



# Decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio

## Why in News

Recently, the **Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS)** has released a **special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18**.

- As per the [World Health Organization](#), maternal death is the **death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy**, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.

## The Office of the Registrar General

- It is under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Apart from conducting the **Population Census** and monitoring the implementation of the **Registration of Births and Deaths** in the country, it has been giving **estimates on fertility and mortality** using the **Sample Registration System (SRS)**.
- SRS is the **largest demographic sample survey** in the country that among other indicators provide direct estimates of maternal mortality through a nationally representative sample.
- **Verbal Autopsy (VA) instruments** are administered for the deaths reported under the SRS on a regular basis to yield a **cause-specific mortality profile** in the country.

## Key Points

- **Maternal Mortality Ratio of the Country:**
  - MMR has **declined to 113** in 2016-18 **from 122** in 2015-17 and 130 in 2014-2016.
  - MMR is defined as the **number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 1,00,000 live births** during the same time period.
  - The target **3.1** of [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) set by the United Nations aims at **reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births**.
- **MMR of Various States:**
  - **Assam (215), Uttar Pradesh (197), Madhya Pradesh (173)**, Rajasthan (164), Chhattisgarh (159), Odisha (150), Bihar (149), and Uttarakhand (99).
  - The southern States registered a lower MMR — Karnataka (92), Andhra Pradesh (65), **Tamil Nadu (60), Telangana (63) and Kerala (43)**.
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - [Janani Suraksha Yojana](#) under the **National Health Mission** to link cash assistance to institutional deliveries.
  - The **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** provides a fixed day for assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care free of cost to pregnant women on 9<sup>th</sup> of every month.

- [Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana](#) and [LaQshya Guidelines](#).

## Way Forward

- Maternal mortality in a region is a **measure of reproductive health of women** in the area.
- The WHO has already appreciated India's efforts in reducing the maternal mortality rate. India needs to give a special focus to states with higher maternal mortality ratio.

[Source: TH](#)

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