

# United Nations' World Population Prospects (WPP)

July 13, 2022

**In news**– The UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division has released 2022 revision of World Population Prospects recently.

## **About UN WPP-**

- **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.
- The 2022 revision provides population estimates for the period 1950-2021. **Estimates of stocks are presented for every year.**
- **Stock estimates refer to either 1 January or 1 July of the year in question.** Period estimates may be assumed to refer to the mid-year concerned. Data are presented by single calendar years and either five year age groups or single ages.
- The 2022 revision provides **population projections up to 2100.**
- There is only one series for the population estimates, but there are several series for the population projections, because different projection scenarios are calculated.

## **Key Findings-**

Following are the key findings/projection of the report:

The **world's population continues to grow, but the pace of growth is slowing down:**

- 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.** It has been projected that the world's population to reach 8 billion on November 15, 2022.

### **Rates of population growth vary significantly across countries and regions:**

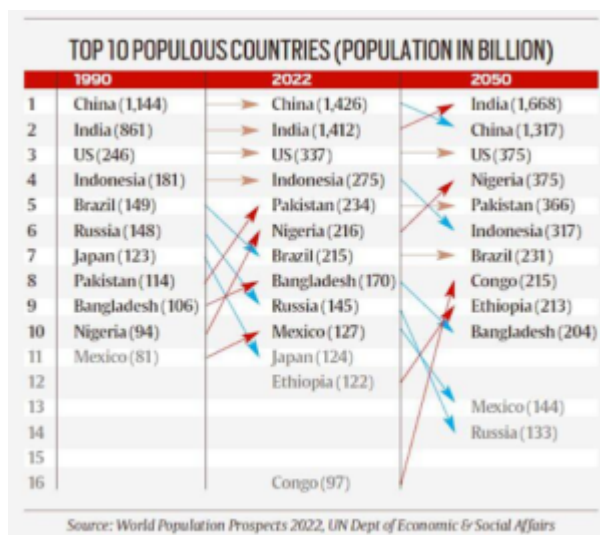
- **More than half of the projected increase in global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in just eight countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.**
- **The 46 least developed countries (LDCs) 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 older persons is increasing both in numbers and as a share of the total:**

- The share of the **global population aged 65 years or above is projected to rise from 10% in 2022 to 16% in 2050.**
- **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 known as the "demographic dividend". "

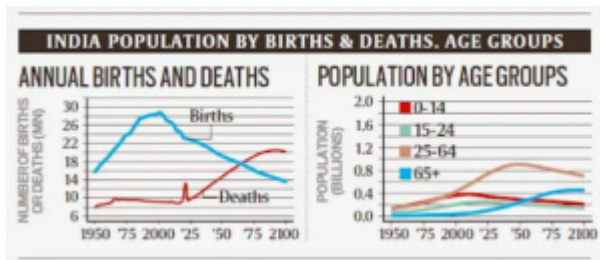
### **International migration is having important impacts on population trends for some countries:**

- **For high-income countries between 2000 and 2020**, the contribution of international migration to population growth (net inflow of 80.5 million) exceeded the balance of births over deaths (66.2 million).
- **Over the next few decades, migration will be the sole driver of population growth in high-income countries.**
- For 10 countries, the estimated net outflow of migrants exceeded 1 million over the period from 2010 through 2021.
- In many of these countries, **the outflows were due to temporary labour movements, such as for Pakistan (net flow of -16.5 million), India (-3.5 million), Bangladesh (-2.9 million), Nepal (-1.6 million) and Sri Lanka (-1.0 million).**
- In other countries, **including the Syrian Arab Republic (-4.6 million), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (-4.8 million) and Myanmar (-1.0 million), insecurity and conflict drove the outflow of migrants over this period.**



### Key findings related to India-

- According to the 2022 edition, **India is projected to surpass China** as the world's most populous country in 2023.



- The concern now is not about the absolute numbers – India’s population is already 1.4 billion and may go up to 1.6 billion before declining.
- Looking at the India data, it is clear that as things stand, cohorts 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.
- **Note: In India, the Registrar General comes out with a population projection based on the Census.** The last such projection was released in 2019 and it was based on Census 2011.