Tamil Nadu is one of India’s richest states. Since 1994, the state has seen a steady decline in poverty, with the result that today, Tamil Nadu has lower levels of poverty than most other states in the country. Nevertheless, parts of the state still record high levels of poverty. After 2005, Tamil Nadu was among India’s fastest growing states, with growth being driven mainly by services. Although consumption inequality in the state decreased slightly after 2005, it still remains higher than in many other states.

Poverty in Tamil Nadu is lower than in many Indian states

![Population below poverty line, 2012 (%)](image)

Low income States are highlighted in orange, Ai is All India.

Parts of Tamil Nadu have high poverty

*District level poverty, 2012*

![Population below the poverty line, 2012 (%)](image)
Since 1994, there has been a steady decline in poverty in Tamil Nadu

Population below poverty line, (%)

Low Income States are highlighted in orange, AI is All India.

Poverty has declined steadily in both rural and urban areas of Tamil Nadu after 1994

Population below poverty line, (%)

Rural
Total
Urban

1994 2005 2012
Growth in Tamil Nadu has been among the fastest in India after 2005

Interpreting the graph

Data for 19 large states and All India.
Low Income States are highlighted in orange.

Services drive Tamil Nadu’s economic growth

Components of GSDP growth rate, (%)

Annual growth rate, (%)
Poverty reduction in Tamil Nadu has been faster than in many other states after 2005

Tamil Nadu has a smaller share of India’s poor relative to its population

Interpreting the graph

- Share of poor > share of population
- Share of poor < share of population
- What % of India’s population lives in this state?

Data for 19 large states and All India. Low Income States are highlighted in orange.
Consumption inequality in Tamil Nadu decreased marginally after 2005

Consumption inequality in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average

Low Income States are highlighted in orange. AI is All India.