

**SPECIAL ISSUE STATE OF THE STATES**

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# INDIA TODAY

## INDIA'S BEST STATES

AN EXCLUSIVE ANNUAL  
SURVEY OF THE BEST  
AND MOST IMPROVED  
PERFORMERS, RANKED  
ON 12 KEY PARAMETERS

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# STATES IN MOTION

India's states are now determining their own destiny  
and forging individual paths to progress

By Kaushik Deka

**O**n November 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing a select gathering of Cabinet ministers, foreign diplomats, industry leaders and senior bureaucrats in Delhi, said the Union government was working towards doubling the size of the Indian economy to \$5 trillion as soon as possible and placing India among the top 50 countries in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking. To achieve this goal, the prime minister said, his government was strengthening the "cooperative competitive federalism" framework for which it was continuously in discussion with states to streamline regulatory approvals and expedite clearances.

Driven by this push from the top, Indian states are fast emerging as growth-driven units intent on outperforming each other in the race to reach the top in terms of economic development and social welfare. Chief ministers, cutting across party lines, are

positioning themselves as CEOs of their states. They have the micro details of their state on their fingertips, they lead from the front and are ready to adopt innovative, even unconventional means to find solutions to problems.

From ease of indulging in corruption once, the emphasis today has shifted towards ease of doing business. According to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the performance of states in the World Bank and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) ease of doing business rankings reflects the remarkable progress made in improving the investment climate in the past four years. "The innovative partnership between the central and state governments and the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism in facilitating investments across the country is yielding notable results," CII president Rakesh Bharti Mittal said recently.

In this context, the INDIA TODAY State of the States study has become more relevant than ever. In its 17th year,

it has emerged as a comprehensive and robust barometer of the performance of Indian states. This year, we expanded the attributes across categories (*see methodology*) and, after consulting experts, assigned different weightage to each category. The states were evaluated for a total score of 2,000 across categories. Even for attributes, we assigned different weightage. The logic was simple—geographical and social factors often give unfair advantage to certain states if the same weightage is attributed to all the categories. For instance, Delhi or an industrial state such as Maharashtra may score low against Himachal Pradesh, Kerala or Assam on environment. So, to neutralise any advantage, categories that reflected a state's own effort more were given higher weightage.

This is not to say environment is less important than other categories. In fact, states' performance on environment has become even more critical as India, according to The Yale University's Environment Performance Index



2018, stands at the bottom of the Global Environment Performance Index (EPI) rankings today. In 2016, the country was ranked 141 out of 180 countries. In 2018, it has slipped to the 177th position. With national capital Delhi gasping for fresh air, Kolkata emerging as one of the most polluted states and Assam named as home to the country's second most polluted rivers, environmental degradation is not restricted to specific cities, zones or regions anymore. If the political leadership and social awareness don't work in tandem, development will be meaningless.

Sixteen years ago, when INDIA TODAY recognised the increasing role of states in India's transformation and started the ambitious task of measuring the pace of their growth, the Planning Commission determined the road map of the country's growth. The states followed the plan New Delhi chalked out. Today, the states are masters of their own destiny or, at the least, moving in that direction. The Centre-state relationship has moved from that of donor and receiver. Now it's more performance-based reward. In fact, NITI Aayog has pitched for a formula for the central government to share its divisible pool of taxes with states in a way that does not go against the interest of states that have performed well in terms of social development. "I think it is clear that the formula (for devolution

of taxes to states) has to include some performance-based criteria so that those states which have done better on certain parameters are not punished," NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar recently said. He, however, warns that it cannot be done overnight and has to be implemented gradually, considering the political sensitivity around resource allocation in a federal set-up.

## WINNERS *in Large States*

CATEGORY	BEST PERFORMING STATE	MOST IMPROVED STATE
Overall	Tamil Nadu	Assam
Economy	Maharashtra	Assam
Infrastructure	Gujarat	Jharkhand
Agriculture	Punjab	Madhya Pradesh
Education	Himachal Pradesh	Bihar
Health	Jammu & Kashmir	Assam
Law & Order	Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu
Governance	Rajasthan	Telangana
Inclusive Development	Chhattisgarh	Uttar Pradesh
Entrepreneurship	Haryana	Karnataka
Environment	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh
Cleanliness	Kerala	Chhattisgarh
Tourism	Tamil Nadu	Andhra Pradesh

The disparity in the growth of states is one of the biggest challenges before the country. The uneven growth has spawned several narratives—north versus south, coastal versus mainland, stable government versus frequent regime changes. However, development doesn't always follow these binaries as the INDIA TODAY State of the States study has reflected on multiple occa-

## THE GOOD

➤ Haryana has the **highest per capita income** among big states

➤ At 1.3 per cent, Uttarakhand's **unemployment rate is the lowest** among big states

➤ Punjab has the **highest number of banks** per 100,000 people among big states—around 23

➤ At 41, Himachal Pradesh has maximum number of **post offices per 100,000 people**

➤ At 110, Haryana has maximum number of **e-services for citizens**

➤ Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan have the least proportion of **lawmakers (MLAs) with criminal records**

➤ All schools in Delhi, Goa and Telangana have **separate toilet facility for girls**

➤ Mizoram has the highest **expenditure per**

### person on health

➤ At 12 per 100,000 persons, Bihar has the highest number of **government hospitals per 100,000 people** among big states

➤ Meghalaya has highest ratio of **number of schools to population (10-14 yrs)** in the country



## WINNERS *in Small States*

CATEGORY	BEST PERFORMING STATE	MOST IMPROVED STATE
Overall	Puducherry	Tripura
Economy	Goa	Mizoram
Infrastructure	Delhi	Tripura
Agriculture	Puducherry	Meghalaya
Education	Sikkim	Arunachal Pradesh
Health	Puducherry	Delhi
Law & Order	Nagaland	Arunachal Pradesh
Governance	Goa	Sikkim
Inclusive Development	Mizoram	Tripura
Entrepreneurship	Delhi	Mizoram
Environment	Mizoram	Goa
Cleanliness	Sikkim	Puducherry
Tourism	Goa	Goa

sions. For instance, states which have featured the maximum number of times among the top 10 across categories—Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra—reflect an almost uniform progress across all regions. Certainly, there is serious cause for concern: two of the major states of the East—West Bengal and

Odisha—do not top the table in any of the 12 categories.

What's encouraging, however, is the ranking of the most improved states. States that have traditionally been laggards in the "best performing" category have shown the fastest growth in the past five years. The top seven most improved states—Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar

Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar—are at the bottom of the best performing states. Of course, critics say that given that they start from a low base, their growth rates look good. But this does not detract from the fact that these laggard states are making a valiant effort to change their position. That's the reason BIMARU states such as Bihar and MP are clocking a nearly 10 per cent growth rate, often higher than economic behemoths such as Maharashtra and Punjab. A tiny state like Puducherry has been consistently growing at over 10 per cent.

For the traditional table toppers, it becomes difficult to match the growth rate of the new risers. It's therefore encouraging to see as many as 27 of 31 states and UTs examined for the INDIA TODAY State of the States study being awarded across multiple categories.

Yet, it's just the beginning. Apart from the regional disparity—south and west India have been the main growth drivers, with the north catching up but the east still performing abysmally—the real big divide is between urban and rural India. Indian cities account for nearly 65 per cent of India's GDP.

Even among states performing well, it is only a few cities that are driving growth. This rural underdevelopment is resulting in a migration crisis, the most recent example being in Gujarat. According to the Economic

## THE BAD

➤ At 42 per cent, West Bengal had the highest number of **women married before the age of 18**

➤ Nagaland has the highest **percentage of children engaged in labour** in the country—around 6%

➤ Jharkhand tops the list of most number of **murders per 100,000 people**—5

➤ Sikkim reported maximum number of **rapes per 100,000 people** in the country—15

➤ J&K had the maximum incidences of **riots per 100,000 people**—27

## THE UGLY

➤ Delhi saw the highest number of **kidnappings** per 100,000 people—39

➤ Delhi had the maximum **incidents of molestations** per 100,000 people—25

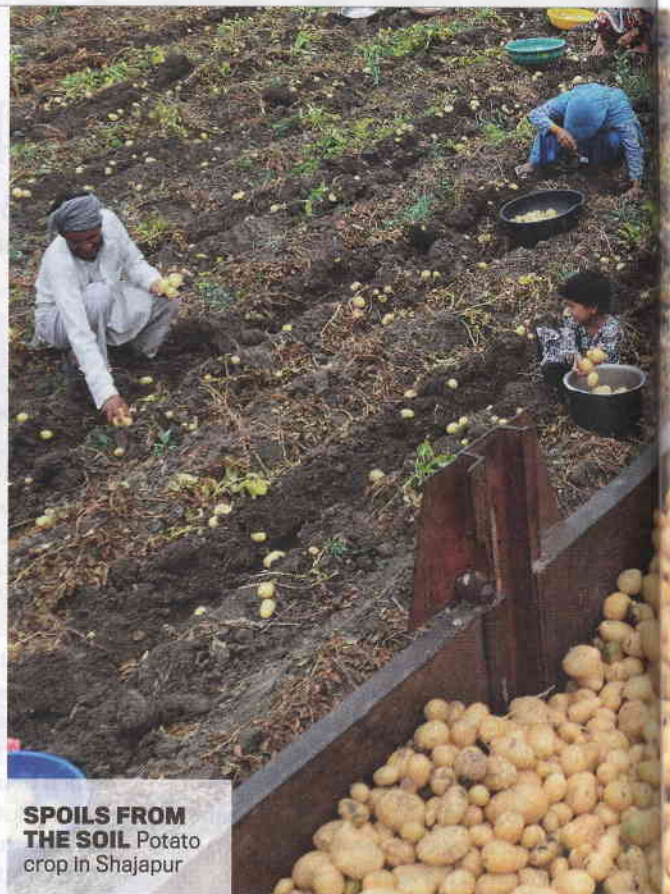
➤ Delhi witnessed maximum number of **crimes against tourists**—154



# HARVEST GOLD

Not just augmenting farm productivity and income, the state has also made big strides in cleaning up the environment

By **Rahul Noronha**



**E**ven as poor agricultural growth compels the Union and state governments to plan revival strategies for the politically sensitive sector, at least one state has bucked the trend for years. In fact, Madhya Pradesh's agricultural growth story has offered other states a template to get their act together.

Though sceptics have often questioned the claims made by the MP government, a string of Krishi Karman Awards by the Centre has come as an endorsement of the state's achievements. Large tracts of land along the Narmada have been brought under basmati rice cultivation in the past decade or so. The crop shift will throw up critical challenges in the future, such as depletion of the water table but, for now, it has ushered in prosperity among farmers in the districts of

Raisen, Hoshangabad, Harda, Bhopal, Sehore, Vidisha and Narsinghpur. However, the state government has failed to resolve legal issues, with basmati from MP in danger of not being recognised as basmati paddy at all.

On other fronts, though, such as increasing the area under irrigation, the government appears to have done well. The area under irrigation has increased from 7.5 lakh hectare to 40 lakh hectare. Completion of pending irrigation projects and successful implementation of a World Bank-aided water restructuring project have paid dividends. Farmers have been able to shift to two crops and, in many instances, to three crop cycles, in a calendar year. It has also enabled a shift

to irrigation-intensive high yielding varieties of wheat, which in turn has enhanced production and incomes.

A key intervention has been the availability of farm credit at zero per cent interest since 2012-13, making it easier for farmers to invest in seeds, fertilisers and mechanised tilling and sowing. Earlier, farm loans from state cooperative banks were available at 5 per cent interest. "About 5.4

million Kisan Credit Cards have been issued to farmers in the state. In 2016-17, nearly Rs 12,000 crore was disbursed," says minister for cooperation Vishwas Sarang. The state-run cooperative banks account for about 70 per cent of the Kisan Credit Cards distributed.

With about 95,000

**Madhya Pradesh produces 29% of India's pulses, 53% of soybean and 28% of oilseeds**





PANKAJ TIWARI

## FARM FEST

MADHYA  
PRADESH

No. 1

IN CHANA AND SOYBEAN  
PRODUCTION

No. 2

IN MASOOR,  
WHEAT, MUSTARD  
PRODUCTION

No. 3

IN ARHAR  
PRODUCTION

## FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

➤ **19 new water quality monitoring stations** have been installed on the Narmada, taking the total of such stations to 50

➤ **Ambient air quality stations** have been set up in the industrial hubs of Singrauli, Dewas, Ujjain and Mandideep

➤ **An environmental surveillance centre** has come up at Bhopal, functioning as an emergency response and warning system

treated water in their processes. Seventy-six major rivers in the state are being monitored for water quality. Discharge from the Security Paper Mill at Hoshangabad and Orient Paper Mill at Amla into the Narmada and Sone rivers respectively is now down to a fourth. This has improved the water quality in these rivers to 'fit for drinking'. Water in the Kshipra, Betwa and Tapti has improved to 'fit for bathing'.

"The Narmada, which is not a glacial river, is the state's lifeline as it has cultural and economic importance. The focus on cleaning up the rivers, especially the Narmada, is paying dividends. There will be more improvement in the months to come," says principal secretary (environment) Anupam Rajan. The state pollution control board had identified 20 polluted stretches in prominent rivers. These have reduced to six because of the control on effluents and the shutting down of polluting industries.

Since May 2017, the state has imposed a ban on manufacturing, storage and sale of polythene. It all began in 2016 with the ban on the use of polythene at religious places and during the Simhashta fair in Ujjain. Through the ban is far from complete on the ground, there has been a definite curtailment in polythene use.

In 2008, MP became the first state to start co-processing of plastic waste in cement kilns. Ten plants have so far processed plastic waste to the tune of 52,000 metric tonnes. Of late, disposal of solid waste has become a major issue in urban centres. An 11 MW waste-to-energy plant has been established in Jabalpur and another one is proposed at Bhopal. Commercial capital Indore and state capital Bhopal have been adjudged the top two cleanest cities in the country in 2017 and 2018 consecutively. The installation of bag filters and secondary fume extraction system in industries has helped improve air quality in Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Rewa, Sagar and Ujjain. One aspect where the state is breathing easy. ■

square kilometres or 30 per cent of its total geographical area under forests, environment has a critical bearing on both the state's politics and economy. MP has about 12 per cent of the country's forest area. Among the states, it has the maximum area under forest cover. With a population of about 72.6 million in the 2011 census, the per capita availability of forests is 2,400 square metres, against the national average of 700 square metres.

For the past year-and-a-half, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has been working to control pollution in the major rivers, particularly the Narmada. Even though Chouhan's Narmada Yatra has been touted as a political programme, it appears to have helped raise awareness about protecting the river's ecology.

Under the 'zero liquid discharge' concept, industries have been instructed to ensure maximum use of