

# Weekly Livelihoods Update

19 December 2018

- ✚ **Artificial Intelligence Era** – We are heading to lesser human interference and higher precision in terms of technology. World running to establish a supremacy in this emerging trend. Where in, India decided to join this race with its nascent National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS). Aiming to develop technology, applications, skills, entrepreneurship, and start-ups in the wider field of CPS, India is ready to invest Rs.3660 crores in 5 years racing with USA and China (China particularly 150 billion dollars by 2030). [For further reading: <https://www.dailyo.in/technology/why-india-must-invest-more-in-developing-artificial-intelligence/story/1/28406.html>]
- ✚ **Bhils of Jhabua** – Bhil adivasis and some other small tribes contribute to 85% population of Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh. Famous for their festivals and scenic beauty this district is facing agricultural downfall due to forest depletion, reduction in soil fertility, and barrenness of land caused by urbanisation and increasing population. This gave rise to labour migrations. With various efforts on Culture, Education, Capacity Building, Promoting Organic Farming, Stress on backyard poultry practice etc. Nilesh Desai stood strong in development of the people. Where 352 villages of Jhabua, 35000 Bhil families farm poultry chicken, earning on an average 1 lakh per year. [For further reading: <https://www.theweek.in/theweek/specials/2018/12/14/lighting-up-the-darkness.html>]
- ✚ **Electric Vehicles in India** – Transport contributes to around one fourth of the total global emissions. In India air pollution has resulted in 1.24million deaths in 2017 as per IndiaSpends report till 7th December 2018. This has risen the urge for electric vehicles, where India aims to ensure 15% electric retreating from earlier ambition of going all electric by 2030. To push the cause various initiatives on policy support, subsidies, schemes etc. were designed to boost both manufacturing as well as sales. The infrastructural requirement for charging and batteries has remained a challenge. Major debates on financing aspects on subsidies along with developing infrastructure, domestic manufactures or imports, Battery swapping or fast charging infrastructures are going on. [For further reading: <https://www.indiaspend.com/global-climate-summit-urges-electric-vehicles-india-after-ambitious-plans-beats-quiet-retreat/>]
- ✚ **Underutilization in project Clean Ganga** – U River Ganga stretching across 2500Km Coast line is exposed to heavy pollution, majorly due to the discharge of untreated and partially treated sewage entering it. As per a government estimate, only 1400 MLD which is just 48% of the total sewage discharge/day of 2900Million litres stands

treated. In this line of affair building sewage treatment capacity & cleaning the Ganga was a mission ever since 1986, with the earlier governments having spent Rs. 4000Crore until 2014. In this respect, the BJP led NDA government has set a target for accomplishing the revival and rejuvenation of this life-line streaming through states namely, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal. This being the biggest campaign ever, has been allocated Rs. 20000Crore budget to attain the target by 2019, further extended to 2020. Until now only 25% of the total budget dedicated to this project has been spent. [For further reading: <https://www.indiaspend.com/as-2020-deadline-to-clean-ganga-looms-less-than-quarter-of-budget-spent-sewage-projects-behind-schedule-water-quality-deteriorates-official-data/>]

✚ **Quality of air affects living** – A perception study on Air Quality conducted across 17 cities with 5000 respondents quantifies that 80% of the sample perceived that air pollution can affect one's quality of life while 32% identify its' effect on lifestyle. Delhites were ranked top in terms of having heard on air pollution followed by Chennai, Bangalore, Pune. In terms of seeking information it was noted that only 13% were curious about air quality in their city. On the other hand 12% never heeded to it. The study was commissioned by Clean Air Collective comprising 80 civil society organizations, citizen groups and experts working on the issue of air pollution. [For further reading: <https://www.indiaspend.com/80-of-indians-polled-in-17-cities-believe-air-pollution-affects-quality-of-life-new-study/>]

✚ **The Deflation Issue** – N In a scenario where, retail inflation stands at 2.33% claimed as 17 month low greatly due to the fall in food items. While the response from Urban India & RBI comes positive, the lives of distressed farmers do not reflect the same. With fluctuating farm prices, prone price risks, cartelized agricultural marketing system, sparse farmer producer companies the distress of the farmers is not being eased. In this regards, the loan waivers offered to farmers in competitive spree may not be the solution. Proper implementation of Minimum Support Price may rest a solution by far. [For further reading: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/negative-signals/article25746103.ece>]

✚ **India Not On Track To Reach 2025 Nutrition Targets Or Achieve Zero Hunger By 2030** - Increased food security and access has led to fewer malnourished and anaemic Indians in 2017 than in the preceding decade, but India needs to do much more to meet its nutrition goals, the 2018 Global Nutrition Report (GNR 2018) has shown. [For further reading: <https://www.indiaspend.com/india-not-on-track-to-reach-2025-nutrition-targets-or-achieve-zero-hunger-by-2030/>]