

SIZING UP A WORLD OF SEVEN BILLION

The UN's forecasters have estimated that today the world's population passes the 7 billion mark. Seven hundred crore is a staggering number, and we had some fun compiling this list to help put the idea of that many people into perspective.

(Please note, when dealing with a crowd of 7 billion people of varying age, sex, height, appetite, fitness level, and shoe size, the endeavour is far from exact. These calculations are based on best estimates and averages.)

IS THERE A SPACE CRUNCH?

If the world's 7 billion people lived in one city, how large would that city be, if it were as dense as...



...MANILA

POP. DENSITY (Sq km) **43,079**

The whole world's population will fit in Orissa state

...MUMBAI

POP. DENSITY (Sq km) **20,694**

All the people can be accommodated in Rajasthan

...PARIS

POP. DENSITY (Sq km) **20,980**

The entire population will fit in the state of Maharashtra

...DELHI

POP. DENSITY (Sq km) **7,423**

All the people will fit in Maharashtra, UP and MP

...ZURICH

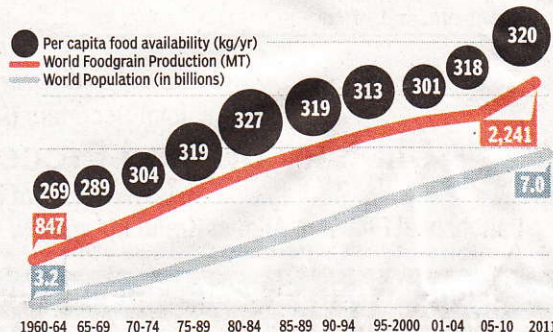
POP. DENSITY (Sq km) **3,900**

The world's most livable city. All the people will fit in half of India



IS THERE FOOD SHORTAGE?

Although, there are more than double the amount of people living in the world today than 50 years ago, the foodgrain production has kept pace with growing demand. Today, there is more food available per capita than 50 years ago



7 BIGGEST POPULATION MILESTONES

1805

1bn Just a few years after Thomas Malthus predicted the demise of humans by overpopulation and famine, the 1 billionth person was born

1900

1.65bn The dawn of 20th century marked the beginning of a 100-year baby boom. Though, the current population explosion is happening in Asia, in 1900s, US was on top

1927

2bn In the interim between the two world wars, the Western world, and in particular the United States, experienced an era of prosperity and kept fuelling the population boom

1959

3bn It took more than a century to get from 1 billion people to 2 billion people, but just 32 years to add another billion

1974

4bn Fifteen years and another billion—the time between billions was getting shorter. The time it took for the population to double was decreasing

1987

5bn When the world population hit the 5-bn mark, some demographers were still insisting that the globe could not support even that many people

1999

6bn Developed economies were still booming, but the population explosion baton has changed hands from Western countries to Asia