

SLUMP IN BIRTHS IN KERALA DURING PANDEMIC

India was projected to record the highest number of births in the 9 months since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic in March 2020, but the southern state of Kerala tells a different story

■ A state government data indicated that Kerala is facing a slump in births during the pandemic, **contrary to the prediction that the lockdown period would witness a baby boom as the couples confined to their homes will engage more in procreation**



UNICEF Picture

37,138

births were witnessed in Kerala in July 2020. **But the state in July 2021 saw a slump in births to 10,684, indicating a sharp decline in the live births during COVID-19 pandemic**

116

million babies will be born under the shadow of COVID-19 pandemic, according to a **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report in March 2020**. These babies were projected to be born up to 40 weeks after COVID-19 was recognised as a pandemic on March 11, the UNICEF report had said

36,414

births were recorded by the state in January 2020 but it slumped to 30,335 in January 2021