

Kerala tops Niti's health index, UP best in incremental performance

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NEW DELHI: Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana emerged among the best three performers in terms of overall performance according to the Niti Aayog's health index while Uttar Pradesh topped the table on incremental performance despite being at the bottom.

For the fourth consecutive round, Kerala emerged as the best performer in terms of overall performance. Among the smaller states, Mizoram emerged as the best performer in overall performance as well as incremental outcome. Among Union territories (UTs), Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir ranked at the bottom in terms of overall performance but emerged as the leading performer in terms of incremental performance.

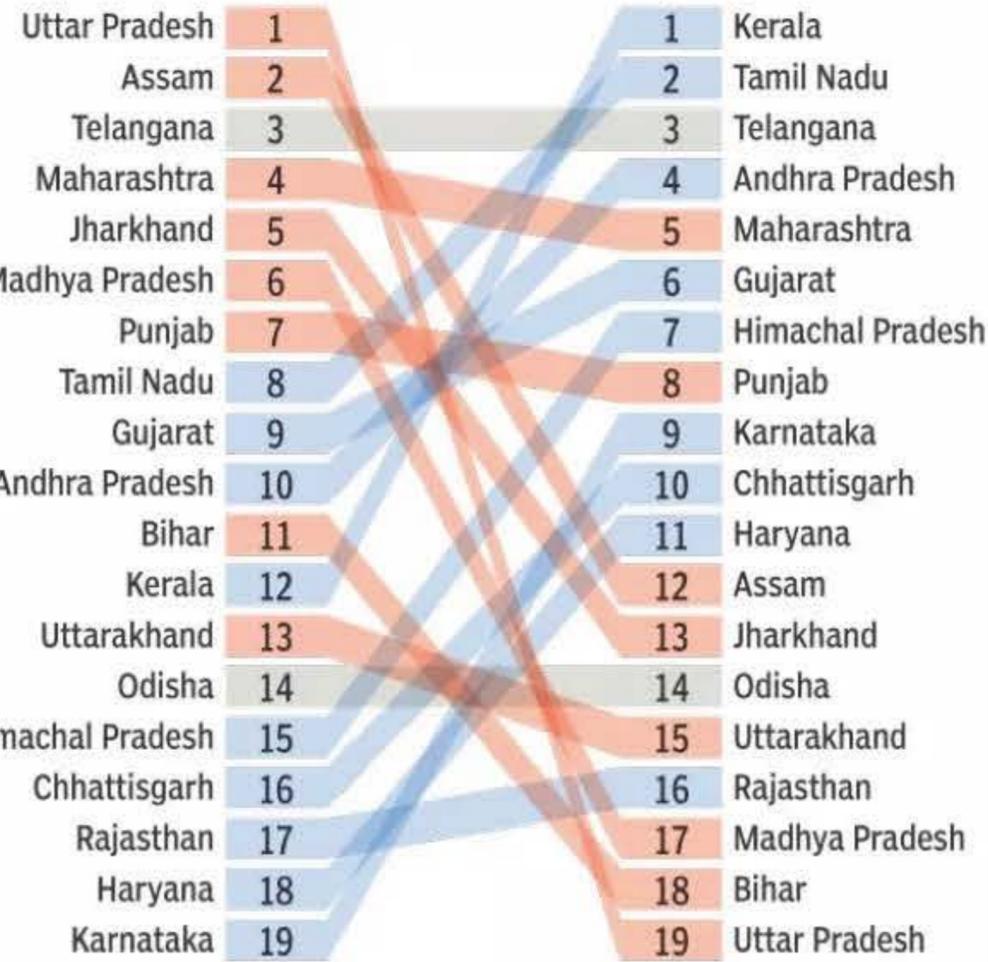
Poll-bound UP has shown a marked improvement in its performance in majority of the indicators. Among the larger states, UP has taken the top

spot in terms of incremental performance by registering the highest incremental change of 5.5 points from the base year (2018-19) to reference year (2019-20).

TN, T'GANA AMONG TOP 3

Incremental rank

Overall reference year rank



Larger States | Overall Reference Year (2019-20) Index Scores and Incremental Change from Base Year (2018-19) to Reference Year (2019-20), with Overall Reference Year and Incremental Ranks; Source: Niti Aayog

A vast majority of the states and UTs have recorded a shift in their overall performance rankings from base year (2018-19) to reference year (2019-20). Among the 19 larger states, four improved their rankings while five states deteriorated and 10 retained their base year (2018-19) ranks. Three out of the eight smaller states improved their rankings, four deteriorated while one retained its base year (2018-19) rank.

Compared to the base year (2018-19), four UTs improved their ranks while that of three UTs deteriorated in the reference year (2019-20).

Assam made the maximum improvement by moving up three ranks (from 15 to 12) while Andaman & Nicobar registered the maximum drop (down from 4 to 7), the report showed. "The pandemic has reinforced the importance of the health sector. Though this round of the health index (Round IV) 2019-20 does not capture the impact of Covid on health outcomes or any of the other indicators, as the index performance relates to the base year (2018-19) and reference year (2019-20), largely the pre-Covid period, it will provide good guidance on areas of improvement to states and UTs," Niti Aayog member Vinod Paul said in the report.

In 2017, the government think tank 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 UTs. The objective of the health index is to track progress on health outcomes and health systems performance, develop healthy competition and encourage cross-learning among states and UTs.