



## Declining Maternal Mortality Ratio in India

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### Why in News

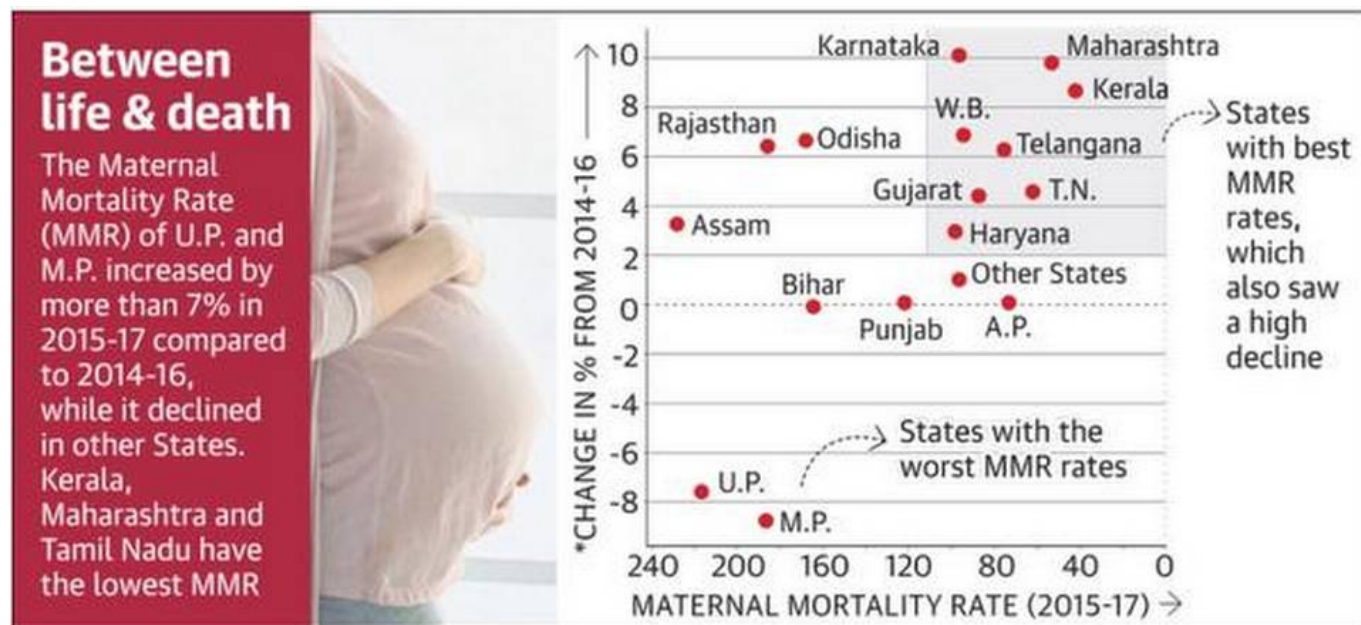
India's MMR has declined from **130 per 1 lakh live births in 2014-2016** to **122 per 1 lakh live births in 2015-2017** as per the recently released **Sample Registration System (SRS) 2015-2017 bulletin for MMR**. A **decline of 8 points (6.2%)** has been observed.

- This indicates that a loss of 2000 maternal deaths per year has been prevented.
- The bulletin categorizes the country into **three** groups: **Empowered Action Group (EAG), Southern States and other states**.

### Maternal Mortality Ratio

- MMR is the annual number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.
- Maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.
- It is a key performance indicator for efforts to improve the health and safety of mothers before, during, and after childbirth.

### Key Points



## Statewise Progress:

- **Kerala** secures the **first** position in MMR reduction (from 46 to 42), followed by **Maharashtra** (from 61 to 55) and **Tamil Nadu** (from 66 to 63).
- **Karnataka** has shown the **highest percentage decline in MMR**.
- The decline has been most significant in **EAG States** from 188 to 175. Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, UP, Uttarakhand and Assam fall under EAG States group.
  - **The independent MMR** data of Jharkhand (76), Chhattisgarh (141) and Uttarakhand (89) has been released for the **first time** in the SRS 2015-2017 bulletin.
  - **Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** have shown an **increase** by 15 points each in MMR.
- So far, **11 states** have **achieved** the **National Health Policy target of MMR** well ahead of 2020. The National Health Policy aims to reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 1/1000 live births.

## Reasons for Declining MMR

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- Focus on quality and coverage of health services through **public health initiatives** have contributed majorly to the decline. Some of these initiatives are:
- The implementation of the **Aspirational District Programme** and inter-sectoral action has helped to reach the most **marginalized and vulnerable population**.
- Recently launched **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Initiative (SUMAN)** especially focuses on **zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths**.

The continuous progress in reducing the MMR will help the country to achieve the **SDG 3** target of **MMR below 70 by 2030**.

Source: TH