



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, or 1210.2 million of the population, or 69% of the populace, lived in rural areas in around 6.4 lakh villages. 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 every week and brings the newsletter to you.

We believe that having a focus on rural affairs in educational settings can have ar-reaching effects on 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

Why this village in Andhra Pradesh celebrated Trump's election win

Residents of Vadluru, Andhra Pradesh, celebrated Donald Trump's election victory, marking a moment of pride for the village, which is the ancestral home of Usha Vance, wife of Vice Presidential candidate J.D. Vance. Villagers burst firecrackers and cheered as news spread. Usha, an Indian-American lawyer, is set to become the first Indian-American Second Lady. Her family's strong ties to Vadluru have fostered hopes for progress in the community. Usha's background as the daughter of Indian immigrants and her academic achievements have garnered attention, reflecting the growing influence of Indian-Americans in U.S. politics amid their celebrations in India.



Link of the article: (7th November, 2024)

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/youth-from-assams-lekhapsani-missing-in-arunachals-jairampur-search-begins-1118529-2024-11-10>

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Youth from Assam's Lekhapani missing in Arunachal's Jairampur, search begins



Amal Sonowal, a 45-year-old resident of 3-mile from Lekhapani, Assam, has gone missing in Jairampur, Arunachal Pradesh, sparking a search operation. Amal was last seen on November 8 while visiting friends. His family reported him missing after he failed to return home, leading to concerns for his safety. Local authorities and police have launched a search in the area, with family members urging anyone with information to come forward. The police investigation into Sonowal's mobile phone location indicated that the last signal was near the Assam-Arunachal border close to the Khampdu bridge. Despite searches conducted by both the mill owner and the police at the indicated location, no clues have been found.

Link of the article: (10th November, 2024)

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/youth-from-assams-lekhapsani-missing-in-arunachals-jairampur-search-begins-1118529-2024-11-10>

ASSAM

Moran, Motok student unions call for 12-hr Tinsukia, Dibrugarh bandh tomorrow over ST status

The Moran and Motok Students Unions have announced a 12-hour bandh in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh on November 11 to protest the lack of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for six communities, including the Adivasi/Tea tribes and Tai Ahom. The student leaders criticized the government's indifference, burning effigies of key political figures, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a rally. The protest followed a rally organised jointly by the Moran Students' Union and the All Assam Motok Youth Students' Federation in Tinsukia on Saturday, where demonstrators also raised their voices for ST status recognition.



Link of the article: (10th November, 2024)

<https://assamtribune.com/assam/moran-motok-student-unions-call-for-12-hr-tinsukia-dibrugarh-bandh-tomorrow-over-st-status-1557507>

BIHAR

Araria Canal Break Devastates Hundreds of Acres of Paddy for Third Time This Year



In Araria, Bihar, the Bagulaha-Kharsai canal broke for the third time this year, devastating hundreds of acres of ripe paddy crops. Previous breaks in July and August, combined with recent unseasonal rains, have severely impacted local farmers. Complaints arose over poor-quality repair materials used earlier, which many blame for the canal's frequent ruptures. The irrigation department was notified, yet the water flow was not stopped in time, intensifying crop losses. Farmers demand compensation for their damaged harvests. *(Translated from Hindi to English).*

Link of the article: (10th November, 2024)

<https://www.livehindustan.com/bihar/farmers-in-trouble-due-to-canal-breaking-in-araria-paddy-planted-in-hundreds-of-acres-ruined-broken-third-time-in-year-201731236465824.html>

CHHATTISGARH

Collision between truck and pickup, 3 female agricultural workers lost their lives

Three female workers tragically passed away due to an accident between a pickup and a truck on Bakawand-Jagdalpur road in Chhattisgarh. All workers in the truck were women, heading back from work in a firm house located in Padapor. There were thirteen injured, out of which three died on the spot and five are in critical condition. The workers were from Odisha, having come to work in an agricultural farm in Jagdalpur.

(Translated from Hindi to English).



Link of the article: (10th November, 2024)

<https://www.livehindustan.com/chhattisgarh/horrific-collision-between-truck-and-pickup-in-chhattisgarh-3-female-workers-killed-13-others-injured-201731232845961.html>

GUJARAT

Game changer in dry Gujarat? Police dogs that sniff out alcohol



Link of the article: (7th November, 2024)

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india-today-insight/story/game-changer-in-dry-gujarat-police-dogs-that-sniff-out-alcohol-2629715-2024-11-07>

Gujarat's deployment of sniffer dogs, Adrev and Cemri, to detect alcohol represents an unusual but bold step in enforcing prohibition laws. However, the move highlights persistent challenges in tackling the deeply rooted bootlegging trade. While the trained Labradors' abilities to detect alcohol are promising, their limited numbers—just two dogs—suggest the impact may be marginal without substantial scaling. Moreover, smugglers' creative methods, from concealed bottles in everyday baggage to cross-state trafficking, may soon adapt to evade canine detection. Until a more extensive and well-resourced force is deployed, Gujarat's K9 squad may only scratch the surface of the problem.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Chamba women make extra money with help from National Rural Livelihood mission



Link of the article: (10th November, 2024)

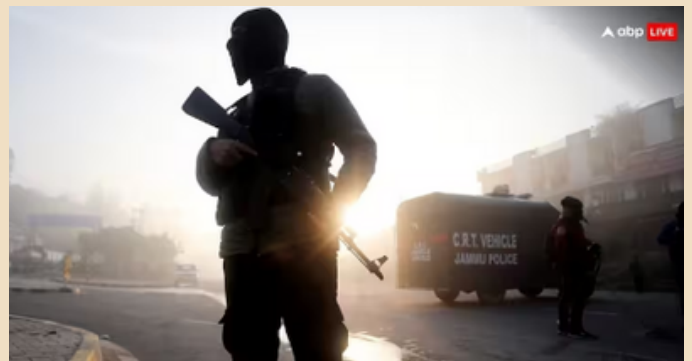
<https://www.mangalorean.com/himachal-chamba-women-make-extra-money-with-help-from-national-rural-livelihood-mission/>

Women living in Himachal Pradesh, Haripur Gram Panchayat are earning income through businesses such as making pickles and papad. These women are not only motivating other women but also making them self-reliant. 9 Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are operating in Haripur Gram Panchayat, earning an immensely high income by making various products under Ekta Mahila Gram Sangathan and selling them in the local markets. The women working in the self-help groups are also under the National Rural Livelihood Mission and are now contributing to their household income. Their products are gaining recognition through fairs and exhibitions at tourist destinations at various places in the state. This initiative showcases the power of NRLM in empowering women and fostering economic growth in rural areas.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Army traps Militants in Bandipora, Shootout on

In Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora, a shootout has erupted between the army and militants, with two militants reportedly trapped. This clash follows recent violence, including a grenade explosion in Srinagar's crowded Sunday market, injuring 12 civilians. Last week, security forces killed three terrorists in separate shootouts in Srinagar and Anantnag, where casualties included CRPF and police personnel. On November 2, two migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh were injured in a terrorist attack in Budgam while working on the Jal Jeevan Project. The recent surge in violence has heightened security concerns as authorities intensify anti-terror efforts across the region.



Link of the article: (5th November, 2024)

<https://news.abplive.com/news/india/bandipora-encounter-jammu-kashmir-army-traps-militants-shootout-on-1729219>

JHARKHAND

Tragic Drowning Incident Claims Four Lives in Jharkhand's Koyal River During Chhath Puja



In Jharkhand, six children drowned in the Koyal River, resulting in four tragic fatalities. The incident occurred during a family Chhath Puja visit when children ventured into the river to bathe. While some were rescued, others are still missing, prompting local authorities and residents to conduct search operations.

(Translated from Hindi to English)

Link of the article: (7th November, 2024)

<https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/6-drowned-in-koyal-river-jharkhand-4-died-201730981086503.html>

KERALA

World Bank to support 4 lakh farmers in Kerala



Link of the article: (4th November, 2024)

<https://eng.ruralvoice.in/amp/international/world-banks-program-to-support-4-lakh-farmers-in-kerala-raise-9-million-for-agribusiness.html>

The World Bank approved a \$200 million project to help Kerala farmers adapt to climate change, boost agricultural resilience, and promote agri-entrepreneurs, particularly women. The initiative includes climate-smart practices, alliances with agribusinesses, and funding for SMEs. It aims to strengthen Kerala's agricultural value chains and create jobs while reducing emissions.

As a leading producer of spices such as cardamom, vanilla, and nutmeg, Kerala accounts for about 20 percent of India's total agri-food exports. However, climate change is hindering these achievements. Natural disasters like floods, forest fires, and challenges in reaching broader markets have impacted farmer households.

MAHARASHTRA

Delayed Soybean Procurement in Maharashtra Fuels Farmers' Anger, Sparking Political Tensions Ahead of Elections

There has been a delay in government procurement of soybean in Maharashtra which has angered farmers, who are forced to sell their crops below the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Although the central government approved soybean procurement under the Price Support Scheme in September, operations have yet to begin, leaving farmers in local areas with prices significantly below the MSP of Rs 4,892 per quintal. This growing frustration, especially in soybean-producing regions, could affect the ruling party in the upcoming elections.

As India's second-largest soybean producer, Maharashtra has extensive soybean cultivation across regions like Marathwada and Western Vidarbha.



Link of the article: (9th November, 2024)

<https://eng.ruralvoice.in/state/delayed-soybean-procurement-in-maharashtra-fuels-farmers-anger-sparking-political-tensions-ahead-of-elections.html>

MADHYA PRADESH

Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan launches several schemes and laid the foundation stone of 500 km newly paved roads



Link of the article: (8th November, 2024)

<https://rural.gov.in/en/press-release/union-minister-shri-shivraj-singh-chauhan-today-launches-several-schemes-and-laid>

Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan recently launched the Awas Sakhi mobile app and inaugurated 100 new Community Managed Training Centers, as well as laying the foundation stone for 500 km of newly paved roads in Madhya Pradesh. In addition, to counteract falling soybean prices due to foreign oil imports, the Government of India will impose a 27.5 percent tax on imported oil, aiming to increase domestic soybean prices. The central government has approved purchasing soybeans in Madhya Pradesh at the minimum support price, and registration for the same is open.

MANIPUR

No government benefits for unrecognised villages

In his address during the 70th Wildlife Week Celebration 2024, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh stressed the importance of recognizing villages in forest areas. He pointed out that villages not officially recognized or registered with the government would not be eligible for government benefits, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, power, and water supply. This remark was aimed at ensuring that villages follow proper legal and administrative procedures, and that government resources are allocated based on recognized settlements.



[Link of the article: \(9th November, 2024\)](https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/no-government-benefits-for-unrecognised-villages#google_vignette)
https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/no-government-benefits-for-unrecognised-villages#google_vignette

ODISHA

Social worker from Odisha gets third Rohini Nayar prize



[Link of the article: \(7th November, 2024\)](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/social-worker-from-odisha-gets-third-rohini-nayar-prize/article68837950.ece)
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/social-worker-from-odisha-gets-third-rohini-nayar-prize/article68837950.ece>

Anil Pradhan, a social worker from rural Odisha has been awarded the third Rohini Nayar Prize for Rural Development. Pradhan is an engineer and innovator, he is the founder of 'Tinker on Wheels' which is a bus which travels from village-to-villages, conducting engaging science experiments and interactive sessions that captivate young minds. His initiative not only fosters a love for learning but also aims to bridge the educational gap in rural communities. This recognition highlights the importance of creative educational outreach in enhancing children's understanding of science and technology in underserved regions.

PUNJAB

Punjab faces its worst paddy procurement crisis in 25 years

Punjab is facing its worst paddy procurement crisis in 25 years, with delays in the process despite favorable weather conditions. Farmers are in distress, as evidenced by viral images of farmers pleading for help in grain markets. The crisis has sparked protests, with farm unions demanding immediate action. Coordination issues between the Central government, state authorities, and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) have worsened the situation. Farmers struggle with storage shortages, hybrid crop rejection, and labor disputes. The crisis is politically charged, with accusations against both state and Central governments for poor handling, threatening Punjab's agricultural future.



[Link of the article: \(6th November, 2024\)](https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/agriculture/punjab-paddy-procurement-crisis-2024-msp-protests-storage-shortage-farmer-distress-fci-delays/article68835328.ece)

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/agriculture/punjab-paddy-procurement-crisis-2024-msp-protests-storage-shortage-farmer-distress-fci-delays/article68835328.ece>

SIKKIM

Sikkim takes key steps to address glacier flood risks with global support



[Link of the article: \(8th November, 2024\)](https://www.indiatodayne.in/sikkim/video/sikkim-takes-key-steps-to-address-glacier-flood-risks-with-global-support-1117851-2024-11-08)

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/sikkim/video/sikkim-takes-key-steps-to-address-glacier-flood-risks-with-global-support-1117851-2024-11-08>

Sikkim is implementing significant measures to mitigate glacier flood risks, bolstered by international support. The state government is focusing on enhancing monitoring systems and disaster preparedness strategies to address the increasing threats posed by climate change and glacial melting. Collaborating with global partners, Sikkim aims to develop comprehensive action plans that include community engagement and infrastructure improvements. These initiatives are crucial for safeguarding local populations and ecosystems from potential flooding disasters, highlighting the importance of proactive environmental management in vulnerable regions.

TELANGANA

Trump Temple In Telangana Village Back In Focus After US Elections

As Donald Trump prepares for a second presidential term, a temple dedicated to him in Konne village, Telangana, has gained renewed attention. Built by the late Busa Krishna in 2019, villagers celebrated Trump's victory by garlanding his six-foot statue and cleaning the shrine. Krishna, who passed away in 2020 at age 33, transformed his home into a temple after claiming to have seen Trump in a dream. His devotion included daily prayers and rituals, fueled by a belief that Trump could foster understanding between India and the U.S., especially after a hate crime involving an Indian techie in the U.S.



[Link of the article: \(7th November, 2024\)](#)

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/trump-temple-in-telangana-village-back-into-focus-after-us-elections-6968089>

UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh connected 60.17 lakh rural families with employment opportunities under MNREGS



[Link of the article: \(9th November, 2024\)](#)

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/uttar-pradesh-connects-6017-lakh-rural-families-to-jobs-through-mnregs/articleshow/115095038.cms>

The Uttar Pradesh government announced on Friday that it has made significant strides in rural employment through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Over 60.17 lakh rural families were connected to employment opportunities this financial year. Basti district led the state by providing work to 1,95,714 families, creating 79.4 lakh man-days of employment. Azamgarh and Jaunpur followed closely. The scheme has also empowered over one lakh families, particularly women, by offering 100 days of employment, improving their financial stability. Officials emphasised the scheme's role in enhancing rural infrastructure and living standards.

UTTARAKHAND

Sustainable Rural Tourism

The Indian Army's Operation Sadbhavana has launched a new tent-based homestay in Kalapani, Uttarakhand aiming to boost the state's economy. This collaboration between the military and the local community is a positive step towards sustainable development in the rural region. The homestay offers cultural experiences to attract tourists and encourage community growth. Beyond tourism, the homestay also focuses on improving basic amenities like electricity and healthcare. It enhances the quality of life for locals by installation of solar plants. The goal is also to bring resources closer to their home, making the countryside more vibrant.



Link of the article: (5th November, 2024)

<https://www.nativeplanet.com/news/uttarakhand-launches-tent-based-homestay-in-pithoragarh-for-sustainable-rural-tourism-014241.html>

WEST BENGAL

Man lynched over allegations of raping, murdering 6-year-old girl in West Bengal



Link of the article: (2nd November, 2024)

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/kolkata-news/man-lynched-over-allegations-of-raping-murdering-6-year-old-girl-in-west-bengal-101730540737555.html>

In Alipurdar district in West Bengal, a 42 year old man was lynched over allegation of raping and murdering his six year old neighbour. He confessed to the crime after beating, another accused also surrendered to the police due to fear for his life. The girl had gone missing in the afternoon, was seen by locals walking down the road with the accused, The victim's grandmother had also seen the prime accused Mona Roy washing blood stains off his hand. Complaints was raised by the girls grandmother when she saw the victim's clothes in the accused house, after which locals dragged the accused and tied him to a tree and beat him. He was declared dead when he arrived at the hospital.

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