Performance in Health Outcomes Index

Why in news?

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Niti Aayog has released the Performance in Health Outcomes Index.

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What is Performance in Health Outcomes Index?

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- The NITI Aayog in collaboration with the ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) and World Bank released the Performance in Health Outcomes Index.
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- It is a composite index that captures overall performance of States in health along with annual improvements in outcomes, governance and processes.
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- It uses 24 different indicators to rank the states.
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- States have been ranked in three categories larger States, smaller States and Union Territories to allow for better comparability.
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- The overall objective of the index is to highlight the top performers and States that are making significant improvements.
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What are the findings of the Index?

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- Kerala, ranks at the top in terms of overall performance, however, with respect to annual incremental progress, it ranks at the bottom.
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- This is because it has already made significant progress in health outcomes, and showing marginal improvements when the baseline is fairly strong is more challenging.

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- Among the larger States, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the top performers, whereas Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir have shown the maximum improvement in annual performance.
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- These states have reduced neonatal mortality, under-5 mortality rates, and increased immunisation coverage, institutional deliveries, and total case notification rate of tuberculosis.
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What is the significance of this Index?

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- The index will play an important role in shifting the discourse from inputs and outputs to the achievement of health outcomes.
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- The index can also serve as a catalyst for enhancing the timeliness, accuracy and relevance of data systems in the health sector.
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- In areas such as health, promoting competitive and cooperative federalism becomes more important as most of the action happens at the State-level.
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- The trend of devolving a larger share of resources and increasing spending by States is likely to become stronger on account of greater decentralisation and urbanisation.
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- By ranking States not just in terms of their overall performance but also their annual incremental progress, the index will nudge them towards transformative action in health.
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What else needs to be done?

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- Financing mechanisms need to be redesigned to act as levers for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the health system.
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- There is a critical data gaps in areas like non-communicable diseases and out-of-pocket expenditure in public health facilities to the front, Data systems

needs to be strengthened to address such gaps.
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- Availability of credible outcome data at more frequent intervals is critical for guiding health system action as well as putting health-related issues at the centre of the public discourse.
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- Promoting competition needs to be accompanied by the provision of technical support in the form of human capital and management practices.
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- This is important because the States that are lagging behind are typically the ones that have weaker capacities.
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Source: Business Line

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