



Fourth Edition of State Health Index

For Prelims: About the Index, Ranking of States.

For Mains: Challenges of the Health Sector in India and Initiatives taken to address it

Why in News

NITI Aayog has released the **fourth edition** of the **State Health Index for 2019-20**.

- The report, titled “**Healthy States, Progressive India**”, ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status.
- Earlier, the [Global Health Security \(GHS\) Index 2021](#), developed in partnership by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center was released. India, with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The State Health Index is **an annual tool to assess the performance of states and UTs**, which has been compiled and published **since 2017**.
 - It is a weighted composite index **based on 24 indicators** grouped under the domains of ‘**Health Outcomes**’, ‘**Governance and Information**’, and ‘**Key Inputs/Processes**’.
 - **Health Outcomes:**
 - It **includes parameters** such as neonatal mortality rate, under-5 mortality rate, sex ratio at birth.
 - **Governance and Information:**
 - It **includes parameters** such as institutional deliveries, average occupancy of senior officers in key posts earmarked for health.
 - **Key Inputs/Processes:**
 - It **consists of proportion of shortfall in health care providers** to what is recommended, functional medical facilities, birth and death registration and tuberculosis treatment success rate.
- **Developed By:**
 - **NITI Aayog**, with technical assistance from the [World Bank](#), and in close consultation with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
- **Focus of the Fourth Edition:**
 - Round IV of the report focuses on measuring and highlighting the overall performance and incremental improvement of states and UTs over the period 2018-19 to 2019-20.
- **Ranking of States:**
 - To ensure comparison among similar entities, the ranking is **categorized as:**
 - **Larger States:**
 - In terms of annual incremental performance, **Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Telangana** are the top three ranking states.
 - **Smaller States:**

- **Mizoram and Meghalaya** registered the maximum annual incremental progress.
- **Union Territories:**
 - **Delhi, followed by Jammu and Kashmir**, showed the best incremental performance.
- **Overall:**
 - The top-ranking states were **Kerala and Tamil Nadu** among the 'Larger States', **Mizoram and Tripura** among the 'Smaller States', and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DH&DD) and Chandigarh among the UTs.

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Top 5

Rank	2018-19*	2019-20*
1	Kerala	Kerala
2	Andhra Pradesh	Tamil Nadu
3	Tamil Nadu	Telangana
4	Himachal Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
5	Maharashtra	Maharashtra

Bottom 4**

Rank	2018-19*	2019-20*
1	UP	UP
2	Bihar	Bihar
3	MP	MP
4	Jharkhand	Rajasthan

*According to Reference Year

**In ascending order (Lowest first)

▪ Significance of the Index:

◦ Policymaking:

- States use it in their **policy making and resource allocation**.
- This report is an example of both competitive and cooperative federalism.

◦ Healthy Competition:

- The index **encourages healthy competition and cross-learning among States and UTs**.
- The aim is to **nudge states/UTs towards building robust health systems** and improving service delivery.

◦ Helpful in Achieving SDGs:

- The exercise is expected to **help drive state and union territories' efforts** towards the achievement of health-related **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** including those related to **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** and other health outcomes.

◦ Role in National Health Mission:

- The importance of this annual tool is reemphasized by MoHFW's decision to link the index to incentives under the **National Health Mission**.

▪ Limitations of the Index:

◦ Not Covered Critical Areas:

- Some critical areas such as **infectious diseases, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), mental health, governance, and financial risk protection** are not fully captured in the Health Index due to non-availability of acceptable quality of data on an annual basis.

- **Limited Data:**
 - For several indicators, the **data is limited to service delivery in public facilities** due to **paucity and uneven availability of private sector data** on health services.
 - For outcome indicators, such as [Neonatal Mortality Rate](#), Under-five Mortality Rate, [Maternal Mortality Ratio](#) and [Sex Ratio at Birth](#), data are available only for Larger States.
- **Without any Field Verification:**
 - For several indicators, [Health Management Information System \(HMIS\)](#) data and programme data were used without any field verification due to the lack of feasibility of conducting independent field surveys.

Related Initiatives

- [National Health Mission \(NHM\)](#)
- [Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana \(AB PM-JAY\)](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana \(PMSSY\)](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.](#)
- [Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission](#)

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