# 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.*

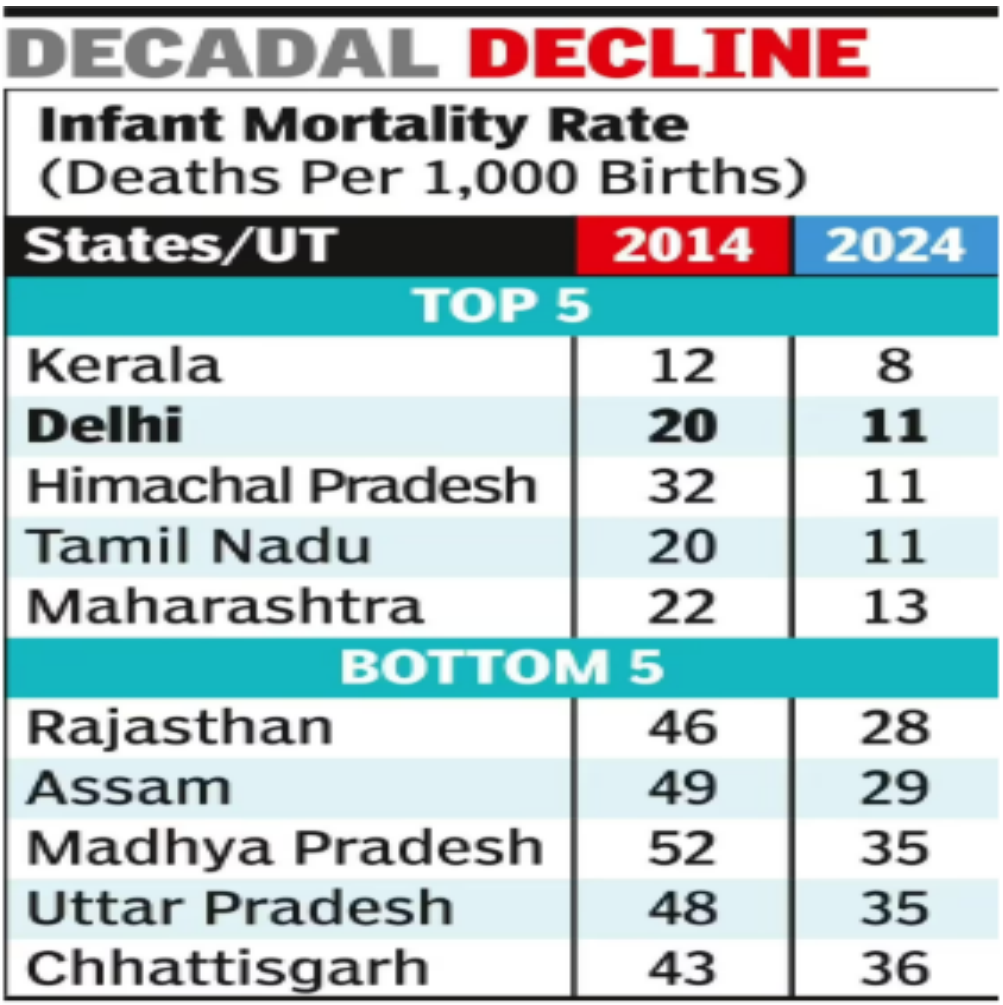
***Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)*** *– It is the number of deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births in a given year.*

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

- **National average** – 24.
- **IMR across states**
- **Importance if 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