

## Transformation Challenges in Population Growth

### Why in news?

As predicted by the Revision of World Population Prospects 2022, the human population has touched the 8 billion mark.

### What is the World Population Prospects about?

- The 2022 Revision of World Population Prospects is the 27th edition that has been prepared by the **Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat**.
- It has been published in a **biennial** cycle since 1951.
- It presents population estimates from 1950 to the present for 237 countries or areas, underpinned by analyses of historical demographic trends.
- For the first time, the estimates and projections are presented in one-year intervals of age and time instead of the five-year intervals used previously.
- According to the report, 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.
- The global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950, having fallen under 1% in 2020.

To know more about the UN Population report, click [here](#)

### What is the picture of India?

- **Population** - India's population stands at 1.412 billion in 2022 and is projected to overtake China as the world's most populous country in 2023.
- According to UNFPA estimates, 68% of India's population is between 15-64 years old in 2022, while people aged 65 and above comprise 7% of the population.
- At 253 million, India is also home to the world's largest adolescent population (10-19 years).
- **Demographic dividend** - India has the prospects to reap the demographic dividend as the median age of an Indian this year was 28.7 years against a global value of 30.3 years.
- According to UNFPA, India will have one of the youngest populations in the world till 2030 and the demographic window of opportunity will last till 2025.



### What does this population growth signify?

- **Significance** - The growth of our population is a testament to humanity's achievements, including

- Reduction in poverty and gender inequality
- Advancement in health care
- Expanded access to education
- **Impact** - These have resulted in
  - More women surviving childbirth
  - More children surviving their early years
  - Longer and healthier lifespans

### What are the implications of this transformation?

- **Change in international power balance** - The global population share of combined population of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh is now 23%.
- Africa's share in the global population will rise from nearly 6% in 1900 to over 21% in 2050.
- Hence, Asia and Africa will have an important role in determining our shared future.
- **Immigration** - Declining fertility in the West has led to the rapid ageing of the population.
- Immigration remains the only option to reduce the dependency ratio imposed by the rising proportion of the elderly and declining fertility among the native-born population.
- While this gives rise to tremendous ethnic tensions, it also increases the power of minorities in the host countries.
- **Environmental impact** - Population growth has magnified the environmental impacts of economic development.
- It may result in humans consuming far more biological resources, such as forests and land, than the planet can regenerate each year.
- The overconsumption of fossil fuels, for example, leads to more carbon dioxide emissions, responsible for global warming.
- **Internal transformations** - The seat allocation based on the latest population will trigger dispute between north Indian states and southern States.
- The locals-only legislation in Andhra Pradesh and protectionist demands in Tamil Nadu reiterate the growing influx of culturally diverse migrants.

*Article 81 of the Indian Constitution mandated the allocation of Lok Sabha seats across States in proportion to their population.*

*However, in 1976 the fear of overpopulation led to a constitutional amendment freezing the seat allocation based on population figures of the **1971 Census** until 2001 which was further extended to **2026**.*

### References

1. [The Hindu | Learning to live together, all eight billion of us](#)
2. [The Hindu | World Population reaches 8 billion mark today](#)

3. [The Indian Express | World's population touches 8 billion](#)

