

World Bank report shows India has lifted millions out of poverty

269 mn rise out of extreme poverty in 10 yrs; subsidised food, cash transfers, greater access to welfare key drivers

AGENCIES, NEW DELHI: In a decade marked by rising inflation, a global pandemic, and heightened economic uncertainty, India has achieved a remarkable feat - lifting 269 million people out of extreme poverty, according to the World Bank's latest global poverty report.

The dramatic fall in poverty comes despite the international financial institution raising the threshold for extreme poverty to \$3 per day (2021 Purchasing Power Parity or PPP), up from the earlier benchmark of \$2.15. Even under this more stringent standard, India's extreme poverty rate dropped from 27.1% in 2011-12 to just 5.3% in 2022-23.

The transformation is evident across both rural and urban India. The rural-urban poverty gap narrowed significantly as rural extreme poverty dropped from 18.4% to 2.8%, and urban poverty fell from 10.7% to just 1.1%. Programmes providing subsidised food, cash transfers,

PROGRESS OVER A DECADE, AT A GLANCE

EXTREME POVERTY RATE (AT \$3/DAY):

- 2011-12: 27.1%
- 2022-23: 5.3%
- 2024: 5.44% (approx. 54.7 million people)

EXTREME POVERTY RATE (AT \$2.15/DAY):

- 2011-12: 16.2%
- 2022-23: 2.3%
- People lifted above the line: 171 million

RURAL POVERTY:

- Dropped from 18.4% to 2.8%

URBAN POVERTY:

- Dropped from 10.7% to 1.1%

TOP 5 STATES CONTRIBUTING TO POVERTY REDUCTION:

- Uttar Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Bihar
- West Bengal
- Madhya Pradesh

and expanded access to welfare were cited as key drivers of this shift.

The World Bank estimates that 75.24 million Indians were living in extreme poverty in 2022-23, down from 344.47 million in 2011-12. Using the

previous \$2.15 poverty line, that figure was even lower—just 33.66 million people.

Five states—Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh—played an outsized role in this progress. These populous

states, once home to 65% of India's poorest, accounted for nearly two-thirds of the national poverty reduction.

India also made progress at the Lower-Middle-Income Country (LMIC) poverty line, revised to \$4.20 per day. The percentage of the population below this line fell from 57.7% in 2011-12 to 23.9% in 2022-23, signalling broader economic improvements beyond just the extreme poor.

In contrast, the global extreme poverty rate rose during the same period—from 9% to 10.5%—as COVID-19 and inflation took a heavier toll on other developing nations. India's performance stands out as a rare success story in a world grappling with economic headwinds.

However, the World Bank cautioned that India's real GDP is still about 5% below its pre-pandemic trend and warned of potential downside risks such as global trade tensions and policy uncertainty.

At 7, this Margao kid is a champ of the 64 squares

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PANJIM: In a quiet neighbourhood in Margao, a seven-year-old boy is making some serious noise on the national chess stage. His name is **Evan Antonio Telles**, and earlier this week, he etched his name in the record books as the first boy from Goa to win gold at the 38th National Under-7 Open Chess Championship held in Odisha.

"I just wanted a trophy like my brother," he says with the kind of honesty only a child can offer. But his modest beginning has transformed into something much bigger — Evan is now a national chess champion, and his next stop is the international arena.



KNOW CHESS CHAMP EVAN ANTONIO TELLES

- Age: 7
- Hometown: Margao, Goa
- Parents: Dr Jean Valadares Telles & Enid Telles
- Current Titles: National U-7 Champion (2025), Goa State U-7 Champion (2024, 2025)
- FIDE Ratings: Standard: 1481, Rapid: 1476, Blitz: 1466

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

- World Cadet Chess Championship
- Asian Chess Championship
- Western Asia Chess Championship
- Commonwealth Chess Championship

Evan's chess journey began at the age of five, learning a few basic moves from his elder brother, Joshua Mark Telles, a seasoned player in his own right.

"Evan is a bright and hardworking kid. Last year he went to the tournament but couldn't make it to the top. But with his determination and hard work he won the Under-7 Open Championship this year. Watching him grow into a national champion has been one of my proudest moments. And I can confidently say, this is just the beginning for Evan"

Cont on Pg 13 >> - Prakash Vikram Singh, coach

CELEBRATION OF FAITH



Children celebrate after prayers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha at Jama Masjid, in New Delhi, on Saturday

Low hatching rate of Olive Ridley eggs at Morjim a cause for concern

Of 15,119 eggs, 4,114 failed to incubate, with only 11,005 hatchlings released

AUGUSTO RODRIGUES

MORJIM: The low hatching rate during the recent Olive Ridley turtle nesting season at the Tembada hatchery in Morjim has left herpetologists and marine life enthusiasts worried.

Of the 15,119 eggs relocated, a concerning 4,114 failed to incubate, and only 11,005 hatchlings were successfully released.

According to a Right to Information (RTI) response from the Forest Department, 175 Olive Ridley turtles laid a total of 18,243 eggs in North Goa this season. Of these, 15,119 were relocated to Tembada in Morjim, while the status of the remaining 3,112 eggs is currently unknown.

"The rate of non-hatching of eggs is extremely high and this could be due to extraneous factors like interfering with the natural process of nesting. As yet not understood, natural phenomena guides' marine turtles to navigate long distances and lay eggs on beach locations," explains retired Captain Gerald Fernandes, the recipient of the first Wildlife Conservation Award winner and a resident of Morjim.

Interfering with choice of nesting locations is trying to supplant nature. The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 has no legislative provisions to relocate eggs of endangered species of marine turtles

— Retired Capt Gerald Fernandes, recipient of the first Wildlife Conservation Award winner

The Forest Department needs to start maintaining data of eggs that are not hatched as the number of over 4,000 is high. Factors that are sometimes not correctly replicated in hatcheries, where translocation takes place, also contribute to unsuccessful hatching even in fertile eggs

— Aaron Fernandes, Herpetologist from Siolim



FOREST DEPT'S RTI RESPONSE

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BENGALURU STAMPEDE: HC seeks govt reply on 9 key questions

PTI, BENGALURU: Who authorised the RCB victory celebration event? When and how was the decision made? Whether the organisers had obtained the necessary permissions? Were among the questions for which the Karnataka government will have to file its replies to the High Court by June 10, in connection with the June 4 stampede that killed 11 people.

The High Court has directed the State government to submit detailed responses to nine critical questions. A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice V Kameswar Rao and Justice C M Joshi raised the queries on Thursday while hearing a suo motu writ petition initiated by the court in the wake of the tragedy. The government has been asked to file its replies by June 10.

The stampede occurred on June 4 evening in front of the Chinnaswamy stadium here, where a large number of people thronged to participate in the RCB team's IPL victory celebrations. Eleven people died and 56 were injured in the incident.

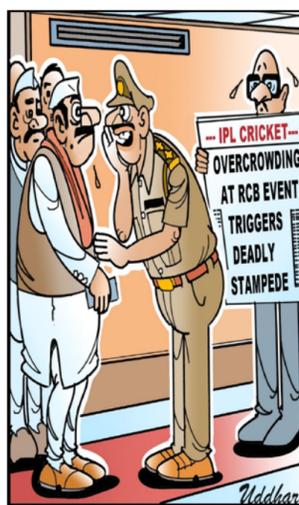
The bench also questioned the existence of a SOP to manage gatherings of over 50,000 people for sporting events and public celebrations of this scale.

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MAX. TEMP 32.8 °C
MIN. TEMP 26 °C

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No stampede risk at your rally - turnout is too low.

Budget problem: Vatican donations plunging

Pope Leo XIV faces financial challenges

AP, VATICAN CITY: The world's smallest country has a big budget problem.

The Vatican doesn't tax its residents or issue bonds. It primarily finances the Catholic Church's central government through donations that have been plunging, ticket sales for the Vatican Museums, as well as income from investments and an under-performing real estate portfolio.

The last year the Holy See published a consolidated budget, in 2022, it projected 770 million Euros (USD 878 million), with the bulk paying for embassies around the world and Vatican media operations. In recent years, it hasn't been able to cover costs.

That leaves Pope Leo XIV facing challenges to drum up the funds needed to pull his city-state out of the red.

Anyone can donate money to the Vatican, but the regular sources come in two main forms.

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Canon law requires bishops around the world to pay an annual fee, with amounts varying and at bishops' discretion "according to the resources of their dioceses".

US bishops contributed over one-third of the USD 22 million (19.3 million Euros) collected annually under the provision from 2021-2023, according to Vatican data.

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