

World Population reached eight billion

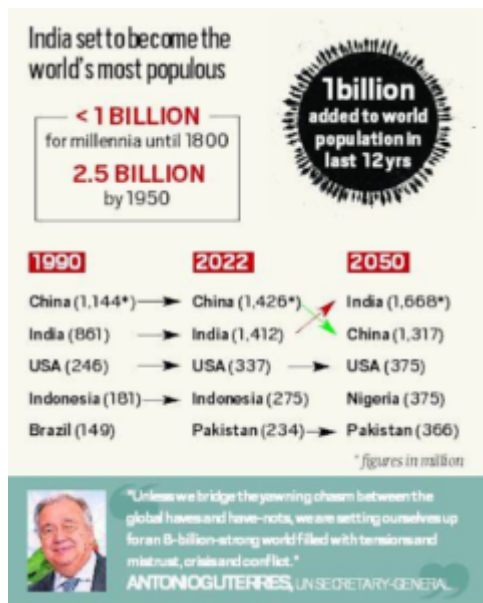
November 18, 2022

In news— According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) the world's population has reached 8 billion on 15 November 2022.

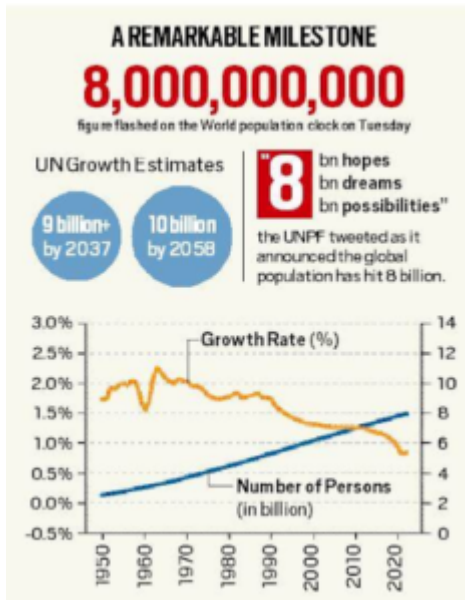
Key updates-

- As per UNPF, while India's population growth is stabilising, it is "still growing at 0.7% per year" and is set to surpass China in 2023 as the world's most populous country.
- It stated that China's population is no longer growing and "may start declining as early as 2023"..
- It also noted that India's fertility rate has hit 2.1 births per woman – replacement-level fertility – and is falling.
- This (growth of world population) unprecedented growth is due to the gradual increase in human lifespan owing to improvements in public health, nutrition, personal hygiene and medicine.
- It is also the result of high and persistent levels of fertility in some countries.
- The UN said while it took the global population 12 years to grow from 7 billion to 8 billion, it will take approximately 15 years – until 2037 – for it to reach 9 billion "a sign that overall growth rate of global population is slowing
- Countries with the highest fertility levels tend to be those with the lowest income per capita.
- As of 2022, more than half the world's population lives in Asia, China and India being the two most populous countries with more than 1.4 billion people each.
- The World Population Prospects 2022, released in July,

put India's population estimate at 1.412 billion in 2022, compared with China's 1.426 billion.



- According to the UN, **falling mortality rate first led to a “spectacular population growth”,** peaking at 2.1% per year between 1962 and 1965.
- **Between 1950 and 1987, world population doubled** from 2.5 billion to 5 billion. But as fewer children were born generation to generation, growth started to slow.
- The **UNFPA projects world population to peak at 10.4 billion in the 2080s** and stay there until the end of the century.
- According to the UN, **60% of the global population lives in a region where the fertility rate is below replacement level,** up from 40% in 1990 and international migration is now the driver of growth in many countries, with 281 million people living outside their country of birth in 2020.
- All South Asian nations including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have seen high levels of emigration in recent years.



Further reading: <https://journalsofindia.com/united-nations-world-population-prospects-wpp/>