

Weekly Livelihoods Update

26 June 2018

- ✚ **How Will India Respond to Internal Climate Migration?** According to WB report, 'Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration' based on climate change-induced migration:
- Climate change could potentially cause 143 additional people to migrate internally in SSA (86 million), SA (40 million) and LA (17 million) regions by 2050. People will move from 'vulnerable' to 'viable' areas.
 - These numbers represent a 'pessimistic scenario' and hold in case no action is taken.
 - The report seems to adopt, more implicitly than explicitly, a people-centred livelihood perspective. By highlighting how droughts, crop failures, rising sea levels affect people lives and livelihoods, vulnerability to climate change is viewed as situated within the broader set of livelihood circumstances of people.
 - The significance of rural-urban migration will rise in future as agriculture-dependent livelihoods come under increasing climatic stress.
 - The tragic irony is climate change will displace those from their habitats who are least responsible for this planetary crisis. It is the rural poor with already limited means whose lives and livelihoods will be hardest hit.
 - India needs to worry more about the climate migration for two important reasons: Firstly, the size of the country and levels of poverty. Secondly, the significance of internal migration as a livelihoods strategy is already on the rise. (Visit <https://thewire.in/environment/how-will-india-respond-to-internal-climate-migration> for further reading).
- ✚ **IVRS for farmers in Andhra Pradesh:** The IVRS has been introduced in Anantapur district under the flagship ZBNF. The main purpose behind the voice calls is to improve the adoption rate among farmers. Currently, IVRS is extended only to the groundnut crop in Anantapur and paddy in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts. (Visit <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/voice-calls-to-help-andhra-farmers-in-decision-making-60923> for further reading).
- ✚ **Gujarat government launches solar scheme for farmers:** The Gujarat government launched Rs 870-crore pilot project Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) which is considered first of its kind in the country. SKY is expected to cover, through solar power generation, 12,400 farmers in 33 districts through 137 feeders. The move is being seen as an attempt to pacify the farmers. (Visit

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2018/06/23/gujarat-government-launches-solar-scheme-for-farmers.html> for further reading).

✚ **NITI Aayog's Water Management Index:** In the last week, various national media outlets reported that 600 million Indians are exposed to extreme water stress, that three-fourths of households have no piped water, 70% of all water is contaminated and India stands at the 120th among 122 countries on the WQI. This alarm followed the NITI Aayog's release of the CWMI, on 14 June 2018 in New Delhi. The CWMI document has ranked India's states (except J&K) and ordered them based on their ability and preparedness to manage their water resources properly. However, the report did not contain any details on how this ranking scheme was arrived at nor did it clarify whether certain critical parameters were included. In its current form, the CWMI needs major amendments to become useful as a reliable planning tool. (Visit <https://thewire.in/environment/five-years-after-uttarakhand-floods-only-disregard-for-the-himalaya> for detailed analysis).

✚ **Unending Woes of Pulse Farmers:** The current crash in pulse prices is on account of excess supply in the pulses market. This is the second year in a row that pulse prices have fallen and have not been remunerative for farmers. There have been increases in acreage since that have led to excess supply and drastic price reductions in 2018. Sustainable policies are needed to protect farmers and consumers against output and price fluctuations of pulses.

(Visit <https://epw.in/journal/2018/25/editorials/unending-woes-pulse-farmers.html> for further reading)

✚ **De-Feminisation of Agriculture Wage Labour:** A study of three villages in Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal, reveals that there is an alarming decline in female agricultural wage labour, resulting in de-feminisation, devastating poverty and outmigration of young boys and men in the Terai region.

(Visit <https://epw.in/journal/2018/25/special-articles/de-feminisation-agricultural-wage-labour-jalpaiguri-west-bengal> for further reading)

✚ **IMA supports Ayushman Bharat:** IMA representatives agreed to extend their support for better implementation of AB-NHPM especially in field of empanelment of hospitals, spreading awareness and beneficiary identification processes. Less than two weeks ago, IMA had strong and reasoned criticisms of the insurance scheme. It is worth to understand that why IMA planned to support the scheme despite of having criticisms for it. (Visit <https://thewire.in/health/ima-health-insurance-scheme> for further reading)

- + **National Health Profile 2018:** The NHP covers demographic, socio-economic, health status and health finance indicators, along with comprehensive information on health infrastructure and human resources in health. According to the report, Fertility is declining rapidly, including among the poor and illiterate. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) falls below two children per woman in 12 states, reaches replacement levels in 9 others. (Visit <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/health/fertility-in-india-is-declining-rapidly-says-national-health-profile-2018-60921> for further reading)
- + **Govt wishes to achieve healthcare goals by spending Rs 3 a day?:** According to NHP, the Indian government plans to live up to its promise of 'health assurance to all Indians' with a health spending of just Rs 3 per day that counts for 1.02 per cent of the GDP. At Rs1,112 per capita, India is one of the countries with the lowest per year public health spending. This is when the NHP said the country would increase health spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025. (Visit <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/health/govt-wishes-to-achieve-healthcare-goals-by-spending-rs-3-a-day--60919> for further reading).
- + **Free Insulin for Diabetics?** Madras HC Issues Notice to Govt on Plea for Free Insulin for Diabetics. The petitioner said the average monthly medical expenses for a diabetic was anywhere between Rs 3,000 and Rs 8,000.(Visit <https://thewire.in/environment/five-years-after-uttarakhand-floods-only-disregard-for-the-himalaya> for further reading)