

Odisha, Bihar show biggest decline in poverty in 8 years

1 In 5 Indians Still Below Poverty Line

Mahendra Singh | TNN

New Delhi: Odisha and Bihar have registered the sharpest decline in poverty levels between 2004-05 and 2011-12, although the proportion of the poor in these states remains well above the national average.

Latest data released on Tuesday revealed that in Odisha, the proportion of people below the poverty line (BPL) in the overall

WELCOME TURN		BPL AS % OF TOTAL POPULATION	
State	2004-05	2011-12	
WORST 5			
Chhattisgarh	49.4	39.93	
Jharkhand	45.3	36.96	
Manipur	37.9	36.89	
A P	31.4	34.67	
Bihar	54.4	33.74	
BEST 5			
Goa	24.9	5.09	
Kerala	19.6	7.05	
H P	22.9	8.06	
Punjab	20.9	8.26	
Puducherry	14.2	9.69	



population came down from 57.2% in 2004-05 to 32.6% in 2011-12, a decline of 24.6 percentage points.

In Bihar, which logged

the fastest growth rate during the 11th five-year plan (2007-12), the share of BPL in total population was estimated at 33.7% in 2011-12,

New figure by old, junked formula

Tuesday's poverty figures are based on the benchmark set by the controversial Tendulkar methodology which was junked by the Planning Commission last year. The panel justified the release of the data, saying the alternative Rangarajan panel recommendation will be available only in mid-2014. **P 11**

compared to 54.4% in 2004-05, a reduction by 20.7 percentage points.