

## Current Affairs=01-08-2020

### INDIA'S YOUNG POPULATION

The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India released data on Young Population as part of the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2018 report.

#### UP, BIHAR HAVE YOUNGEST POPULATION

State	Total	Male	Female
<b>States With Lowest Under-25 Population (as % of total)</b>			
Kerala	37.4	39.6	35.5
Tamil Nadu	37.8	38.1	37.4
Andhra Pradesh	38.8	38.9	38.9
<b>States With Highest Under-25 Population</b>			
Jharkhand	51.9	52.6	51.1
Uttar Pradesh	52.7	53.1	52
Bihar	57.2	57.4	56.9

#### Key findings:

- For the first time, more than half of India's population, irrespective of gender or whether it's in urban or rural areas, is now 25 years or older.

- Overall, the under-25s in 2018 constituted 46.9% of the population.

Nationally, 46.3% of the

female population was below 25 years of age compared to 47.4% of males.

- Even among rural men, the proportion of those below 25 years of age had fallen to 49.9% from 50.2% in 2017. In all other categories — urban women, urban men and rural women — those under 25 already constituted less than half the population.
- As India's fertility rate goes down steadily along with a rise in life expectancy, the proportion of its young population is shrinking and the median age has been increasing.
- However, Bihar, with the highest fertility rate of 3.2, had the highest proportion of its population below 25 years, 57.2%, followed by UP with the second-highest fertility rate of 2.9, where the under-25 year population was 52.7%.

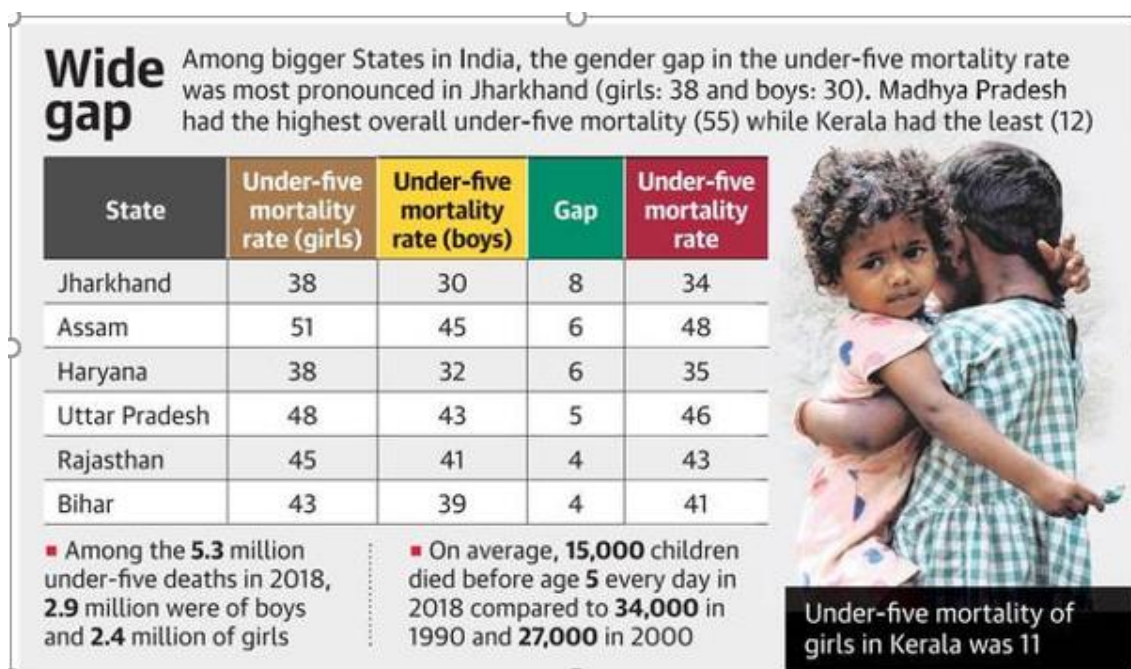
### UNDER-5 MORTALITY

The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India released data on Deaths in the 0-4 year age group as part of the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2018 report.

#### Key findings:



- Madhya Pradesh has the highest under-five mortality rate of 56 and Kerala has the lowest of 10. Under-five mortality rate is the probability of dying before 5 years of age for every 1,000 newborns.



- Deaths in the 0-4 year age group account for 20% of total deaths in Madhya Pradesh. In contrast, deaths in this age group account for just 2% of total deaths in Kerala.
- Other than Madhya Pradesh, the proportion of deaths in the 0-4 age group is also high in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar in that order i.e. states with poor development indices.
- Other than Kerala, the proportion of deaths in the 0-4 age group is low in Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra in that order.
- In India as a whole and in most states, the deaths in the 0-4 age group constitute a **higher proportion of total deaths in rural than in urban areas**, except in a few states such as Uttarakhand and Punjab, where the proportion is higher in urban areas.

## HONG KONG SECURITY LAW

China has unveiled a sweeping new national security law for Hong Kong giving China more controls on city state. The law is aimed at the pro-democracy movement that had captured global attention since last year.



#### About:

- Titled ‘The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’, the legislation passed by the Chinese parliament has been made a part of Hong Kong’s Basic Law.

- **The new law includes the following as offences:** Secession, Subversion, Terrorist Activities, and Collusion with a Foreign Country or with External Elements to Endanger National Security.
- All four offences can invite **life imprisonment as the maximum punishment**, followed by lesser penalties.
- Taking aim at the perceived involvement of foreigners in city politics, **the law also allows the prosecution of persons who are not the residents of Hong Kong** for committing an offence under the law outside Hong Kong.
- Mainland China will establish a new department in Hong Kong called the ‘**Office for Safeguarding National Security**’. With Beijing’s approval, the Office would be able to take over jurisdiction from the city’s independent law courts in “a serious situation”
- In cases that are taken over by the Office, prosecutors as well as adjudicators will be appointed by mainland China, and **Chinese procedural laws would apply**.
- The far-reaching law has been criticised by the United States as “**draconian**”. The United Kingdom has also called its passing a “**grave step**”.

#### Background:

- A former British colony, Hong Kong was handed over to mainland China in 1997, becoming one of its Special Administrative Regions.
- It is governed by a mini-constitution called the Basic Law — which affirms the principle of “one country, two systems”, and upholds Hong Kong’s liberal

policies, system of governance, independent judiciary, and individual freedoms for a period of 50 years from 1997.

## Operation Breathing Space: India-Israel



Recently, an Israeli team arrived in India with a multi-pronged mission, codenamed Operation Breathing Space to work with Indian authorities on the Covid-19 response.

### Key Points

#### Development of Test Kits:

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel's defence ministry research and development team are working together to develop four different kinds of rapid testing kit for Covid-19 which can give the result within 30 seconds.

### Types of Tests:

1. The tests include an audio test, a breath test, thermal testing, and a polyamino test which.
2. In the audio test, a patient's voice would be recorded and evaluated through artificial intelligence and machine learning.
3. In the breath test the patient will blow into a tube that will detect the virus using terra-hertz (high frequency) waves.
4. Thermal testing will enable identification of the virus in a saliva sample.
5. Polyamino acids test seeks to isolate proteins related to Covid-19.

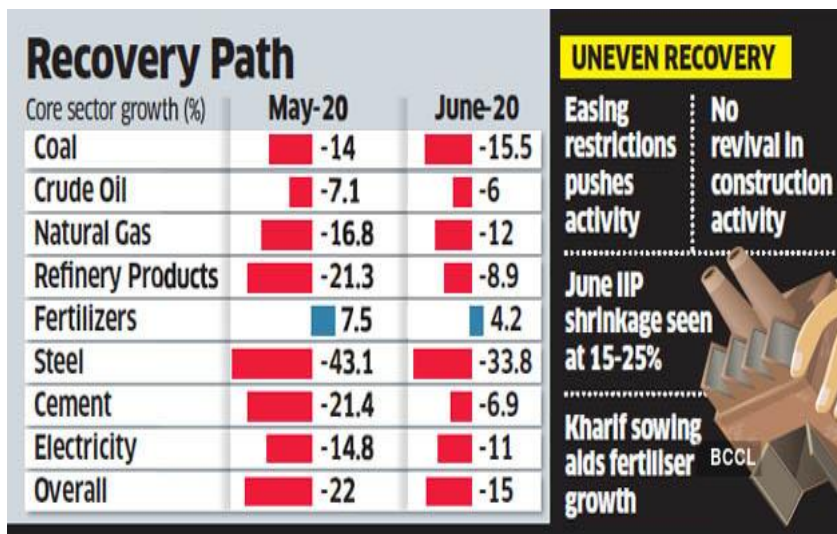
## Contraction in Core Sector Industries

The output of eight core industries contracted for the **fourth consecutive month** - shrinking by 15% in June 2020.

- The eight core sector industries are **coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.**
- These eight industries account for **40.27% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).**

### Key Points

▪ **Contraction in Total Output:**



During April-June 2020, the sector's output **dipped by 24.6%** as compared to a positive growth of 3.4% in the same period previous year.

However, 15% contraction in June 2020 **implies some economic recovery** as in May 2020, the

industries' output contracted by 22%.

Economists expect the **negative trend to continue for at least two more months.**

**Industry-wise Performance:**

The **fertiliser industry is the only one which saw actual growth** in June, with output rising 4.2% in comparison to June 2019.

This, however, is lower than the May 2020 growth of 7.5%, but reflects the positive outlook in the agriculture sector where a normal monsoon is leading to expectations of a good kharif crop.

Rest seven sectors – coal (-15.5%), crude oil (-6.0), natural gas (-12%), refinery products (-9%), steel (-33.8%), cement (-6.9%), and electricity (-11%) – recorded negative growth in June.

The **steel sector continues to remain the worst performer**, with a 33% drop in production in comparison to the previous year.