



AS IT IS

## Report: India to Surpass China as Most Populous Country in 2023

July 12, 2022

A new United Nations report says that India will pass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.

The world's population is estimated to reach 8 billion by November 15, the report said. The report also said that number could grow to 8.5 billion in 2030, and to 10.4 billion in 2100.

India's population was 1.21 billion in 2011. That number is from India's official population count, or census. The census is carried out once every 10 years. The government delayed the 2021 census because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The world's population was growing at its slowest rate since 1950 and fell below 1 percent in 2020, UN estimates showed.

In 2021, the average **fertility** of the world's population was 2.3 births per woman over a lifetime. That is down from about 5 births per woman in 1950. Worldwide fertility is expected to decrease further to 2.1 births per woman by 2050.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a statement, "This is an occasion to celebrate our **diversity**...and **marvel** at advancements in health that have extended lifespans and **dramatically** reduced **maternal** and child mortality rates."

Guterres noted that a growing population was a reminder of a shared responsibility of care for the planet. He added that we should "**reflect** on where we still fall short of our commitments to one another."

The UN report said worldwide life expectancy at birth fell to 71 years in 2021. That is down from 72.8 years in 2019, mostly because of deaths related to the coronavirus pandemic.

The United Nations said more than half of the expected increase in worldwide population through 2050 will be centered in eight countries. Those countries are India, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania and the Philippines.

The population of 61 countries is expected to decrease by 1 percent or more between 2022 and 2050 because of a decrease in fertility levels.

I'm Jonathan Evans.

*Manoj Kumar reported on this story for the Reuters news service. Jonathan Evans adapted this story for Learning English.*

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## Words in This Story

**fertility** – *n.* the birth rate of a population

**diversity** – *n.* the condition or fact of being different

**marvel** – *v.* to feel astonishment or wonder

**dramatically** – *adv.* done in a sudden or extreme way

**maternal** – *adj.* of or relating to a mother

**reflect** – *v.* to think seriously and carefully about

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