Kerala has experienced a steady decline in poverty since 1994. As a result, poverty levels in the state are among the lowest in the country. After 2005, Kerala grew and reduced poverty faster than many other states, with growth being driven mainly by services. But, while Kerala is home to a small share of India’s poor, pockets within the state record a high incidence of poverty. In addition, Kerala has the highest levels of consumption inequality in the country.

Poverty in Kerala is among the lowest in the country

Some districts in Kerala, such as in the north, have more poverty

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

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There has been a steady decline in poverty in Kerala since 1994

Population below poverty line, (%)

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

Poverty declined at a faster rate in urban areas of Kerala after 2005

Population below poverty line, (%)

Rural

Total

Urban
Growth in Kerala is higher than the national average

Kerala's growth mainly driven by services

Components of GSDP growth rate, (%)
The pace of poverty reduction in Kerala after 2005 has been faster than in many other states

The share of India's poor in Kerala is small

Interpreting the graph

Share of poor > share of population

Share of poor < share of population

What % of India's population lives in this state?
Consumption inequality in Kerala increased largely in the period between 1994 and 2005

Kerala has the highest consumption inequality in the country

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