

Q. Admit the pandemic the incidence of poverty has been increasing in the Country due to various factors. Do you agree with this view? (200 words)

Ans India has not released its Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) data since 2011-12. Normally a CES is conducted by the National sample survey office (NSO) every five years. But the CES of 2017-18 was not made public by the Government of India. Now CES data is likely to be conducted in 2021-22, which is probably not be available before end-2022. But, we know that the economy has been slowing for nine quarters prior to the outbreak of the novel corona-virus. Unemployment

had reached a 45 year high in 2017-18.

There is a rise in the incidence of poverty since 2011-12. The important point is that this is consistent with the NSO's CES data for 2017-18 that was leaked data. The leaked data showed that rural consumption between 2012 and 2018 had fallen by 8%. While urban consumption had risen by barely 2%. Since the majority of India's population (certainly over 65%) is rural, poverty in India is also predominately rural. Remarkably, by 2019-20, poverty had increased significantly in both the rural and urban areas, but much more so in rural areas (25% to 30%). It is also for the first time since the estimation of poverty began in India on a consistent basis:

~~Consistent~~ Tracing poverty in India from ²⁰⁰⁵~~2005~~ to 2020

Number of poor (Million)		2004-5	2011-12	2019-20
	Rural	325.8	216.7	270
	Urban	81.4	53.1	71

From above table, we can see that in 2011-12, poverty in India decreased but As Coronavirus came then again poverty increases. So, Admirt the pandemic the incidence of poverty in the Country increases.