

January - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ New Zealand has achieved the top spot in the Test cricket rankings.
 - It achieved this feat for the first time in the rankings' history.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the sign the agreement between India and Japan on 'Specified Skilled Worker'.
 - It will facilitate the mobility of workers and skilled professionals from India to Japan.

NATIONAL

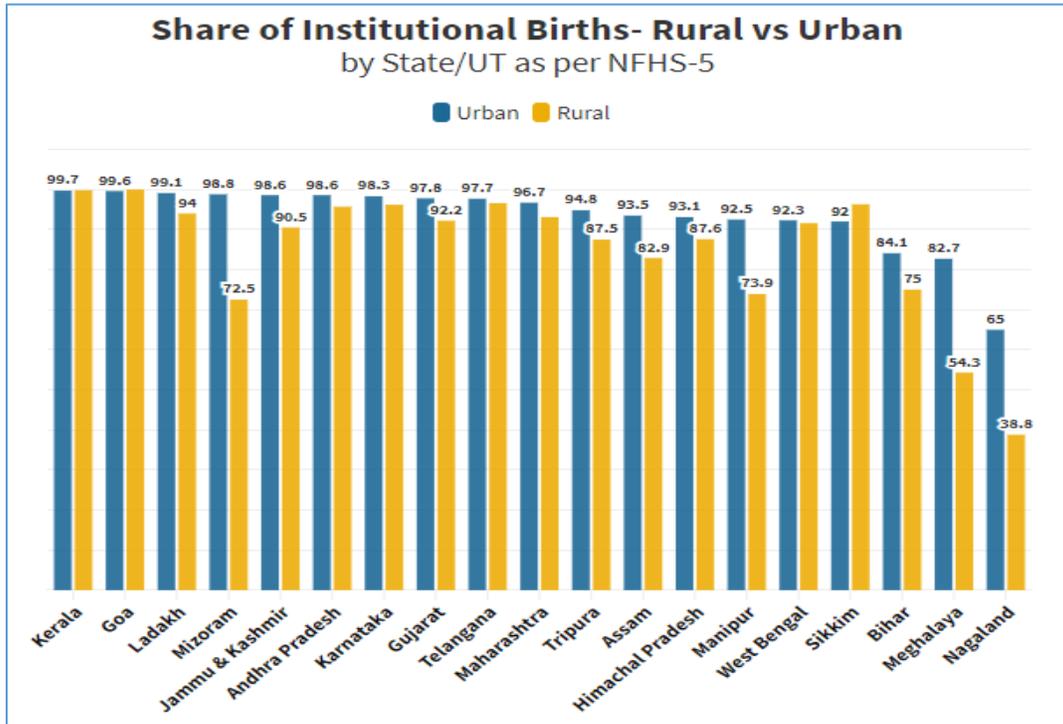
Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) Lab

- ❖ The Minister for Science & Technology, Health & Family Welfare and Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan recently virtually inaugurated CEPI Lab.
- ❖ It is one of seven labs globally designated as centralised network labs of the CEPI.
- ❖ It is established at Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad, Haryana.
- ❖ The laboratory is also accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).
- ❖ All Covid-19 vaccine developers can use this network for free to assess immunogenicity of their vaccine candidate.
- ❖ The CEPI is an innovative partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil organisations.
- ❖ It was launched at Davos in 2017 to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.

NFHS 5 findings

- ❖ The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has set up a technical expert group to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey 5 (NFHS 5).
- ❖ It released the Factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition.
- ❖ The first phase of NFHS 5 covers the 22 states and Union Territories in the period of 2019-20.

- ❖ Four rounds of NFHS (1992–93, 1998–99, 2005–06 and 2015–16) have been successfully completed in India.
- ❖ All the rounds of NFHS have been conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai.



Key Findings

- ❖ The replacement level of fertility (2.1) has been achieved in 19 out of the 22 States/UTs.
- ❖ Only 3 states Manipur (2.2), Meghalaya (2.9) and Bihar (3.0) have Total Fertility Rate above the replacement levels now.
- ❖ Overall Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) is the highest in Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal (74%).
- ❖ More than two-third of children are fully immunized in all the States and UTs except Nagaland, Meghalaya and Assam.
- ❖ Sikkim, Assam, Goa and Jammu & Kashmir witnessed a steep decline in Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR).
- ❖ Meghalaya, Manipur and Andaman & Nicobar Island reported increase in all the three categories of child mortality – NMR, IMR and U5MR.
- ❖ Among all the surveyed states and UTs, Bihar displayed the highest prevalence in Infant and child mortality in all three categories, while the lowest death rate was reported in Kerala.



- ❖ Infant and child mortality declined in most of the Indian states.
- ❖ Majority of the states are in normal sex ratio of 952 or above.
- ❖ It is below 900 in Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Dadra Nagar Haveli & Diu Daman.
- ❖ The children born between 2014 and 2019 are more malnourished than the previous generation.
- ❖ Though India displayed improvement in child malnutrition between NFHS 3 (2005-06) and NFHS 4 (2015-16), the nation has now taken U-turn for the worse in terms of malnutrition among children.
- ❖ The percentage of men with high or very high blood glucose is highest in Kerala (27%) followed by Goa (24%).

INTERNATIONAL

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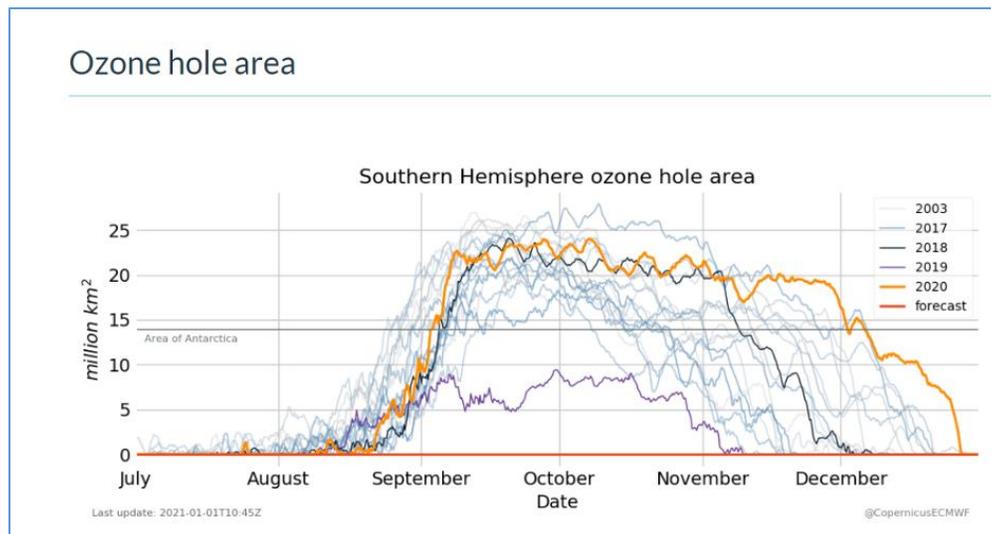
- ❖ The World Health Organisation recently announced that the United Kingdom covid-19 variant has been detected in more than 41 countries.
- ❖ It was first detected in South Africa.
- ❖ The National Institute of virology, Pune has successfully isolated this virus.
- ❖ India launched recently INSACOG (Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genetic Consortium) labs.
- ❖ It is a consortium of ten labs namely NIBMG Kolkata, ILS Bhubaneswar, NIV Pune, CCS Pune, CCMB Hyderabad, CDFD Hyderabad, InSTEM Bengaluru, NIMHANS Bengaluru, IGIB Delhi, NCDC Delhi.

ENVIRONMENT

Antarctic Ozone Hole

- ❖ One of the deepest and the largest gap in the ozone layer - Antarctic ozone hole - has closed.
- ❖ The annually occurring ozone hole over the Antarctic had rapidly grown from mid-August and peaked in early October 2020.
- ❖ The expansion of the hole was driven by a strong, stable and cold polar vortex and very cold temperatures in the stratosphere.
- ❖ The same meteorological factors also contributed to the record 2020 Arctic ozone hole, which has also closed.

- ❖ A polar vortex is a wide expanse of swirling cold air, a low-pressure area, in Polar Regions.
- ❖ During winters, the polar vortex at the North Pole expands, sending cold air southward.
- ❖ An ozone hole is the thinning of the ozone layer
- ❖ It was boosted in size by colder temperatures.
- ❖ As the temperatures high up in the stratosphere starts to rise, ozone depletion slows, the polar vortex weakens and breaks down.
- ❖ Human-made chemicals migrate into the stratosphere and accumulate inside the polar vortex.
- ❖ It begins to shrink in size as warmer temperatures dominate.
- ❖ The 2020 Antarctic hole was unprecedented as the polar vortex kept the temperature of the ozone layer cold.



Bird Flu outbreak in India

- ❖ The Bird Flu in India has been reported in wild Geese in Himachal Pradesh, ducks in Kerala, crows in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It also reported in Haryana.
- ❖ Bird Flu is a contagious viral disease caused by Influenza Type A virus.
- ❖ There are several types of Influenza Type A virus.
- ❖ The H5N1 strain was the first Influenza virus to infect humans.
- ❖ According to the World Health Organization, the H5N1 does not spread from person to person.

- ❖ The virus is highly sensitive to heat and dies in cooking temperature.

