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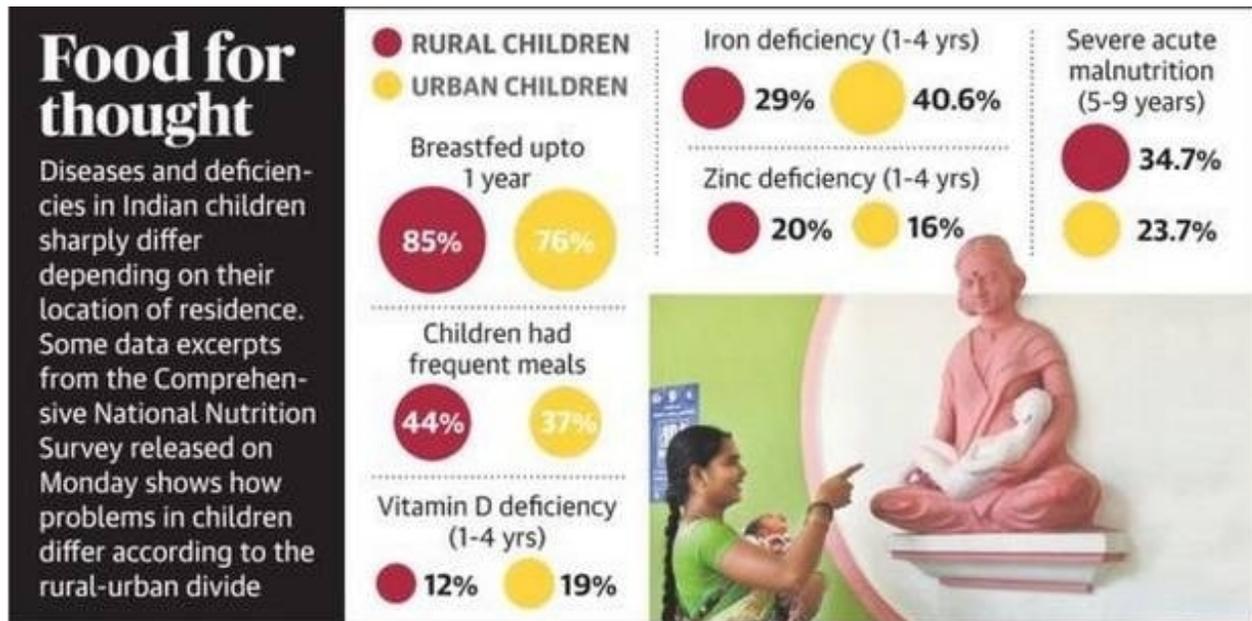
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National Nutrition Survey

The first-ever comprehensive National Nutrition Survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and **the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)** to measure the level of malnutrition in India.

The **Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey** is the **largest** micronutrient survey implemented **globally** to assess nutrient deficiency among children for the **first time in India**.

Key Findings



- **Breastfeeding:**
 - 83% of children between 12 and 15 months continued to be breastfed in the country.
 - **A higher proportion of children (12-15 months) residing in rural areas are breastfed (85%) compared to children in urban areas (76%).**
 - Breastfeeding is **inversely proportional** to **household wealth**.
 - The **rural children receive meals more frequently** (44%) as compared to 37% of urban children.
 - **Higher proportion of children residing in urban** areas (26.9%) are **fed an adequately diverse diet** as compared to those in rural areas (19%).
- **Iron Deficiency:**

Children and adolescents **residing in urban areas** have a **higher** (40.6%) **prevalence of iron deficiency** compared to their rural counterparts (29%) due to a better performance of the government's health programmes in rural areas.
- **Vitamin D Deficiency:**

Higher deficiency of Vitamin D in urban areas (19%) is observed compared to rural areas (12%). This is despite 74% of children living in cities consume dairy products as compared to 58% in rural areas.
- **Zinc deficiency:**
 - The **rural children lag** in the intake of zinc which causes diarrhea, growth retardation, loss of appetite and impaired immune function.
 - Among children aged **1-4 years, zinc deficiency is more common in rural areas** (20%) compared to urban areas (16%).
- **Obesity:**
 - 14.5% of children in the age group of 5 to 9 years in urban areas have higher **Subscapular Skinfold Thickness (SSFT)** than 5.3% in rural areas.
 - Whereas 10.4% of adolescents surveyed in urban areas in the age group of 10-19 had higher SSFT than 4.3% in rural areas.
 - **Subscapular Skinfold Thickness (SSFT)** measurement is a reliable, cheap, simple, noninvasive method of body fat estimation at all ages including the neonatal period.
- **Stunting:**
 - Overall 35 % of Indian children aged 0-4 years were stunted.
 - Rural areas witnesses a higher prevalence of **stunting** (37%) versus 27% in urban areas.
 - Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh have a high (37-42 %) stunting prevalence.
 - The lowest prevalence of stunting (16-21 %) was found in Goa and Jammu and Kashmir.

- **Severe Acute Malnutrition:**
 - 34.7% in rural areas for children in 5-9 years versus 23.7% in urban areas.
 - 32.4% in rural areas for adolescents in 10-19 years versus 27.4% in urban areas.
- Considering the overall scenario the **rural parts of the country** face a higher percentage of children suffering from stunting, underweight and wasting compared to urban parts of the country.
- The survey also reveals that **Indian children are facing the double burden of malnutrition and rising risk of non-communicable diseases** including diabetes, high cholesterol, chronic kidney disease, and hypertension.

Source:TH

UNHRC's UPR

The government is forming a task force to prepare a **National Action Plan on Human Rights (NAPHR)** as **mandated** under the UN Human Rights Council's **(UNHRC) Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**.

- The task force will involve the **Union Home Ministry and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** and have representatives from ministries such as social justice and health.
- **UPR is a state-driven process under UNHRC's** auspices and provides **opportunities to member states to declare what actions they have taken to improve human rights** and to fulfil their obligations.
- **A review cycle lasts four-and-half years**, during which records of member states are reviewed.
- Earlier in 2017, India **accepted 152 out of 250 recommendations** on human rights. These **pertain to sustainable development goals** related to eliminating poverty, access to safe drinking water, sanitation and improving protection for women and children.
- However, India "noted" and **refused to accept** some recommendations, including those related to the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act** and the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act**.

- Also, earlier, **the UN had already recommended that India should have NAPHR** covering issues such as the rights to health, education, food security, and housing; aspects related to custodial justice; and measures against the trafficking of women and children.
 - NAPHR, once implemented, will help mitigate the criticism India faces at international level when it comes to its human rights record as well as strengthen the social justice system.
 - It will also lead to **stronger administration of justice, strengthening of human rights institutions, and linking of rights with development.**

UN Human Rights Council

- It is an **inter-governmental body** within the United Nations system **responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe** and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.
- It was created by the United Nations General Assembly on **15th March 2006 and replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.**
- It meets at the UN Office at **Geneva.**

Source: HT

87th Air Force Day

The Defence Minister of India formally received the **first Rafale fighter jet (RB-001)** built for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in France on 8th October, 2019, **coinciding with 87th Air Force Day.**

- In **September 2016**, India and France signed a €7.87 billion **Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)** for 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets in fly-away condition.
- As per IGA, deliveries have to begin 36 months from signing of contract and will be completed in 67 months.
- It is expected that India will receive all aircraft by April-May 2022.
- The **RB** in the aircraft designation stands for **IAF Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhaduria** who as then Deputy Chief of IAF led the Indian negotiation team and had a **major role in the contract negotiations.**
- **About Rafale:**
 - It is a **twin-jet fighter aircraft** able to operate from both an aircraft carrier and a shore base.
 - It is a fully versatile aircraft which can carry out all combat aviation missions to achieve air superiority and air defence, close air support, in-depth strikes, reconnaissance, anti-ship strikes and nuclear deterrence.

- **India's Preparation:**

- The IAF has already completed preparations, including required infrastructure and training of pilots.
- The aircraft will be deployed at **Ambala air force station**, considered one of the most strategically located bases of the IAF. The Indo-Pak border is around 220 km from there.
- The **second squadron** of Rafale will be stationed at **Hasimara base in West Bengal**.

87th Air Force Day

- The Indian Air Force was officially **established on 8th October 1932**.
- With around 1, 70,000 personnel and 1,500 aircraft, IAF is the **fourth largest air force** in the world after the US, Russia and China.
- **Every year**, the Air Force Day is **celebrated at Hindon base** in the presence of the IAF chief and senior officials of the three armed forces.

IAF's Hindon Air Force Station, situated near Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) is the **largest in Asia** and **8th largest in the world**.
- This year the event saw IAF's newest acquisitions—US-made **Chinook heavy-lift helicopters** and **Apache attack helicopters**—in the customary flypast.

The Air Chief Marshal also made a reference to the **Balakot Strikes**.

Source: TH
