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Women and Men in India 2025 — MoSPI Report Key Data

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Women and Men in India 2025 — MoSPI Report Key Data

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WHY IN NEWS

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **27th edition** of ‘**Women and Men in India 2025**’ at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This flagship statistical publication compiles gender-disaggregated data across health, education, labour, demography, and governance — serving as a key reference for UPSC Prelims and Mains on gender indicators.

KEY DATA — WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA 2025

Demography

INDICATOR	EARLIER DATA	2025 REPORT
Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males)	904 (2017–19)	917 (2021–23)
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)	97 (2018–20)	93 (2019–21)
Urban Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	1.6	1.5
Rural Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.2	2.1
Replacement-level TFR	—	2.1

India’s rural TFR has now reached replacement level (2.1) — meaning population stabilization is near for rural India. Urban TFR at 1.5 is below replacement.

Education

INDICATOR	MALE	FEMALE	CHANGE
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) — Higher Education	28.9	30.2	Female GER now exceeds male
Gender Parity Index (GPI) — Higher Education	—	>1.0	Girls outnumber boys in higher education enrolment
Literacy rate (15+)	~84%	~73%	Gap narrowing

Gender Parity Index (GPI) > 1.0 in higher education means more women are enrolled proportionally than men — a significant reversal from historical trends.

Labour Force Participation

INDICATOR	2022–23	2024–25
Rural Female LFPR	37.5%	45.9%
Urban Female LFPR	~24–25%	(improving)
Male LFPR (rural)	~78%	~79%

Rural female LFPR has increased sharply — from 37.5% to 45.9% in just two years. Key drivers:

- MNREGS participation
- PM Vishwakarma and SHG-linked livelihoods
- Post-COVID return to agricultural work
- Expansion of PMAY-G construction and PMGSY work

Health

INDICATOR	VALUE
MMR (2019–21)	93 per lakh live births
MMR target (NHP 2017)	<70 by 2025
Under-5 mortality rate	Improving
Anaemia in women (15–49)	~57% (NFHS-5, 2019–21)

Political Representation

BODY	WOMEN'S SHARE
Lok Sabha (18th, 2024)	~13.6% (74 out of 543)
Rajya Sabha	~14.1%
State Assemblies	~10–12% average
Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023)	33% reservation — to be implemented after delimitation

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 (Constitution 106th Amendment Act) provides 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies — operational after next delimitation exercise.

KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS

TERM	MEANING
LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate)	% of working-age population either employed or actively seeking work
GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio)	Total enrolment regardless of age / total population in relevant age group × 100
GPI (Gender Parity Index)	Ratio of female GER to male GER; >1.0 means female advantage
TFR (Total Fertility Rate)	Average number of children per woman over her lifetime
MMR (Maternal Mortality Ratio)	Deaths per 1,00,000 live births
Sex Ratio	Number of females per 1,000 males

KEY GOVERNMENT SCHEMES — GENDER

SCHEME	FOCUS
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	Sex ratio at birth, girl education
PM Matru Vandana Yojana	Maternity benefit — Rs 5,000
Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana	Girl child savings scheme
MNREGS	Rural employment; 40%+ women
SHG–Bank linkage	NABARD; women-led micro-finance
Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023)	33% women’s reservation in legislatures

UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS1 — Society	Sex ratio, TFR, gender equality, education
GS2 — Governance	Women’s political representation, reservation, schemes
GS1 — Geography	Population distribution, fertility patterns

Mains Keywords: Women and Men in India 2025, MoSPI, sex ratio, TFR, MMR, Gender Parity Index, rural female LFPR, higher education gender parity, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, MNREGS women participation

Prelims Facts Corner

ITEM	FACT
Women and Men in India 2025	27th edition; MoSPI; released Bhubaneswar
Sex ratio (2021–23)	917 females per 1,000 males (up from 904 in 2017–19)
Female GER (higher education)	30.2 (exceeds male GER of 28.9)
Rural female LFPR	45.9% (up from 37.5% in 2022–23)
Urban TFR	1.5 (below replacement)
Rural TFR	2.1 (at replacement level)
MMR (2019–21)	93 per lakh live births
Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam	33% women’s reservation; 106th Constitutional Amendment 2023
GPI > 1.0	More women enrolled in higher education than men (proportionally)

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