



NITI Aayog's Annual Health Index 2020-21

Why in News?

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana emerged as the **top performers among the 'larger states'** in the [NITI Aayog's annual 'health index'](#) for the **Covid year of 2020-21**.

What are the Major Highlights of the Index?

▪ Based on Overall Performance:

◦ Larger States:

- Among the **19 'larger states'**, **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana** have occupied first, second and third place respectively, in terms of overall performance.
- **Bihar (19th), Uttar Pradesh (18th) and Madhya Pradesh (17th)** are at the bottom of the list.

◦ Smaller States:

- Among the eight smaller states, **Tripura has recorded the best overall performance**, followed by Sikkim and Goa; Arunachal Pradesh (6th), Nagaland (7th) and Manipur (8th) are at the bottom.

◦ Union Territories(UT):

- And among the eight UTs, **Lakshadweep has been ranked as the top performer** in terms of overall performance, while **Delhi ranked at the bottom**.

▪ Based on Incremental Performance:

- **Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Odisha** emerged as the **top three performers in 2020-21**, as compared to their performance in 2019-20.

What is NITI Aayog's Annual Health Index?

▪ About:

- In 2017, the [National Institution for Transforming India \(NITI Aayog\)](#) in collaboration with the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and the [World Bank](#) initiated an **annual Health Index** for tracking **Overall Performance and Incremental Performance** across all states and Union Territories (UTs).

▪ Objective:

- The objective of the Annual Health Index is to **track and rank progress on health outcomes and health systems performance, develop healthy competition** and encourage cross learning among states and UTs.

▪ Parameters:

- The health index assesses states and UTs on two parameters - **incremental performance (year-on-year progress) and overall performance**.

▪ Categories:

- The ranking is done under three categories: **larger states, smaller states and Union territories (UTs)** to ensure comparison among similar entities.

▪ Composition:

- The **Health Index** is a composite score that reflects the **achievements and incremental improvements of the states and UTs on 24 indicators across three domains:** health outcomes, governance and information, and key inputs and processes.
 - Each domain has been assigned **weight based on its importance with a higher**

score for outcome indicators.

- The 'health outcomes' include indicators like [neonatal mortality rate](#), **total fertility rate**, [sex ratio at birth](#), **immunization coverage**, proportion of institutional deliveries, total case notification rate of tuberculosis, and proportion of people living with **HIV on antiretroviral therapy**.
- The 'governance and information' domain includes indicators like **proportion of institutional deliveries, average occupancy (in months) of three key posts at state level, average occupancy (in months) of the chief medical officer, and days taken for fund transfer**.
- The 'key inputs/ processes' is a **measure of health infrastructure available, including the proportion of functional 24X7 primary healthcare centers**, districts with functional cardiac care units, and vacancies in healthcare provider positions.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. The Government of India has established NITI Aayog to replace the (2015)

- (a) Human Rights Commission
- (b) Finance Commission
- (c) Law Commission
- (d) Planning Commission

Ans: (d)

Exp:

- In 1950, the Planning Commission was formed as an extra-constitutional body that would formulate and implement India's Five Year Plans and allocate funds accordingly to the States; it followed a "Top-Down" approach.
- In 2015, the NDA government through a cabinet resolution dissolved the Planning Commission and replaced it with a new institution - NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) which emphasises on 'Bottom-Up' approach. It serves as a "Think Tank" and States are equal partners in deliberation (unlike in Planning Commission) to promote co-operative federalism.
- The Prime Minister is the Ex-officio chairman. The permanent members of the governing council are all the State Chief Ministers, along with the Chief Ministers of Delhi and Puducherry, the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar, and a vice chairman nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Source: IE

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