

Extreme Poverty Eradication Project (EPEP)

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Why in news?

Chief Minister of Kerala will officially declare Kerala as free from extreme poverty on November 1, 2025.

- **EPEP** - Also known as Athidaridrya Nirmarjana Project
- **Launched in** - 2021 by Kerala.
- **Aim** - To identify those suffering from extreme poverty who are currently outside the support system and support them to come out of the experience of extreme poverty **within 5 years**.

***NITI Aayog's 2021 study** - Kerala is the State with the lowest poverty rate in the country with a poverty rate of 0.7% of the total population.*

- **4 key indicators** - Food, health, income, and housing.

Features of EPEP

- **Beneficiaries** - The **ground-level surveys** identified 64,006 families, across the state was identified as extremely poor and targeted support.
- **Micro-plans** - A unique micro-plan on the immediate and long-term needs were prepared for each of the families to address their specific needs.
- **Targeted interventions** - This programme focuses on providing food security, health, housing, land, livelihood, etc.
- **Focus on initial phase** - On addressing food and health deprivation, to provide a lifeline for survival and dignity.
- **Document delivery** - Essential documents were provided to individuals who are in need of ration card, Aadhaar card, Electoral ID, etc.
- **Integrating all schemes** - The state achieved the landmark by integrating all government assistance and services available to the public in various schemes and also by coming up with special schemes.
- **Social audit** - The social audit process of the scheme is also being completed, and each beneficiary's house is geo-tagged and data collected.
- **Impact** - The EPEP has been a major success, leading to Kerala's official declaration as the first state free of extreme poverty.

Securing future

Through the Extreme Poverty Eradication Project launched in 2021, the Kerala government prepared micro-plans for every family

■ **1,03,099** individuals from 64,006 families identified as extremely poor

■ **21,263** families received essential documents

■ **3,913** families were provided new houses

■ **1,338** families were allotted land



■ **5,651** families received up to ₹2 lakh each for house renovation

■ **3,822** families got livelihood assistance

Quick Fact

Extreme poverty

- It is a severe form of poverty characterized by the deprivation of basic human needs like food, water, health, and shelter.
- **International poverty line** - The World Bank definition being living on less than \$3.00 a day, adjusted for 2021 prices.
- **India's status** - India's extreme poverty rate dropped significantly from 27.1% in 2011-12 to 5.3% in 2022-23.

References

1. [The Hindu | Kerala - 1st State 'free of extreme poverty](#)
2. [Government of Kerala | EPEP Programme](#)



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