

UN Population Report

❖ Context

- India is now the most populous country in the world, having overtaken China in population, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said in its **State of World Population (SOWP)** report '8 Billion Lives, Infinite Possibilities'.

INDIA	CHINA
Population	Population
Total fertility rate per woman	1.2
Concerns over possible changes to India's population (in %)	
Economic	63
Environmental	46
Sexual and reproductive health policies and human rights	30
Conflict and tensions	20
Source: UN survey	

❖ Key Highlights

- In November 2022, the UN had announced that the world's population had crossed the **8 billion mark**.
 - 15-64 years group (65%), 10-24 years group (24%), Above 65 years of age (10%).
- **The world's two most populous regions are :**
 - **Eastern and South-Eastern Asia-** 2.3 billion people (29% of the global population).
 - **Central and Southern Asia-** 2.1 billion people (26%).
- China and India accounted for the largest populations in these regions, with more than 1.4 billion each in 2022.
- Central & Southern Asia is expected to become the most populous region in the world by 2037.
- The latest UN projections suggest that the global population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100.

❖ Outlook for Population Growth

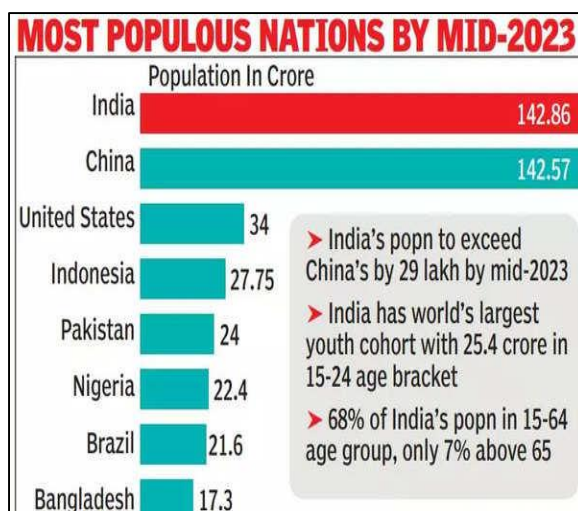
- The latest projections suggest that the rate of global **population growth** has fallen, and has been at **less than 1 per cent since 2020**.
 - This is largely due to declining fertility; around two thirds of people live in a country or area with a total fertility rate at or below 2.1 children per woman.
 - In 1950 the global fertility rate stood at 5.
- South Asia clocks some of the highest emigration trends, with India seeing an estimated **net outflow of 3.5 million between 2010 and 2021**.
- **Pakistan** has the highest **net flow of migrants of 16.5 million** during the same period.
- In 2021, most births worldwide occurred in the two most populous regions - Asia & sub-Saharan Africa.

• Life Expectancy :

- Life expectancy among men now stands at **71 years** while among women it stands at **76 years**.
- Globally, life expectancy reached 72.8 years in 2019, an increase of almost 9 years since 1990, the UN said in its 2022 report.
- The share of the global population aged 65 years or above is projected to rise from 10 per cent in 2022 to 16 per cent in 2050.

❖ India Position in the Big Population Picture

- India now has **1,428.6 million people** and is the most populous country in the world.
 - 15-64 years category (68%), 10-24 years group (26%), Above 65 year age (7%)
- The fertility rate in India has been steadily dropping.



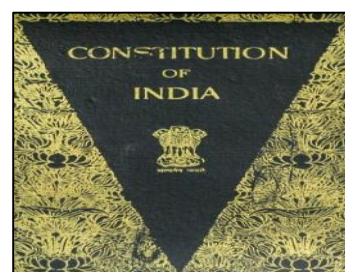
- The **National Family Health 5 Survey (2019-21)** found that India attained a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0 for the first time, less than the replacement level of 2.1, falling from 2.2 in NFHS 4 (2015-16).
- Country's population is likely to start its decline closer to 2050.

- Life expectancy for men in India is the same as the **global life expectancy of 71 years**, while it is **marginally lower for women at 74 years**.
- **Side Note : The top 10 most populous countries are**
 - India, China, United States, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Brazil, Bangladesh, Russia, and Mexico.

9th Schedule

❖ Context

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister recently wrote to Prime Minister seeking the inclusion of two amendment Bills allowing for **higher quotas in jobs** and educational institutions, in the **Ninth Schedule of the Constitution**.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The Ninth Schedule includes a list of Central and State laws which cannot be **challenged in courts**.
- In Chhattisgarh's case, the **two amendment Bills** - that pave the way for **76%** quota for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes - were passed unanimously by the State Assembly last December, but are yet to receive the Governor's nod.
- In the letter, the Chief Minister cited the example of other States and a 2022 Supreme Court ruling to argue in favour of lifting the **50% cap**.

- It is noteworthy that in the **State of Tamil Nadu**, where the per capita income is much higher than that of **Chhattisgarh**, and in **many States of the northeast**, the reservation for tribes and backward classes is more than the limit of 50%.
- **High Court Ruling:** The Chhattisgarh High Court had, in 2022, struck down a 2013 State government order to allow 58% quota, holding that reservation above the 50% ceiling was "unconstitutional".

Face to Face Centres

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Web3

❖ Context

- Web3 is built on top of existing Internet infrastructure and not in competition with previous versions of the web platform.



❖ Key Highlights

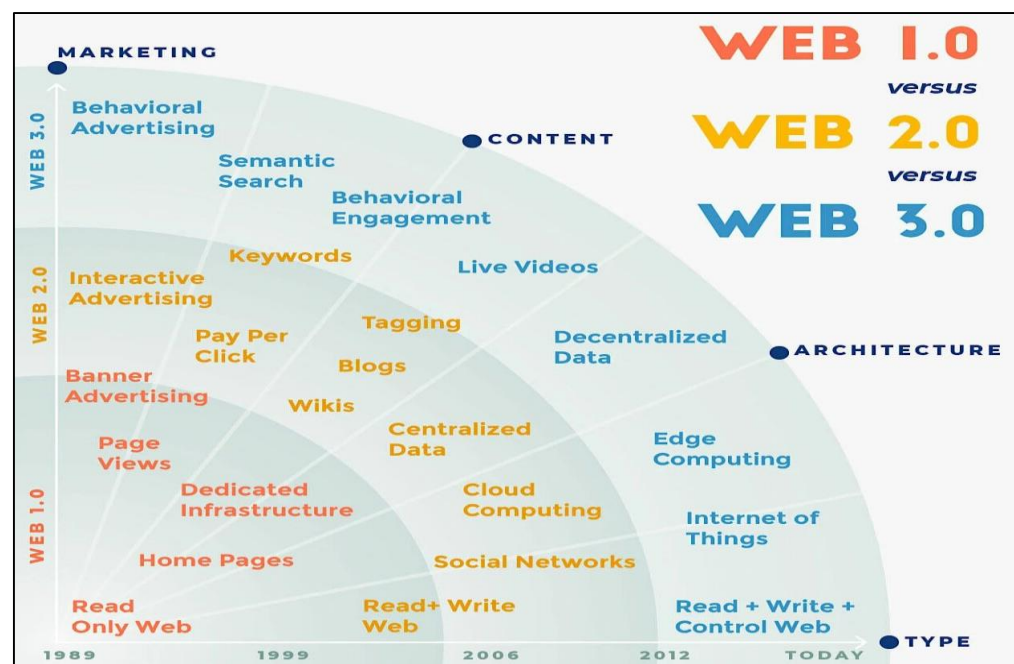
- In Web3, users will have **ownership stakes in platforms and applications** unlike now where tech giants control the platforms.
- Web3 enables **peer to peer (seller to buyer) transactions** by eliminating the role of the intermediary (Amazon, eBay).
- The spirit of Web3 is **Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO)** : It means all the **business rules and governing rules** in any transaction are **transparently available** for anyone to see and software will be written conforming to these rules.
- Web3 is more secure, as there is no single point of failure that can be exploited by hackers.
- Web3 has the ability to create and use decentralised applications (dApps) and smart contracts.
- These dApps can be used for a variety of purposes, such as social media, finance, gaming, and more.

❖ Different from Web2

- Web2, also known as the centralised web, is the current version of the Internet.
- It is characterised by the dominance of large, centralised platforms such as Google, Facebook, and Amazon.
- **Among the main differences between Web2 and Web3:**
 - **Centralisation vs. Decentralisation:**
 - Web2 is centralised, meaning that data is stored on centralised servers owned and controlled by large corporations.
 - **Intermediaries vs peer-to-peer:**
 - Web2 relies heavily on intermediaries such as banks, social media platforms, and online marketplaces to facilitate transactions and interactions.
 - Web3 enables peer-to-peer transactions and interactions.
 - **Data ownership and control:**
 - In Web2, large corporations like Facebook and Google have significant control over user data.
 - In Web3, users can choose to share data only with those they trust.

❖ Web 5.0

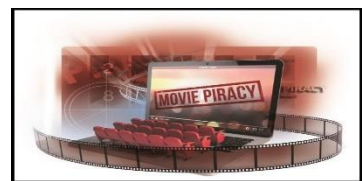
- Web 5.0 is aimed at building an **extra decentralized web**.
- Web 5.0 is **Web 2.0 plus Web 3.0** that will allow users to **'own their identity' on the Internet and 'control their data'**.
- Both Web 3.0 and Web 5.0 envision an **Internet without threat of censorship** – from governments or big tech, and without fear of significant outages.



Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023

❖ Context

- The Union Cabinet cleared the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 recently.



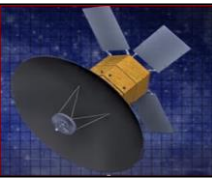
❖ Key Highlights:

- The Bill seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and includes provisions for harsher punishments for film piracy and the introduction of new age categories for classifying films.
- The Bill would be introduced in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.
- **Punishment for Film Piracy :**
 - The draft version of the Bill, circulated in 2021, proposed up to three years of imprisonment and a penalty of **₹10 lakh** for those engaging in film piracy.

• New Age Categories for Film Classification :

- The CBFC currently provides three age categories for mainstream films: U for unrestricted exhibition, U/A for films that can be viewed by minors with adult supervision, and A for films that can only be viewed by adults.
- The 2021 draft Bill expanded the U/A category to **U/A 7+, U/A 13+ and U/A 16+**.
- **Significance:**
 - The new age categories may allow filmmakers to address mature themes without attracting an **A certificate**.
 - This is significant for the industry as an A certificate limits the potential audience for a film.
 - The new categories may help in classifying content more accurately, leading to more **informed viewing choices**.

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TeLEOS-2

❖ Context

- The launch of the **PSLV-C55/TeLEOS-2** is scheduled for April 22, 2023 from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.

❖ Key Highlights:

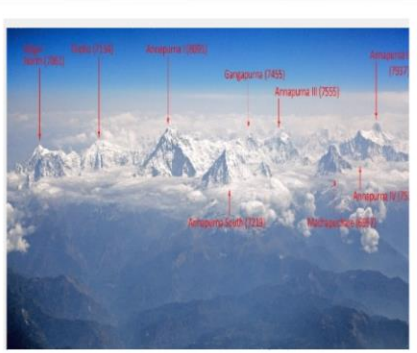
- This will be the third launch of the year for Isro - all three using different launch vehicles.
- The first launch took place in February 2023 when the new **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)** successfully deployed three satellites and was declared operational by the space agency.
- The second launch took place in March 2023 when India's heaviest LVM3 launched 36 **OneWeb satellites** in a purely commercial mission.

❖ About TeLEOS-2:

- The satellite on board will be **TeLEOS 2—a 750kg**.
- The TeLEOS-2 satellite is developed under a partnership between DSTA (**representing the Government of Singapore**) and **ST Engineering**.
- Once deployed and operational, it will be used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore.
- TeLEOS-2 carries a **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload**.
- TeLEOS-2 will be able to provide all-weather day and night coverage, and capable of imaging at **1m full-polarimetric resolution**.

News in Between the Lines

Mount Annapurna



❖ Context

- An Indian Mountaineer, who went missing at Nepal's Mount Annapurna, Found alive recently.

❖ About Mount Annapurna:

- Mount Annapurna is one of the **highest peaks in the world**, located in the Himalayas of Nepal.
- With an elevation of **8,091 meters (26,545 feet)**, it is the **tenth-highest peak** in the world.
- Annapurna is part of the Annapurna massif, which is a group of several peaks including **Annapurna I, Annapurna II, Annapurna III, Annapurna IV**, and other smaller peaks.
- The first successful ascent of Annapurna I was made in 1950 by a French expedition led by **Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal**.
- Annapurna I is considered one of the most dangerous peaks to climb due to its steep and treacherous terrain, as well as the extreme weather conditions that can be encountered at high altitude.
- The **Annapurna Conservation Area**, which encompasses the Annapurna massif, is a protected area and a popular destination for trekking and wildlife watching.
- The area is home to a wide range of **flora and fauna**, including snow leopards, Himalayan black bears, and over 450 species of birds.

Pitta Birds



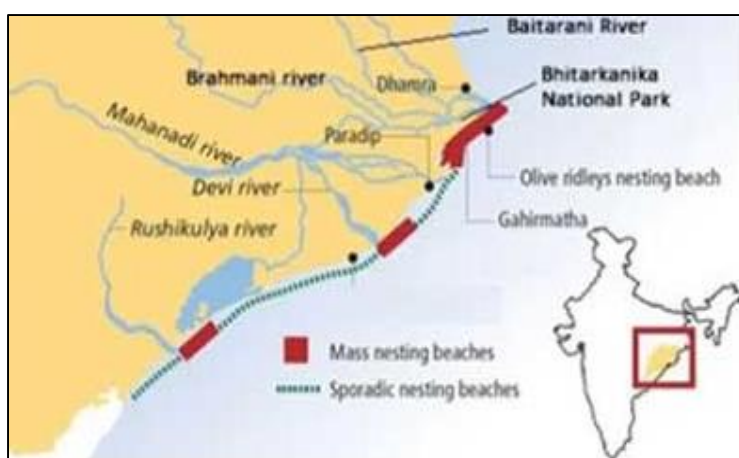
❖ Context

- In a first-ever census of mangrove pitta birds carried out in two coastal districts of Odisha, 179 such birds were sighted.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Mangrove pitta birds are a **nearly threatened** species found in a few pockets of eastern India, including Odisha's Bhitarkanika and West Bengal's Sundarbans.
- **Scientific Name-** Pitta Megharencha

❖ About Bhitarkanika National Park:



- Bhitarkanika National Park is located in the northeastern corner of **Kendrapara district** in Odisha, India.
- It is situated in the deltaic region of the **Brahmani-Baitarani** river system and is surrounded by the **Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- Bhitarkanika is home to a diverse range of fauna, including the endangered **saltwater crocodile**.

Face to Face Centres



Toque Macaques



❖ Context

- Sri Lanka is planning to export 1,00,000 toque macaques to China.
- The monkeys could be used for testing cosmetic products and medical experiments.

❖ Key Highlights :

- It is a native Sri Lankan species **with a golden-brown fur**.
- The local people call Toque Macaque the “**Rilawa**”.
- The most characteristic feature of this primate is the **toque-like swirl of hair on its head top**.
- As a matter of fact, their physiological characteristics vary greatly, depending on climatic conditions. It is classified as **endangered** on the International Union for Conservation of Nature red list.
- **Distribution** : The Toque macaques are native and endemic exclusively to Sri Lanka.
- **Diet** : As omnivorous species, the Toque macaques consume food of both animal and plant origin.
- **Threats** : The biggest threat to the population of this species is wood-cutting, leading to considerably damage and loss of their natural habitat.
 - Localized threats include capture of Toque macaques for pet trade.

Galapagos Islands



❖ Context

- Recently, a scientific expedition has discovered a previously unknown coral reef with abundant marine life off **Ecuador's Galapagos Islands**.

❖ Key Highlights :

- Scientists had believed that the only Galapagos reef to survive El Nino weather in 1982 and 1983 was one called the Wellington reef, along the coast of Darwin Island, but the new discovery shows other coral has persisted, the ministry said in a statement.
- The reef has more than 50% living coral.

❖ About Galapagos Island :

- The Archipelago is a group of **19 islands, 13 large and 6 small**, and dozens of islets and rocks that cover an area of over 17,000 square miles.
- Its closest point to the mainland is off **600 miles from the West coast of Ecuador in South America**.
- The Galápagos Islands and their surrounding waters form the Galápagos Province of Ecuador, the Galápagos National Park, and the Galápagos Marine Reserve.
- The principal language on the islands is **Spanish**.
- The islands have a population of slightly over **25,000**
- The Galapagos inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.
- It is also home to giant tortoises, albatrosses, cormorants and other species, some of which are endangered. It is designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage site in 1978**.
- Mount Azul at 5,541 feet is the highest point of the Galapagos Islands.

Deadnaming



❖ Context

- Recently, Twitter removed a policy that prohibited misgendering or deadnaming of transgender people on the social media platform.

❖ About Deadnaming :

- A deadname is essentially the **name that a trans, non-binary, and/or gender-expansive person was called before they adopted a more self-affirming name**.
- The act of, intentionally or not, calling a trans, non-binary, and/or gender-expansive person by the deadname is known as deadnaming, which can lead to adverse consequences.
- Deadnaming is harmful because refusing to use a person's chosen name or pronouns is a form of **transphobia or cissexism**.
- Cissexism can contribute to **mental health conditions, such as depression and suicidality**. It can also **lead to physical and verbal assault and abuse**.
- Deadnaming invalidates someone's true identity.
- It may reveal information about the sex assigned to them at birth that the person concerned may not want anyone to know - this might result in the person being harassed, discriminated against or assaulted.

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