

WHY IN NEWS?

- 2022 edition of the United Nations' World Population Prospects (WPP) was published. It projected that India will be surpassing China as most populous country in 2023.

WPP IN BRIEF

- Since 1951, the UN has published the WPP every two years.
- This is the 27th edition of United Nations' World Population Prospects.
- The Report provides an overview of global population trends focusing on the period from 1950 to 2050 and presents a summary of key demographic prospects during the second half of the present century.

TRENDS FOR THE GLOBAL POPULATION

- Slowing down of Growth Rate
- The number of people living in the globe is increasing, but at a more gradual rate than in the past.
- The world's population is projected to reach 8 billion on 15 November 2022, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100.
- The global growth rate dropped below 1% annually in 2020 for the first time since 1950.

Trends & projections

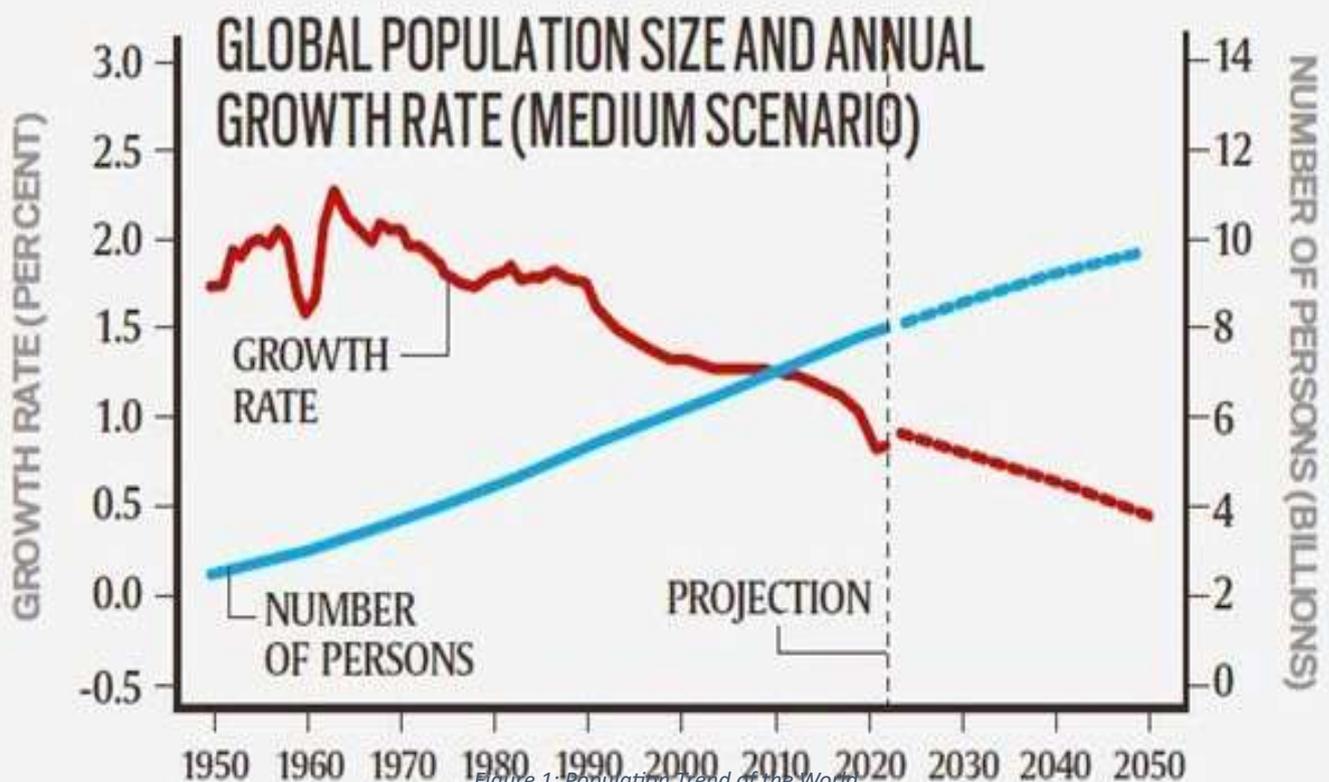


Figure 1: Population Trend of the World

VARIATION ACROSS REGIONS

- Just eight nations will account for more than half of the predicted increase in world population by 2050.
 - United Republic of Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, and the Philippines.
- The 46 LDCs are predicted to double in population between 2022 and 2050 and are now increasing at the quickest rate.
- Sea level rise and climate change would go hand in hand with the rapid growth rate for many nations and regions, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
 - **China** - With 400 million people over the age of 60, China, which is burdened by a rapidly ageing population, is predicted to enter a “**severe ageing**” phase in 2035. This can primarily be attributed to its long-standing one-child policy.

AGEING POPULATION

- The percentage of people in the aged 65 or older is expected to increase from 10% in 2022 to 16% in 2050.
- It recommends strengthening the sustainability of the social security and pension systems and implementing universal health care and long-term care programs to deal with the ageing population.

PATTERN OF FERTILITY AND MORTALITY ACROSS THE WORLD

- In 2019, the average **global life expectancy at birth** was 72.8 years, an increase of about 9 years since 1990.
- Current predictions indicate that additional advancements in survival will lead to an average life expectancy of approximately 77.2 years worldwide in 2050.
- Growing **difference in birth life expectancy** between nations -
 - The Least Developed Countries’ life expectancy in 2021 was 7 years less than the average worldwide.
 - **Causes** :- rising child and maternal mortality rates, violence and conflict, and the effects of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) pandemic.
- **Demography Dividend**: -Continuous decline in fertility has increased the population’s concentration in the 25–64 age bracket, which presents a chance for quicker per capita economic growth.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION:

- Between 2000 and 2020, the net intake of 80.5 million migrants from abroad contributed to population growth in high-income nations, outpacing the ratio of births to deaths (66.2 million).
- **Migration will be the sole driver of population growth** in high-income countries, for next few decades.

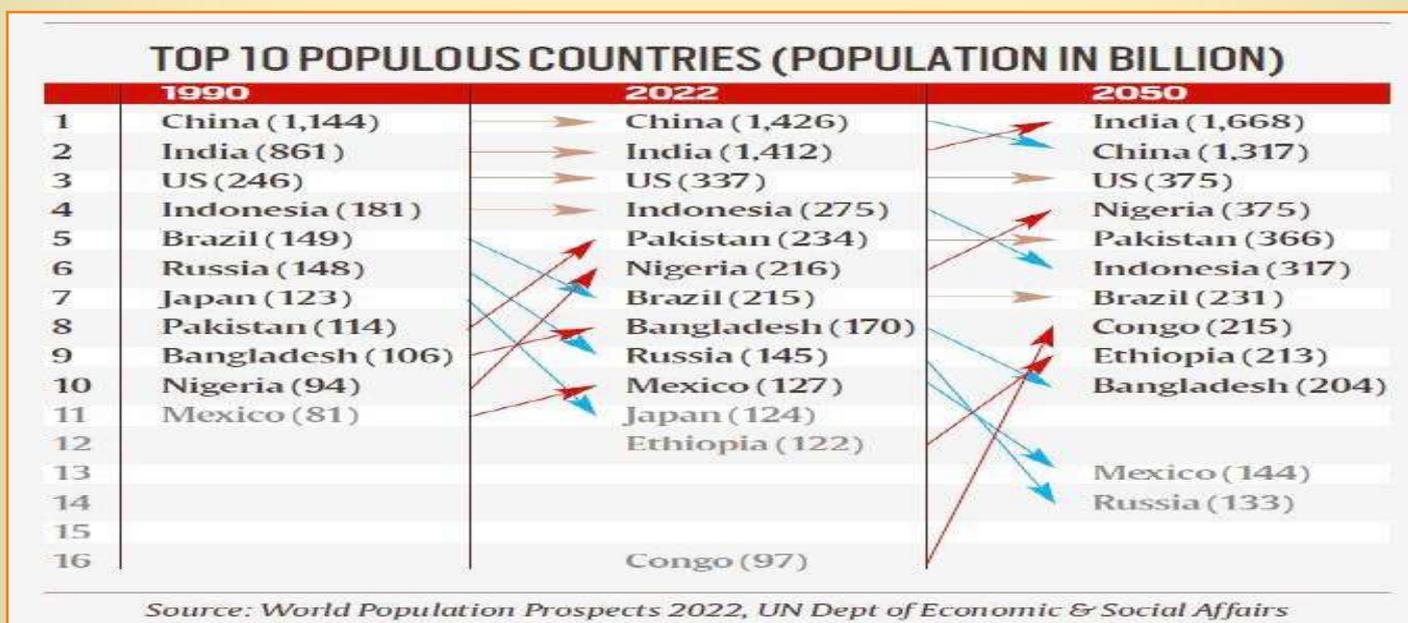


Figure 2: Rankings of the world’s ten most populous countries, 1990 and 2022, and , 2050 (numbers in parentheses refer to total population in billion)

COVID-19'S EFFECTS ON POPULATION CHANGE:

- Global life expectancy at birth has decreased globally, from 72.8 in 2019 to 71.0 in 2021.
- International migration has been severely constrained as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic.
- The demand for contraception and the reported numbers of unplanned pregnancies and births have remained largely consistent in low- and middle-income nations.
- The epidemic has caused short-term changes in the frequency of births and pregnancies in high-income countries.

MALTHUS' THEORY OF POPULATION GROWTH

- He asserted that the population may grow exponentially, doubling every 25 years. Population growth will cause the food supply and demand mismatch to widen over time.
- The amount of food available would rise, but it wouldn't be enough to meet the demands of a growing population. Famine and other natural disasters also increase mortality rates and inflict widespread suffering, which is nature's check against the population growth.

TRENDS IN INDIA

- India's population stands at 1.412 billion in 2022, compared to China's 1.426 billion
- India will overtake China as the world's most populated country by 2023, and is expected to have 1.668 billion people in 2050, far more than China's 1.317 billion.
- India's **population growth rate is less than 1%** which was 2.3% in 1972
 - Over this time, the average number of children an Indian woman has in her lifetime has decreased from around 5.4 to less than 2.1.
 - The **Replacement Fertility Rate**, at which a population precisely replaces itself from one generation to the next, has been reached by India.
- As per 2011 Census, Uttar Pradesh has a population of 19.98 crores, increasing from 16.62 crores in the 2001 Census. On the other hand, states like Sikkim and Lakshadweep have the lowest populations, with Sikkim having a population of 0.5 million and Lakshadweep's island state having a population of barely 60,000.
- With improved access to healthcare and medical developments, both **fertility rates and mortality rates have been dropping.**
 - In the coming decades, the population of 0-14 years, 15-24 years, and 65+ will continue to decrease while rising.
- **India's driver of population growth** is the reduction of premature mortality for successive generations and hence increased levels of life expectancy at birth.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

- **Geographical Factors:** Availability of water, soil, climate, landform, climate, vulnerability to natural disaster. Ex. Northern plains of India
- **Political factors:** Government Policies, War, Political unrest etc.
- **Economic Factors:** Livelihood opportunity, industries, Urbanization, transport etc.
- **Demographic factors:** Push and pull factors for Migration, Fertility Rate, Mortality Rate

REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA

- It was founded in 1961 by the Government of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It coordinates, carries out, and analyses the findings of India's demographic surveys, such as the Census of India and the Linguistic Survey of India.
- Usually, a public officer with the rank of Joint Secretary holds the position of Registrar.

IMPLICATIONS OF GROWTH OF POPULATION

- Natural Resource Depletion
 - The increase in human population over the past fifty or more years is largely to blame for the environmental harm that has occurred. They involve clearing forests, carelessly hunting animals, polluting the environment, and producing a variety of other issues.
- Hunger, starvation, and malnutrition
 - Starvation, malnutrition, and illnesses like rickets that are brought on by a diet deficiency are more likely to occur when resources are scarce.



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- Growing unemployment
 - Because there aren't enough jobs to support a huge number of people, unemployment results from an overpopulated nation.
- Water Scarcity
 - Only about 1% of the water on Earth is both fresh and usable. A serious problem that puts tremendous strain on the world's freshwater resources is overpopulation.
- High Living Costs
 - Due to overpopulation, the price of several important goods, including food, is rising as the gap between supply and demand continues to widen.
- Threat to Biodiversity
 - The effects of population growth on wildlife are serious. As the need for land increases, the destruction of natural habitats, such as forests, becomes common.
- Pandemics
 - High population densities also enhance the likelihood of new pandemics and epidemics emerging.

BOON OR BANE FOR INDIA?

- Today, over population is thought to be a major reason for underdevelopment. India, on the other hand, views its people as the source of its "**Demographic Dividend**," which will benefit the country.
- Depending on how we make a move, it could turn out to be a blessing or a curse. In addition to controlling the current population, we must work to keep the population steady and manageable in order to reap the benefits and sustainably use resources.
- The long-term goal of the **National Population Policy 2000** is to stabilise the population by 2045 at a level that satisfies the demands of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental protection.
- Hence, a population that is educated and well-managed can become the labour force that propels the Indian economy's expansion.

"We all worry about population explosion, but we don't worry about it at the right time." - Arthur Hoppe.

WAY FORWARD

- **Skill development** is necessary for people who are already in the 25–64 age range because it is the only way to guarantee that they will be more productive and earn more money.
- **Social security provision:** The report suggests that nations with ageing populations need to put in place universal health care and long-term care systems to adjust public programs to the rising number of elderly people.
- Countries needed to make an investment in the growth of human capital by ensuring that all people had access to quality healthcare and education at all ages, as well as through fostering possibilities for gainful employment and decent labor.

These provisions will help to get sustainable and inclusive development and will help to meet SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 11(sustainable cities and communities).