

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

Recently, Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin released by the Office of the Registrar General of India placed Telangana's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) at 17.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) - It is the number of deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births in a given year.

$$IMR = \frac{\text{Number of deaths under age 1}}{\text{Total number of live births in the same year}} \times 1,000$$

- **National average** - 24.
- **IMR across states**
- **Importance of IMR** - It is a critical public health indicator used to gauge the overall healthcare, socioeconomic, and environmental conditions of a region.
- **Rural-urban divide** - Nationally, the gap was wider, with rural India reporting 27 & Urban India 17

IMR is considered one of the most important indicators of a region's overall health status.

- **IMR across States**

DECADAL DECLINE		
Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths Per 1,000 Births)		
States/UT	2014	2024
TOP 5		
Kerala	12	8
Delhi	20	11
Himachal Pradesh	32	11
Tamil Nadu	20	11
Maharashtra	22	13
BOTTOM 5		
Rajasthan	46	28
Assam	49	29
Madhya Pradesh	52	35
Uttar Pradesh	48	35
Chhattisgarh	43	36

The case of Telangana

- **Improvement** - Telangana's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) Improves Further
- **Long-Term Progress** - Telangana has consistently outperformed the national average since its formation:

Year	Telangana IMR	India IMR
2014	35	39
2024	17	24

- **Significance** - Over the decade, Telangana reduced its IMR by 18 points, reflecting substantial improvements in maternal and child healthcare.
- **Rural-Urban Gap**

- **Rural Telangana** - IMR of 19
- **Urban Telangana** - IMR of 14

Odisha and Rajasthan recorded IMRs of 28 each, while Assam stood at 29.

Other Demographic Indicators

- **Birth Rate** - 15.7 per 1,000 population (India: 18.3)
- **Death Rate** - 6.5 (India: 6.4)
- **Natural Growth Rate** - 9.1 (India: 11.9)

References

1. [The Hindu| IMR in India](#)
2. [The Times of India| IMR in India](#)

