



Two-Child Policy | Uttar Pradesh | 11 Jun 2024

Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** recently faced scrutiny over claims that it had implemented a [two-child policy](#) as of 7th June, 2024. However, according to official statements, these reports are false and no such policy has been enacted yet.

Key Points

- While a **draft bill** for such a policy has been submitted to the state government, it has **not been passed and formulated as a law**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Law Commission** had shared a draft of the proposed bill on population control in 2021 with the state government.
- According to the draft bill titled [Uttar Pradesh Population \(Control, Stabilisation, and Welfare\) Bill, 2021](#), couples with more than two children would not be allowed to apply for government jobs, seek promotions, or benefit from government welfare schemes.
 - A similar policy is in place in Assam, which bars parents with more than two children from government jobs under the **Assam Public Services (Application of Small Family Norms in Direct Recruitment) Rules, 2019**.

Two-Child Policy

- **Need:**
 - India's population has already **crossed 125 crores** and India is **expected to surpass the world's most populous nation-China** in the next couple of decades.
 - Despite having the **National Population Control Policy (2000)**, India is the **second most populous country in the world**.
 - Thus, India's natural resources are extremely **over-burdened** and facing **overexploitation**.
- **Criticism:**
 - The restricted child policy will create a shortage of educated young people needed to carry on India's technological revolution.
 - The problems like gender imbalance, undocumented children, etc. faced by China (as a result of the one-child policy) might be experienced by India.

Maha Kumbh | Uttar Pradesh | 11 Jun 2024

Why in News?

In a statement released after an official meeting **the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister** said that the [Maha](#)

[Kumbh](#), which is being **organised in Prayagraj in 2025**, will have a "big impact" on the state's economy with crores of people attending the event.

- A study should be conducted on **attracting both domestic and foreign tourists**, and a concrete action plan should be developed for this purpose.

Key Points

- In the official meeting, the Chief Minister discussed the ongoing efforts, current results and future policy towards fulfilling the resolution of making the state a [USD 1 trillion economy](#).
- It is emphasized that all the ministers and senior officials should make special efforts towards ease of living and maximum employment generation.
- The total [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) of the state was 16.45 lakh crore in 2021-22. It increased to more than 25.48 lakh crores in 2023-24.
 - Uttar Pradesh is contributing 9.2% to the [national income](#) and is becoming the growth engine of the country's development as the second largest economy of the country.
 - The [unemployment rate of the state](#), which was 6.2% in 2017-18, has come down to 2.4% in 2024.

Maha Kumbh

- Kumbh Mela comes under [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)'s Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](#).
- It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river.
 - It takes place on the banks of the [Godavari river in Nashik](#), the [Shipra river in Ujjain](#), the Ganges in Haridwar, and the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical [Saraswati river in Prayagraj](#). The confluence is referred to as the 'Sangam'.
- As it is held in four different cities in India, it involves different social and cultural activities, making this a **culturally diverse festival**.
- The **over month-long fair** is marked by the construction of a massive tented township, complete with cottages, huts, platforms, civic facilities, administrative and security measures.
 - It is organized immaculately by the government, the local authorities and the police.
- The mela is especially **renowned for the presence of an extraordinary array of religious ascetics** enticed from remote hideaways in forests, mountains and caves