

Over 67,000 babies will be born in India in 2020 on New Year's Day

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New Delhi,

An estimated 67,385 babies will be born in India, in 2020 on New Year's Day, UNICEF said today. Indian babies will account for 17 per cent per cent of the estimated 392,078 babies to be born globally on New Year's Day.

"The beginning of a new year and a new decade is an opportunity to reflect on our hopes and aspirations not only for our future, but the future of those who will come after us," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. "As the calendar flips each January, we are reminded of all the possibilities and potential of each child embarking on her or his life's journey—if they are just given that chance."

Fiji in the Pacific will most likely deliver 2020's first baby. The United States, its last. Globally, over half of these births are estimated to take place in eight countries:

India — 67,385

China — 46,299

Nigeria — 26,039

Pakistan — 16,787

Indonesia — 13,020

The United States of America — 10,452

The Democratic Republic of Congo — 10,247

Ethiopia — 8,493

Each January, UNICEF celebrates babies born on New Year's Day, an auspicious day for child birth around the world. Babies born today share their birthday with global icons like, famous physicist Satyendra Nath

Bose born on 1st January 1894, or well-known Bollywood actor, Vidya Balan born on 1st January 1979.

However, for millions of newborns around the world, the day of their birth is far less auspicious.

In 2018, 2.5 million newborns died in just their first month of life; about a third of them on the first day of life. Among those children, most died from preventable causes such as premature birth, complications during delivery, and infections like sepsis. In addition, more than 2.5 million babies are born dead each year.

Over the past three decades, the world has seen remarkable progress in child survival, cutting the number of children worldwide who die before their fifth birthday by more than half. But there has been slower progress for newborns. Babies dying in the first month accounted for 47 per cent of all deaths among children under five in 2018, up from 40 per cent in 1990.

UNICEF's Every Child Alive campaign calls for immediate investment in health workers with the right training, who are equipped with the right medicines to ensure every mother and newborn is cared for by a safe pair of hands to prevent and treat complications during pregnancy, delivery and birth.

"Too many mothers and newborns are not being cared for by a trained and equipped midwife or nurse, and the results are devastating," added Fore. "We can ensure that millions of babies survive their first day and live into this decade and beyond if every one of them is born into a safe pair of hands."

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