



livelihoods

today and tomorrow

October 2018

Monthly Livelihoods Update

“A month that was !”

Agriculture

Rural Development

Health

Skill Development/Employment

Partnerships/Women and Child

Updates from Weeklies

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Summary of Daily Livelihoods Update

Agriculture

- The Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has asked scientists and researchers to interact with farmers and also work in a mission mode to double the farmers' income by 2022 at the 10th Convocation of Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University in Bidar, Karnataka.
- According to the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development's (NABARD) All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17, the average monthly income of rural households in Maharashtra Rs.8938, which is higher than the All-India average income of Rs.8059.
- Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh said on World Coconut Day (2nd September) that coconut palm the 'Kalpavriksha' is Nature's great boon for the healthy and wealthy life of mankind. Income earned from export of coconut products was Rs 3975 crore during 2004-14, which increased to Rs 6448 crore during 2014-18.
- As per Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) analysis, in 22 cities of sizeable population, 95% of monsoon precipitation occurs over three days to 27 days on average. The southwest monsoon season officially extends from June 1 to September 30, but many cities in the country get almost their entire rainfall of the season in a small window.
- Maharashtra State Commission for Agriculture Cost and Price Chairman said that Maharashtra Government is working on a model to enable farmers fetch Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce in the open market, for which work on necessary infrastructure and investment is under way.
- The Karnataka government owes about Rs.200 crore farmers who gave up their land for lift irrigation projects in Hassan district in the last few years.
- A batch of 26 farmers from Jharkhand visited Israel last month to learn the best practices in drip irrigation and other technologies that make farming a profitable business.
- The Centre's rice procurement has surpassed the target at 38 million tonnes so far in the ongoing 2017-18 marketing year that will end this month. A senior food ministry official said.
- India will surpass Brazil as the world's top sugar producer next year.
- According to the RTI report, Agricultural loans worth Rs 590 bn went to 615 accounts in 2016.
- ICRA said that Natural Rubber import to touch a record 5.3-5.5 lakh tonnes in FY2019.
- According to the Experts, Aquaculture can change farmers' fortunes.
- Karnataka government has begun the groundwork to introduce and adopt latest Israeli model of agriculture practices in water conservation and post-harvest technology.
- Overall planting of Kharif or summer-sown crops, a key indicator of the country's agricultural output, has surpassed last year's levels by a small margin, led by a monsoon surge in August.
- The agriculture industry in India reached a value of INR 44,720 Billion in 2017. The market value is further expected to reach INR 89,380 Billion by 2023, exhibiting a CAGR of 12.2% during 2018-2023.

- Latest sowing data, released by the agriculture ministry, shows that the increase in sown area as compared to 2017 is mainly marked by higher acreage of paddy (rice) and oilseeds.
- The union minister of agriculture and farmers' welfare minister said that amidst diminishing prices of skimmed milk powder (SMP) globally and the glut of milk-faced by dairy cooperatives, the centre is pushing for increasing domestic consumption of milk and SMP in the country by introducing it in mid-day meal and Anganwadi schemes.
- Punjab cotton farmers are all set for bumper yield this season with a significant jump in price realisation, which is expected to be much higher than the government-fixed minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 5,150 per quintal.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM_AASHA) was approved by the Union Cabinet. Under this programme, empower farmers and strengthen the agriculture sector.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh has said the government is providing subsidy on crop residue management machinery to farmers. Crop residue management in the field helps soil becomes more fertile thereby resulting in savings of Rs 2000/- hectare from the farmer's manure cost.
- The FAO of the United Nations has accepted discussing India's proposal of declaring 2019 as 'International Year of Millets' as one of its agenda items in its next session in October.
- The Central Government approved an additional assistance of Rs.157.63 crore for Uttar Pradesh due to drought and Rs. 60.76 crore for Maharashtra due to pest attack and cyclone from National Disaster Response Fund.
- Torrential rain in Kerala in July-August may pull down the total tea production in South India by 25 million kg during the year, which is expected to reflect on the overall tea production in the country.
- The Centre asks states to strengthen surveillance against diseases in maize, cotton, wheat crops.
- The Supreme Court agreed to examine a plea seeking ban on nearly 85 pesticides that are being used in India on the grounds that they pose health hazard.
- The Centre sets food grains target of 2852 mt for next year, against the estimated output of 2848 mt this year.
- Agriculture Ministry set a food grain production target of 285.2 million tones for 2018-19, a marginal increase from the previous year's harvest of 284.8 million tones.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said farmers in the state had been a role model in taking up the zero budget natural farming in huge way. More than 3.5 lakh farmers have been practicing it in this year.
- Deputy Commissioner M Kurma Rao said that a survey will be conducted in agriculture fields in 509 villages by using private parties to prepare a detailed report on cultivation of crop and the area covered under both the kharif and rabi seasons from 20th September to 2nd October 2018.
- Around 1000 farmers from Gujarat, opposing the land acquisition, whose land will be acquired for the ambitious Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.

- ICRISAT launched with financial support from the Walmart Foundation a primary groundnut processing unit at Maruru village, Ananthapur district, Andhar Pradesh.
- According to Director of Agriculture, the sale of fertilizers has been made mandatory based on soil health cards issued to farmers in select 100 villages in Tamil Nadu to reduce the use of fertilizers and thus help farmers reduce their expenses on fertilizers.
- Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar said that power would be supplied for irrigation purpose through 1312 dedicated agriculture feeders in the Bihar state by March 2019.
- Govt plans Rs 65,000-crore project to reduce greenhouse gases from agriculture. The goal of the project, with a run period 2018-2025, is to “sequesterate” 49.9 million tonnes of carbon gasses through improved agro-ecosystems.
- The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is launching a mobile app, called AgRISE, in support of a new national agricultural insurance scheme – PMFBY. This mobile phone app launched to strengthen the new insurance scheme for India’s farmers.
- The Odisha government decided to facilitate entry of more small and marginal farmers and share-croppers into the procurement fold by bringing changes in the norms of food and procurement policy for the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2018-19.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister has said that ‘Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) helps in the reverse migration to villages’ in the international seminar on 'financing Sustainable Agriculture: Global Challenges and Opportunities' . The seminar was jointly organised by the UNEP, the UN Women, BNP Paribas SA and the World Agroforestry Centre at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
- The foreign direct investment (FDI) in the food processing sector has already touched the USD 1-billion mark so far this year, Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said.
- The agricultural land in the Jammu & Kashmir state has shrunk by more than 18,000 hectares in the last two decades. This land has been converted for building and other constructions purposes.
- Agriculture Minister of Rajasthan Prabhu Lal Saini has inaugurated the state's flower mandi in Muhana, Jaipur. "This is the first country's biggest flower mandi in which 144 shops have been allotted to traders. The mandi will benefit farmers, traders and consumers", the minister said.
- The Director General of ICAR Dr.Trilochan Mohapatra has said that farmers need simple remedies to control pests and diseases which could save input costs in agriculture and biological controls can be one such remedy.
- According to the IMD website, Gujarat is among the six Indian states which are suffering from rain deficit this year. Other states include Haryana (-20%) along with northeastern states of Manipur (-53%), Meghalaya (-41%), Arunachal Pradesh (-36%) and Assam (-23%). The total rain deficit stands at 7% for India.
- Scientists from IIT Kanpur said that erratic monsoon rainfall partly due to air pollution in India.
- India and Malta signed three MoUs in the fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training.
- According to the government officials, marathwada and Vidarbha regions in Maharashtra may be staring at another year of water scarcity in 2019 if the rains do not pick up over next few weeks.

- Heavy rains lash several parts of North India, while higher reaches of Himachal Pradesh are experiencing heavy snowfall. Met Department has predicted more rain and snowfall during the next 24 hours.
- Incessant rain triggered flash floods and landslips in hill States of northern India, with at least 11 people killed in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana.
- India: Monsoon withdrawal to begin this week following deadly flooding from 'Cyclone Daye'

Rural Development

- Former President Pranab Mukherjee said more and more villagers must be connected with the 'Smartgram' project to ensure peaceful, happy and prosperous villages. Pranab Mukherjee Foundation adapted 100 villages.
- Government releases nearly Rs.400 crore, having international borders, for development forwards areas as part of an ambitious plan to ameliorate the problems of those living in these isolated locations in the country.
- Andhra Pradesh cabinet has approved the allotment of 15,091 houses in 2018-19 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) – NTR (Urban) Nagar scheme.
- The government has decided to make the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) an open-ended scheme and added more incentives to encourage people to open bank accounts.
- National nutrition month: Prime Minister to hold 'direct samvad' with 24 lakh Anganwadi, Health workers.
- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari said that by the completion of the NDA government's 5-year term, his ministry will construct 2 lakh kilometers of roads in the country.
- Minister of Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar said that the government is focusing on the development of villages in the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of various development projects worth rupees 557 crore rupees in Varanasi.
- The Union Government of India has given the special package to Jammu and Kashmir for implementation of Deendayal Anthyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) for 2018-19. This funding not links it with poverty ratio. This decision is boost to vulnerable rural families in J&K through the Umeed project.
- South Asia has remarkable progress to reduce the poverty when compared to the world. As per World Bank report 'Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2018: Piecing Together the Poverty Puzzle'. The poverty has declined to 8.6 per cent in 2018.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said the government is committed to enhancing ease of living of people. Addressing a Kisan Sammelan in Chhattisgarh, he said the government is moving ahead with the mission of Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vikas.
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju has said that unclean environment is one of the biggest problems India is facing today and that is the reason why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given top priority to cleanliness and women safety.
- Thanjavur district received the national award for implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) well for the year 2016-17. The district scored in cent per cent distribution of wages under e-payment, giving work to the maximum number of persons and maintaining proper documents.

- According to the experts, Village Immersion is the new tool for evaluating policies.

Health

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said West Bengal government provides food security to 90% people in the state under a scheme. Food grains cost will be at Rs.2/- or half the market price are given to beneficiaries.
- The West Bengal government has launched a mobile blood donation camp in a red luxury bus. It moves from location to location, collecting blood and is described by health activists a 'major success' as the bus is often seen in the city collecting blood samples. The service is free of cost.
- The Drugs Controller General of India, Dr Eshwar Reddy said after the rules are finalized, people will be able to get genuine drugs through online pharmacies. The drafts rules on 'sale of drugs by e-pharmacy' states that no person will distribute or sell, stock exhibit or offer for sale of drugs through e-pharmacy portal unless registered.
- According UN report, India has made rapid progress in increasing access to sanitation in schools, noting that the proportion of schools without any sanitation facility has decreased at a fast pace in the country. The annual report is produced by the World Health Organization/UN Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme, which has been monitoring global progress on drinking water; sanitation and hygiene (WASH) since 1990.
- National Nutrition Month is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition. During this month, various programmes have been organized by the Women and Child Development Ministry to spread broad awareness on the issues related to malnutrition.
- Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey said under Ayushman Bharat, the government has decided to develop 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres in a phased manner. Under these centres, health facilities for elderly people will also be available.
- Member countries of the WHO South-East Asia, including India, resolved to accelerate efforts to control dengue and malaria which continue to affect the people in the region, the global health body said. It said dengue threatens nearly 1.3 billion people with frequent and large-scale outbreaks and malaria continues to be endemic in the region.
- NITI Aayog member Dr Vinod Kumar Paul said that treatment of child cancer to be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The scheme will provide health insurance cover of five lakh rupees to poor families.
- Dr Paul said, under Ayushman Bharat, 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres will be opened in the country by 2022. These centres will provide comprehensive health care diseases like diabetes, cancer, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.
- Union Minister Shripad Naik said Ayurveda is also one of alternative for other systems of medicines to maintain good health.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government is focused on aspects relating to nutrition and quality healthcare. He was interacting with ASHA, ANM and Anganwadi workers from all over the nation via video conferencing this morning as part of Poshan-Maah.
- The union government has said that treatment of childhood cancer will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- Prime Minister of India said that over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families will get benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan under Ayushman Bharat programme.
- Government of India prohibited the manufacture, sale or distribution of 328 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) includes Saridon for human use with immediate effect.
- According to National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) report, India has approximately 21.40 lakh people living with HIV/AIDS.
- A comprehensive assessment of tribal health, expert committee appointed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Tribal Development, shows that tribal population in the country were lagging on almost every health parameter.
- A women's self-help group launched the 'Sabala' sanitary napkin production unit that would supply napkins at Rs.6 for packet comprising five pads in Peddapally, Telangna.
- Under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, the National Health Agency (NHA) has launched a website (mera.pmjay.gov.in) and a helpline number (14555) to help prospective beneficiaries check if their name is there in the final list.
- Union Health Minister JP Nadda said that 1.5 lakh Primary Health centres (PHCs) and sub centres will be converted into wellness centres by 2022.
- World Health Organisation is developing Benchmark Documents for practice in Ayurveda, Panchakarma and Unani system as part of its global strategy to provide safe, effective and accessible Traditional Medicine to the global community. Development of these benchmarks documents is included in the Project Collaboration Agreement (PCA) between WHO and Ministry of AYUSH.
- According to the The UN's Levels and Trends in Child Mortality Report 2018, India's under-five mortality is the same as the world's average, which has decreased over time. On average, 39 children out of 1000 worldwide did not live beyond the age of five in 2017.
- According to the report, 78% of the BPL families prefer private hospitals for treatment in Gujarat state.
- Health Minister of Punjab said that The Punjab Government will soon launch a special programme to curb oral cancer in the state.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched India's first ever online and centralised National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO) on 20 September 2018 in New Delhi. Names and details of some 4.4 lakh people convicted for various sexual offences across the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited to a group of about 90 ASHA representatives from across the country. He encouraged them to devote their energies to work in coordination with other government agencies to improve the quality of life in their villages.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana from Jharkhand. Under the scheme, over 10 crore families will be provided health insurance worth Rs.5 lakh each. The PM will launch it on 23rd September but it will become operational on 25th September.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has launched the health assurance scheme 'Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' - at Ranchi, Jharkhand and termed it a game-changer initiative to serve the poor. Under this scheme, over 10 crore families will be provided health assurance worth five lakh rupees each, every year.

Skill Development/Employment

- Andhra Pradesh government decided to fill 20010 vacancies in various departments. These vacancies include Group-I, Group-II, Group-III, DSC, Police and other departments.
- Good news for Andhra Pradesh youth unemployed. The Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has given approval for over 20 thousand posts vacant in the department.
- In Telangana, regularized to 23000 outsourced artisan employees in electricity department.
- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) approves the new railway line (205.5 km) with electrification between Indore to Budni. It will reduce the distance and travel time between Jabalpur and Indore. It generates the direct employment during the construction for about 49.32 lakhs man days.
- HRD Minister Ganta Srinivas Rao said the notification for recruitment of 6000 teachers will be issued soon.
- According to the new study released by Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment, recommends that unemployment among educated youth at 16%. Majority of workers earn less than Rs 10,000 per month but wages growth steady.
- According to the 2018 United Nations Human Development Report (UNHDR), Unemployment not only the problem but 8 out of 10 India's also don't have even have decent jobs.
- 'Skill development is needed in changing job market'.
- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and NAREDCO is strengthening skill development training and employment opportunities in construction sector. It provides the training to 250000 of urban poor people in coming three years under the Skill India Mission. Its focus to improve the quality of urban areas in the country.
- The Government develops the quality of infrastructure of urban through six programs like SBM, SCM, AMRUT, PMAY-U, DAY- NULM, and HRIDAY.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar at Kalahandi in Odisha. It imparts the training in 5 categories like plumber, sewing machine operator, and home health aide and electrician domestic solutions. It trains to 1000 candidates per annum. By this program, to enhance skill development and get the good employment in society.

Partnership/Women and Child Development

- India and the US have agreed to deepen cooperation in international fora like the United Nations and the Financial Action Task Force to fight against terrorism.

- President of India said that India & Bulgaria have strong historical ties.
- India and France sign an implementation agreement on “MOBILISE YOUR CITY” (MYC). European Union agrees to Euro 3.5 million for investments and technical assistance within the MYC programme in India.
- The Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has proposed to double bilateral trade with Iran in the next five years from the current level of 13.8 billion dollars.
- Aiming to benefit more than 50,000 women in the National Capital Region of Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with UNDP and Society for Development Alternatives (DA).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Tripura jointly inaugurated three projects in Bangladesh. These include 500 MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh, Akhaura - Agartala Rail Link and Rehabilitation of the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.
- The Union Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has proposed to double bilateral trade with Iran in the next five years from the current level of 13.8 billion dollars.
- The Union Commerce Ministry said that India and Russia discussed ways to increase economic cooperation in areas such as mining and geological exploration, gold, diamond and agriculture.
- Future group ties up with USAID horticulture & agriculture marketing programme.
- India and Malta signed three MoUs in the fields of Maritime Cooperation, Tourism and Training.
- India and Nepal have agreed to explore the possibility of using high-resolution satellite images in boundary survey work.
- United Nations and NITI Aayog India sign on Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-22. This agreement is reflection and efforts made by India towards of SDG.
- The Minister of women and children Smt. Maneka Gandhi and Chief Minister of UP, Shri Adityanath Yogi inaugurated the widow house (Krishna Kutir) in Vrindavan, Mathura, UP under Swadhar Greh scheme. Krishna Kutir, it is a special home for 1000 widows. UP government also allot land to create large homes for helpless women and children in Luknow and Varanasi. West Bengal Government to reduce under-nutrition and anemia among women and children in the state by 2020 on the day of National Nutrition Week.
- PM Modi announced hike in remuneration for ASHA, Anganwadi workers and effective from next month. Those receiving 3000 rupees so far, would now receive 4500 rupees. Those receiving 2200 would now get 3500 rupees.
- WCD Minister Maneka Gandhi said, Ministry of Women and Child Development has invited nominations for the National Children Awards-2018. National Children Award is an amazing platform to honour the exceptional achievement of children and those who still towards the welfare, development and protection of children.
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, announced a landmark increase in remuneration for ASHA and Anganwadi workers. Those receiving Rs. 3000 so far, would now receive Rs. 4500. Similarly, those receiving Rs. 2200 would now get Rs. 3500. The honorarium for Anganwadi helpers has also been increased from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2250.

- PM Modi announced hike in remuneration for ASHA, Anganwadi workers and effective from next month. Those receiving 3000 rupees so far, would now receive 4500 rupees. Those receiving 2200 would now get 3500 rupees.
- According to an official statement, Jharkhand cabinet decided to grant four day leave annually to its employees for blood donations at a government recognized blood bank or organization and get a certificate to the same effect.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development said that nearly 37 lakh women (pregnant women and lactating women) have received cash incentives (Rs.5000/-) under the Centre's maternity benefits programme.
- In West Bengal, four Child Friendly Courts were inaugurated to help juvenile victims and offenders.
- First time, India's under five mortality rate has been estimated at 39 deaths per 1000 live births same as the global average. The under-five mortality of the girl child is 2.5% higher (40deaths per 1000 live births) than the under-five mortality of the boy child (39 deaths per 1000 births)
- As per the study, student enrolment goes up, but malnutrition persists. One-third of children continue to suffer from malnutrition with 32% stunting and 30% thinness.
- The 7th National Conference on Excellence in workplace Safety and Occupational Health, the meeting was held in New Delhi. The Minister of Labour and Employment, Santhosh Kumar Ganguar addressed in the conference to give priority to the women safety and health importance in the working places and also government committed to making lives better.
- The Supreme Court of India allowed the all ages of women in to Sabharimala temple. The verdict is release on Friday to nation of India. The Chief Justice of India Deepak Mishra reading the judgment on devotion cannot be subjected to gender discrimination.

Miscellaneous

- Maharashtra Government will launch the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) across the state on 25th September 2018 on day of Jana Sangh Co-Founder Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's birth anniversary. Beneficiaries are over 83 lakhs in the state. The survey covered 40,237 households across 2016 villages or wards spread over 245 districts in 29 states.
- Union Home Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh announced the first Census to count Other Backward Classes (OBC) in 2021. It is first time to collect data on OBCs, more than 25 years after the implementation of reservation for OBCs. OBC census data is likely to be available by 2024.
- Centre prepared a policy for Eco-Tourism in forest and wildlife areas, which will provide livelihood opportunities for the local communities, working as nature and tourist guides for providing hospitality. Environment Minister Dr Harsh vardhan said, to enhance the capacity of local communities through specialized training on eco-tourism activities will be imparted.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Clean Mobility powered by Clean Energy is the most powerful weapon in the fight against Climate Change, and is the key driver of the economy.
- Finance ministry has notified annual tax return forms for businesses registered under the GST, in which details of sales, purchases and input tax credit (ITC) benefits accrued to them during 2017-18 fiscal have to

be provided in a consolidated manner.

- Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has cautioned that the next crisis in India's banking sector could come from loans given to the unorganized micro and small businesses, called MUDRA loans, and credit extended through the Kisan credit card.
- The government has extended the due date of filing the Income Tax Returns and Audit Reports for Assessment Year 2018-19 to 15th of next month for certain categories of taxpayers.
- Industries Bodies said India's economic growth of 8.2% in the April-June quarter is outcome of reforms undertaken by the government in the last four years.
- India Meteorological Department stated that the country recorded below normal rainfall in as many as 12 of the 13 weeks.
- Finance Ministry clarified that banks will remain open in the first week of September 2018. Finance minister rejected the rumour, circulating in social media that banks will be closed for six days in the first week of September 2018. Banks will have holidays only (2nd Sep) and second Saturday (8th Sep). ATMS will be fully functional on those days in all states.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India Post Payment Banks (IPPB) across the country on 31 August 2018. IPPB has been envisioned as an accessible, affordable and trusted bank for the common man to help speedily achieve the financial inclusion. It will leverage the vast network of the Department of Posts, which covers every corner of the country with more than three lakh Postmen and Grameen Dak Sewaks. IPPB will have 650 branches and 3250 access points spread across the country.
- Petrol and diesel prices touched their highest level in the country mainly due to dramatic fall in rupee and a sharp rise in crude oil rates. In Delhi, petrol price rose to a record Rs.79.15 a litre and diesel climbed to a fresh high of Rs.71.15.
- At Future Mobility Summit-2018 in Delhi, NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant has said that India will shortly unveil a One Nation-One Card policy for public transport that will entail connectivity between various modes of transport.
- Banks have agreed in principle to sanction up to Rs. 1 lakh to victims of the recent flood who are also beneficiaries of a grant of Rs. 10,000 provided by the State government in Kerala state.
- PM Narendra Modi said that government is focused on financial inclusion of the poor especially in remote areas of the country.
- Medical Education Minister of Maharashtra, Girish Mahajan said that Maharashtra is keen on adopting some of Kerala's flood-affected villages towards their rehabilitation.
- According to the Union Home Ministry data, so far, more than 1400 people have lost their lives due to rains, floods and landslides in 10 states during the monsoon season this year. According to the Ministry's national Emergency Response Centre, 488 people have died in Kerala.
- India along with 23 other nations will participate in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock drill on 4th & 5th September 2018 which will involve evacuation of thousands of people from coastal areas in over half a dozen coastal. This exercise is known as, IOWave18.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) said its proposal for hike in wages to Khadi spinners along

with payment of government subsidy has been approved with effect from the 15th August 2018. The government approved a proposal to increase wages of artisans by over 36%, from Rs.5.50 per hank to Rs.7.50.

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that Gujarat has fallen behind in food fortification. Gujarat has been battling child and maternal malnutrition for several years. The CEO of India's food regulator, that Gujarat, which had taken a lead in food fortification, has fallen behind other states like Haryana which are implementing it at a faster pace.
- Telangana state Chief Minister, K Chandrasekhar Rao reiterated at the Prgathi Nivedana Sabha, has been registering impressive revenue growth continuously and its revenue growth touched 20.72% till August 2018.
- Thousands of farmers and workers started their Kisan-Mazdoor sangharsh rally from Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi. Their demands are effective implementation of labour laws, minimum wage, more employment, and recognition of one crore Anganwadi and ASHA workers as a workforce.
- Odisha says that water flow into the Hirakud reservoir on the Mahanadi river decreased by 34% in 2017-18 compared with the average water inflow recorded over 10 years period between 2005-06 and 2015-16 during the non-monsoon season.
- The Union Minister Nitin Gadkari stated, the Government has decided to exempt electric vehicles and automobiles run on alternative fuel from permit requirements. The move is in a bid to boost such vehicles in the country to bring down pollution.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh said at the Nest Fest in New Delhi, development of North east region is vital for country's progress.
- According to HSBC Report, only a third in India is regularly saving for their retirement while just 33% of working-age respondents globally are putting anything aside for their later life.
- Under the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyothi Yojana, tribal hamlets are finally seeing light at the end of tunnel in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Telangana. About seven thousand households are getting benefit and household are getting electricity connections at a cost of just Rs.125.
- To strengthen the food safety surveillance system, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has envisaged audits of food business operators by third-party private auditing agencies recognised by the regulator.
- HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said that children can play a key role in eradicating illiteracy from the country. He urged all students to come forward and teach their illiterate family members so that they can also read and write.
- Aadhar not mandatory for booking an International Parcel, says Department of Posts.
- Five children were among the 58 persons killed morning when a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) bus plunged into a gorge while on its way from the Kondagattu temple in Jagtial district. Forty-three persons were seriously injured in the accident.
- Hindi Divas being celebrated across the country on 14th September 2018. It was on this day in 1949 that the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari as the official language of the country.

- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari said that his ministry will construct two lakh kilometers of roads in the country by the completion of the NDA government's 5 year term.
- The Cabinet Committee o Economic Affairs approved the proposal for electrification of the remaining 13,675 route km of railway tracks are converting the entire railway network into electronic and an estimated cost of over Rs.12,134 crore.
- Kerala Government seeks Rs.4700 crore as compensation for flood damage from center. State government sent a memorandum to the Home Ministry regarding details of damage and requirement of funds for relief operations in the state.
- The Uttar Pradesh Government allots Rs.893 crore to the Shapoorji Pallonji group to address pollution in the Ganga River in Kanpur.
- Indian Space Reach Organization successfully launches PSLV - C - 42 with two British earth observation satellites NovaSAR and S 1-4 in precision from the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota.
- The Supreme Court directed the Centre to consider framing separate rules for granting disability certificates to leprosy patients for availing reservation and various welfare benefits.
- The round-the-clock water supply scheme proposed as part of the Area based Development (ABD) under the Smart City initiative will cover around 10,000 households and other establishments in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh State.
- The Reserve Bank to purchase government securities (G-Secs) worth Rs.10, 000 crore on 19th September 2018, a move aimed at inducing liquidity in the system. The Government securities will be done through Open Market Operations (OMO).
- Maharashtra Government seeks Rs.3500 crore help for Vidarbha, Marathwada to tackle the regional imbalance from centre.
- Vice President of India has said India moving towards the formal economy with systemic reforms.
- According to the Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry, over 15% of the 54.95 lakh houses sanctioned in last three years under the Centre's flagship Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).
- Karnataka government CM announced that their government reduces Rs.2/- on one litre petrol and diesel prices.
- Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated a network of 3404 Test Practice Centre (TPCs) spread across the country to help students get familiar with the pattern of competitive exams to be conducted by the newly established National Testing Agency (NTA).
- The Ministry of Rural Development revealed that around 13,511 villages across all states do not have a school; even as the Centre pushes for universal education through various schemes.
- The monthly pension of workers, who are registered with the Construction Workers Welfare Board, was hiked from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,500 in Haryana, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said.
- The Gujarat assembly passed a bill to increase MLA's monthly salaries by Rs.45589/-. The salaries will increase to Rs.116316/- from Rs.70,727/-.Daily allowances will increase to Rs.1000/- from Rs.200/-. This is effective from 22 December 2017.

- Maharashtra government seeks Rs.50000/- crore packages for development projects in Mumbai from the Finance Commission.
- ESIC has approved a new scheme - Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna (ABVKY) for insured persons covered under the employees state insurance Act. This scheme will provide the payable amount to the client through the bank account in case of unemployment and while they search for new job.
- It also provides the super specialty medical services to insured family have been relaxed has now been relaxed to insurable employment of one year with 156 days of contributions. The scheme, increase the funeral expenses Rs. 10000 to Rs.15000 to the death of insured person.
- Indian President Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated an Ordinance banning the practice of instant triple talaq. The Gazette notification was released by Ministry of law and Justice on 19 September.
- The Water storage level goes down one percentage of 91 major reservoirs in the country. On September 20, 2018, the water level 120.87 BCM which is 74% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs. This percentage was at 75% for the week ending on September 13, 2018.
- The Union Government of India has organized the 'Swacchhta Hi Seva' programme by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The program main aim is to make all the protected area in the country plastic free and clean.
- India has contributed one million US dollars for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the imposing UN building at the world body's headquarters in New York.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved financial assistance of 3466 crore rupees for repair and safety of 198 dams in the country. The cabinet has also approved 205 kilometers Indore-Budhni new railway line with an investment of over 3200 crore rupees.
- Chief Minister HD Kumara Swamy laid the foundation stones for three lift irrigation projects in Hassan district in Karnataka.
- The Maharashtra government is launching a yatra to search for future entrepreneurs and unicorns in rural areas. The month-long start-up yatra will be flagged off by the Minister of commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu and cover 14 districts of Maharashtra.
- According to UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, India brought 271 million people have come out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for various developmental projects, including highway projects and a railway line, worth more than Rs.3000 crore in Janjgir town of Chhattisgarh.
- Punjab state's Power Minister said that the Punjab government approved a super critical thermal plant of 4000MW capacity for Rupnagar.
- HRD Minister Ganta Srinivas Rao said the notification for recruitment of 6000 teachers will be issued soon.
- 24September 2018 Telangana Governor E.S.L Narasimhan will be inaugurated the metro rail from Ameerpet-L.B.Nagar route.
- The central government begins consolidation of regional rural banks (RRB).
- Union Health Minister J P Nadda today said that one thousand people have been benefited on the first day

after the launch of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY).

- Vice President of India inaugurates Indian Culinary Institute and two projects of Coastal Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- He has said that Indian food heritage is a mixture of art and science. Indian cuisine reflects the culture and tradition of the country.
- He has said that the tourism industry is one of the greatest sources of economic growth and job creation.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the United Nations' Champions of the Earth award for the year 2018. The United Nations recognized Modi with its highest environmental honor in the policy leadership category of his efforts to eliminate all single use plastic in India by 2022.
- The Cabinet has approved the National Digital Communication Policy 2018 which aims to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 megabit per second (MBPS) to every citizen. It will also provide one Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
- Tribal Welfare Minister said that Andhra Pradesh government proposed (Rs.1056 crore works) to improve the roads under 'Giribata' programme. (2792018)
- The centre approved the construction of over 6,26,000 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) in the 38th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee.
- The Union Cabinet has approved providing Central Assistance of Rs.620.42 crore and 205.758 crore for implementation of relining of Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Sirhind Feeder Canal respectively over five years (2018-19 and 2022-23).
- District in –charge Secretary said that four taluks have already been declared drought-affected in Chitradurga district; the administration should appeal to the state government to declare the remaining two taluks also as drought affected as there is scanty rainfall in all the six taluks of the district, Karnataka.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said Ease of Living Index is a transformative initiative of the Ministry to help the cities assess livability as per national and global benchmark. He said the index will encourage all cities to move towards an outcome-based approach to urban planning and management.
- India has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco products. The quit -line number will be printed on all tobacco products manufactured after September 1, 2018.
- Petrol crosses Rs 90-mark in Mumbai, rates at all-time high across the country.
- Union Power Minister R K Singh today said that energy savings are 30 percent more at 8.67 million tonnes of oil equivalent than the target in the first phase of the energy conservation scheme Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT).
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- Tribal Welfare Minister said that Andhra Pradesh government proposed (Rs.1056 crore works) to improve the roads under 'Giribata' programme.
- The Assam government launches the Universal Pension Scheme on October 2 on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This scheme will be applicable over of 60 years age.
- The Supreme Court of India allowed the all ages of women in to Sabharimala temple. The verdict is release to nation of India. The Chief Justice of India Deepak Mishra reading the judgment on devotion cannot be subjected to gender discrimination.
- United Nations and NITI Aayog India sign on Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-22.This agreement is reflection and efforts made by India towards of SDG.
- Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Puri said that civic bodies around the country would be reaching the target of constructing five lakh community and 67 lakh individual household toilets by the end of 2019.
- Ministry of Railways is observing 'Swachhta Hi Sewa Pakhwada' across its entire network from 15th September to 2nd October 2018 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- According to United Nations Development Programme, India ranks a low 130 out of 189 countries in the latest Human Development Index (HDI).
- The NGO will organize 'Mumbai Plastic Recyclothon' on 2nd October to create awareness about recycling and reusing plastic in Mumbai.
- The Uttarakhand High Court ordered the closure of all illegal slaughter houses in the state within 72 hours.
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Updates from Weeklies

- **FPO- Assessment Criterion-** Farmer Producer organizations are recognized as the fourth category of the corporate entity in 2002, in India. This form is playing an important role in enhancing the accessibility of services to many small-scale farmers, standing as a symbol of collective action and Cooperation. The shifting focus necessitates charting out of steady determinants of performance and viability. This would enhance the prospects of our primary sector and its contribution to broader economy. Several studies at micro and macro levels also emphasize the role of partner organizations, private agencies in their success and sustainability. In this regards, life cycle and stake holder potential for cooperation frameworks and its relevance needs to be understood. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/35/special-articles/farmer-producer-companies-india.html>]
- **Kerala After Flood:** Kerala faced the worst flood in close to a century which killed over 400 and displaced over 700,000. The agony is not over yet and the reconstruction is a long way ahead. There has been severe loss of livelihood-farmers losing their agricultural land and livestock, shopkeepers their shops along with supplies, small-scale factory owners their goods. In several places, schools, hospitals and primary healthcare centres need major repairs. The tourism sector contributing to 12% state income has faced a major setback with more than 80% cancelled bookings in the festive season of Onam. The state is fighting back strongly, with the support of various government organisations, institutions, local community volunteers, NGOs, who are going out of their way to help in cleaning up as well as in reviving normal life. The state has received Rs.714 crores in CM distress relief funds and people have donated online across the nation. Providing clean drinking water and controlling epidemics are still a serious concern for the state. Meanwhile, the state has offered Rs 10,000 to each family affected by the flood. Small-scale businesses which were destroyed will be given interest free loans of Rs 10 lakh each, and a moratorium of one to one-and-a-half years to repay their debt. Also, to be extended are loans for rebuilding and repairs of homes, with no margin for amounts up to Rs 5 lakh, as well as for farming. [For further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/nation/story/20180910-picking-up-the-pieces-kerala-rebuilds-itself-after-devastating-floods-1327240-2018-09-01>]
- **Aye Sayers to work- Mothers of newborn-** Lack of alternatives is pushing several mothers of newborns engaged in informal sector to opt for work than breastfeed. The findings of a survey on 120 working mothers across domestic workers, street vendors and home-based workers showed that 47% returned to work within three months of delivery. This leaves the infants be fed with supplements, wherein issues of hygiene and diet plan is leading to undernourishment and digestive problems. In a scenario where, women are unable to cope with triple burden, the reality of poverty weighs heavier. Lack of suffice social security and support system, pushes them nowhere but to work [for further reading: <http://www.indiaspend.com/cover-story/to-work-or-breastfeed-tough-choice-sets-back-women-in-indias-informal-economy-25276>]
- **DE 'stressed' ties- RBI Vs GOI-** The strained relationship between the regulator of banks and the finance ministry seems evident with repeated contra opinions on demonetization, interest rates, classification of defaulters, NPA recognition and resolution. In the wake of growing inflation, depreciating rupee value, hiking fuel prices this is uncalled for. Clear call on Insolvency and Bankruptcy code, Prompt Corrective Action Framework, Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill stands at the cross roads. [for further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/the-big-story/story/20180910-rbi-vs-government-1327242-2018-08-31>]

- **Persisting Vacancies in Public Sector**- With the issue of increasing informalization in organized sector creating ripples, a trailing vacancy of 0.24 million in the government's own is reality. "Choice" was optimized to be the reason in developed countries while the interests vary in a developing country where Education and Skills Vs Opportunities still needs a tally. A study on Indian Youth revealed that permanency was prioritized over earnings. Wherein, the preference for government jobs was shared by three-fifths. Misallocation of funds, hikes of pay commissions leaves resources limited for job creations. As a resort casual and contractual recruitments gain momentum [for further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/35/editorials/deconstructing-indias-employmentd%C3%A9marche.html>]
- **Productivity Vulnerable to Temperature** - Global Warming leading the current reality, a study on Temperature rise and productivity stands out. The findings in Indian context reveal that, for every one degree rise in temperature above 27 degrees, the productivity goes down by 4% in labor intensive processes. It was also identified that absenteeism and temperature have direct proportionality with illness and fatigue compelling the laborers. Though, air conditioning can be a way out for many. The affordability with respect to low value added and small margin industries, an important component in informal sector manufacturing in India doesn't seem optimistic. On broader terms, its impact on output and Gross Domestic Product is alarming. [for further reading: <http://www.indiaspend.com/cover-story/hotter-weather-threatens-productivity-of-indian-workers-study-51783>]
- **Paddy straw falls bait to fire**- Green Revolution propelled the output of Paddy and Wheat across India. This not only led to increased Food security but also to unresolved issue of crop residue management. Handling wheat straw became far easier as it is a good fodder. The real issue arises while handling paddy straw with burning seen a common practice due to lack of effective alternatives. This is observed mostly in several water stressed regions of North West, including Rajasthan. This raw material which can be used as a potential medium for generation of power, bio CNG, cardboards, ethanol and mulch is entering the atmosphere, snatching several lives due to burning induced pollution. This comes in the wake of National Green Tribunals issuing the governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to take action against this method. [for further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/36/commentary/crop-residue-burning.html>)]
- **Face Value of Currency's on decline** - In the wake of 'Indian Rupee' standing at 72.50 against the US dollar, the lowest across the time. Surging diesel and petrol prices in turn generating inflation of commodities rose as a consequence. Assuming the geo-politics and fiscal dynamics, an air of 13% depreciation glared from the beginning of this year. Keeping the hands on data, disseminated that we don't stand alone in this scenario, with three countries namely Argentinian Peso, Turkish Lira, Russian Ruble loosing over 100% across USD in last five years. [for further reading: <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/rupee-fall-dollar-lok-sabha-elections-global-trade-war/story/282235.html>]
- **Quality Health'Care'?**- The alarming numbers of a study projects that as of 2016, 1.6 millions died due to poor quality of health care over 838000 people who lost lives due to non-utilization of healthcare services. In the time where Ayushman Bharat Yojana is ready for rolling, the findings of this study identifies, India is badly underperforming both in comparison to neighbors and BRICS countries. The consequences of which are not only about mortality but may lead to wasted resources, less useful health expenditures and above all lack of faith on public health. As healthcare involves assessment, diagnosis, treatment and referral and not mere infrastructure, ensuring quality at each level would be a prima facie. While voices for quality healthcare are on a rise, the poor are still caught up in this reality. [for further reading

<http://www.indiaspend.com/cover-story/more-indians-die-of-poor-quality-care-than-due-to-lack-of-access-to-healthcare-1-6-million-64432>)

- **Floods in Kodagu:** Another state added to flood hits. Kodagu district in Karnataka received its highest rainfall of 1,675 mm of the past 87 years. This has resulted in landslides, leading to series of devastating events. This left the state struggling for reviving the situation. More than 1,200 houses have collapsed; 6,990 people have been moved to 51 relief camps across the district and 4,450 people have been rescued. Acres of young and mature coffee plants have been washed away, paddy fields have turned into muddy swamps; bridges and roads, including key national highways, have vanished, leaving behind gaping voids. With agricultural activities at a standstill, coffee yields have reduced drastically. Tourists have been banned in the district until August 30. The people registered in the relief camps are been paid Rs.3800 relief amount for sustenance. However, they are still in dilemma whether this is a natural or a man-made disaster. As Karnataka started storing water in June and by July the reservoirs were full. Thus, during this heavy rain in August the reservoirs could not hold water anymore and the water had to be released. [For further reading: <https://www.frontline.in/coverstory/article24801477.ece?homepage=true>]
- **A Tale against malnutrition** - The story which is led by community and stakeholders begins in Palawi of Dharavi, which holds Asia's third largest population of slums. In this regards, understanding the scenario of Malnutrition stands important, as nearly 20% children under age five are being wasted and 7% being severely wasted despite a marginal improvement. Several factors resort to the this issue varying from access to food to the mother's going for jobs that demanded more labor and less pay. While the picture remained no brighter in the mentioned, a community initiative which focused on emphasizing the spread of risks by extending support to Anganwaadi is proving fruitful. Currently Aahar, Asia's largest urban malnutrition programme also reduced the coverage in its second phase here. [For further reading: <http://www.indiaspend.com/cover-story/in-a-mumbai-slum-children-become-healthier-as-their-parents-learn-to-tackle-malnutrition-25128>]
- **Fuel Prices: A burning issue** - In June this year, when fuel prices in India shot up after global crude prices crossed \$80 a barrel, Union minister for oil Dharmendra Pradhan said there was little that the central government could do, but states should look at lowering the value added tax (VAT) on fuel. He also said that petrol and diesel needed to be brought under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) if their prices needed to be lowered. Three months later, the issue of high fuel prices has boiled over, with the Congress calling for a nationwide bandh on September 10, even as prices of petrol touched Rs 88.21 a litre and diesel Rs 77.41 in Mumbai. The bandh saw sporadic violence in a few states, but again it seemed the Centre could do precious little to lower fuel prices. That is, if it had any intention of doing so at all. The reason for this is not hard to find. Traditionally, excise duties and VAT on fuel have been major sources of revenue for the central and state governments. [For further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20180924-fuel-prices-a-burning-issue-1338628-2018-09-14>]
- **Non-performing Power Sector Assets** - Having overcome a legacy of the extreme shortage of supply, India's power sector is in the midst of a crisis with ramifications of a wholly different kind. The crisis arises because firms accounting for a significant proportion of power sector assets have defaulted on their debt-servicing commitments, and banks are not able to find ways of restructuring that debt or recouping their money. So the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) guidelines require that the assets should be liquidated to recover whatever is possible and compensate banks from which these firms had taken loans, and then defaulted. But the assessment is that liquidation would yield the banks little, if anything at all. There are 34 projects that have

been identified as stressed, accounting for 24,405 MW of commissioned capacity and another 15,725 MW of capacity that is still under construction. The total outstanding debt in these projects is `1.74 lakh crore. The projects are stressed either because the loans concerned have been declared as non-performing assets (NPAs) or are identified as being potential NPAs. Gross NPAs in the power sector were, at the end of June 2017, placed at `37,941 crore, of which as much as `34,244 crore was in generation. But the magnitude of NPAs is set to rise in the coming weeks and months. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/37/ht-parekh-finance-column/non-performing-power-sector-assets.html>]

- **AYUSH and Health Services** - Maharashtra, despite several achievements in healthcare, does not have enough opportunities for Ayurveda or homoeopathy professionals in the government healthcare delivery systems. The opportunities for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) professionals to work as clinicians in healthcare systems have been confined only to AYUSH medical colleges and few AYUSH dispensaries under the zilla parishads. This is unlike the situation with other southern states, like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, where the government healthcare delivery for AYUSH systems does have primary, secondary and tertiary levels for exclusive practice, with the medical colleges performing the role of tertiary-level hospitals. Within the private sector, there are very few AYUSH clinics and hospitals that ensure exclusive AYUSH practice. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/37/commentary/ayush-and-health-services.html>]
- **Urban Canals and Peri-urban Agrarian Institutions** - The metabolisation of water to serve urban consumption through drinking and waste water canals is an important yet understudied aspect of urbanization in Indian cities. The empirical evidence from fieldwork in Budhera village in peri-urban Gurgaon suggests that the surface water that flows in the canal systems is open to seepage, theft, waste water irrigation, and these processes have a profound impact on agricultural livelihoods in the vicinity. The structure of the canals in relation to the geographic conditions of land, social relations and technologies create differentiated risks and opportunities for farmers and produce complex distributional impacts that are unplanned and arbitrary. This article looks at different types of conflicts that emerge in this context while also focusing on new norms, institutions and practices that support the changing rural–urban flows of water and prevent conflicts of interest from emerging into outright conflicts. This article is based on research carried out under the CoCOON-CCMCC project funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The authors thank NWO for financial support provided and SaciWATERS for organisational support during the conduct of the study. The authors thank the many members of the peri-urban community in Budhera and representatives of state organisations who gave of their time during the study. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/37/special-articles/urban-canals-and-peri-urban-agrarian.html>]
- **Food Insecurity and Malnutrition among Santhal Children in Jharkhand** - Despite several strategic interventions, India is struggling hard with the many issues contributing to child mortality and malnutrition. This study is an exploration of various dimensions affecting the nutritional status of children in Gandeypur block, Jharkhand, a populous tribal belt in India. It makes an attempt to evaluate the food security within this community by exploring predominant variables operating in the area leading to malnutrition: socio-economic, demographic and political factors, pattern of food consumption, and coverage of government schemes. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/37/notes/food-insecurity-and-malnutrition-among.html>]

- National Health Stack: The Driving Force of The Jan Arogya Abhiyan** - Jan Arogya Abhiyan, or Ayushman Bharat, as it was known previously, shall encompass over 500 million Indians, offering approximately 110 million families an annual health cover of Rs 500,000. The scheme shall include the operationalisation of over 150,000 health and wellness centres, apart from players from the private sector. Catering to a pool of over 500 million Indians requires a robust digital infrastructure. Conventionally, the public sector has relied on the service-based Information Technology industry for solutions pertaining to banking, taxation, and so on. Jan Arogya Abhiyan, however, marks the beginning of an era in the public sector moving towards a product-oriented approach with the inculcation of a platform called the National Health Stack. [For further reading: <https://swarajyamag.com/infrastructure/national-health-stack-the-driving-force-of-the-jan-arogy-abhiyan>]
- Worker's Demand of Rights:** On 5th September 2017, this rally "Mazdoor Kisan Sangharsh Rally" was led primarily by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) and the All India Agricultural Workers Union (AIAWU), all mass organisations of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Delhi. Nearly one and a half lakh workers from different occupations, industrial, agricultural, and small farmers from 26 states had come together on a joint platform and their demands were fixed: 1. Fixed national minimum wage; 2. Remunerative prices for agricultural produce; 3. Guaranteed procurement; 4. Universal social security. [For further reading: <https://www.frontline.in/the-nation/article24924627.ece?homepage=true>]
- Human lives in the Sewers:** It is very alarming stats that says that a safai karmchari dies every five days in India. It is clear that technical solutions can solve this issue but the question lies in is that the actual root? And can the technology fix it? The major problem with the stigma of manual scavenger lies in the social grounds and our own policies where the issue is passed on from municipalities to governments-in states and at the Centre-to elected representatives to rest the cause. They majorly from the Valmiki caste who has the long history of manual scavenging and face discrimination. Even those escape from the scavenging work struggles to hide their identity even to their spouse. Laws passed in 1993 and 2013 specifically bans manual scavenging but why are they not firmly enforced? The provision for compensation of Rs 10 lakh for each family that loses a member to sewer cleaning work is received barely 2 per cent cases. So, realising the discrimination, scale and intensity of the issue is a long road. It would just a small step towards acknowledging their pain if dignified employment could be found for desperate families that must risk death every day to just stay alive. [For further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20181001-it-s-not-a-spiritual-experience-to-die-in-a-sewer-mr-pm-1345537-2018-09-22>]
- Role of Dams in Kerala's Flood Disaster** - During the July–August 2018 floods in Kerala, basic norms were violated in the management of dams, which, if operated prudently, could have alleviated the magnitude of the disaster. In this context, a strategy for the management of dams to mitigate similar disasters has been outlined. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/38/commentary/role-dams-keralas-flood-disaster.html>]
- Challenges of Competition and Regulation in the Telecom Sector** - The telecommunications sector has come a long way from its perceived status as a natural monopoly to a competitive multiplayer industry. As competitive forces, both from within the telecom industry and the surrounding digital ecosystem, continue to redefine the sector's dynamics, it creates new challenges for regulation and competition enforcement. Calling for fresh thinking on the respective roles of the sectoral regulator, the competition authority and the need for greater synergies between them, a model for voluntary cooperation between the authorities is

suggested. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/38/market-power-and-competition-policy/challenges-competition-and-regulation.html>]

- **Climate Justice and Gandhian Morality** - Gandhian principles of morality have in the past been linked in various ways to India's approach to environmental governance and, more recently, to the contemplation of the broader global debate on climate change. The applicability of these principles to conceptions of climate justice is examined by exploring the ways in which the idea of M K Gandhi is articulated in an Indian context. The vocalisation of Gandhi as a symbol of Indian engagement with climate change and sustainable development asks to be located within broader normative perspectives on the content and directionality of a Gandhian approach. Ideas of cosmopolitanism and "realised justice" supply a useful backdrop for a contemporary reading of Gandhi, and draw attention to several questions that this article examines. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/38/special-articles/climate-justice-and-gandhian-morality.html>]
- **Artisan's Rangсутra:** Rangсутra founded by Sumita Ghose is into combining traditional crafts like handloom, tie-dye, block printing, hand embroidery, mirror work and applique on contemporary designs, supplied garments and home products from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur. She was inspired by Urmul Trust's work in Western Rajasthan is set to make her handloom and handicraft-based producer-owned company Rangсутra a sustainable livelihood for the stakeholder (i.e. the artisans). In 2007 Rangсутra was incorporated as a public company and presently it has 2500 artisans owning 32 per cent of the company are the part of the board, they are working with 3500 artisan in which 70 per cent is women. Initial five years it supplied products to Fabindia. In 2008 it broke even and now it is all set to sell their products to consumers directly through online platforms and exhibition spaces. Their strategy lies organising in different areas in clusters as self-help groups, giving them the required training to maintain quality and ensuring they get regular work so the organisation is sustainable and artisans get stable income. A full-timer earns between Rs. 15000 to Rs.20000 per month in Rangсутra. [For further reading: <https://www.businesstoday.in/exclusive/specials/most-powerful-women-2018/weaving-an-amul-story/281927.html>]
- **Diversified Farming:** Sabarmatee who refers herself as a volunteer at Sambhav started an experiment with her father and few likeminded people on one acre of wasteland which is now rejuvenated in a sprawling 90 acre of forest with three rainwater harvesting ponds, over 1,000 species of plants and 493 varieties of rice. There were two aims: practice organic farming to rejuvenate the lands and work on gender issues of agriculture. There are numerous benefits of growing different species of same plant and larger environmental benefits. In agriculture it was evident that women put in more manual labour than men in agriculture. But are considered unskilled and paid less. Using traditional means, women spend 1,000-1,500 hours to grow one hectare of rice. From her research in Odisha villages, she found that System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technology allows women to be in upright position, and reduced the hours required, reducing drudgery and pain giving them more time to rest. The best achievement they have disapproved the popular belief that indigenous varieties and organic farming to reduce production. [For further reading: <https://www.businesstoday.in/exclusive/specials/most-powerful-women-2018/diversified-farming-story/282002.html>] ❖