

Weekly Livelihoods Update

04 October 2018

- ✚ **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>]

- ✚ **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>]

- ✚ **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/>]

✚ **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 Swacch 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>]

✚ **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>]