

# Weekly Livelihoods Update

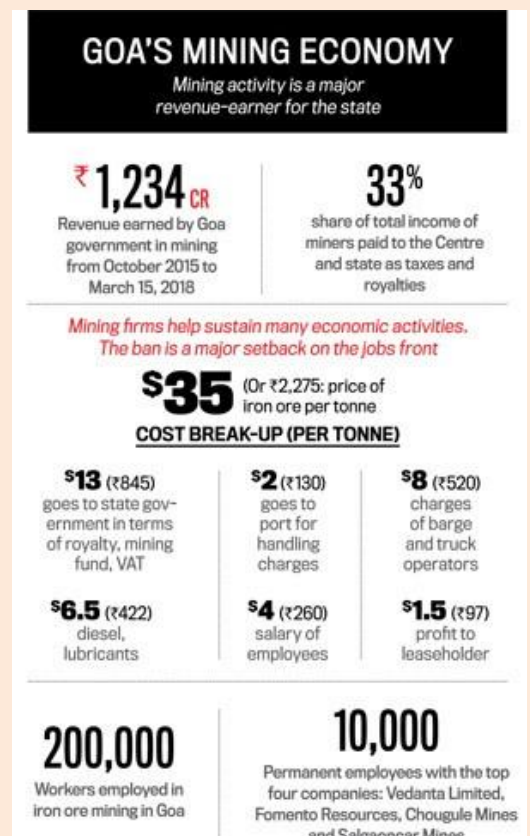
08 April 2018

+ **A study on CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities** in India noticed following trends:

- Increase in number of firms reporting CSR expenses in their annual reports and increase in firms that are undertaking expenses on CSR activities
- Still, 52% of the firms that come under the purview of the law did not report CSR expenditures.
- CSR expenditure is clustering around mandatory 2% of profits. This is a worrying trend as the compliance is accompanied with reduction in donations by firms
- In terms of activities, a major focus has been on health and education, closely followed by environmental protection
- Long way to achieve full potential of CSR rules (For detailed analysis of the study, [http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018\\_53/14/SA\\_LIII\\_14\\_070418\\_Sangeeta\\_Bansal.pdf](http://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018_53/14/SA_LIII_14_070418_Sangeeta_Bansal.pdf))

+ **Mining and Livelihoods:** Goa mining ban has left many people uncertain about their future. This could have an impact on socio economic prospects of Goa. The ban and uncertainty in policies has impacted big companies like Vedanta. This could impact the CSR activities in the region. (For further reading... <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/the-big-story/story/20180409-go-ban-iron-ore-mining-jobless-workers-manohar-parrikar-1201187-2018-03-29>)

+ **Climate change and Health:** A modelling study done by The Lancet Planetary Health Journal shows that India and China would recover much more than what they would spend on implementing the Paris Climate Agreement between 2020 and 2050. This is due to health savings on account of reduced air pollution related illness and deaths.



(For further reading... <http://www.frontline.in/science-and-technology/climate-pact-or-better-health/article10095790.ece>)

- ✚ **Data Privacy:** The Face book/Cambridge Analytica episode proves once again that data is the new oil. We are now entering a world that is seeing an explosive growth of data. We are generating huge amounts of data about ourselves every second-when we browse, search, use e-mail, do commerce online, make banking or credit card transactions etc. There is an urgent need for Countries to come up with policies on data management.
- ✚ **Clean Air:** The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change told the Supreme Court that the National Clean Air Programme, which seeks to reduce air pollution across the country by 35% in 3 years and 50% in 5 years will be finalised. The draft broadens the focus from Delhi to 100 cities in India.
- ✚ **Animal Husbandry:** The Rajasthan Bovine Animal (prohibition of slaughter and regulation of temporary migration or export) amendment Bill, 2018 defines cow, calf, heifer, bull and bullock a “bovine animal” and expressly excludes buffalo. This is a relief for traders of cattle and meat and for transporters.
- ✚ **Cropping Pattern:** Indigo farming debuts in the hills of Uttarakhand as people find it ecologically and economically beneficial. (Detailed understanding on Down To Earth, 1-15 April, 2018 issue)
- ✚ **Affordable medicine:** The government’s has removed two heads of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority in the past four years. This is criticised by health experts as it may only weaken the country’s lone drug pricing watchdog.
- ✚ **Farmer Collectives:** The failure of cooperatives to address the problems of marginal farmers has led to increase in the number of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs). There are concerns on the implications of increasing contract farming tie ups between FPCs and corporate.
- ✚ A book review of a publication on functioning of MGNREGS. Name of the book: **MGNREGA: Employment, Wages and Migration in Rural India** by Pramod Kumar and Dipanwita Chakraborty <http://www.epw.in/journal/2018/14/book-reviews/indias-national-employment-undertaking.html-0>)