



# **livelihoods**

*today and tomorrow*

**November 2018**

## **Monthly Livelihoods Update**

*“A month that was !”*

**Agriculture**

**Livelihoods/Employment/Skill Development**

**Economy**

**Schemes/Policies/Initiatives/Partnerships**

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# Summary of Daily Livelihoods Update

## Agriculture

- The Cabinet has approved a Rs.105 per quintal hike in the minimum support price of Wheat to Rs.1840 per quintal for 2018-19 season.
- Agriculture Ministry plans to set up over seed-testing labs and it will increase the 15-20% of crop yield.
- Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said that the government has decided to cover crop damages in wild animal attacks under **Pradhan Mantri fasal Bhima Yojna** in select districts on an experimental basis.
- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh said that the demand for Indian organic produce is high in the global market.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the government is committed to the welfare of the farmers and constantly working for creating a world class market for them.
- The Government of India is considering bringing the organic produce to get 20 % higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) on Organic Produce. This process is encouraging pesticide free farming in the country.
- Procurement season: Farmers fret as 65% less paddy in mandis this year.
- More than 60% markets sell agricultural produce below MSP.The price of cereal, paddy and oilseed has crashed in more than 1,700 markets, according to government data.
- Drip Irrigation reduce labour cost and increase the food grain output nearly 40%.
- Union Government of India identifies the Agro specific zones under new agriculture export policy. It would increase the farmer's income doubling by 2022 and reduce the wastage of food products and exporting agri products to the world.
- Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh has said that with an aim to double farmers' income, the budget outlay of the agriculture sector has been enhanced by 74.5% to Rs 2,11,694 crore during 2014-2019 as compared to Rs 1,21,082 crore during 2009-2014. The Minister has addressed in the ceremony of Krishi Kumbh 2018 in Lucknow.
- Sikkim Wins UN Award For Becoming World's First Organic State.The "100 per cent organic state" Sikkim, the first in the world, will get the "Oscar for best policies" at a UN ceremony in Rome . It will bolster the efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals .
- In Uttarpradesh, the government has procured 53 lakhs of tones wheat early this year. It is surplus than previous achieved in 2012-13. Chief Minister has taken initiative to increase the production of crop.
- Andhra Pradesh's push for chemical-free farming inspires other states. The state government will require about Rs 150 billion over the next few years till 2024 to achieve its goal.
- The Andhra Pradesh government has suggested the farmers to cultivate short duration varieties like jowar, horsegram, cowpea, korra, red gram, green gram and black gram after declaring 296 mandals as drought affected mandals.
- In Andhra Pradesh, Chittoor district collector said that by the next Khariff season, concerted efforts would be made to bring 1.3lakh hectares under ZBNF.

- The Karnataka State Department of Agriculture will organise the annual Organics and Millets International Trade Fair in the Bangalore city from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- Tribals in border villages of Uttarakhand's Kumaon region are forced to depend on Chinese food grain bought from Nepalese market due to the shortage of supply of government rations
- National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru said that Fall Armyworm has been found in Maharashtra, the dreaded pest considered at threat to global food security.
- In Madhya Pradesh, thousands of women in Dindori have taken up the task of reviving the cultivation of nutrient rich kodo and kutki, thereby marking a noticeable shift from subsistence production to commercial agriculture in this tribal belt home to indigenous groups like Baiga and Gond.
- The Himachal Pradesh Governor Acharya Devvrat called people to adopt the natural farming practices in their field as by adopting ZBNF. It could change the destiny of the country. Even the Chief Minister has urged to adopt natural farming to save soil.
- Kerala prioritizes seed procurement to rehabilitate flood-hit farmers
- M.S. Swaminathan to be awarded World Agriculture Prize. The prize has been instituted by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) with an aim to recognize individuals who have served humanity through agriculture.

## **Livelihoods/Employment/Skill Development**

- The World Bank supports for the development of 7500 health sub centres as electronic sub centres (e-sub centres).
- On the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (October 02, 2018,) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign, Udyam Abhilasha in 115 Aspirational Districts in 28 States and reaching to around 15,000 youth.
- World 's largest recruitment drive; 2.37 crore applications for 1.2 lakh railway jobs in India.
- Plagued by shortage of specialists in community health centres in rural areas, states have granted huge salary hikes to pediatricians, surgeons and gynecologists posted in rural areas — in states such as Jharkhand and Tripura, these specialists can earn anything between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 3.5 lakh per month. Even then, many are reluctant to join.
- Union Government of India approves bonus to around 12 lakh non-gazetted railway employees.
- Ayushman Bharat CEO Indu Bhusan has said that ten lakh jobs will be created in the health and insurance sector under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- According to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) the number of new National Pension System (NPS) subscribers during September, 2017 to August, 2018 is estimated at 6, 89,385 persons. More than 1.45 crore new subscribers joined the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF).
- According to CDC's CEO Nick O'Donohoe, the company has over 300 investments in India to support around 350,000 jobs.
- National Council for Vocational Training: A long-awaited step to strengthen India's skill ecosystem.
- Delhi cabinet has approved 5% reservation of total number of vacancies for meritorious sports persons in job recruitment in all departments and local bodies.

- Telangana state gets Rs.250 crore stent manufacturing plant .
- Madhya Pradesh government cleared proposals; allocation of money for new medical colleges, buying farm produce on MSP and increasing honorarium of guest teachers and mid-day meal cooks.
- In Karnataka state, the State Government has decided to compensate Rs.178 crore relief to coconut growers for severe drought in 11 districts.
- In Tamil Nadu State, the Directorate of Rural Development has issued an order to all District Collectors and District Project Directors directing them to provide job opportunities to the disabled people under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).
- According to State Tourism Authority Director, the Andhra Pradesh State Tourism Department has drawn up a plan to train unemployed tribal youths as tour guides to promote tourism.
- The High Court of Karnataka directed the state government and Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL) to regularize with effect from 29 December 2010 the service of around 400 persons with locomotive disabilities, who were appointed on contract basis to posts of revenue assistants and assistants by KSTCL during 2007.
- Maharashtra government proposes to extend benefits of Employees Provident Fund.
- MGNREGA failed to provide employment: Rajasthan.
- Skill Training Empowers Girls in Assam: It's Raises Hope for Gender Parity.

## Economy

- According to the World Economic Outlook Report by IMF, India's economy is set to grow faster than China's this year. It predicted growth rate of 7.3% for India in the current year and 7.4% in 2019. In 2017, India had recorded a 6.7% growth rate.
- India suffers serious level of hunger ranks 103 on global hunger index 2018. In India, 21% children are under weight for their height. It reflects acute under nutrition as per the Global Hunger Index 2018.
- India Ranked 58th Most Competitive Economy, Makes Largest Gain among G20 Nations.
- India 9th most valuable nation brand in the world; US, China leads the list.
- According to Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Indian Organic food products global demand is on constant increase. It is nearly 39% the total volume of export during 2017-18 was 4.58 lakhs tonnes .
- Corruption has gone up in India during last one year, according to a survey by Transparency International India.
- Cancer more than doubled in India over last 26 yrs, breast cancer most common: The CII report reveals the insights regarding status and challenges in breast cancer care. As per the ICMR data, India had 14 lakh cancer patients in 2016 and this number is expected to increase.
- India Inc's job creation moderates to 3.8% in FY18: Care
- India ranks 2nd last in pension schemes, Netherlands, Denmark on top: Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index Study.
- A survey said that India's overall ranking on the government's adoption of e-payments has moved up to 28<sup>th</sup> in

2018 from 36<sup>th</sup> in 2011 but needs to do more on digital infrastructure access and socio economic factors.

- NITI Aayog's dream of a \$10-trillion Indian economy by 2032 pared to half.
- 60-65 percent people left out of financial inclusion, social inclusion due to lack of proper identity document around 9 to 10 years ago: CEO UIDAI.
- The Reserve Bank of India will inject Rs 40,000 crore in the banking system next month, a move that will help ease cash shortage in the system and stabilize debt market rates.
- New ATM cash withdrawal rules for SBI account holders will come into effect from Wednesday (October 31).The country's largest bank will reduce the daily cash withdrawal limit for Classic and Maestro debit cards to Rs 20,000 per day, from Rs 40,000.
- Petrol price has been cut by almost Rs 2 per litre and diesel by Rs 1 on the base international rates.
- Rupee strengthens 38 paise against US dollar.

## Schemes/Policies/Initiatives/Partnerships

- PM Narendra Modi may announce measures to boost MSME sector on November 2. It enhanced interest subsidy for MSME and also generate the jobs. It constitutes more than 63 million units, 111 million employees and it contributing around 30% to the GDP.
- The government has approved the construction of over two lakh additional houses in urban areas under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. According to the officials West Bengal has been sanctioned over one lakh affordable houses and Uttar Pradesh more than 50,000 houses. Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned over 41,000 houses and Maharashtra over 20,000. Over 1,400 houses have been sanctioned for Nagaland and around 500 houses for Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India, UIDAI is planning to set up Aadhaar Seva Kendras, in a mega project that involves opening of facilitation centres for enrolment and services in 53 cities and towns across India. It is conceptualized on the lines of Passport Seva Kendras, will offer "hassle-free" enrolment and facility to ensure ease in Aadhaar-related services to residents
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY- AB) is the best gift for needy poor people. The Union Home minister of India launches the programme in Luknow and treatment to poor people on free of cost.
- MSME Ministry to concentrate on re-orientation of existing schemes to support small businesses in India.
- The Union Cabinet approved Rs.2044.31 crore as bonus to 11.91 lakh non-gazetted railway officials. The amount has been sanctioned for 78 days productivity linked bonus and each employee will get Rs.17951 for 78 days.
- Over 100 field officers from different States across the country are undergoing training in preparing action plans for the transformation of 115 backward districts into developed districts at Dr.MCR HRD.
- Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan's study in 11 states; on 51cases involving the deaths of 97 manual scavengers across the country shows that in a majority of the cases, no FIR was filed nor was the mandatory compensation given to the families.
- Health Minister JP Nadda said that over 50,000 people have availed of services under Ayushman Bharat, a National Health Protection Scheme, since its launch on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018.
- National Housing Bank (NHB) decides to increase the refinance limit from Rs.24000 crore to Rs.30000

crore for the current year (July 2018-June 2019) towards refinancing eligible institutions.

- The Supreme Court said that the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which deal with pensions for elderly and other issues, a good scheme but there were huge gaps in its implementation which needed to be filled.
- Pradhanmantri MUDRA Yojana improves living standard of marginalized people. Till now, it has provided the loans up to 10 lakhs of non corporate and non - farm small enterprises.
- NITI Aayog CEO reviews welfare schemes in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Centre has sanctioned 122 schemes to mitigate ill effects of arsenic in Assam. Public Health Engineering Minister Rihon Daimary said that the Centre sanctioned fund for the purpose.
- 14.21 Lakhs new beneficiaries under pension scheme in Uttar Pradesh. It extends to all widows, farmers, aged and specially able persons: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched the Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign (MRVC) in the State targeting to vaccinate 4.72 lakh children in the age group of 9 months to 15 years during the next five weeks.
- The Delhi government offered in the Supreme Court to release Rs.500 crore to pay the pending wages of sanitation workers in the Capital as garbage crisis spun out of control.
- The Social Justice Department has decided to draw up a rehabilitation scheme for mentally challenged prisoners, who are languishing in jails and mental health centres in the Kerala State.
- As part of Hare Krishna Movement, its chief Satya Gaura Dasa inaugurated the Bhojanamrita Rs.5 meals centre at Government Degree College junction in Siddipet, Telangana state.
- The Meghalaya Government launches the Blue revolution with the support of Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries. This scheme the state would be self sufficient in fish production.
- A small village in Jamkhandi taluk of Bagalkot district, Karnataka State has decided to join hands with the government's efforts to declare their village open defecation-free.
- Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Minister Dr Mohesh Chai launched two schemes for farmers to increase production and their income. The two schemes are the Chief Minister's Sashakt Kisan Yojana (CMSKY) and the Chief Minister's Krishi Samuh Yojana (CMKSY).
- Madhya Pradesh: BJP launched Samruddh Madhya Pradesh Abhiyan.180 Tehsils are declared drought in Maharashtra. Eight schemes announced to affected area under relief programme
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi 3 days visits to Japan to attend annual bilateral summit. In this summit they will discuss on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Japan and India to sign technology partnership agreement. It will promote cooperation in artificial intelligence research and startups and development of human resources in both countries.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will today hold several bilateral meetings with the leaders of Kuwait with the aim to bolster ties between the two countries
- Union Cabinet approved a cooperation agreement signed among BRICS nations in the social and labour sector. It provides a mechanism for cooperation, collaboration and maximum synergy amongst BRICS member countries with the common objective of inclusive growth and shared prosperity in the new industrial revolution.

- Under the Prime Minister's Rural Roads Program (PMGSY), Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$110 million loan to finance the upgrade of 2800 kilometers all-weather rural roads in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- India, Iran, Afghanistan hold first trilateral on Chabahar port project. The Chabahar port is being considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries.
- Microsoft India has signed an agreement with NITI Aayog to deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to address challenges in agriculture and healthcare, and promote adoption of local language computing, among others.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Railways to file an action plan pertaining to maintenance of cleanliness on platforms and the track.
- Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste Corporation Chairman Jupudi Prabhakar said that Rs.2344 crore being spent for benefit of SC families in Andhra Pradesh.
- Supreme Court of India hear the petitions challenging the Sabarimala verdict review on 13 th November 2018. The row over entry the women in all the age group to Ayyappa temple.
- Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam said that an integrated food processing park would come up on a 27 acre plot on Aranmanaipudur – Veerapandi stretch.
- The State health Department has stepped up preventive measures against communicable diseases by pressing into service 20,000 field workers following widespread rain in various parts of the Tamil Nadu state.
- Centre cuts fuel prices by Rs.2.50 in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa.
- Municipal Commissioner M Hari Narayan said that the GPS based bus services with digital display of information on arrivals at the stops will become operation from November as part of the Smart City initiative.
- Maharashtra government launches a website and a mobile application which will use modern technology to analyse the drought situation the state by collecting data on rainfall, crop situation and underground water.
- Governor of Kerala P Sathasivam has urged the Education Minister to distribute copies of the preamble of the Constitution and the section of fundamental duties to all school children from the next academic year.
- Amaravati circle of Andhra Bank in Andhar Pradesh joined the online portal created for public sector banks to sanction MSME loans from rs.10 lakh to Rs. One crore without collateral security within an hour of receiving applications.
- The Central Government has released Rs.450 crore as special grant to Telangana government for taking developmental work in erstwhile nine backward districts of the State.
- The Telangana State Government decided to open 278 cotton purchase centre to be opened in ginning mills from 10 October 2018. MSP of cotton is fixed at Rs.5450 per quintal.
- Government of India implementing Self-Employment Scheme for identified manual scavengers, says Union Minister Gehlot.
- PM Modi says, Fourth Industrial Revolution, expansion of Artificial Intelligence will lead to better healthcare.



- India needs more action to achieve Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) to bring better and more sustainable future for all, according to experts.
- Government announces Rs 100 crore award for states completing household electrification early under Saubhagya scheme
- Government working continuously to achieve zero hunger by 2030: Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh
- Reserve Bank of India issued final guidelines to enable interoperability for pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs) or mobile wallets, enabling seamless transfer of funds.
- TRS party has released several incentives and popular schemes in its election manifesto for Assembly Elections, Telangana.
- Indian Government commitment to provide shelter to all homeless people by 2022: Narendra Modi.
- 23 Rural Development Schemes reduced to 4 in Telangana State: Lakhs of people Affected.
- Tamil Nadu CM announces 3% sub-quota in recruitments for sportspersons
- Andhra Pradesh Government to build 4 lakhs house for Below Poverty Line Poor people. Under the NTR Rural Housing scheme share of SCs is 17.10 per cent, STs is 5.33 per cent and the rest is for others
- The government ordered telecom companies to stop using Aadhaar for electronic verification of existing mobile phone customers as well as for issuing new connections to comply with a recent Supreme Court order
- Minister of State for Consumer Affairs C.R Chaudhary has expressed hope that the Consumer Protection Bill-2018 will be passed in the coming Winter Session of Parliament. This bill will be very helpful in the direction of protection of consumer' rights.

## **Environment/Climate /Disasters**

- India Lost \$80bn to Natural Disasters in Last Two Decades: UN Report.
- Special Report on Global Warming said that Coastal nations and agricultural economies like India would be the worst affected. Decline in crop yields, unprecedented climate extremes and increased susceptibility cloud push poverty by several million by 2050.
- As part of the 149<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, India has planted 13.26 lakh trees over 1300 km of its network from 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.
- The Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and World Bank said that at least 60% of districts in India are affected by forest fires each year and the top 20 districts in terms of fire frequency are located mainly in the northeast.
- The Ministry of External Affairs said that India has launched a massive operation to provide assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia. 'Operation Samudra Maitri' for humanitarian assistance was launched.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Internal Solar Alliance (ISA) can replace Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in the future as key supplier of energy for the world.
- The government says industry should make use of the new technologies to reduce carbon emissions.
- Japan agrees to 316 Billion Yen loan for seven major infrastructure projects in India. The meeting had 32 MOUs

exchanges from both sides. India and Japan also concluded a 75 billion dollar Bilateral Currency Swap Agreement with a view to enhance financial and economic cooperation. 57 Japanese companies conveyed their decision to make an investment of 2.5 billion USD in India.

- India gets \$43.4 million from world's largest fund for climate action. The grant is a part of more than \$1 billion approved by the Green Climate Fund for 19 new projects to help developing countries tackle climate change.
- The UN report has listed India among top five countries in the world with \$80 billion in absolute economic loss due to disasters in the last 20 years.
- UN 'stands in solidarity' with cyclone-hit India – Secretary-General Guterres.
- Climate fund approves \$ 43 million to boost climate resilience for India's coastal communities. India's coastal communities to get US \$ 43 million Green Climate Fund (GCF) to boost climate resilience. This project to be implemented in coastal states of AP, MH, and OD. It is not only enhancing resilience and adaptability but also lead to emission reduction while providing support to local communities for their livelihoods.
- Cabinet approves agreement between India, Finland on environment protection on which include partnership in air and water pollution prevention and purification, waste management and climate change.
- 32% of India is resilient to drought; remaining 68% was non resilient due to the variations in rainfall. It affects on ecosystem productivity in Indian agriculture system.
- While the resilient districts covered nearly 32% of the area of India, the remaining 68% was non-resilient, with the severely non-resilient districts alone covering nearly 30% of India.
- Pollution in India has now become a national health crisis: Phasing out the most polluting vehicles — old trucks, buses and tempos — at the earliest is unavoidable.
- “Green” crackers sale and manufacture permitted in India: Supreme Court. The apex court also fixed the 8 pm to 10 pm time period for bursting of firecrackers on Diwali and other festivals to prevent the air pollution in Delhi- NCR.
- The Supreme Court has prohibited the plying of 15-year-old petrol and 10-year-old diesel vehicles in the national capital region of Delhi due to the prevailing pollution situation.
- Air Quality Warning System launched in Delhi to combat worsening air pollution.
- AP government announces Rs. 5 lakh relief for deaths caused by Cyclone Titli.
- Andhrapradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu meets central team on Titli cyclone damage. He informed to central team about the cyclone damage tune of Rs. 3673.10 crore and recommended to center to release the central aid as early as possible.
- The West Bengal Government give compensation of Rs. 210 crore to hailstorm affected farmers who had incurred loss due to hailstorm this year.
- The Bihar government has declared 206 blocks in 23 districts of the state as drought hit. This decision was taken at high level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- Central aid sought to upgrade Kerala's cyclone warning centre
- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted heavy rains in the at
- Isolated places over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry.

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asked his ministers to undertake visits to water scarcity affected talukas in the state as the drought alarm bells rang aloud at the meeting of the council of ministers.
- Drought takes the oil out of soya bean for Marathwada farmers in Maharashtra.
- The very severe cyclonic storm Titli over the westcentral Bay of Bengal moved
- northwestwards with a speed of about 18kmph and lay centred about 230km southeast of Gopalpur (Odisha) and 190km southeast of Kalingapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- Karnataka State Chief Minister HD Kumara Swamy proposed a ban on night traffic in wildlife reserves across the state because days after an elephant was mowed down by a bus in Nagarhole National park
- The cyclonic storm TITILI is gradually weakening and moving towards the North East direction. Due to its effect, heavy rain with lightning lashed the coastal Odisha.
- Meteorological department issues warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in Gangetic West Bengal.
- Assam districts bordering Arunachal Pradesh on flood alert after landslide blocks river in Tibet.
- Water level of Brahmaputra river in Assam & Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh receded.
- 180 Tehsils are declared drought in Maharashtra. Eight schemes announce to affected area under relief programme.
- Environment activist G.D. Agarwal was passed away on 11 October. He was sitting on an indefinite hunger strike demanding the government to clean the river Ganga, died at the AIIMS hospital here on 11 October.

## Women & Children

- The International Day of Rural Women is observed every year on October 15 to recognize the crucial role that women and girls play in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing.
- Mahila Kisan Diwas was also celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> October to increase active participation of women in agriculture & allied sectors.
- More women are getting into farming in India, with the latest Agriculture Census showing a rise in the percentage of female farmers.
- A world Economic Forum (WEF) has found that companies in India experiencing the highest growth prefer hiring men at those technology-led job growth benefits men more than women. The study also found that while one in three companies preferred hiring men, only in 10 companies said they wanted hire more women.
- IMF study says gender diversity is likely to boost productivity growth including in countries like India. The Research Paper said the women bring new skills to the workplace.
- The Government of India has allocated more than 30% funds under various schemes and activities to bring women in the agriculture mainstream. And also 18 % of the agricultural households in India are led by women.
- Union Government of India may add women names on land records: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.
- 78% women farmers in India face gender discrimination, reveals Corteva Agriscience study.

- India must promote gender parity and push exports to grow at 9-10% annually: NITI Ayog CEO: Amitabh Kant.
- Women empowerment was one of the important conditions for realizing the demographic dividend: NITI Ayog vice Chairmen Rajiv Kumar.
- More than 50 million young women in India neither study nor work and that India's female labour force participation in the market was only 31.2 %. Women empowerment should become a mass movement by focusing on girl education.
- Government of India constitutes GoM (Group of Ministries) to look in to sexual harassment of work place. It will examine the existing provisions for the safety of women and recommend further measures. The GoM will be lead by Home Minister Rajnath Singh
- India's Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the last few years has declined at an accelerated pace to reach 130 per one lakh live births in 2014-16. It mean, more than 30 mothers save every day: Union Health Minister Anupriya Patel. The institutional deliveries have risen to 78.9 % and institutional births in public facilities have increased from 18% to 52% under National Health Mission.
- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development Shri Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurated the 5 th editions of “Women of India National Organic Festival” in New Delhi on 26/10/2018. It celebrates to promote women producers/entrepreneurs and farmers in the organic fields from across India.
- “Grihini Suvidha Yojana” gives a new dimension to women empowerment in Himachal Pradesh.
- Thousands of SHGs set up under SRLM in Jammu Kashmir.
- Chhattisgarh gave the smart phones to 2.3 million rural women under the Sanchar Kranthi Yojana (SKY). It aims to address low phone ownership in Chhattisgarh and to empower women in process.
- Chief Minister Mamatha Banerjee said that more than 50 lakh girls of West Bengal have been empowered by the Kanyashree scheme of the state government.
- Kerala government plans better lighting , new toilets for women at holy shrines.
- NGO Shri Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development(SKDRD) Project has launched the ‘Pragati Raksha Kavacha’ – a loan-cum-life insurance scheme for the members of SHGs in Dharmasthala, Karnataka. It is educated people about the importance of money that is given to them.
- The Supreme Court said it would decide as to when the petitions seeking review of its Sabarimala verdict allowing entry of women of all age groups into the temple, will be listed for hearing.
- Over 40% of world's stunted children live in India. 60% of the malnutrition burden in the country falls on Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- According to WHO report, Air pollution killed highest number of under-5 children in India in 2016. At least 100,000 children below five years died in 2016 due to health complications associated with high outdoor and indoor air pollution, according to the report titled ‘Air Pollution and Child Health’.
- The Health Ministry said surveillance has been enhanced in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana after traces of Polio Virus Type 2 were found in some batches of oral polio vaccine.
- India will host to Global Meet on Maternal, Child Health in December. It will hosted by Ministry of Health and Family welfare collaboration with the Partnership for Maternal, New Born child Health (PMNCH): UNICEF

- By the Government Railway Police, as many as 1495 children stranded in various railway stations across Tamil Nadu in this year.

## Miscellaneous

- Union Health Ministry said that as many as 22 cases of Zika virus infection have been reported in Jaipur and a Central team has been rushed to Rajasthan.
- The government further extended the deadline to file Income tax Return and audit report for financial year 2017-18 to 31 October 2018.
- First-ever QS Ranking of India's higher education institutions released; IIT- Bombay tops the list.
- Nation pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 149th birth anniversary.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said that more than 6000 delegates from all over the country will participate in the fourth edition of the Indian International science Festival (IISF) beginning on 05 October 2018.
- The Indian Air Force celebrated its 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 8 October 2018.
- PM Modi to attend 4th edition of NITI Lecture Series on artificial intelligence.
- PM Modi wins for 2018 Seoul Peace Prize. This prize that have made significant contribution to nation economic development and reduce the socio economic disparity between rich and poor.
- The Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has informed that India has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNHRC, with highest number of votes secured 188 out of 193.
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- PM Modi dedicates to the nation world's tallest Statue of Unity on birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The imposing monument, touted as the world's tallest statue, is twice the height of Statue of Liberty and is built on an islet, Sadhu Bet, near the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Narmada district.
- Nobel Prize Winner Malala Yousafzai to be honoured by Harvard University for her work promoting girls' education.
- Election Commission to review assembly poll preparedness in Telangana.
- Notification for first phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections to be issued today
- National Human Rights Commission, NHRC has issued notices to the Punjab government and Chairman, Railway Board over mowing down of more than 60 people by a train in Amritsar on Dussehra.
- Indonesia air crash: 189 killed, grief echoes in pilot's Delhi home. The plane went into service just months ago and vanished from radar 13 minutes after taking off from Jakarta, and according to officials, plunged into the Java Sea moments after it had asked to return to the Indonesian capital. ❖

# Updates from Weeklies

## Livelihoods/Employment/Enterprises

- **How much a bandh costs?** - With a persistent increase in fuel prices hitting every sphere of activities. The recent bandh led by the opposition, gained huge support for its very timing, been one such in the last two years. What lies on the other side is the cost it brings to the economic activity of the country. Though it seems a one-day affair, a potential loss of Rs. 25000 Crore is the estimate, given by Assocham. Trade, transport, hotels and financial services that constitute the major proportion of GDP are amongst several other sectors wherein more impact is visible. Dominantly influencing the investment dynamics. [For further reading: <https://www.businesstoday.in/magazine/the-buzz/economic-cost-matters/story/282457.html>]
- **Human capital determines productivity** – Finland ranks the highest with 27 years of human capital. Where, human capital is a measure of the education and health levels in a population accounting the number of expected years lived between 20 to 64 years. Life expectancy, functional health, years of schooling and education quality is all taken into consideration. This parameter is stated to have a direct impact on the economic future of the nations. As a quality of the workforce is one of the primary determinants to economic growth. India is standing at 158th position in 2016 constituting one of the unhealthiest work-force in the whole of South Asia, ranking next to Sudan, Namibia. In this regards, the need for quality and quantity investment into these quintessential sectors is the need of the hour for increased productivities across all sphere. [For further reading: <http://healthcheck.indiaspend.com/india-risking-economic-future-by-underinvesting-in-health-education-new-study/>]
- **Rethinking India's Employment Data Architecture:** India's employment data architecture is in the midst of a massive overhaul. Historically, employment estimates have been generated using household and establishment surveys. The importance of analyzing both these sources to get a comprehensive picture of India's dualistic labour market, characterized by dominance of informal jobs, and cannot be overemphasized. Household surveys capture both the organized and unorganised sectors, particularly the self-employed. In that sense, they largely satisfy the requirements of completeness. The quinquennial household surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the last of which was conducted in 2011–12, have been the primary source of various labour market indicators since 1972–73. The Labour Bureau since 2009–10 has also started conducting annual household employment and unemployment surveys. Establishment surveys, on the other hand, compile data from worksites and provide a more detailed picture of the industry structure of employment and characteristics of establishments. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/40/commentary/rethinking-indias-employment-data.html>]
- **All-purpose Migrant Workers?:** India's cities have for long lived with the dichotomy of having "outsiders," mostly semi-skilled and unskilled poor migrant workers, providing for multifaceted requirements. With number of attacks on the migrants increasing day by day, of fear, exodus to native places is growing. Besides instances of mob attacks on the conviction of a migrant for the rape of baby girl in Sabarkantha, increasing unemployment, infiltration of local culture are the other reasons claimed for violence. It gains emphasis that all the citizens have the right to work anywhere in India as the constitutional rights and duties re-instill. Despite all this, several migrants still face the labor exploitation & are exposed to insecurities. In this aspect, large numbers are voicing the need for a government initiative to safeguard the rights of migrants. However, deeper understanding of these issues is to be a, welcome matter of priority.[For Further reading <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/42/editorials/all-purpose-migrant-worker.html>]
- **Global Status of Agro ecology:** Over the last decade, agro ecology has rapidly moved from the margins and

taken centre stage in global discussions on environment and development. Institutions like the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization increasingly argue that agroecology can significantly help alleviate hunger and poverty as well as contribute to meeting other sustainable development goals. In this context, the history and practices of agroecology are outlined, and some of the ecological, social, economic, and political challenges for transformation to agroecology and food sovereignty have been identified. United Nations (UN) hosted a major international symposium on agroecology in April 2018, which affirmed that agroecology is key to transforming food and agricultural systems and achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) (FAO 2018). This growing international recognition is good news for farmers and social movements which argue for agroecological approaches to food, farming, and land use. However, the meanings of agroecology are now increasingly interpreted in different ways by different people and interest groups. To help better understand the increasingly contested nature of agroecology, this paper briefly focuses on the history of agroecology and the visions of modernity and/or tradition it is associated with. It then explores the practices, potential, and challenges of agroecological approaches that seek to transform—rather than conform with—the dominant agrifood regime. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/41/review-environment-anddevelopment/global-status-agroecology.html> ]

- **Protectors and the dwellers of Nature:** With the increasing sensitiveness towards nature, we have come up with many conservation projects. But in the run, it has caused hindrance in the lives of the local communities depending on natural resources for their immediate needs, which has raised a conflict situation. The similar situation has arisen in the Dibang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh which is continuously being constructed as a space for conservation activity which requires implementation of resources usage limitation norm. The state is facing resistance from the Mishmi tribe. They are trying to protect their lands and their resources. Also, they strongly believe that their kinship with nature to share a common space with all the species. While their clans believe they have strong taboos to converse the nature and there is no need for external intrusion. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/39/special-articles/multiple-meanings-nature-conservation.html>]
- **Global Value Chains new mantra for North East Regions?** - The range of activities that are essential to bring a product from its ideation to end consumer by utilization of raw materials and intermediate inputs, inclusive of marketing, distribution and support mechanism; when each of this process is coordinated across geographies, defines Global Value Chains (GVC). This approach is gaining significance as a key to development in the post-globalization era. In this regards, in the purview of the development scenario of North East regions where, low demand, high costs, poor infrastructure, and unstable law and order is a reality. Production of labor-intensive products and participation in service-based GVC can be a way through to facilitate profits. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/39/notes/potential-participation-global-value.html>]
- **Manufacturing a drought:** It seems no lessons were learnt from the drought two years ago. Maharashtra's Marathwada region is facing yet another water crisis and it's again a result of woeful mismanagement of available water resources. The reservoirs at Jayakwadi, Manjra and Majalgaon – the three dams that supply water to the region – have almost no water. On September 30, Jayakwadi was at a fourth of its capacity, while the others had run dry. It's a scary situation given that nearly two million people depend on these dams. Across the region consisting of eight districts, all available water bodies together have just 31.2 per cent water stock. This time last year, it stood at a far more reassuring 82.2 per cent. [ For further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/states/story/20181015-manufacturing-a-drought-1355245-2018-10-06>]
- **Mine Closure turns an issue of Livelihood:** Mining communities are the worst affected by the closures. Since, they derive their livelihood directly or indirectly from the industry. In order to analyze the shift in the livelihoods of people pre & post mining operations, different stakeholders across 24 mining villages of Hindustan Zinc

Limited in Sargipali, Odisha were interviewed. In addition evidence from documents and reports were taken for reference. The findings, an emergent grim picture owing to the lack of a sustainable mine closure plan & transparency between the planners and the villagers'. (For Further reading <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/42/insight/mine-closures-and-issue-livelihood.html>)

- **Less numbers register as Manual Scavengers:** According to a recent survey, a large number were identified to be registered as manual scavengers. This came to be altered, with the state recognizing only a few under the category. As per the information, National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC), working under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, issued state-wise data of people involved in manual scavenging, while the information has not been revealed. A survey in 2018, identified 20596 people as manual scavengers, a contrast of a survey led in 2013 figuring 13368 people. Despite of the identified numbers, allegation against the state & central governments under-reporting the numbers is on rounds. On the whole, progress of Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is considered a matter of priority, as opined by many.[For Further reading <https://thewire.in/government/manual-scavengers-survey-government-underreporting>]
- **87% of MGNREGA's Annual Fund utilized:** More than a third of India is facing drought-like situation and a fund crunch in MGNREGA for the remaining financial year can perpetuate the ongoing rural crisis. Until 22nd October 2018, about Rs 39825 Crores has been spent whereas the total budget for the year is Rs 50,480 Crore. It is estimated that the demand for work will rise since a deficit monsoon negatively impacting Rabi cultivation. In this scenario, 87% utilization of funds by this juncture leaves a heavy sigh on the proceedings of work seekers & timely wage clearance. (For Further reading <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/centre-approves-operation-green-pilot-in-8-states-61962>)

## Policies/Schemes/Initiatives

- **Where do we stand on Swachh Bharat Mission?** –with states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana And Goa declaring themselves Open Defecation Free. India constituting, 29 states and 7 union territories have been proceeding on the forefront to reach its targets with respect to the Clean India Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission tuning with huge funds pooling into Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. On the scheme evaluation front, several questions with respect to the kind of latrines constructed, its usage, connection to sewer lines and its treatment, nature of 1993 ban on manual scavenging to be revoked in spirit are being explored. [For further reading: <http://factchecker.in/every-indian-to-have-toilet-in-next-365-days-official-data-under-the-surface-a-crisis/>]
- **The Aadhar identity** - a step towards improving the delivery of benefits to the needy, a five judge-bench of the Supreme Court, in a verdict on 26th September 2018, struck down section 57 and section 33(2). There was no denial on the exceptional outreach of 880 million bank accounts and 700 million mobile numbers. Though Aadhaar provides a valuable service, extends an identity, as Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri noted, to even the most marginalized people in society but it has resulted in the exclusion of welfare entitlements. Also, this judgment indicated there is an immediate need for a robust data protection law. [For further reading: <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20181008-aadhaar-verdict-1351723-2018-09-28>]
- **High Time to End Tuberculosis:** The global burden of tuberculosis is in decline. However, with an estimated 10 million new cases of tuberculosis and 1.6 million dying from the disease globally in 2017, we still have a long way to go. A centuries-old disease, tuberculosis, previously known as “consumption,” is still the deadliest infectious disease in the world, with patients and their families facing stigma and incurring devastating socio-economic costs. The United Nations’ first-ever high level meeting on tuberculosis, held on 26 September 2018,



has committed to accelerating efforts and increasing funding towards achieving the agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals to end the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030. India, which accounts for 27% of the world's tuberculosis burden, had set its own target at the End-TB Summit in Delhi earlier this year: TB Free India by 2025. Considering the state of India's healthcare, this may be an unrealistic target. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/40/editorials/high-time-end-tuberculosis.html>]

- **Operation Green pilot' signals in 8 states:** As a pilot, the government of India has chosen 17 clusters in 8 states for "Operation Green project". The main aim of the project is to contain the annual price distress of tomatoes, potatoes and onion in regions with high production. This initiative was announced by Union Finance Minister on 1 February 2018 to provide support to horticulture crop growers. As part of the pilot the vegetables are transported from a surplus region to deficit region of production also working upon infrastructures to increase storage processing capacity for improved shelf life. Creation of value chains & processing industries in selected surplus regions is also part of the agenda. The scheme would be incorporated with ongoing schemes to build infrastructure namely, Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities. (For Further reading <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/centre-approves-operation-green-pilot-in-8-states-61962> )

### Women and Children Issues:

- **MeTooIndia: 54% Rise In Sexual Harassment Reported At Workplaces between 2014-17:** Registered cases of sexual harassment at Indian workplaces increased to 54%. According to an official data, as in 2017 the number was 371, with the current number standing at 570. Overall 2,535 such cases were registered over the four years until July 27, 2018 depicting, two cases being reported each day as per the government data tabled in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) on July 27, 2018. Over the first seven months of 2018, 533 cases of sexual harassment were identified to be reported across the country. India is now witnessing its own #MeToo movement, a year after this swept United States. Arose on the allegations of rape and molestation against star Harvey Weinstein coming out. This juncture, considered a drive of empowerment of several women to voice out their personal stories of harassment & their perpetrator, using social media as a medium. Allegations of harassment against several prominent personalities across various industries--cinema, television, media, advertising, music and entertainment is increasing day after day. This comes in the wake of Social Media turning an inseparable part of our experiences & emotions.(For Further reading <https://gendercheck.indiaspend.com/metooindia-54-rise-in-sexual-harassment-reported-at-workplaces-between-2014-17/>)
- **SC to hear Petitions Challenging Sabrimala Verdict :** The verdict that, the women of all age groups be allowed the entry into Ayyappa Temple is creating wild fires of mixed opinions, widening the gaps between devotees and the Government. In the wake of a number of local tribes and devotees seeking review of the verdict given by the country's highest court, comes the proceeding. With Supreme Court willing to hear the petitions of those who challenged the verdict, on November 13, 2018. In this regard, a bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S.K. Kaul had completed listing the petitions in the order, as revealed to lawyer Mathews J. Nedumpara.[For Further reading <https://thewire.in/law/sc-will-hear-petitions-challenging-sabrimala-verdict-on-november-13>]
- **Gender diversity is likely to boost productivity growth:** Gender diversity is likely to boost productivity growth, including in countries like India, as women bring new skills to the workplace, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) study 'The Economic Gains from Gender Inclusion: New Mechanisms, New Evidence'. The progress has been made in increasing female labour force participation in the past two decades but the pace has been uneven and large gaps remain, IMF said in a research paper. The paper asserted that gender diversity is likely to be beneficial to productivity growth, including countries like India, because women bring new skills to

the workplace. Reducing female underemployment should yield greater gains than an equivalent increase in male employment: gender diversity brings benefits all its own, it said. "Women bring new skills to the workplace. This may reflect social norms and their impact on upbringing, social interactions, as well as differences in risk preference and response to incentives, for example. As such, there is an economic benefit from diversity that is, from bringing women into the labour force over and above the benefit resulting from simply having more workers," the IMF said. [For further reading: <https://www.theweek.in/news/biztech/2018/10/09/gender-diversity-is-likely-to-boost-productivity-growth-imf-study.html> ]

- **India ranks 103 on global hunger index:** India is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger". India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index, says a report. According to the report, prepared by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, India is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger". In 2017, India was ranked at the 100th position but ranking for this year is not comparable, it said. The GHI, now in its 13th year, ranks countries based on four key indicators—undernourishment, child mortality, child wasting and child stunting. Child wasting refers to share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under nutrition. India is ranked below many neighbouring countries, including China (25th spot), Nepal (72), Myanmar (68), Sri Lanka (67) and Bangladesh (86). Pakistan is placed at the 106th position. While noting that hunger varies enormously by region, the report said this year's GHI scores for South Asia and Africa south of the Sahara reflect serious levels of hunger. [For further reading: <https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2018/10/15/india-ranks-103-on-global-hunger-index.html> ]
- **Recognising the Empty Bowls:** Unlike the last decade, the positive trend of reduction in the global hunger, the last three consecutive year it has increased by 11%. This is a major fall back with the political commitment behind the Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger by 2030. Though the cereal production is increase but distribution has still remained a challenge. There are surely geographical problems, but also there are social problems like internal conflicts and internal governance problems. Most of the efforts are made to address the emergency aids but prevention have remained unaddressed. These issues have multi dimensions with political and economic powers benefiting from the current food chain and making it hard to trickle down to the needed beneficiaries.(For further reading <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/43/editorials/recognising-empty-bowls.html>)

## Miscellaneous

- **Rupee Value drips & gushes:** The currency opens at Rs. 73.90 against dollar while the same hit 74 within half hour of trade which means a 0.44% drop in comparison to previous value of 73.67. The rupee has fallen by 13.62%, since the beginning of this year. In these times the indiscriminate lending to industrialists between 2008 & 2014 by banks and poor repayments is causing a pile up of NPA's burdening the industry & cycle of money. In this instance the pushing back of RBI against the government's stand to relax its powers is a move that needs more mooting & contemplation. (For Further reading <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/rupee-hits-74-level-to-the-dollar-as-rbi-govt-spat-worsens/story/287206.html>)
- **Recent Downfall of the Indian Rupee:** Assessing the trends in India's balance of payments, it is argued that a combination of substantial trade deficit and a significant current account deficit financed predominantly by fickle portfolio investments could have made the rupee vulnerable to the moods of the global capital market. India's huge dependence on oil imports along with high gold and electronic imports could also have played their roles in making the exchange rate volatile. The exchange rate of the Indian rupee has always been an emotive issue in India and has often generated more heat than light. The current episode of the downfall of the rupee is no exception. After all, the movement of the Indian rupee/United States (US) dollar exchange rate from less

than Rs.65 in early April 2018 to almost Rs.73 by the end of September 2018 has turned out to be substantial. Owing to the underlying issues, opinions in this context have a tendency to differ substantially. But, over the last year, the US economy has been showing signs of healthy growth. The job figures are pointing towards historically low un-employment figures and the gross domestic product (GDP) is poised to grow close to 3% in 2019 (IMF 2018). Consequently, the US Fed has started pushing up the reference interest rates and with the recent increase on 26 September, the benchmark rates have crossed the 2% mark for the first time since 2008. [ For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/41/commentary/recent-downfall-indianrupee.html> ]

- **Delhi's air quality remained very poor:** The national capital continues to record severe pollution levels. The Central Pollution Control Board recorded the overall air quality index of Delhi at 341. According to the data by the state-run System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research, the overall air quality index of Delhi is expected to deteriorate further in a few days (Diwali & stubble burning by farmers), remaining just points below the severe category. The CPCB-led task force has recommended stringent measures from November 1 to 10, predicting further deterioration in the air quality ahead of Diwali. The move of Supreme Court orders to allow sounds within the decibel limits and emission norms on the green crackers from 8-10 pm on Diwali. Some of the other recommendations include shutting down of coal and biomass factories, intensification of inspection by the transport department to check polluting vehicles and controlling traffic congestion in Delhi-NCR between November 1-10.(For Further reading <https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2018/10/27/air-quality-delhi-remains-very-poor-situation-worsen-next-week.html>)
- **India needs strong leadership to boost growth:** India needs strong and decisive leadership at the Centre to promote growth, get rid of poverty and transform the country into a developed nation, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said Tuesday. With general elections due early next year, Jaitley said the country does not need an 'unstable coalition' government and individuals who lack understanding of policies at the helm. Swift decision-making of the Modi government has helped in handling the IL&FS crisis, Jaitley said while addressing the 98th annual session of Assocham."India needs a government and leadership which has absolute clarity about the direction so that this unique position which IMF refers to as a sweet spot in the world, this sweet spot we continue to occupy for next two decades. If you are able to do that, we can get rid of the curse of poverty and in our lifetime probably see India as a developed country," he said. Indian economy grew at 8.2 per cent in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal. It grew at 6.7 per cent in 2017-18 fiscal. [For further reading: <https://www.theweek.in/news/biz-tech/2018/10/16/india-needs-strongleadership-to-boost-growth-jaitley.html> ]
- **Identifying the 'Poor' and ' Backward':** At a household level, the issue of identifying the poor has had two aspects in India, namely estimation of poverty based on the consumption expenditure surveys of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and the identification of the poor through the below poverty line (BPL) census. Estimation of poverty in India has been an issue of much debate and has focused on the issue of what should be the poverty line, defined in terms of a monthly per capita expenditure level. While the Lakdawala Committee methodology and poverty lines (Government of India [GoI] 1993) formed the basis of the official poverty estimates at an all-India level and across states for the year 2004–05, since then there has been no consensus on what are the official estimates of poverty in India (GoI 2016). Estimation of poverty is required for counting the number of the poor, and the state wise and regional estimates of poverty have also been used in the development planning and resource allocation mechanisms. However, what matters for a needy household is whether it is classified as BPL or above poverty line (APL) by the BPL census carried out by the government. Being classified as BPL makes the household eligible for a range of government social assistance programmes targeted at the poor, while being classified as APL implies that the household would only be eligible for those programmes, which are universal in design. [For further reading: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2018/40/commentary/identifying-'poor'-and-'backward'.html>] ❖