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IIT-M, Krea University suggest ways to boost medicine supply deliveries

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The study conducted in TN, Kerala, Odisha, and Punjab identifies key operational, logistic and infrastructural challenges in drug delivery system



Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) and Krea University, Chennai, have conducted a study that can help states boost medical deliveries. The study showed that fill rates of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha, and Punjab could potentially rise to 53 per cent as compared to an average fill rate of 30.95 per cent.

These four states were chosen for the study as they were the largest Indian states with the largest populations in the country. Essential medicine procurement in the Indian Public health system is undertaken by the state-level medical service corporations (MSC). Some states, such as Kerala, follow a centralised system, while others like Punjab. Tamil Nadu and Odisha follow a decentralised system, which is a mix of the two.

The study found that despite the operational, logistic, and infrastructural challenges that exist in the current drug supply system, several measures can be undertaken by state governments to considerably ease the system and address the medicine shortage.

The study focussed on issues that are identified in the procurement process of essential medicines. The medicine procurement data and contract information from the four States were central to the current study.

The entire research and modelling were done based on data available in the public domain, with advice from policymakers