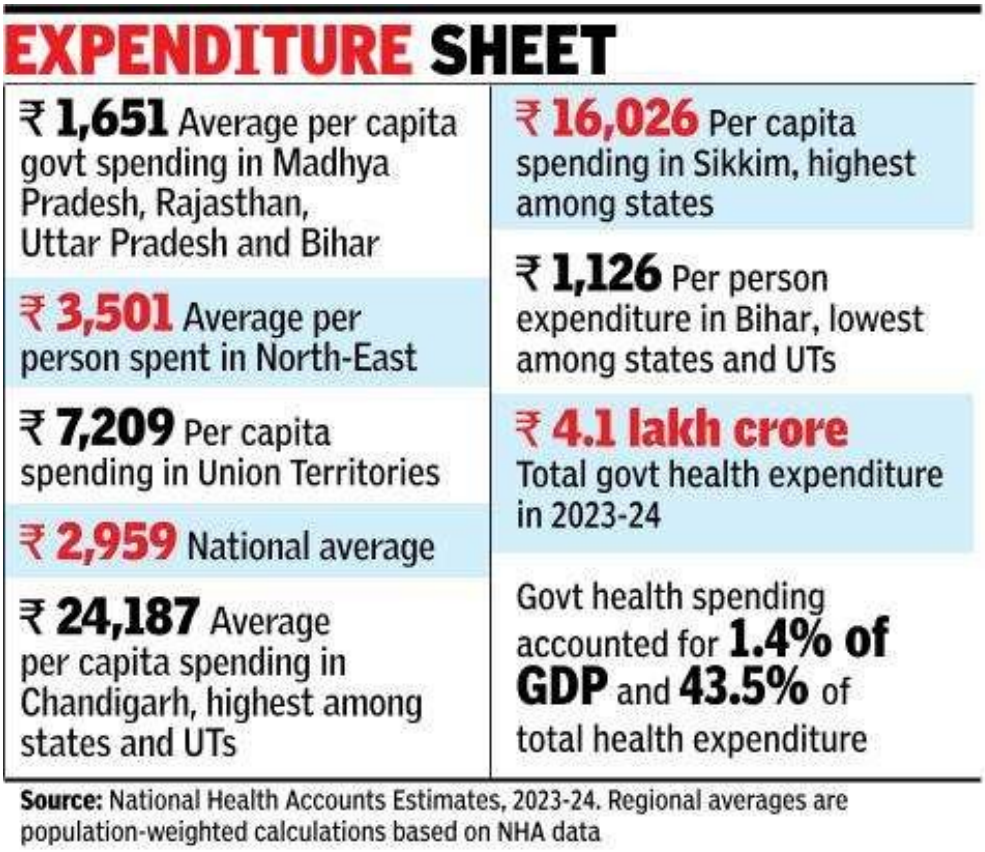
Health expenditure of states 2023-24

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Health*

Why in news?

There are wide regional disparities in what the government spends on healthcare, according to the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for 2023-24.

- **Health expenditure reaches new high** – The gap in government healthcare spending across Indian states has widened sharply over the past four years, even as overall public expenditure on health has increased.
- **Among individual states** – Sikkim recorded the sharpest increase, with per-capita spending rising nearly 268 %.
- Odisha followed with an increase of 149%, while Meghalaya and Manipur recorded increases exceeding 139%.
- **National level** – Govt health expenditure stood at Rs 4.1 lakh crore in 2023-24, translating into Rs 2,959 per person. It accounted for 43.5% of total health expenditure and 1.43% of GDP.
- **Southern states** – They recorded a population-weighted average government health spending of around Rs 2,960 per person, almost matching the national average of Rs 2,959 and showing considerable variation even within the region.
- **Poorer Northern States** – Govt health expenditure per person in the 4 poorer northern states - Bihar, UP, MP and Jharkhand - averages around Rs 1,651, less than half the Rs 3,501 recorded in the northeastern states and nearly a fourth of the Rs 7,209 average for UTs.
- Bihar records the lowest per-capita spending at Rs. 1,126
- **Reason for varied spending** – The differences and disparities in per capita government health expenditure reflect differences in states' fiscal capacity, population size, historical investment in healthcare infrastructure and political priorities.
- Economically weaker, populous states face greater resource constraints and higher investment by governments, while northeastern states incur higher service delivery costs and higher per capita investment due to difficult terrain and dispersed populations.



Reference

[TOI | Health of states: Bihar per capita spend lowest, Sikkim's highest]

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering