

## Editorial of the Day – 04.11.2025

### Index

- |                                                           |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. A Kerala story – On eradication of extreme poverty(TH) | -1 |
| 2. An Indian way to G2(IE)                                | -2 |

### 1. A Kerala story – On eradication of extreme poverty(TH)

#### General Studies 2 – Governance / Social Justice

**Topic –** Issues relating to poverty and hunger; Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.

#### Introduction – A Continuous Mission

Kerala's journey in development demonstrates how progressive governance, active community participation, and strong local institutions can successfully transform lives. The state's approach is rooted in the philosophy that fighting poverty is not a final goal but a continuous mission that requires constant vigilance and effort. This strategy was validated on Kerala's 69th formation day, when it announced the achievement of a remarkable milestone – the eradication of extreme poverty.

#### A. Kerala's Milestone Achievement

**The Goal –** On its 69th formation day, Kerala celebrated the culmination of a four-year mission aimed at the eradication of extreme poverty.

**The Programme –** This success was driven by the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP), which was launched in May 2021 during the second term of the LDF government.

**The Leadership –** The initiative was a meticulously coordinated programme led by the state's Local Self-Government Department (LSGD), demonstrating the power of decentralized governance.

**The Method –** The programme's success was ensured by wide community participation, involving grassroots action across all districts and villages.

#### B. A Legacy of Decades of Steady Progress

**Historical Foundation –** This recent achievement is not an isolated event but is built upon decades of steady progress rooted in Kerala's unique model of people-centric governance and decentralized planning.

**Consistent Decline –** The state has shown long-term success in poverty reduction, with poverty levels falling from 59.8% in 1973–74 to 11.3% in 2011–12.

**NITI Aayog Validation –** The NITI Aayog's 2023 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report ranked Kerala as the least poor state in India.

**Statistical Benchmark –** According to the report, only 0.55% of Kerala's population lives in multidimensional poverty, a stark contrast to the national average of 14.96%.

#### C. Targeted Implementation and Custom Support

**Identification Process –** The EPEP employed a massive, data-driven approach to identify the target population. Nearly four lakh trained enumerators and workers from the Kudumbashree (Kerala's women-led self-help group network) were mobilized for the survey. To ensure data accuracy, the process avoided self-enrolment, relying instead on verified data from field-level checks.

**Targeted Beneficiaries –** This rigorous process identified 64,006 families (comprising 1,03,099 individuals) living in extreme poverty, based on criteria including food, health, livelihood, and housing.

**Custom Micro-Plans –** The cornerstone of the EPEP was its individualized approach.

Each of the 64,006 families received a custom micro-plan tailored to their specific needs. This support was comprehensive, ranging from providing essential documents (like ration cards or ID) to ensuring housing, jobs, medicines, food, palliative care, and even arranging organ transplants when required.

#### D. A Continuing Mission and Broader Vision

**Beyond Victory –** The state government views poverty removal not as a final victory but as a never-ending task that demands constant follow-up and vigilance.

## Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

**Addressing Gaps** – The government acknowledges criticisms and remaining challenges, particularly concerning tribal welfare and the potential for uneven benefits in remote areas.

**EPEP 2.0 (Sustainability)** – To protect the gains made and address new challenges, the state has launched EPEP 2.0. This next phase is designed to stop any relapse into poverty and prevent new cases from emerging.

**Welfare and Growth** – Kerala's broader vision now focuses on balancing welfare with growth by promoting infrastructure, green industries, and skilling youth to counter unemployment.

**The Kerala Model** – This approach—blending welfarism and growth, empowering local democracy, and ensuring social justice—offers a sustainable and inclusive path that other regions can learn from.

## E. Conclusion – A Self-Evolving Path

Kerala's story, culminating in the EPEP, proves that poverty eradication is a continuous and evolving mission. Through EPEP 2.0, the state aims to sustain its gains and prevent any backsliding. This people-driven model successfully balances social justice with economic resilience, reinforcing democratic strength and solidifying the "Kerala Model" as a true example of a self-evolving, inclusive development path.

Source – <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-kerala-story-on-eradication-of-extreme-poverty/article70236347.ece>

## 2. An Indian way to G2(IE)

**General Studies 2** – International Relations

**Topic** – Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

## Introduction – The Outdated G2 and India's Rise

The concept of a "G2," a global order jointly managed by the United States and China, emerged as a compelling idea following the 2008 financial crisis. This model envisioned the world's two largest economies cooperatively stabilizing global politics and economics. However, this framework has been rendered obsolete by the evolution of global geopolitics—specifically the shift from cooperation to overt rivalry between the US and China—and the simultaneous reassertion of "middle powers" like India, which is now charting its own independent strategic course.

### A. The Evolution and Premise of the G2 Concept

**Origin** – The "G2" idea gained traction in the immediate aftermath of the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.

**Core Proposal** – It proposed that the U.S. and China, as the dominant economic powers, could and should cooperate to stabilize global trade and finance.

**Symbolic Management** – The intention was for a collective management of global capitalism, with –

1. The West (led by the U.S.) representing the "old industrial world."
2. China symbolizing the "new manufacturing and financial power."

**Pragmatic, Not Political** – This cooperation was never a genuine political partnership. It was a pragmatic arrangement born out of necessity during the crisis.

**Divergent Motives** – The U.S. viewed China's economic rise as a necessary tool to sustain the post-crisis global economy. China used the opportunity and the platform to enhance its global legitimacy and influence.

### B. The Shift from Cooperation to Overt Rivalry

**The Collapse** – The G2 dream collapsed with the rise of Trump-era protectionism. This era transformed the relationship from cautious cooperation to overt rivalry, marked by –

1. Tariffs
2. Trade wars
3. Technology bans

**Entrenching the Divide** – The divide between the two giants was further entrenched and accelerated by

1. The COVID-19 pandemic.

## Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

2. Severe supply chain disruptions.
3. The policy of strategic decoupling.

**Recalibration of Middle Powers** – This new, emerging bipolarity forced other significant powers—including India, Japan, and the EU—to recalibrate their foreign policies to navigate the new global landscape.

### C. India's Reassessment and Strategic Outlook

**Untenable Old Policy** – India's earlier foreign policy, which was based on maintaining balanced relations with the U.S. and China simultaneously, is now increasingly untenable.

**Failed Assumption** – The assumption that improved U.S.-China relations would stabilize the world economy has been proven false. It has been replaced by the reality of sustained confrontation between them.

**Carving a New Path** – In this new context, India must carve out its own strategic path that – Safeguards its national interests, Engages both powers on separate, independent terms.

#### Dual-Track Engagement –

**With the U.S.** – India must continue to deepen cooperation on defense, technology, and democratic partnerships. This is pursued through frameworks like the QUAD, I2U2, and various strategic dialogues.

**With China** – India must manage competition and conflict pragmatically, employing a careful balance of deterrence (military) and diplomacy (engagement).

### D. The Pillars of India's Strategic Autonomy

**Core Principle** – India should pursue issue-based partnerships rather than committing to rigid, bloc-based alignments.

**Economic Diplomacy** – The focus must be on diversifying trade and investment to reduce economic dependence on either the U.S. or China.

**Regional Leadership (Global South)** – By strengthening South-South cooperation and taking a leadership role within the Global South, India can provide an alternative vision to the G2 framework.

**Institutional Engagement** – India must actively work to revitalize and engage with forums like the G20, BRICS, and the SCO. This ensures India remains a "rule-shaper" in the international order, not just a "rule-taker."

**Technological Sovereignty** – Amid the intense U.S.-China tech rivalry, promoting indigenous innovation and building supply-chain resilience is key to sustaining national autonomy.

### E. Way Forward – A "Multi-Nodal" World

**The New Reality** – The world today is not bipolar; it is "multi-nodal," featuring several distinct centers of power (nodes) that shape global outcomes.

**G2 is Outdated** – Consequently, the notion of a U.S.-China G2 managing the world order is completely outdated.

**India's Vision** – As a civilizational state and an emerging economic powerhouse, India must offer its own vision for global governance.

**Core Values** – This "Indian way" must be based on the principles of inclusivity, cooperation, and sovereignty for all nations.

Source – <https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-indian-express/20251104/281977498872067?srltid=AfmBOorb5fcGmb9Fuq4yv6Sh7-ag02eVr2sUcAF9yJq4nW9xZrCdcIAI>