

expanded to other health centres across the country.

## ■ **India's Female Infant Mortality Rate Drops to Same Level as that of Males**

India's female infant mortality rate (IMR) has dropped to same level as that of males, according to the Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2020. However in sixteen states, IMR remained higher for female babies than male but the gap had reduced since 2011. Chhattisgarh had the highest gap in 2020, with a male infant mortality rate of 35 compared to female infant mortality rate of 41. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has said that efforts made towards Beti Bachao Beti Padhao through an integrated approach encompassing advocacy, healthcare and education is breaking the gender bias and resulting in improved numbers across all parameters.