

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

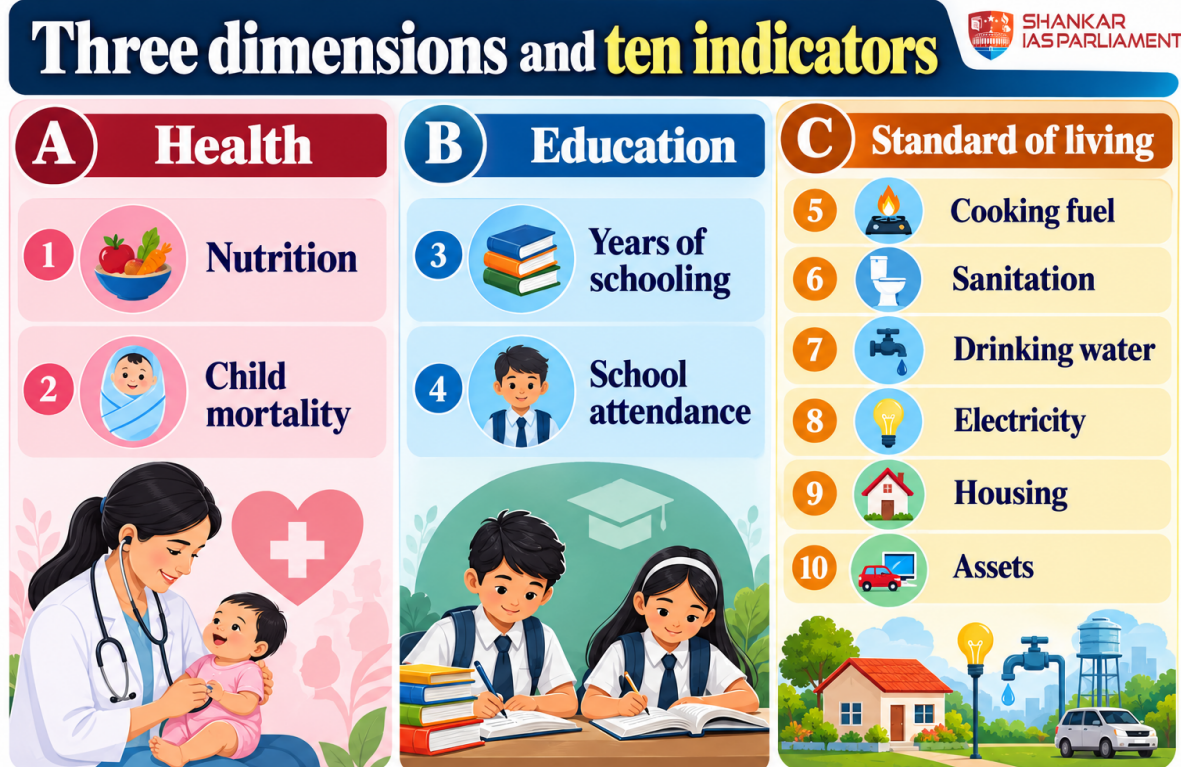
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Why in News?

The most recent Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), reported that 238 million individuals in India were multidimensionally poor in 2024.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- **Introduced** - 2010.
- **Published by** - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford.
- **Purpose** - To measure poverty beyond income by identifying overlapping deprivations experienced by individuals and households.
- **Coverage** - 108 countries, representing 78% of the global population.
- **Approach** - It measures multiple deprivations in health, education and standard of living.



A person is considered multidimensionally poor if they are deprived in at **least**

one-third of the weighted MPI indicators.

- **Key findings**

Global MPI 2025	
Indicator	Key findings
 Multidimensionally poor	 1.2 billion people
 Children	 Every second poor person is a child
 Rural population	 Over four-fifths of the multidimensionally poor
 Child mortality	 145 million poor people live in households that experienced a child death in the preceding five years
 Cooking fuel	 Over 1 billion people still rely on solid fuels
 Regional concentration	 Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest level of multidimensional poverty
 South Asia	 Major deprivations in nutrition, housing and years of schooling

- **Key Drivers of Global Multidimensional Poverty**
- **Population growth** - In some regions, poverty reduction has not kept pace with population growth.
- **Interconnected deprivations** - Poor nutrition negatively impacts school attendance, learning outcomes, and future employment opportunities.
- **Inadequate basic services** - Many communities face limited access to clean water, sanitation, electricity, and healthcare.
- **Rural disadvantage** - A significant proportion of people experiencing multidimensional poverty reside in rural areas.

An increase in the number of people living in poverty does not always indicate a higher poverty rate. Population growth can raise the absolute number even if the incidence of poverty declines.

India-specific findings



Indicator	Data reported
 MPI incidence, 2005–06	55.1%
 MPI incidence, 2019–21	16.4%
 Multidimensionally poor, 2024	Over 238 million
 Population vulnerable to MPI poverty	Nearly 19%
 Contribution of standard of living	Nearly 40%

• Key Findings Relevant to India

- In 2025, 1.2 billion people worldwide experienced multidimensional poverty, with an additional 51.5 million people entering this category.
- India has made progress in reducing poverty and improving basic amenities, though persistent deprivation remains a concern.
- India has significantly reduced multidimensional poverty during the reporting period.
- However, the total number of people living in poverty remains high due to India's large population.
- Approximately 19% of India's population was classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.
- Vulnerable groups remain at risk of falling into multidimensional poverty due to economic, social, or environmental shocks.
- The standard of living accounts for approximately 40% of India's multidimensional poverty.
- Lack of access to cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, housing, and assets continues to pose significant development challenges.

Global MPI vs National MPI

Feature	Global MPI	National MPI
 Institution	UNDP and OPHI	NITI Aayog in India
 Purpose	Internationally comparable measurement	National and subnational poverty assessment
 Dimensions	Health, education, standard of living	Health, education, standard of living
 Indicators	10	India's national MPI uses 12 indicators
 Important use	Cross-country comparison	State, district and policy-level analysis

Reference

[Down to Earth | Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\)](#)



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