



World Population Prospects 2022

For Prelims: Demographic Dividend, Mortality Rate, Fertility Rate, SDGs

For Mains: World Population Prospects 2022

Why in News?

According to the 2022 edition of the **United Nations' World Population Prospects (WPP)**, India is **projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.**

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World Population	Year
1 billion	1804
2 billion	1927
3 billion	1959
4 billion	1974
5 billion	1987
6 billion	1998
7 billion	2011
8 billion	2022

What is the World Population Prospects?

- The Population Division of the UN has been publishing the **WPP in a biennial cycle since 1951.**
- Each revision of the WPP **provides a historical time series of population indicators** starting in 1950.
- It does so by taking into account newly released national data to revise estimates of past **trends in fertility, mortality or international migration.**

What are the Findings of the Report?

- **Population Grows, but the Pace is Declining:**
 - The global population is **expected to grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030**, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100.
 - In 2020, the **global growth rate fell under 1% per year** for the first time since 1950.
- **Rates Vary across Countries and Regions:**
 - More than half of the projected increase in global population up to 2050 **will be concentrated in just eight countries:**
 - The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.
 - The 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are **among the world's fastest-growing.**
 - Many are **projected to double in population between 2022 and 2050**, putting additional pressure on resources and posing challenges to the achievement of the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).
- **The Population of Elderly is Increasing:**
 - The share of the global population aged 65 years or above is projected to rise **from 10% in 2022 to 16% in 2050.**
- **Demographic Dividend:**
 - **A sustained drop in fertility has led to an increased concentration of the population at working ages** (between 25 and 64 years), creating an **opportunity for accelerated economic growth per capita.**
 - This shift in the age distribution provides a time-bound opportunity for accelerated economic growth.
- **International Migration:**
 - International migration is having **an important impact on population trends for some countries.**
 - For high-income countries between 2000 and 2020, the contribution of international migration to population growth exceeded the balance of births over deaths.
 - Over the next few decades, **migration will be the sole driver of population growth in high-income countries.**

What are the Findings Related to India?

- India's growth rate stood at 2.3 % in 1972, which has dropped down to less than 1% now.
 - In this period, the number of children each Indian woman has during her lifetime has **come down from about 5.4 to less than 2.1 now.**
 - This means that Indian has attained the **Replacement Fertility Rate**, at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.
- **Fertility rates have been declining, so have mortality rates** with increased access to healthcare and advances in medicine.
 - Population of **0-14 years and 15-24 years will continue to decline** while those of 25-64 and **65+ will continue to rise for the coming decades.**
- This reduction of premature mortality for successive generations, **reflected in increased levels of life expectancy at birth, has been a driver of population growth in India.**

What are the Recommendations?

- **Countries with ageing populations should take steps to adapt public programmes to the growing proportion of older persons**, including by improving the sustainability of social security and pension systems and by **establishing universal health care and long-term care systems.**
- To maximize the potential benefits of a favourable age distribution, countries **need to invest in the further development of their human capital by ensuring access to health care and quality education at all ages** and by promoting opportunities for productive employment and decent work.
- For those already in the 25-64 age bracket, there is a need for skilling, which is the **only way to ensure they are more productive and have better incomes.**

Source: IE

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