

58 MILLION INDIANS LIVING WITHOUT PENSION: SURVEY

Relevant for: Government Policies & Welfare Schemes | Topic: Welfare of Old Age People - Schemes & their performance; Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions & Bodies

Fifty eight million people in [India](#) are living without pension or any other form of assistance, civil society organisation Pension Parishad has said.

Citing the State of Pensions in India Report 2018, Economist [Prabhat Patnaik](#) said the Central government spends as little as 0.04 per cent of the GDP for its flagship [Indira Gandhi](#) National Social Assistance (IGNOAPS) programme for ensuring income security for the elderly.

"It will cost only about 1.6 per cent of the present-day GDP to ensure 90 per cent of the elderly population a pension of Rs 2,500 per person every month," Patnaik said.

According to National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a welfare programme administered by the Ministry of Rural Development, 80 million elderly people in India are entitled to a pension of Rs 200 per month.

This meagre amount reaches only about 22.3 million people, Pension Parishad Coordinator, [Nikhil Dey](#) said.

The organisation also pointed out that countries like [Nepal](#), Bolivia, Lesotho, Bostwana, Ecuador -- all much smaller economies as compared to India -- ensure better social pensions for their elderly citizens.

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