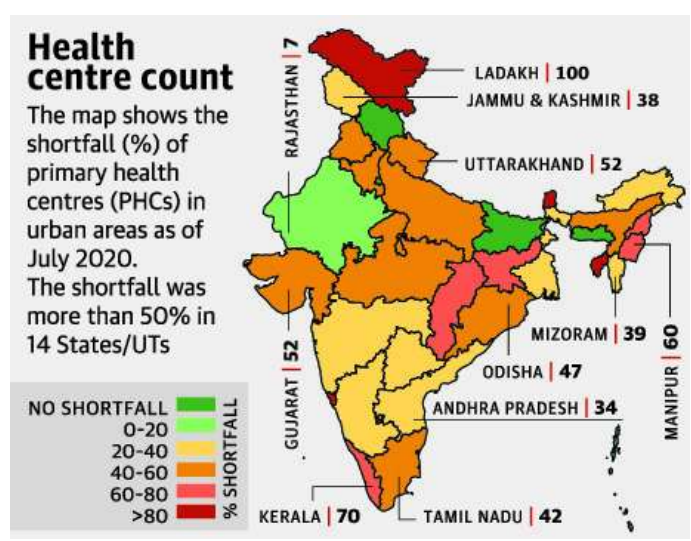


Current Affairs of the Day

Life expectancy lower for urban poor says study

1. Life expectancy among the poorest is lower by 9.1 years among men and 6.2 years among women from the corresponding figures for the richest in urban areas, noted a report released recently by Azim Premji University in collaboration with 17 regional NGOs across India.
2. The report, "Healthcare equity in urban India", explores health vulnerabilities and inequalities in cities in India. It also looks at the availability, accessibility and cost of healthcare facilities, and possibilities in future-proofing services in the next decade.
3. It notes that a third of India's population lives in urban areas, with this segment seeing rapid growth from about 18% (1960) to 28.53% (2001) and 34% (in 2019). Close to 30% of people living in urban areas are poor.
4. The report, besides finding disproportionate disease burden on the poor, also points to chaotic urban health governance, where the multiplicity of healthcare providers both within and outside the Government without coordination is a challenge to urban health governance.
5. The other key findings include a heavy financial burden on the poor and less investment in healthcare by urban local bodies.



Steps to be taken

1. The report calls for strengthening community participation and governance; building a comprehensive and dynamic database on the health and nutrition status, including comorbidities of the diverse, vulnerable populations; strengthening healthcare provisioning through the National Urban Health Mission, especially for primary healthcare services; and putting in place policy measures to reduce the financial burden of the poor.



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- It also advocates for a better mechanism for coordinated public healthcare services and better governed private healthcare institutions.
- As urbanisation is happening rapidly, the number of the urban poor is only expected to increase. A well-functioning, better coordinated and governed healthcare system is crucial at this point.

Solar power could emerge as a dependable energy alternative for Uttarakhand

- With over 280 days of sunshine, Uttarakhand has significant potential for solar power, a comparatively cleaner form of power, for its residents.
- The hill state currently continues to focus heavily on hydropower despite controversies. Considering its potential, solar power could instead be a bankable energy resource for the disaster-prone state, according to experts.
- Better planning and overcoming implementation glitches are crucial to harnessing the state's abundant renewable power potential.
- The expansion of solar power is, however, just the beginning. Sustaining existing plants, including repair, disposal of old and worn out panels and batteries, is equally important.

<p>MCQs</p>	<p>Q1. Which of the following Industries use coal? 1. Power 2. Steel 3. Cement Select the correct answer from the codes given Below a. 1 and 2 only b. 2 only c. 1 only d. 1, 2 and 3</p>
<p>MAINS DAWP</p>	<p>Q1. Coal is the most polluting among fossil fuels, and hence, its use, in particular, has come under scrutiny. Discuss why is it difficult to phase down coal in India?</p>