



# World Population Day

## Why in News

Recently, **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** unveiled its **New Population Policy 2021-30**, on the occasion of **World Population Day (11<sup>th</sup> July)**.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- In 1989, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** recommended that **11<sup>th</sup> July be observed by the international community as World Population Day**, a day to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues.
- UNDP was inspired by the public interest and awareness that was created by "**Five Billion Day**" on **11<sup>th</sup> July 1987** when the world's population reached 5 billion.
- A resolution to the effect was passed, and the day was first marked on **11<sup>th</sup> July, 1990**.
- The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** was created in 1969, the same year the United Nations General Assembly declared "parents have the exclusive right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children."
- **Theme 2021: Rights and Choices are the Answer:** Whether baby boom or bust, the solution to shifting fertility rates lies in prioritising all people's reproductive health and rights.

### ▪ U.P's New Population Policy:

- The policy **proposes five key targets:** population control; ending curable maternal mortality and illnesses; ending curable infant mortality and ensuring betterment in their nutrition status; betterment of sexual and reproductive health-related information and facilities among the youth; and care of elders.
- The UP government's law commission has also **prepared a population control bill, under which a two-child norm will be implemented and promoted.**
- As per the draft, **violation of the policy is penalised** with measures such as barring for elections and **abidance is rewarded** with measures such as promotion in jobs, subsidy etc.


**Future planning** | The Uttar Pradesh Population Policy 2021-2030 was launched to reduce maternal and infant deaths in a time-bound manner. The policy aims to:



**Baby steps:** Yogi Adityanath encouraging a newly married couple to opt for family planning in Lucknow on Sunday. ▪

- Decrease the **total fertility rate** (number of children per woman) from 2.7 to **2.1 by 2026** and **1.7 by 2030**
- Increase **modern contraceptive prevalence rate** from 31.7% to **45% by 2026** and **52% by 2030**
- Increase **male methods of contraception use** from 10.8% to **15.1% by 2026**
- Decrease **maternal mortality rate** (per 1,00,000 live births) from 197 to **150 by 2026** and **98 by 2030**
- Decrease **infant mortality rate** (per 1,000 live births) from 43 to **32 by 2026** and **22 by 2030**
- Decrease **under 5 mortality rate** (per 1,000 live births) from 47 to **35 by 2026** and **25 by 2030**

 Awareness and extensive programmes would be held among those communities, cadres and geographical areas that have a higher fertility rate  
**U.P. POPULATION POLICY**

 We should not forget that the increase in population contributes to poverty in society. Hence, until all sections are made comprehensively aware, there will be a delay in fulfilling various goals  
**YOGI ADITYANATH, UTTAR PRADESH CM**

## Population Trends & Issues

- **World Population:**
  - **About:**
    - World's population stands at about **7.7 billion**, and it's expected to grow to **around 8.5 billion in 2030**, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.9 billion in 2100.
  - **Reason for Growth:**
    - This dramatic growth has been driven largely by **increasing numbers of people surviving to reproductive age**, and has been accompanied by **major changes in fertility rates, increasing urbanization and accelerating migration**.
    - These trends will have far-reaching implications for generations to come.
  - **Affected Areas:**
    - They affect **economic development, employment, income distribution, poverty and social protections**.
    - They also **affect efforts to ensure universal access to health care, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy**.
- **India's Population Related Issues:**
  - **Large Size:**
    - India has just **2% of the world's landmass and 16% of the global population**.

- It has been reported that [India will soon surpass China's population](#) (Country with largest population).
- **Fast Growth:**
  - Mismatch in birth and death rate resulted in **faster growth of population in the past few decades.**
    - However, [India's Total Fertility Rate \(TFR\)](#) is declining. **It is now 2.2 per woman**, nearing the replacement rate of 2.1, according to the latest government data.
    - **TFR** indicates the average number of children expected to be born to a woman during her reproductive span of 15-49 years.
- **Education and Population Growth:**
  - **Poverty and illiteracy contribute immensely** to the population explosion.
    - Recent data shows that the **overall literacy rate in the country is about 77.7%.**
    - At the all-India level, the **male literacy rate is higher at 84.7% compared to 70.3% among women.**
  - **Children** in rural areas are **considered as assets**, who will take care of parents at old age, also more children mean more earnings.
  - The level of **female education has a direct impact on fertility**, as it is evidenced that the fertility rate of illiterate women tends to be higher than those who are literate.
  - **Lack of education prevents women from having full knowledge about the use of contraceptives**, of the consequences of frequent childbirth.
- **Unemployment:**
  - High youth **unemployment in India is turning demographic dividend into a demographic disaster for India.**
  - This youth potential is often referred to as the 'demographic dividend' which means that **if the youth available in the country are equipped with quality education and skills training, then they will not only get suitable employment** but can also contribute effectively towards the economic development of the country.

## Way Forward

- Family planning is an effective tool to ensure a stable rise in the population. The **government at all levels- Union, State and Local, citizens, civil societies as well as the businesses must take the onus to promote awareness** and advocate the sexual and reproductive rights of women and encourage the use of contraception.
- There is a **need for well-researched planning and implementation** on how to harness the population growth for the maximum economic benefit of the society and country.
- In order to have a better future for all on a healthy planet, attainment of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) related to poverty, gender equality, economic growth among others is critical.

**[Source: IE](#)**