

Manipur, Goa best places to be born in India

Maha Tops % Fall In Infant Mortality Among Big States

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Manipur has burst onto the scene to become the best place to be born in India along with Goa.

For every 1,000 live births, 11 die in Manipur as compared to 59 in Madhya Pradesh, which ranks as the worst place in the country to be born. The infant mortality rate (IMR) in Manipur has dipped to 11 in 2011 as against 14 in 2010.

Goa, like last year, is still the best place to be born in India. However, in a strange twist of events, the state has actually recorded an increase in IMR among smaller states — from 10 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to 11 in 2011. West Bengal is the only major state to record a rise in IMR.

The latest Sample Registration Survey (SRS) data sent to the Union health ministry by the Registrar General of India on Friday shows that while the IMR for Bengal was 31 in 2010, it has increased to 32 in 2011 — one more child dying per 1,000 live births.

Overall, in India, IMR has dropped by three points from 47 to 44 infant deaths per 1,000 live births during 2011. The IMR for rural areas has dropped by three points from 51 to 48 infant deaths, while the urban rate stands at 29 in 2011, down from 31 in 2010.

Around 19 more children are dying in rural India per 1,000 live births as compared to urban India. While IMR in urban India stood at 29 in 2011, it was 48 in rural India. In Maharashtra, 25 children died per 1,000 live births, whereas Delhi's IMR stood at 28. Tamil Nadu had an IMR of 22 (24 in 2010).

According to SRS 2011, among major states, Maharashtra has seen the largest percentage decline in IMR — 14.7% over 2010, followed by Punjab (11.5%), Karnataka and Kerala (10.3%), TN (9.3%) and Bihar (8.1%).

BIRTH & DEATH

THE BEST STATES		Goa & Manipur
		11
Kerala	12	Puducherry
		19
Chandigarh	20	Nagaland
		21
THE WORST STATES		MP
		59
Odisha & UP	57	Assam
		55
Raj & M'laya	52	Chhattisgarh
		48

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births;
Source: SRS data

National Rural Health Mission chief Anuradha Gupta said that compared to 2010, India in 2011 has seen a 6.3% reduction in annual IMR compared to 1.7% in 2005. This, Gupta says, is largely due to the tremendous increase in institutional deliveries, thanks to the Janani Suraksha Yojana launched in April, 2005. "One big reason for the dip in IMR is the 24x7 public health facilities. Also, states have given tremendous attention to neonatal health," Gupta said.

States with the highest IMR are MP (59), Odisha and UP (57), Assam (55), Rajasthan and Meghalaya (52) and Chhattisgarh (48). The five states with the lowest IMR are Goa and Manipur (11), Kerala (12), Puducherry (19), Chandigarh (20) and Nagaland (21).

Urban IMR was highest in Chhattisgarh and UP (41), followed by Odisha (40), MP (39), Meghalaya (38) and Haryana (35). States like Assam (55), Chhattisgarh (48), MP (59), Odisha (57), Rajasthan (52) and UP (57) still have IMRs more than the national average of 44. Institutional deliveries, where children are delivered at health centres or hospitals and not their homes, have picked up in India over the last five-odd years. On the other hand, from 7.39 lakh pregnant women as beneficiaries in 2005-06, the JSY reached out to about 113 lakh in 2010-11.