60% of states fare poorly in index of water management

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Around 60% states (14 out of 24) have achieved scores below 50 and have been classified as low performers in Niti Aayog’s composite water management index.

Seven states have scores between 50-65 and have been ranked as medium performers. Gujarat is the highest performer in the country, closely followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the worst performing states in water management.

The country faces significant risks as the low performers on the water index are home to around 50% of the country’s population and its agricultural basket, the report said. Niti CEO Amitabh Kant said, “Water is the biggest challenge India faces. Poor performance of these states highlights a significant water management risk for the country going forward as these states also account for 20-30% of India’s agricultural output.

This is also likely to be a significant food security risk for the country, the report said. However, water management is improving across the board as about 60% of the states included in the index have improved their scores in 2016-17, as compared to 2015-16.