

Poverty Alleviation in India

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Poverty Alleviation in India : A Data-Driven Analysis

Context

- **Democracy extends beyond elections** to ensuring **social and economic justice** for vulnerable groups.
 - Government effectiveness is measured by **poverty reduction and social upliftment**.
 - This study evaluates **poverty reduction trends (2011-12 to 2023-24)** across **social and religious groups** under the current government.
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Measuring Poverty: The Rangarajan Poverty Line

- Based on **C. Rangarajan Committee (2011-12)** recommendations.
 - **Key Features:**
 - Uses **Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP)** for accurate household expenditure data.
 - **ICMR norms** for calorie-based food requirements.
 - **Higher weightage to non-food essentials** in urban areas.
 - **2023-24 estimates** updated using **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**.
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Data Sources and Methodology

- **Household Consumption Expenditure Surveys (HCES)** by MoSPI.
 - **2011-12 survey:** Over 1 lakh households.
 - **2023-24 survey:** 2.5 lakh households.
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Findings: Decline in Poverty (2011-12 to 2023-24)

- **Rural poverty:** 30.4% → 3.9%.
- **Urban poverty:** 26.4% → 3.9%.

Poverty Reduction Among Religious Groups

- **Muslims:**
 - **Rural:** 31.7% → 2.4%.
 - **Urban:** 39.4% → 5.7%.
 - **Hindus:**
 - **Rural:** 30.9% → 4%.
 - **Urban:** 24.4% → 3.7%.
 - **Muslim-Hindu urban poverty gap** reduced from 15 to 2 percentage points.
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Poverty Reduction Across Social Groups

- **Scheduled Tribes (STs):**

- **Rural: 49.5% → 12.2%.**
 - **Urban: 38.2% → 9.9%.**
 - **Scheduled Castes (SCs):**
 - **Urban poverty: 39.6% → 6.6%,** narrowing the gap with the general category.
 - **Other Backward Classes (OBCs):**
 - **Poverty rate: 30.4% → 3.6%.**
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Government Initiatives for Poverty Alleviation

Rural Programs:

- **MGNREGS: 100 days of wage employment.**
- **PMAY-G: Rural housing** for the poor.
- **DAY-NRLM: Self-employment & women empowerment.**
- **DDU-GKY: Skill development for youth.**
- **NSAP: Financial aid to vulnerable groups.**

Urban Programs:

- **DAY-NULM: Urban employment & skill training.**
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban): Clean water supply.**
- **PMAY-Urban: Affordable housing.**
- **AMRUT: Urban infrastructure & transport.**

- **Other Interventions:**

- **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)** for financial security.
 - **Food Security Programs** under **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**.
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Conclusion: Inclusive Growth and Governance

- **Poverty significantly reduced** across all groups.
 - **Muslims, SCs, STs, and OBCs saw major economic upliftment.**
 - **Welfare programs, employment schemes, and DBT** strengthened economic security.
 - **Future Focus:** Skill development, urban poverty reduction, and regional economic balance.
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Relevance to UPSC

- **GS Paper 2:** Governance & Social Justice.
- **GS Paper 3:** Economic Growth & Poverty Alleviation.
- **Essay Paper:** Topics on **poverty & democracy**.
- **GS Paper 4:** Ethics in **governance & social justice**.

