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## UP: India's unique state with a population larger than 190 countries

It is undoubtedly a unique aspect that a state in India is so populous.

The number of countries that have a population higher than Uttar Pradesh, can be counted on fingers.

UP has nearly 100 million more people than Russia and the state has more population than UK, France and Germany combined.

Its districts are bigger in population to several states of the country.

This is the reason that there have been repeated demands in the past to divide the state into four or five units for the sake of better administration and ease of governance.



Uttar Pradesh, India

### REAL ISSUE

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It's termed as the heart of India but what makes Uttar Pradesh or UP really unique is that the state has a population more than nearly 190 countries in the world.

Uttar Pradesh is just one of the states in India, not even the biggest in terms of area, but when it comes to is home to more people than most of the countries, except four.

Current estimates suggest that the North Indian state has a population of around 246 million, though other estimates even suggest that UP has close to 260 million.

This is much more than the combined population of United Kingdom (UK), France and Germany.

No wonder, as a state it has tremendous influence in Indian politics as it accounts for highest number of electorate and also the maximum number of constituencies in the Parliament. But this huge population is also a big challenge.

as Uttar Pradesh has districts with population Between 5 million and 6 million [bigger than many countries of the world].

It's a colossal task to run after affairs of a State that has so many citizens that it could fit in top five countries of the world.

The countries with highest population the world apart from India, include China, United States of America, Indonesia et al.

Uttar Pradesh remains this big in population, after a state Uttarakhand, was carved out of it in 2000.

Still, it has nearly 250 million people as per latest estimates. On the other hand, there are certain states that have a population much less than a district of Uttar Pradesh.

This is a major discrepancy as a state has Assembly and legislators. The number of countries in the world is close to 200. United Nations recognizes 193 (195) countries though there are certain others too like Taiwan. Many would be surprised to know that Goa, a state on the Western coast, is smaller than an average district of UP. On law-and-order, education, health, social sector, providing services to citizens and managing health sector,

it all becomes a big task, due to the tremendous size, in terms of populace as well as density in the region.

In recent past, there were voices in favour of the demand to divide UP into four or five separate states for the sake of governance.

The regions include Western Uttar Pradesh that includes Rohilkhand, Awadh, Purwanchal or Eastern UP and Bundelkhand.

But as a state with highest number of seats in the Lok Sabha [Lower house of parliament], a decision in this regard is a political hot potato. UP's 80 seats are crucial to form government.

It is a state that is known for cities like Lucknow and Agra. The Taj Mahal is a wonder of the world and a monument that draws tourists from all over the world.

In colonial era, it was known as United Provinces of Agra and Oudh [Awadh]. Over the years, the population of the state kept growing and though the fertility rates have gone down in most regions of the country, UP and Bihar still have comparatively higher TFR. Bihar, especially, has a higher population growth rate compared to other states.

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## Mark Carney leads the Liberals to victory in Canada soon after Trump's harsh rhetoric

*Just when it seemed that Liberals were losing support, US' tariff policies and Donald Trump's statements irked Canadians. The changed sentiment played a role in Carney's win.*

The Asian Tribune

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Mark Carney has led Liberals to victory in the recently held elections in Canada.

After Trudeau seemed lost base and it appeared that there was a growing disenchantment with the Liberals, party suddenly got a new lease of life.

Carney who was the head of Bank of England earlier, seems to have benefited from Trump's harsh stand against Canada.

On one hand, the United States was aggressively going ahead with tariff and trade policies, The President Donald Trump's harsh rhetoric turned the fortunes for the Liberals. The Canadians were upset over Trump's statements regarding Canada.

This was the reason for a wave of nationalism and sense of self-respect that the country rallied behind Carney.

He clearly said that Canada will never be part of United States.



Actually, Donald Trump's statements and the reference to Canada that it would be the 51<sup>st</sup> state of America, had angered the Canadians.

It was this reason that there was again a surge in support for the Liberals though support had weakened after Trudeau's long reign. Unable to digest aggressive statement from the neighbor, Canadian citizens backed Carney.

The party did remarkably well though it is still a minority government.

But the banker turned leader, who has wide experience in the field of finance, well, has come out as a strong face for Ottawa.

Carney has got the mandate. When he said that 'Canada will never ever be part of the United States', he was seen as a pragmatic and practical leader who could

boldly take on the neighbor which was acting like a bully. In a way, the vote is a backlash against US' effort to dominate the other countries.

Canada and America are two of the biggest countries in the continent and they have joint interests.

Carney's party secured 169 seats and though it will need support of other parties, still, it is a sign that residents of Canada are not at all ready to accept the American dominance.

The image of a tough man, a hard negotiator, and as a person with sound economic knowledge, as well as experience, the new Prime Minister would be a hard nut to crack.

US will have to deal with the nation that is currently going through a phase of nationalism. Canada's soft power, stand & its alliances in the global order, would be watched with interest in the days to come.

### MUST READ

## Tensions between India and Pakistan high, world watches

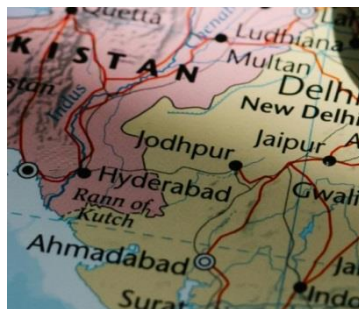
The Asian Tribune

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The global community is closely watching the developments in South Asia in wake of the Pahalgam attack.

As the tensions keep rising between India and Pakistan, the world is concerned due to the fact that both the South Asian countries have fought wars against each other in the past.

After tourists were killed in the strike, the rhetoric and leaders' statements have raised the temperature. Both the countries nuclear weapons and have history



of bitter conflicts over the last seven decades. Hence, the international community has been watchful of the developments, keeping close eye.

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