



**THE**

**WEEKLY**

**RURAL**



**NEWSLETTER**

# ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

## Greetings Readers!

An overwhelming population in India continues to live in what is defined as 'non-urban' or rural. As per the 2011 Census, 833.1 million people of the total 1210.2 million population, or 69% of the populace, lived in rural areas in around 6.4 lakh villages. The rural life, while popularly portrayed as simple, slow, and serene, is much more complex, unsettling, diverse and rapidly changing. In a world dominated by the hustle and bustle of urban life, the heartbeat of rural India often goes unnoticed.

Welcome to the Weekly Rural Newsletter, where we aim to bridge this gap by shedding light on the stories, struggles, and triumphs of the large majority of India's population. Presented by the diligent students of Rural Sociology, this Newsletter is a humble effort to amplify the rural voices that deserve to be heard. By closely following the national and regional media platforms students cover different states as 'state correspondents' and document the developments unfolding in the socio-economic, political and cultural spheres of the countryside. A team of two students compiles these news reports in the form of a newsletter on a weekly basis and brings the newsletter to you.

We believe that having a focus on rural affairs in educational settings can have



far-reaching effects in students' awareness about the challenges and opportunities in rural areas, holistic education, empathy, community engagement, and policy advocacy. We hope this exercise also creates a ripple effect among the larger audience. Stay tuned for more stories from the heartlands of our nation!

**With rustic regards,  
The Rural Sociology Students' Team, 2024**

## ANDHRA PRADESH

### AP government's key decision: 4G even in the hills!

The Andhra Pradesh government is addressing increasing cell phone signal issues by installing 2,305 new 4G towers across remote areas, aiming to enhance connectivity for 5,423 villages. This initiative includes collaboration with BSNL and private telecom operators, with some towers already operational. The government also plans to introduce 5G services through small cells. By improving mobile and internet access, the government seeks to boost infrastructure and employment opportunities in rural regions, recognizing the essential role of communication in modern life. The project is part of a broader effort to ensure comprehensive connectivity throughout the state.

*(Translated from Telugu)*



**Link to the article: (11th October, 2024)**

<https://telugu.samayam.com/andhra-pradesh/news/government-to-set-up-4g-cell-towers-in-andhra-pradesh-rural-areas/articleshow/114148388.cms>

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH

### Naharlagun Police arrested two youths for creating fake porn video



Naharlagun Police have arrested two college students, Tai Tacha (22) and Hillang John (24), for creating and circulating a fake pornographic video of a local girl. The video, made using images from the victim's Instagram, was shared on Telegram under the name "Arunachal Girl's VIP" for payment.

The complainant faced harassment and mental distress, prompting her to file a formal complaint. Both accused have been remanded to police custody, and the devices used in the crime have been seized for investigation.

**Link to the article: (12th October, 2024)**

<https://arunachal24.in/arunachal-naharlagun-police-arrested-two-youths-for-creating-fake-porn-video-of-local-girl/>

# ASSAM

## In Assam prison break, 5 inmates climb 20-foot wall using lungis, blankets

Five prisoners jailed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act escaped from Assam's Morigaon District Jail on Friday night. The inmates used lungis, blankets, and bedsheets to scale the 20-foot prison wall, evading security and prompting a major alert across the district. The escapees have been identified as Saifuddin, Jiarul Islam, Nur Islam, Mafidul, and Abdul Rashid, all of whom were serving time for Pocsso-related offences.

The jailbreak occurred late at night, leaving jail officials and local authorities in a state of alarm. In response to the escape, authorities have launched a large-scale manhunt to recapture the fugitives, while security measures have been tightened across the region.



**Link to the article: (12th October, 2024)**  
<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/assam-prisonbreak-inmates-climb-wall-using-lungis-blankets-bedsheets-morigaon-district-jail-2615734-2024-10-12>

# BIHAR

## Ghost Fair in VTR Forest, Bihar Draws Visitors from Afar with Mystical Beliefs



**Link to the article: (12th October, 2024)**  
<https://www.livehindustan.com/bihar/ghost-fair-in-the-forest-of-vtr-people-come-from-far-and-wide-know-what-is-the-belief-201728710402597.html>

A unique "Ghost Fair" is held in the dense forests of Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in Bihar, attracting people from various regions. The fair is centred around local beliefs and folklore, with many attendees seeking solutions to their spiritual concerns and ailments. Devotees believe that the rituals performed during this fair can drive away evil spirits and provide relief from supernatural disturbances. The event has gained popularity over the years, blending local traditions with mysticism. Despite its eerie theme, the fair remains a cultural attraction, highlighting the region's deep-rooted spiritual customs.

*(Translated from Hindi to English)*

## CHHATTISGARH

### Farmers getting rich with bumper earnings due to paddy procurement

Chhattisgarh is among the largest paddy-producing states, and much of its political axis is also centred on paddy. Paddy procurement in Chhattisgarh has been calculated to start from November 15. The targeted estimate has been set to purchase about 160 lakh metric tonnes of paddy. As paddy purchase in the state increases the income of the farmers, many farmers participate in it. In fact, in 2023-24, 24 lakh 72 thousand farmers participated in it and a total payment of Rs 30 thousand 68 crore 81 lakh was made to them.

*(Translated from Hindi to English)*



**Link to the article: (13th October, 2024)**

<https://www.etvbharat.com/hi!/state/paddy-procurement-is-festival-for-cg-farmers-selling-paddy-at-support-price-is-instant-income-for-kisan-chhattisgarh-news-cts24101204113>

## GUJARAT

### Vadodara police detain 10 for 'assaulting' migrant workers on suspicions of thievery



Vadodara rural police detained 10 people for allegedly assaulting three migrant workers in Padra taluka on Monday night, suspecting them of being thieves. The victims, natives of Uttar Pradesh and non-Gujarati speaking, had stopped to watch a garba celebration in the Santram Bhagor area when locals began questioning their intentions. The workers sustained injuries before being rescued by police. This incident occurred amid rising viral rumours on social media about thefts and dacoit attacks in rural Central Gujarat. Vadodara Superintendent of Police Rohan Anand confirmed an FIR is being filed, and the case is under investigation.

**Link to the article: (8th October, 2024)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/vadodara-police-detain-10-for-assaulting-migrant-workers-on-suspicious-of-thievery-9609667/>

## HARYANA

### Farmers are facing problem of slow paddy procurement in Punjab and Haryana

The process of paddy procurement was implemented in Haryana and Punjab almost 10 days ago. However, the process is still not able to function smoothly. The process of procurement of paddy was originally scheduled for 23rd September. However, it was suddenly postponed to 1st October. The Central Government rescheduled the date to 27th September responding to the protests and concerns of the farmers. However, in Haryana, even though the process has started, the progress is slow. In fact, the process itself is not very efficient as the procured paddy keeps getting accumulated on the mandis (market), delaying the overall progress and work of the farmers. In Punjab, labourers and millers were on strike which finally came to an end on 7th September but the crop market is still sluggish.



**Link to the article: (10th October, 2024)**

<https://eng.ruralvoice.in/state/farmers-are-facing-problem-of-slow-paddy-procurement-in-punjab-and-haryana.html>

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

### Farmers doing natural farming in Himachal Pradesh to get Rs 33,000 to purchase 'desi' cow



**Link to the article: (11th October, 2024)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/farmers-doing-natural-farming-in-himachal-pradesh-to-get-33000-to-purchase-desi-cow/>

As per the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), farmers practising natural farming in Himachal Pradesh will receive a grant of Rs 33,000 for buying a 'desi' cow, along with a subsidy of Rs 8,000 for paving the cowshed floor. The assistant technical manager of ATMA encouraged farmers not to use pesticides and engage in natural manure to fertilise the soil and for better crop growth. She said that the main components of natural farming like 'Jeevamrit', 'Beejamrit', 'Dhanjeevamrit' and Indigenous pesticides could be prepared at home from the dung and urine of Indigenous cows. Furthermore, Local breeds of cows like 'Sahiwal', Red Sindhi, 'Rathi', Thar and Parker. In a camp held she spoke about the Rajiv Gandhi Start-Up Yojana where Pea seeds were distributed to the farmers.

## JAMMU & KASHMIR

### No changes in Sarpanch eligibility criteria: RDD & PR J&K refutes social media post

The Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Jammu & Kashmir, has dismissed claims circulating on social media about new qualifications for Sarpanch candidates in the Union Territory. A viral post falsely stated that the J&K government issued a notification under the "J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989" introducing new eligibility criteria, including a minimum age of 25 and a 12th-grade education. The department has warned users against spreading such misinformation and emphasised that no changes have been made to the existing local governance structures or election processes. The RDD urges caution in sharing unverified news related to governance.



**[Link to the article: \(7th October, 2024\)](#)**

<https://www.crosstownnews.in/post/134791/no-changes-in-sarpanch-eligibility-criteria-rddpr-jk-refutes-social-media-post.html#>

## JHARKHAND

### Grand Durga Puja Celebrations in Pithoria Village with Special Rituals and Events



**[Link to the article: \(10th October, 2024\)](#)**

<https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/ranchi/story-grand-durga-puja-celebrations-in-pithoria-village-with-special-rituals-and-events-201728566706964.html>

The serene village of Pithoria in Jharkhand is witnessing a grand celebration of Durga Puja, marked by unique rituals and cultural festivities. The event, deeply rooted in tradition, features elaborate worship ceremonies, vibrant processions, and musical performances, attracting both local residents and visitors from surrounding areas. Devotees gather to participate in the special pujas, offering prayers and showcasing their devotion to Goddess Durga. These celebrations serve as a platform for preserving the village's rich cultural heritage while fostering communal harmony. The annual festival has become a key attraction in the region, offering a glimpse into Jharkhand's traditional customs and community spirit.

*(Translated from Hindi to English)*

# KARNATAKA

## Karnataka's Akka Cafes to boost rural women's entrepreneurship

The Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, Dr. Sharanaprakash Patil has inaugurated the Akka Cafe at Vikasa Soudha in Bengaluru. An initiative that will work towards boosting entrepreneurship among rural women. This project will be implemented by the National Livelihood Mission of Karnataka (NLM). National Livelihood Mission and Institute of Hotel Management, Bengaluru to provide additional training skills. The state government has also allocated 25 crore to the Akka Cafe initiative.



**Link to the article: (10th October\ 2024)**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/karnataka-s-akka-cafes-to-boost-rural-women-s-entrepreneurship-3226563>

# KERALA

## Passengers demand fitness check on KSRTC buses used for rural services in Kozhikode



Passengers from rural Kozhikode have demanded a thorough check of the mechanical fitness of Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses being operated on rural routes. Local administrators and political party leaders, in response to (October 8) Tuesday's bus accident near Thiruvambady that claimed two lives, urged the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) and police to take the lead in conducting inspections with immediate priority. Representatives of various passenger forums alleged that old vehicles found unfit for urban services were being rerouted through rural areas. Sources in the KSRTC said the Thiruvambady depot had 35 buses of which a majority were more than 10 years old.

**Link to the article: (10th October, 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/passengers-demand-fitness-check-on-ksrtc-buses-used-for-rural-services-in-kozhikode/article68740513.ece>



# MADHYA PRADESH

## Fertiliser shortage in Madhya Pradesh

Farmers in Narmadapuram are struggling with the acquisition of fertilisers for the sowing of rabi crops. They stand in queues for hours, through the day and night. Now, tokens are required to get fertilisers and therefore farmers are facing additional problems, asking family members to sit in their place so they do not miss their turn to get the token. During the chaos, police unleashed water cannons on the farmers. A police station in-charge states that “he has not ordered any policemen to do so”, however, farmers insist that they are facing problems with the issue.

*(Translated from Hindi to English)*



**Link to the article: (10th October 2024)**

<https://www.etvbharat.com/hi!/state/narmadapuram-fertilizer-crisis-farmers-not-get-dap-fertilizers-police-sprayed-water-madhya-pradesh-news-mps24101004600>

# MAHARASHTRA

## Sangli Crime: Sexual assault on minor girl, accused's house ransacked by angry mob in Sangli



A minor girl was sexually assaulted in the Sanjay Nagar area of Sangli, in Maharashtra. Post this incident, the house of the accused was vandalised by a mob. The citizens of Sanjay Nagar were angered by the disgusting actions of the 28-year-old man who sexually assaulted a 9-year-old girl by showing her a blue film. Sanjay Nagar police arrested the accused and registered a case against him under the POCSO Act.

**Link to the article: (9th October 2024)**

<https://marathi.abplive.com/news/sangli/sangli-crime-sexual-assault-on-minor-girl-accused-s-house-ransacked-by-angry-mob-in-sangli-marathi-news-1318212>

*(Translated from Marathi to English)*

# MANIPUR

## Never say die

The recent order by the Manipur Department of Tribal Affairs, demanding village documentation from 1964 onwards, has sparked a strong reaction from the Kuki Chiefs' Association, Manipur (KCAM). KCAM has denounced the order, alleging it undermines traditional governance and the inherent rights of the Kuki-Zo people. They view this move as discriminatory, accusing it of diminishing the authority of their chiefs, who control all village land and maintain traditional tenant systems. The government, led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, sees this as a pragmatic approach to address issues of land ownership, illegal activities, and the elite's control, highlighting disparities within the Kuki-Zo community.



**Link to the article: (12th October, 2024)**

<https://www.ifp.co.in/opinion/never-say-die>

# MEGHALAYA

## Meghalaya Rural Tourism Forum urges minister to address non-local taxi ban amid tourism threat



The Meghalaya Rural Tourism Forum has urged the state minister to address the ban on non-local taxis, which they believe threatens the tourism sector. The forum emphasised that the restriction is hampering travel for tourists, particularly during peak seasons. They highlighted the importance of ensuring smooth transportation for visitors to promote tourism growth in rural areas. The forum's appeal comes amid concerns about the potential negative impact on local economies reliant on tourism. They seek a resolution that balances local interests with the needs of visitors.

**Link to the article: (7th October, 2024)**

<https://hubnetwork.in/meghalaya-rural-tourism-forum-urges-minister-to-address-non-local-taxi-ban-amid-tourism-threat/>

# NAGALAND

## Nagaland villagers take revenge on a 'killer' wild boar

In Nagaland's Mon district, villagers avenged the deaths of two men, including a headman, killed by a wild boar. Following separate attacks on October 3 and 4, where S. Aknyu and P. Angba were fatally injured, residents of Kenjenshu village organised a hunt for the animal. Armed with traditional weapons, they gathered to track and kill the boar, expressing their grief through this customary act. Although unsure if they killed the exact animal responsible, the villagers, including the victims' family members, performed rituals before burying its carcass, reflecting deep cultural traditions within the Konyak community.



**Link to the article: (8th October, 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nagaland/nagaland-villagers-take-revenge-on-a-killer-wild-boar/article68732481.ece>

# ODISHA

## Floriculture blossoms in one of the backward regions of Odisha



**Link to the article: (8th October, 2024)**

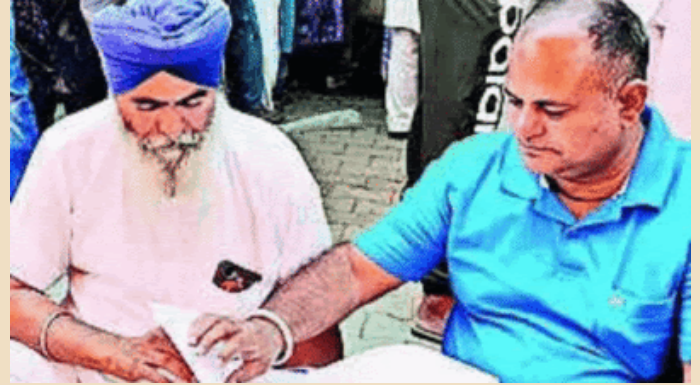
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/odisha/farmers-in-odishas-backward-sambalpur-district-turn-to-floriculture/article68731489.ece>

Jujumara is a forested region, that now has 10 acres between 20 villages and 250 farmers dedicated to the growth of flowers (floriculture). This is due to intervention by Sabuja Sanatanpali Farmer Producer Company Limited (FPO) along with scientific inputs from the National Botanical Research Institute. The benefits of floriculture are less strain on land and higher yields and profits. To make farmers more confident, there is a WhatsApp group where market trends and demands for flower species are regularly shared. Additionally, 150 honey bee boxes have been distributed so floriculture and apiculture can be practised together sustainably.

## PUNJAB

### Defying Traditions, dalit, candidates in Patiala try luck on general seats

In the Patiala district of Punjab, Dalit candidates are breaking caste barriers to contest upcoming panchayat elections on general category seats. Hardeep Kaur, a 24-year-old B Tech graduate, is running for sarpanch in Palia village, advocating for Dalit rights and addressing issues like MGNREGA benefits. Despite community support, her family faces pressure to withdraw her candidacy. In Babarpur, Balbir Singh highlights ongoing issues such as poor drainage. Sukhwinder Kaur from Nohra had her nomination papers stolen. With 1,022 panchayats in the district, the election features 4,293 candidates for sarpanch, but scrutiny has already led to the rejection of 390 nomination papers.



**Link to the article: (7th October, 2024)**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/dalit-candidates-break-barriers-in-patiala-panchayat-elections/articleshow/113996077.cms>

## SIKKIM

### District Co-op Dev Committee reviews co-op societies' progress



**Link to the article: (11th October, 2024)**

<https://www.indiancooperative.com/from-states/sikkim-district-co-op-dev-committee-reviews-co-op-societies-progress/>

The Sikkim District Cooperative Development Committee recently reviewed the progress of cooperative societies across Gram Panchayats. The meeting focused on enhancing operational efficiency, addressing challenges, and promoting sustainable practices. Officials discussed strategies for improving member engagement and financial performance. DCDC Chairwoman Yongda directed departments to collaborate closely and meet their goals within the defined timeline. She also reviewed the current status of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and encouraged the Fisheries Department to develop smart marketing strategies to support local farmers. The committee aims to strengthen these organisations to better serve the needs of their members and contribute to overall economic development in Sikkim.

## TAMIL NADU

### Panchayat president in Tamil Nadu faces action for misusing funds

A panchayat president in Tamil Nadu is facing disciplinary action for allegedly misusing government funds amounting to ₹2.5 lakh intended for development projects. The president, who had reportedly diverted these funds for personal use, has been suspended pending an investigation. The local administration emphasised the need for accountability and transparency in handling public resources.



**Link to the article: (10th October, 2024)**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Oct/10/panchayat-president-in-tamil-nadu-faces-action-for-misusing-funds>

## TELANGANA

### Telangana CM laid the foundation stone for Young India Integrated Residential School at Kondurg village.

At a public meeting, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy laid the foundation for Young India Integrated Residential Schools, aiming to provide quality education and medical care to underprivileged students at Kondurg. He criticised the previous government for closing 5,000 schools and failing to invest adequately in educational infrastructure. Reddy emphasised his government's commitment to reforming education, including completing teacher promotions and transfers. He accused the former administration of neglecting the poor and asserted that these new schools would promote inclusivity by allowing students from all backgrounds to learn together, ultimately fostering societal transformation through education.



**Link to the article: (12th October, 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/teLANGANA/teLANGANA-cm-lays-foundation-stone-for-young-india-integrated-residential-school-at-kondurg/article68744813.ece>

## TRIPURA

### Man allegedly murders wife, mother-in-law over social media post in Tripura



In Tripura, a poultry farmer named Samarjit Chowdhury has been arrested for allegedly murdering his estranged wife, Tanushree Acharya, and her mother, Soma Acharya, following a social media post that provoked his anger. The incident occurred early on October 13 when Tanushree shared photos with two male friends during Durga Puja festivities, which enraged Chowdhury. He attacked them with a sharp weapon as they returned home, resulting in their deaths at the scene. Chowdhury fled but was apprehended shortly after. The police are investigating the case further, and he has confessed to the crime.

**Link to the article: (13th October, 2024)**

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/India/man-allegedly-murders-wife-mother-in-law-over-social-media-post-in-tripura/ar-AA1sbfw2>

## UTTAR PRADESH

### Uttar Pradesh constructs 35.88 L houses under PMAY-G since 2016-17



**Link to the article: (8th October, 2024)**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/lucknow-news/uttar-pradesh-constructs-35-88-l-houses-under-pmay-g-since-201617-101728328982348.html>

Since 2016-17, Uttar Pradesh has constructed 35.88 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), with 72,000 still under construction against a target of 36.60 lakh by 2024-25. Approximately 27,000 houses remain incomplete, while model houses have been finished in 410 development blocks. Under the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, 2.52 lakh houses have been completed out of a target of 2.57 lakh, with 3,929 currently under construction. The initiative has benefitted marginalised communities, including houses for Musahar, Tharu, and other tribal families, as well as support for families affected by leprosy and natural disasters.

## UTTARAKHAND

### Uttarakhand Chief Secretary directs Public Work and Rural Work Department to ensure maintenance of roads constructed under PMGSY

The chief secretary of Uttarakhand has directed the PWD and RWD to host a meeting regarding the construction and maintenance of the roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The CS has also directed to carry out better use of resources and maintain a healthy competition between the two departments. She asserted that this maintenance is necessary for better access to remote areas especially in case of disasters. The meeting between PWD and RWD had a detailed discussion on the allocation of work to different departments for the maintenance of roads.



**Link to the article: (10th October, 2024)**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/uttarakhand-chief-secretary-directs-public-work-and-rural-work-department-to-ensure-maintenance-of-roads-constructed-under-pmgsy20241010201416/>

## WEST BENGAL

### : Kultuli rape-murder case: Body of 10-year-old girl taken to JNM Hospital for post-mortem



**Link to the article: (7th, October 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/west-bengal/kultuli-rape-murder-case-body-of-10-year-old-girl-taken-to-jnm-hospital-for-post-mortem/article68727519.ece>

The body of a 10-year-old girl who was raped and murdered in Kultuli in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal was taken to Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital, as per the instructions of the Calcutta High Court. The initial decision was to conduct the post-mortem in AIIMS hospital, but the hospital lacked the resources and infrastructure to conduct the post-mortem. A petition by the girl's parents led the judge to say that if the necessary infrastructure is not available at AIIMS, then JNM Hospital will carry out the post-mortem.

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