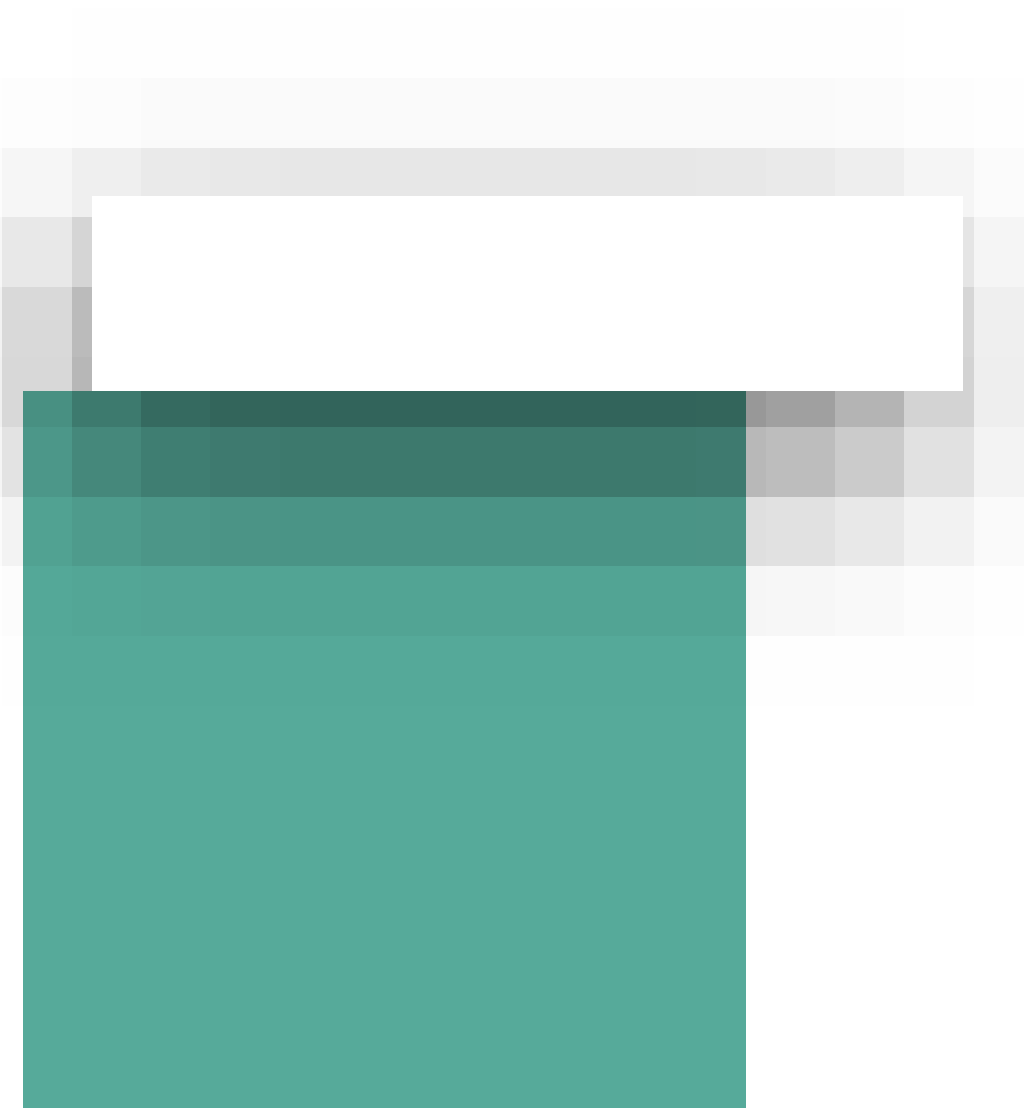
Assam currently has a two-child norm along with other requirements for contesting in panchayat polls.

Uttar Pradesh Law Commission Chairman said that there should be a check on the increasing population as it is creating problems in the state.





However, the Population Foundation of India (PFI), an NGO, has said that India should learn from China's revision of its two-child policy claiming the move shows that empowering women and enhancing their capabilities work better than coercive population policies.



In December last year, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare told the Supreme Court that the family welfare programme in India is voluntary in nature.

The background features a stylized representation of the Chinese flag, with a red field and yellow stars. A teal rectangular block is positioned on the left side, containing the title text. In the top right corner, there is a small cluster of four squares in shades of brown, tan, and green. In the bottom left corner, there is another small cluster of four squares in shades of green, brown, and tan.

ONE CHILD POLICY IN CHINA

One-child policy, official program initiated in the late 1970s and early '80s by the central government of China, the purpose of which was to limit the great majority of family units in the country to one child each.

The rationale for implementing the policy was to reduce the growth rate of China's enormous population. It was announced in late 2015 that the program was to end in early 2016.



Establishment and implementation

China began promoting the use of birth control and family planning with the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949, though such efforts remained sporadic and voluntary until after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976.





By the late 1970s China's population was rapidly approaching the one-billion mark, and the country's new pragmatic leadership headed by Deng Xiaoping was beginning to give serious consideration to curbing what had become a rapid population growth rate.

A voluntary program was announced in late 1978 that encouraged families to have no more than two children, one child being preferable.



Problems and reforms

The one-child policy produced consequences beyond the goal of reducing population growth.

Most notably, the country's overall sex ratio became skewed toward males—roughly between 3 and 4 percent more males than females.





Traditionally, male children (especially firstborn) have been preferred particularly in rural areas as sons inherit the family name and property and are responsible for the care of elderly parents.



When most families were restricted to one child, having a girl became highly undesirable, resulting in a rise in abortions of female fetuses increases in the number of female children who were placed in orphanages or were abandoned, and even infanticide of baby girls.



Another consequence of the policy was a growing proportion of elderly people, the result of the concurrent drop in children born and rise in longevity since 1980.

That became a concern, as the great majority of senior citizens in China relied on their children for support after they retired, and there were fewer children to support them.



A third consequence was instances in which the births of subsequent children after the first went unreported or were hidden from authorities.

Those children, most of whom were undocumented, faced hardships in obtaining education and employment.

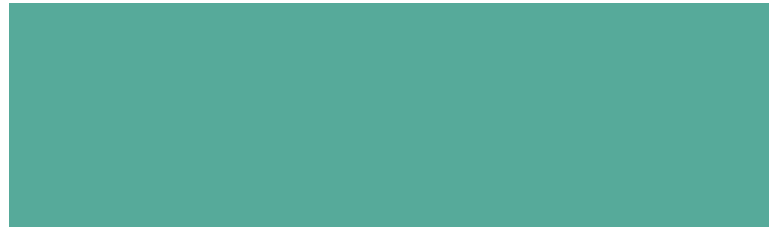
Although the number of such children is not known, estimates have ranged from the hundreds of thousands to several million.

CHILD POLICY IN INDIA



India have been working for many years to create similar legislation.

In 2016, Member of Parliament Prahalad Singh Patel introduced a bill that would have limited Indians to two children. However, this proposed two-child policy did not even make it to a vote.



KEY-TAKEAWAYS

India did not have a national child policy as of January 2020.

Many local laws in India apply penalties for having more than two children.



India's fertility rate was already down to 2.3 children per woman in 2016.

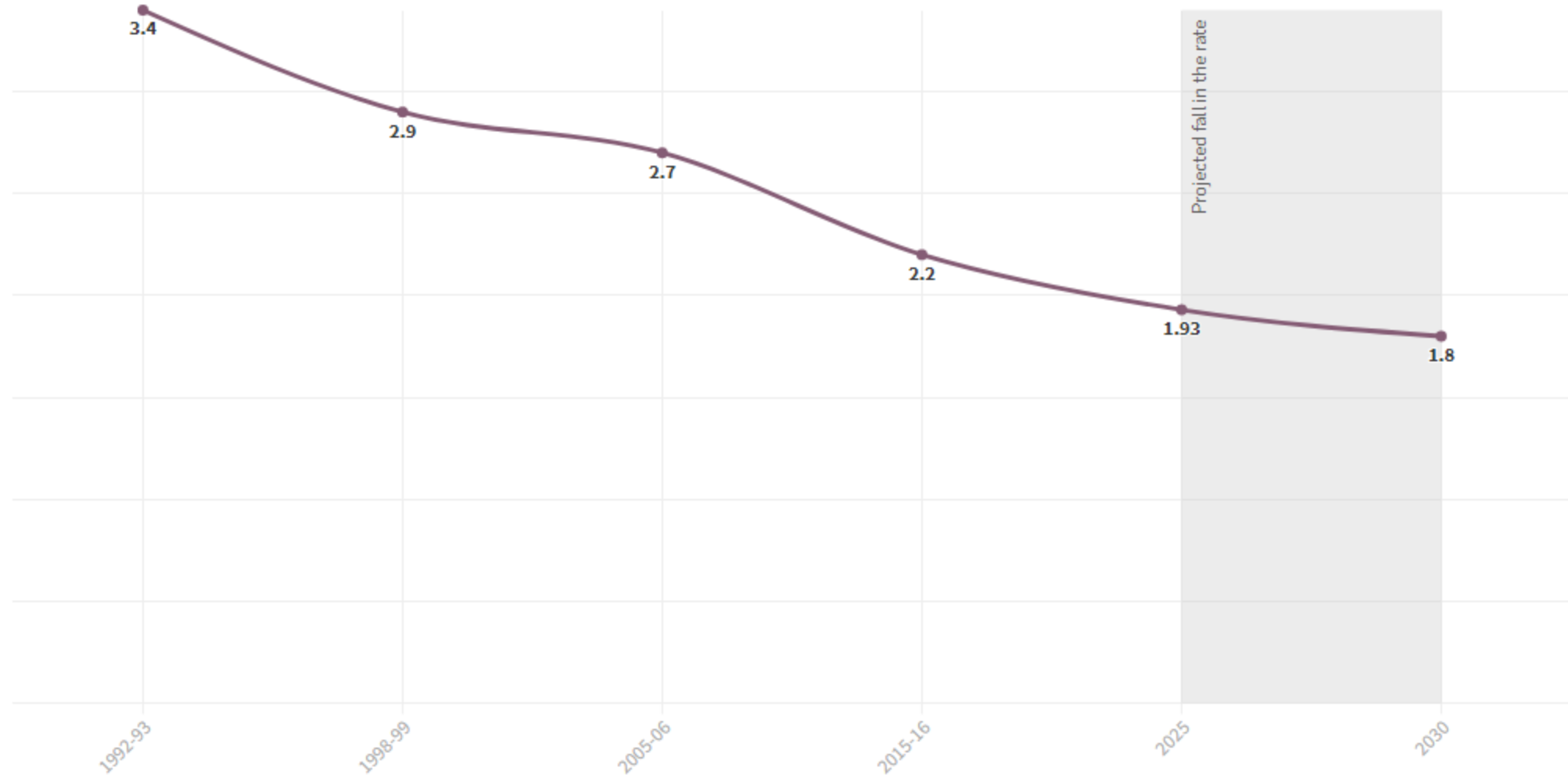
Local two-child laws in India have been criticized for being unnecessary, violating women's rights, and discriminating against Muslims.



Falling Fertility Rate in India

This is projected to fall to 1.93 by 2025, and to 1.8 by 2030, without any coercive law.

■ Total Fertility Rate (Children Per Woman, 15-49 years)



Source: [National Family Health Survey, 2015-2016](#) • The total fertility rate is the number of children a woman is expected to have over her lifetime.



Local Two-Child Policies

While there was no national two-child policy in India as of early 2020, there were local laws.

These family planning laws are aimed toward politicians, both current and aspiring. Under the policy, people running in panchayat (local government) elections can be disqualified if they have not respected the two-child policy.

Some local governments have gone a step further. There are laws in some states that apply penalties to ordinary citizens for having more than two children.

These disincentives include denying government rights to children born after the second child. They may also deny state-provided healthcare for mothers and children, including nutritional supplements for pregnant women.





For fathers, there may be fines and jail time.

Penalties also include a general decrease in social services for large families and restrictions on government employment and promotions.



Criticisms

Almost from the beginning, these laws have been questioned. People are quick to point out that India is a country with a booming technology industry one that relies on young people.

There is a fear that restrictions on having children will produce a shortage of the educated young people needed to carry on India's technological revolution.



There are already well-documented problems with China's one-child policy. Worst of all, there is a gender imbalance resulting from a strong preference for boys.

Millions of undocumented children were also born to parents who already had one child. These problems could come to India with the implementation of a two-child policy.



A final criticism of two-child policies in India is that the laws violate women's rights. Human rights activists argue that the laws discriminate against women right from birth by encouraging the abortion or infanticide of females.

The two-child policies also create incentives for men to divorce their wives and abandon their families if they want to run for political office.

The Bottom Line

Many Indian local governments, perhaps inspired by China's one-child policy, have created laws that apply penalties for having more than two children.

The laws are heavily criticized in India and abroad. While they are less severe than China's one-child policy, the two-child laws in India are still considered problematic and discriminatory.



CRITICAL ANALYSIS



These policies are a throwback to an era when governments, especially in totalitarian states like China, leaned on coercive instruments that penalised parents to curb population growth.

These instruments and policies have conspicuously failed to work. Recently, five years after it lifted the one-child policy that it had enforced in 1980,





China announced that it would allow married couples to have three children hereafter.

Population growth in India is not a matter for concern, as indicated by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and Census data.

India's population is expected to peak by 2050 and then decline sharply with the total fertility rate projected to reach 1.3 by 2100. The focus is slowly shifting from child bearing to child rearing.





This transition has been achieved through a judicious mix of policies that focussed on improving social indices such as literacy and healthcare, especially of women and children, and family planning measures, including promotion of modern contraceptives, though with varying degrees of success in different states



Q.Consider the following statements:

- 1.Mizoram has reportedly announced a cash incentive to parents who have the highest number of children in his constituency
2. China's one-child policy was enacted to improve standard of living in China

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Both 1 and 2 are correct*
- (b) 1 Only*
- (c) 2 only*
- (d) Both 1 and 2 are incorrect*



UPSC/IAS (Pre + Mains) Smart Course



EMI Available



Visit studyyiq.com or Download The APP

