

# Weekly Livelihoods Update

12 December 2018

✚ **Agrarian Social Crisis:** People (mainly marginal farmers and farm labourer) representing 206 organisations across the country assembled at Ramlila ground, Delhi, under the aegis of the Kisan Mukti March and marched towards Parliament on November 30.

With following demands:

1. Minimum support prices for agricultural goods according to the Swaminathan Commission
2. Waivers of loans
3. Fair prices for their produce
4. Other economic rights for a sustainable livelihood

It was also supported by academics and activists. *The agrarian crisis has now moved beyond crops to become a social crisis* as per senior journalist P. Sainath.

For further reading... <https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20181217-a-harvest-of-discontent-1404595-2018-12-08>

✚ **After Math of Cyclone Gaja:** on 16th November 2018 cyclone Gaja severely hit Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Pudukkottai and Thanjavur districts and parts of Tiruchi, Dindigul, Karur, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal in the Union Territory of Puducherry. As per Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami the assessed damaged with 46 deaths, 56,942 huts, partially damaged 30,404 huts, and affected 30,326 tiled houses, 39,938 electric poles, 374 distribution transformers and 3,559 km of power lines. It had also destroyed 88,000 hectares of standing agricultural and horticultural crops, 231 cows, 20 bulls, 19 calves, 1,181 goats and sheep and 14,986 poultry birds, 4,844 damaged fishing boats, 86,702 uprooted electric poles, and 841 damaged transformers and 201 sub-stations. To which total of 2.51 lakh people were accommodated in 514 relief camps, he said, and announced an interim relief package of Rs.1,000 crore. However, the farmers and people affected by the cyclone showed their discontentment with the relief operations in which failure of power and road blockades played a major role. For further reading... <https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/article25662555.ece?homepage=true>

✚ **Maharashtra Drought:** Maharashtra facing acute water crisis. The state is going through drought in Kharif as well as Rabi. The intensely effected areas are Nashik– north Maharashtra and Marathwada region. Yet another probably manmade disaster, this time initiated by schemes and interventions planned to drought mitigation and eradication. The figures displayed has failed to showcase the cost.

For further reading...

[https://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018\\_53/48/ED\\_LIII\\_48\\_081218\\_2-Drought%20in%20Maharashtra.pdf](https://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018_53/48/ED_LIII_48_081218_2-Drought%20in%20Maharashtra.pdf)

✚ **Witness Protection:** A firm step taken to strengthen the criminal justice system by introducing a witness protection scheme. Hostile witness being the major reason for most acquittals, the scheme will provide security to the witness based on three level as per the threat assessment. It will be funded by budgetary support from State governments and donations. Though advanced identity protection may be an upcoming challenge. However, the passage of time will mark the success of the idea.

For further reading... <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/shielding-witnesses/article25682716.ece>

✚ **Rights on Waste** - One day managing without a waste picker coming home is unimaginable. Heeding to their huge role & responsibility in our day to day lives, another dimension exists. A large number of informal workers involved in this job are vulnerable to accumulation and loose in this process, where dispossession is needful. In this regards, 'Right to Waste' is emerging as a successful policy outlook. The initiative by SWaCH the country's first self-owned cooperative of self-employed waste pickers and allied urban poor to sign an MOU with the Pune Municipal Corporation for collection of waste in several city wards with certain terms and conditions on equipments & gears, costs, welfare benefits and partial subsidies on segregated wastes, stands out. Can this be a solution for the many issues faced?

Reading...[https://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018\\_53/48/SA\\_LIII\\_48\\_081218\\_V%20Kalyan%20Shankar%2C%20Rohini%20Sahni.pdf](https://www.epw.in/system/files/pdf/2018_53/48/SA_LIII_48_081218_V%20Kalyan%20Shankar%2C%20Rohini%20Sahni.pdf)

✚ **Introspection on Global Nutrition Report** - On account of the Global Nutrition Report'18 being out, an introspection on where we stand helps in progress. India as a country though projects a steady improvement in terms of longevity, health and well being since independence, there is other side to it. The country stands third in the composition of stunted children (with low height for age) under age five with 46.6 Million. Based on the district-wise data, Central and Northern states stand higher percentages compared to South. Owing to its impact and prevalence, the strengthening of national framework for improvement of Nutrition not compromising emphasis on existing institutions, maternity dynamics, access and availability of quality packaged foods for children holds essential.

For further reading ...<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/stunted-wasted/article25665759.ece>