

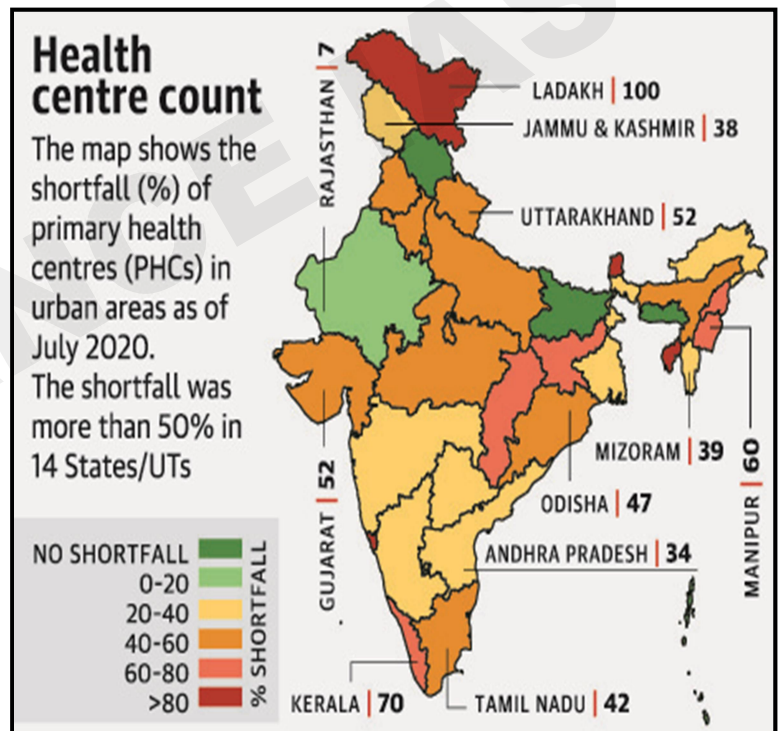
## Life expectancy lower for urban poor, says study

### Syllabus- GS 2- Issues relating to Health:

- ❖ 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 **“Healthcare equity in urban India”** released by **Azim Premji University**.
- ❖ Report notes that **a third of India’s population lives in urban areas**, with this segment seeing a 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.**
- ❖ 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:

- ❖ 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;
  - putting in place **policy measures to reduce the financial burden of the poor.**
- ❖ It also advocates for a **better mechanism for coordinated public healthcare services** and better governed private healthcare institutions.



As urbanization 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.

**Life Expectancy:** Life expectancy is the **number of years a normal person can expect to live** after birth. It is calculated based on the average number of years a new-born is expected to live in case mortality patterns at the time of the birth of infant remain constant in future.

**NOTE:** As per scientists, in India, **covid-19 pandemic has resulted a drop in life expectancy** by almost two years. In the year 2019, life expectancy at birth was 69.5 years for men while 72 years for women. This is decreased to 67.5 years for men and 69.8 years for women in the year 2020.

### OTHER RELATED CONCEPTS

#### Maternal Death:

- As per the **WHO**, maternal death is the **death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy**, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management.
- Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is defined as the **number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births** due to pregnancy or termination of pregnancy.
- The ratio has declined from **122 in 2015-17** to **113 in 2016-18** registering a 7.4 % decline.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations aims **at reducing the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births**.

#### Infant Mortality Death:

- It is the death of young children under the age of 1.
- This death toll is measured by the infant mortality rate (IMR), which is the **deaths of children under one year of age per 1000 live births**.
- The **under-five mortality rate**, which is referred to as the **child mortality rate**, is also an important statistic.
- The IMR came down from **80** infant deaths per 1000 live births (in **1995**) to **33** deaths per 1,000 live births.