

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 26, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Cauvery water management authority - ordered Karnataka to release 40.43 tmc ft of water to Tamil Nadu for June and July as per the monthly schedule prescribed by the Cauvery water disputes tribunal and later modified by the Supreme Court**
 - ✓ Karnataka has to release 9.1 tmcft in June and 31.24 tmcft in July from the Biligundlu point on the inter-State border to the Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu as per the tribunal order for normal years
 - ✓ The authority, which failed to work out TN's share as per the distress sharing formula during deficit years, deferred discussion on Karnataka's Mekedatu dam plan following Tamil Nadu's protest
 - ✓ In Karnataka's reservoirs, the storage is 8% less than what is normal for this time of the year, while in Tamil Nadu the storage is 41% less than normal.
 - ✓ The quantum of water to be released is in line with the Supreme Court's order on February 16 last year.
 - ✓ While conferring authority on the CWMA to decide on releasing Cauvery water, the Supreme Court said Karnataka's share was 284 tmcft, Tamil Nadu's 404 tmcft, Kerala's 30 tmcft and Puducherry's 7 tmcft.
 - ✓ Besides this, the court reserved 10 tmcft for environmental purposes and 4 tmcft for natural flow into the sea.
- ◆ **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - to lay the foundation stone for the city's third desalination plant at Nemmeli on June 27**
 - ✓ The plant is proposed to treat 150 million litres a day to meet the requirements of south Chennai.
 - ✓ The plant is scheduled for commissioning in 2021
 - ✓ The work order for the ₹1,689 crore project was awarded in the last week of May.
 - ✓ Partly funded by German agency Kfw, the project was cleared by the Union environment ministry last October.

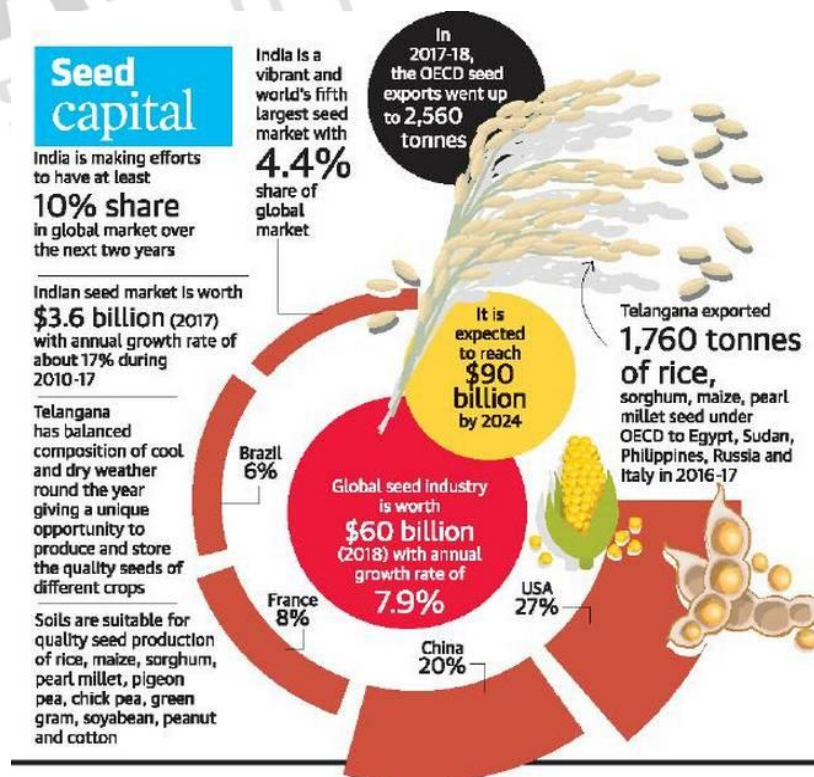
- ✓ The expansion unit has been taken up on a design-build-operate model.
- ✓ Metrowater will bear the cost of every kilolitre of water (between ₹42 and ₹45)
- ✓ The scheme was announced by former chief minister J Jayalalithaa when she commissioned the first plant in Nemmeli in 2012.

◆ **The 10th World Tamil Conference - will be held in Chicago for four days from July 4**

- ✓ The International Association of Tamil Research (IATR), which has been organising WTCs for over five decades, is conducting this mega event in the USA for the first time.
- ✓ The ninth edition was held at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in 2015.
- ✓ Around 6,000 participants are expected to attend the conference in which over 80 research papers in various fields would be presented before the global scholars including Dr Spencer Wells and Prof Dr L Hart
- ✓ At least one minister and 25 Tamil scholars from the State would attend the conference
- ✓ During the conference, Tamil Nadu government is planning to introduce 'Sorkkuvai' project (Treasury of Tamil words)
- ✓ Apart from this, the original text of 'Tholkappiyam' after removing the 'insertions' would be released during the conference.

STATES

◆ **Telangana - to host the triennial International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) congress here from June 26 for the first time in Asia**



- ✓ Experts, scientists, policy makers, researchers and members of the seed industry from over 80 countries will deliberate on seed policies, production and quality aspects.
- ✓ The eight-day congress will have the main event for three days and technical committee meetings/sessions over the next five days

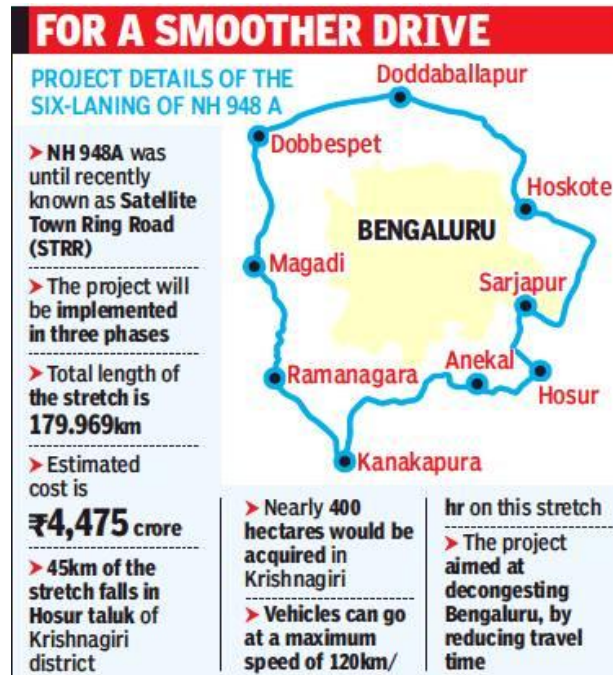
NATIONAL

◆ **The government - is set to introduce changes in the Motor Vehicles Act to introduce stiffer penalties — including fine and jail — for traffic violators**

DRIVE FOR DISCIPLINE		
Offence	Existing penalty	Proposed penalty
Not wearing seatbelt	₹100	₹1,000
Not wearing helmet	₹100	₹1,000 fine, and licence disqualified for 3 months
Not providing way for emergency vehicles	No provision	₹10,000
Driving without licence	₹500	₹5,000
Driving despite disqualification	₹500	₹10,000
Drunk driving	₹2,000	₹10,000
Speeding/racing	₹500	₹5,000
Overloading	₹2,000, and ₹1,000 per extra tonne	₹20,000, and ₹ 2,000 per extra tonne
Offences by juveniles	No provision	Guardian/owner to be deemed guilty; ₹25,000 fine with 3 yrs' jail; cancellation of vehicle registration

- ✓ It is likely to be introduced in Parliament in the next few days
- ✓ The bill provides for a uniform driving licence and vehicle registration processes across states by setting up online national registers.
- ✓ Similarly, there is a provision for holding guardians or owners of vehicles guilty for offences committed by juvenile drivers and even cancelling registration of the vehicle used by them
- ✓ The legislation also proposes giving compensation of up to ₹10 lakh in case of hit-and-run cases
- ✓ It has introduced some new provisions including a penalty of ₹1 lakh on agencies or contractors for faulty roads resulting in fatalities and doubling the fine for personnel in traffic, police and transport departments for violating the norms.
- ✓ Another provision is penalty in the range of ₹25,000 to ₹1 lakh for taxi aggregators violating licensing conditions.

◆ **A newly-declared National highway 948A – to be launched as part of the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) project, designed to decongest Bengaluru**



- ✓ By diverting the heavy vehicles entering the city, the new highway would ensure a safe, efficient and high-speed transport corridor to Bengaluru and adjoining towns
- ✓ The project would involve the six-laning of NH 948A for a stretch of 45km in Tamil Nadu and is estimated to cost Rs 4,500 crore.
- ✓ The authorities were awaiting clearance from the ministry of environment, forest and climate change to take up the project
- ✓ The stretch would be connected to the proposed Chennai-Bengaluru controlled expressway from Hosur Town.
- ✓ It would help road users to reach Chennai within 2.5 hours from Bengaluru.
- ✓ It will be connected to the Chennai Port-Maduravoyal elevated expressway, which is stalled at present

INTERNATIONAL

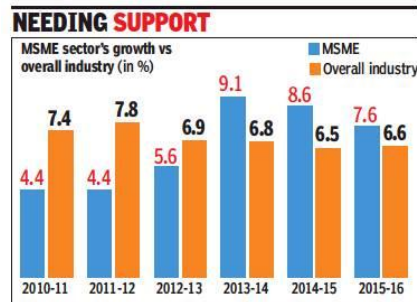
◆ **The Australian government - is launching a campaign 'Zero Chance' to raise awareness among people trying to enter the country illegally by boats.**

- ✓ This is part of a broader campaign that will be rolled out in about 10 countries in the region.
- ✓ According to the campaign, anyone who tries to come illegally to Australia by boat has 'zero chance of success' as they will be turned back

- ✓ Australia has so far turned back 847 people on 35 vessels trying to enter Australia illegally, as part of the Operation Sovereign Borders that has been implemented since 2013

COMMITTEES

- ◆ **A panel constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to suggest measures to develop micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) - has proposed a ₹ 10,000-crore government fund.**



- ✓ The idea is that this will support venture capital and private equity funds investing in the MSME sector.
- ✓ The panel has also recommended a ₹ 5,000-crore distress asset fund to assist in clusters where several small businesses are affected because of external factors, such as a change in environmental laws like plastic ban
- ✓ The panel also suggested that the RBI should increase the limit for non-collateralized loans to ₹ 20 lakh, and this would address a significant proportion of the sector needs.
- ✓ In addition, it also suggested revision in loan limit sanctioned under MUDRA by the Finance Ministry to ₹ 20 lakh from ₹ 10 lakh.
- ✓ The committee has recommended a comprehensive and holistic MSME code in place of the MSMED Act, 2006, replacing present territorial jurisdiction and arbitrary inspection with policy-based monitoring systems
- ✓ Given the role of state governments, the panel wants SIDBI to engage with them.
- ✓ The collaboration of state governments is also seen as crucial in helping MSMEs move up
- ✓ An expert committee on the MSME sector — set up in January under the chairmanship of former Sebi chairman U K Sinha — submitted its report to RBI governor Shaktikanta Das earlier this month

SPORTS

- ◆ **Girish Koushik - became India's 63rd Chess Grand Master at the 37th Balaton International Chess Festival in Hungary.**



- ✓ The 22-year-old — from Mysuru — secured two of the mandatory three GM norms in the last month-and-a-half to join the elite in the sport.
- ✓ Girish had bagged his maiden norm back in 2011 at the World juniors
- ✓ He had completed his second GM norm in Mallorca late in May, and the third in Budapest the following week

◆ **Breakdancing and three other sports – to be included at the Paris 2024 Olympics after the International Olympic Committee voted in favour of their inclusion on June 25**

- ✓ The committee in February proposed surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing as well

RANKINGS

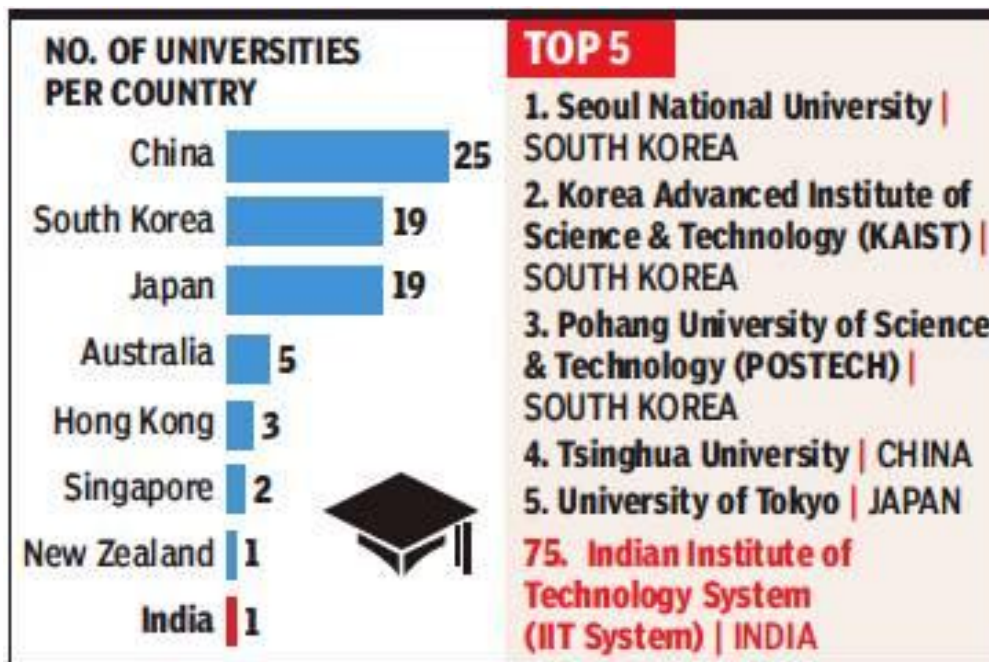
◆ **Kalu police station in Rajasthan’s Bikaner district - has been ranked the best in the country**

SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS	
1 Kalu (Rajasthan)	UNION HOME MINISTRY'S CRITERIA FOR RANKING ▶ Ground survey to collect people's feedback ▶ Quality of investigation ▶ Response time ▶ Crime control ▶ Hygiene at the police stations ▶ Behaviour and attitude of cops ▶ Community policing ▶ Record keeping ▶ Surveillance on criminals
2 Campbell Bay (A&N Islands)	
3 Farakka (West Bengal)	
4 Nettapakkam (Puducherry)	
5 Guderu (Karnataka)	
6 Chopal (Himachal Pradesh)	
7 Lakheri (Rajasthan)	
8 Periyakulam (Tamil Nadu)	
9 Munsyari (Uttarakhand)	
10 Churchorem (Goa)	

- ✓ The report on the 2018 rankings said it possesses all necessary facilities for personnel, a women help desk, drinking water facilities and is equipped with wi-fi servers.
- ✓ The No 2 rank goes to Campbell Bay police station in Nicobar district of Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- ✓ It too boasts of a separate women help desk, a childfriendly room, an IT room and a proper waiting area for the complainants and visitors.
- ✓ Third is Farakka police station in Murshidabad, West Bengal
- ✓ It has facilities like air-conditioners, besides a gymnasium and playground that provide a comfortable environment for publicpolice interaction.
- ✓ The others in the top 10 are Nettapakkam in Puducherry; Gudageri in Dharwad, Karnataka; Chopal in Shimla; Lakheri in Bundi, Rajasthan; Periyakulam in Theni, Munsyari in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand; and Churchorem in South Goa

- ✓ The rankings are based on the performance in crime prevention, investigation and disposal of cases, detection, community policing and maintenance of law & order
- ✓ Around 20% weightage was also given to the police station's infrastructure and citizen feedback on performance of the personnel posted at the police station
- ✓ The rankings of police stations for 2018 was released by the home ministry on June 25
- ✓ The rankings cover 15,666 police stations across the entire country

◆ **The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) - have once again made it to Reuters' list of the most innovative universities in Asia Pacific.**



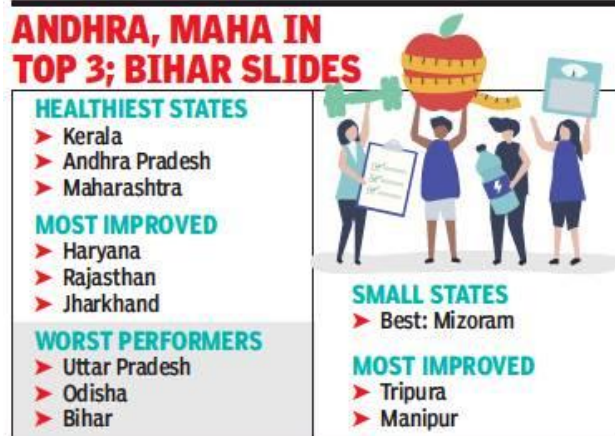
- ✓ However, this year they have slipped four places to finish last in the list of 75 institutions dominated by China and topped by South Korea.
- ✓ The IITs are the only Indian institution that makes the cut, but as last year's report noted, this is because the 23 institutes have a centralised patent administration.
- ✓ IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay may have ranked much higher on the list if they weren't grouped in with smaller and newer institutes like IIT Tirupati and IIT Palakkad

NITI AAYOG'S ANNUAL HEALTH INDEX – A REPORT

◆ **The 2nd edition of Niti Aayog's latest annual health index for the year 2017-18 – was released on June 25**

- ✓ Kerala remains at the top among larger states in terms of various health parameters, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra

- ✓ Kerala, which got an overall score of 74.01, was followed by Andhra Pradesh (65.13), Maharashtra (63.99), Gujarat (63.52) and Punjab (63.01), Himachal Pradesh (62.41), Jammu and Kashmir 62.37, Karnataka (61.14) and Tamil Nadu (60.41).
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh continued to be at the bottom of the list with its score falling to 28.61. Other States at the bottom of the list were Bihar (32.11), Odisha (35.97) and Madhya Pradesh (38.39).



- ✓ Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand top the charts based on incremental performance.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, which occupied third position last year, dropped to ninth rank
- ✓ Tamil Nadu, with a composite index score of 60.41, is among nine States that saw a decline in their position in the rankings from base (2015-16) to reference (2017-18) year.

KEEPING TALLY Institutional deliveries dipped by one point, immunisation coverage by six

Category	Number	Position	For the 2017-18 report the data for the two-year period between 2016 and 2017 is used
Fertility rate	1.6	1	
Neonatal mortality	12	2	
Mortality under age of five	19	2	
Sex ratio at birth	915:1,000	9	
Proportion of institutional deliveries	80.5	11	
Proportion of low birth weight	15.5	19	
Full immunisation coverage	76.1%	20	

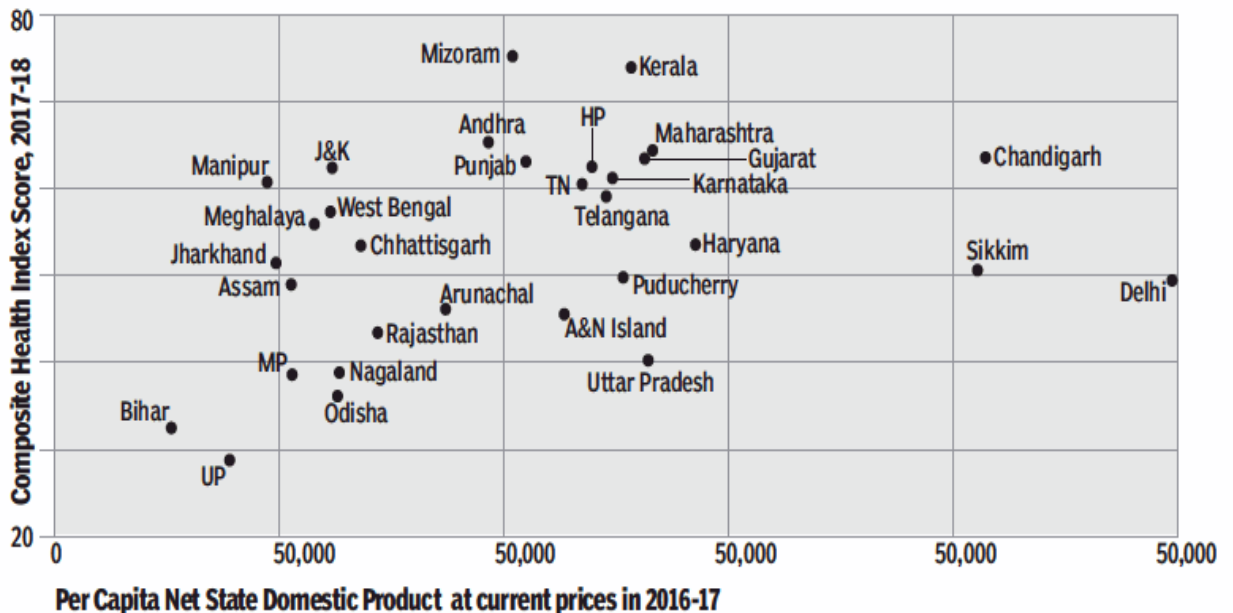
TAMIL NADU RECORDED THE LARGEST DROP IN RANKING FROM THIRD PLACE IN 2015-16 TO NINTH PLACE IN 2017-18

- ✓ Punjab and Uttarakhand dropped three and two places, respectively, while the remaining six States saw a decline of one point each
- ✓ Among the smaller states, Mizoram ranked first in overall performance while Tripura and Manipur were the top two states in terms of incremental performance.
- ✓ Sikkim and Arunchal Pradesh registered the biggest decline in overall scores.
- ✓ Among the UTs, Chandigarh jumped one spot to top the list with a score of (63.62), followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli (56.31), Lakshadweep (53.54), Puducherry (49.69), Delhi (49.42), Andaman and Nicobar (45.36) and Daman and Diu (41.66)

- ✓ Among the UTs, Dadra and Nagar Haveli improved the most.
- ✓ Among the top ten performers, seven states have improved in overall performance scores (Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Telangana)
- ✓ The health index titled 'Healthy States Progressive India: Report on Rank of States and UTs'– which took into account 23 health indicators during 2015-16 (base year) to 2017-18 (reference year) – depicts huge disparities across states and UTs.
- ✓ The report was prepared by Niti Aayog in collaboration with the health ministry and with technical assistance from World Bank
- ✓ It has three categories – larger states, smaller states and Union territories (UTs) – to ensure comparison among similar entities.
- ✓ The Index ranks the States and Union Territories based on 23 health-related indicators, including neonatal mortality rate, under-five mortality rate, proportion of low birth weight among new-borns, proportion of districts with functional Cardiac Care Units, full immunisation coverage and proportion of specialist positions vacant at district hospitals.

DESPITE LOW GDP, MIZORAM TAKES TOP RANK

Although the economically better-placed states were also the ones with better health outcomes, a few states with a relatively low level of economic development performed well, like J&K, Manipur, Mizoram, Andhra and Punjab

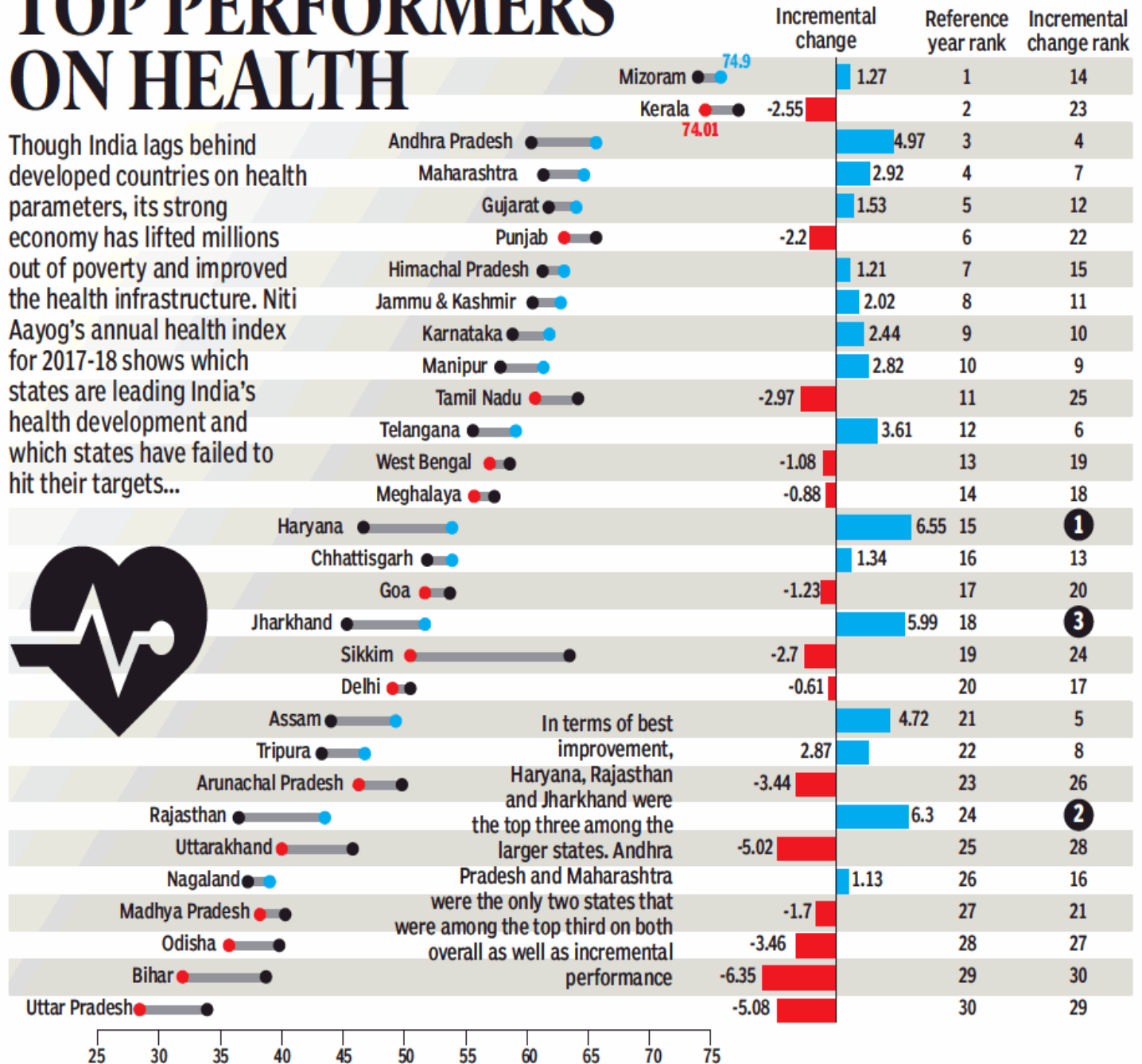


HARYANA, RAJ TOP PERFORMERS ON HEALTH

KERALA, MIZORAM LEAD NITI AAYOG'S HEALTH INDEX

● Base Year 2015-16 ● Reference Year 2017-18

Though India lags behind developed countries on health parameters, its strong economy has lifted millions out of poverty and improved the health infrastructure. Niti Aayog's annual health index for 2017-18 shows which states are leading India's health development and which states have failed to hit their targets...



In terms of best improvement, Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand were the top three among the larger states. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra were the only two states that were among the top third on both overall as well as incremental performance