

**20– 04 – 2023**

**News:** India's population to edge ahead of China's by mid2023, says UN

- India is **set to overtake China to become the world's most populous country by the middle of 2023**, according to data released by the United Nations.
- India's **population is pegged to reach 142.86 crore against China's 142.57 crore**. This shows **India will have 29 lakh more people than its Asian neighbour**.
- The **United States is a distant third, with an estimated population of 34 crore**, the data by the State of World Population Report, 2023 of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) showed.
- The **world's population hit the 800crore mark in November 2022**.

## **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the **United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency**.
- It was **established as a trust fund in 1967 and began operations in 1969**.
- In **1987, it was officially renamed the United Nations Population Fund**. However, the **original abbreviation, UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities)**, was retained.
- The **mandate of UNFPA is established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.

- UNFPA is a **subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly**.
- UNFPA is **entirely supported by voluntary contributions of donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, and foundations and individuals, and not by the United Nations regular budget**.
- UNFPA **works directly to tackle Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health, Goal 4 on education and Goal 5 on gender equality**.

## **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) serves as the **main deliberative, policy-making, and representative organ** of the UN.
- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the **only UN body with universal representation**.
- UNGA is responsible for the **preparation of UN budget, appointing the non-permanent** members to the Security Council, appointing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, receiving reports from other parts of the UN system, and making recommendations through resolutions.
- **Meets annually** (and on special occasions) under its president or UN secretary-general.
- Headquarters- New York City, USA.

- Voting in UNGA- **2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority on important decisions** like admission and suspension/expulsion of members, recommendations on peace& security .Non major decisions are made on **majority vote**.
- **Each member has one vote**. Countries are seated alphabetically in the General Assembly according to English translations of the countries' names. The country which occupies the front-most left position is determined annually by the Secretary-General via ballot draw. The remaining countries follow alphabetically after it.
- In 2015, UNGA set up the **17 Sustainable Development Goals** to be achieved by 2030 by all Nations.
- Decisions of UNGA are taken through a vote.
- Admission of new members and budgetary matters require a two-thirds majority, while the decision on other issues is taken by a simple majority.
- Each **sovereign state gets one vote** and the **votes are not binding on the membership**, except in budgetary matters.
- The Assembly has no binding votes or veto powers like the UN Security Council.

# United Nations Economic and Social Council

## (ECOSOC)

- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible for **coordinating the economic and social fields of the organization**, specifically in regards to the 15 specialized agencies, the eight functional commissions and the five regional commissions under its jurisdiction.
- The Council consists of **54 Members States**, which are **elected yearly by the General Assembly** for overlapping **three-year terms**.
- Seats on the Council are **allotted based on geographical representation** with 14 allocated to African states, 11 to Asian states, six to Eastern European states, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean states and 13 to western European and other states.
- India was a member in ECOSOC from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. **India has been reelected for its next term starting from 2022 along with Afghanistan, Oman and Kazakhstan from Asia - Pacific category.**
- The **president of the Council is elected for a one-year term** and chosen from the small- or mid-sized powers represented on the Council at the beginning of each new session. The presidency rotates among the United Nations Regional Groups to ensure equal representation.

**News:** In a first, Meghalaya schools shut due to prevailing heatwave

- After Tripura, Meghalaya has announced the closure of all educational institutions in parts of the State due to a heatwave.
- This is the first such instance for a State known more for its pleasant weather and ample rain.

## Heat Waves

- A Heat Wave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season in the North-Western parts of India.
- Heat Waves typically occur between March and June, and in some rare cases even extend till July.
- The extreme temperatures and resultant atmospheric conditions adversely affect people living in these regions as they cause physiological stress, sometimes resulting in death.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has given the following criteria for Heat

Waves:

- Heat Wave need not be considered till the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions.

- When the normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to **40°C** Heat Wave Departure from normal is 5°C to 6°C Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is **7°C or more**.
- When the **normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C** Heat Wave Departure from normal is 4°C to 5°C Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 6°C or more.
- When the **actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more irrespective of normal maximum temperature, heat waves should be declared**.
- Higher daily peak temperatures and longer, more intense heat waves are becoming increasingly frequent globally due to climate change.

### **Health Impacts of Heat Waves**

- The health impacts of Heat Waves typically involve dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke.

The signs and symptoms are as follows:

- **Heat Cramps: Edema (swelling) and Syncope (Fainting) generally accompanied by fever** below 39°C or 102°F.
- **Heat Exhaustion:** Fatigue, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps and sweating.

- Heat Stroke: **Body temperatures of 40°C / 104°F** or more along with delirium, seizures or coma.
- This is a potential fatal condition.