



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

Yeleru Canal breach floods Kakinada

Heavy flooding has impacted eight mandals and threatened 86 villages in Kakinada district due to a breach in the Yeleru Canal. The Andhra Pradesh government has requested Indian Army assistance for rescue operations, with breaches noted at Rajupalem and Gorrikandi. Torrential rains have caused significant inflows into the Yeleru reservoir, leading to the release of over 21,775 cusecs of water. The Army, along with NDRF and SDRF teams, is mobilizing to evacuate stranded residents and assess the situation. Rehabilitation centres have been established, and around 1,000 acres of paddy crops are expected to be affected.



Link to the article: (September 10th, 2024)

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2024/Sep/10/andhra-pradesh-yeleru-canal-breach-floods-kakinada>

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Man killed, grandchild, injured as train hits car in Arunachal Pradesh



Link to the article: (September 14th, 2024)

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/arunachal-pradesh/man-killed-grandchild-injured-as-train-hits-car-in-arunachal-pradesh-3190821>

Rigo Riba, a sub-inspector of the Indian Reserve Battalion, traveling in a car with his 7-year-old grandchild, was killed in a tragic accident while crossing the train tracks at Pale village, located near Dimow Town on Friday. Rigo did not survive the accident, and his grandchild was taken to a hospital in Dibrugarh, Assam, for further treatment, post-injury.

An assistant sub-inspector of the area, Gamesh Hazarika, informed the press of the incident having occurred around 4 pm, where the car was dragged along with the train for an approximate distance of 1 km before the train could stop. The train is said to have been traveling to Assam's Tezpur district.

ASSAM

2 Killed In Police Firing, 30 Injured In Assam Anti-Encroachment Drive

A protest turned violent as an encroachment eviction drive, conducted in the Kachutoli village near Sonapur, Kamrup district resulted in the death of 2 individuals, leaving 11 others severely injured. The 2 individuals were killed in a clash-turned-firing, occurring after 5 officers were wounded in the clashes between the locals and the Police. The eviction drive took place to evict illegal settlers from a 100-bigha plot in the area, that was encroached upon by 150 residents.

These clashes turned violent on the fourth day of the clearing, said sources from the Revenue office. The area under eviction clearance was deemed uninhabitable due to being tribal land, under the jurisdiction of the Assam Government.



Link to the article: (September 12th, 2024)

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/2-killed-many-injured-in-police-firing-during-anti-encroachment-drive-in-assam-sources-6551015>

BIHAR

Farmers Facing Issues with Land Records During Bihar Land Survey



Farmers in Bihar are encountering difficulties with land surveys due to discrepancies in Rakba (area), Khata (land accounts), and plot numbers. These challenges are affecting their ability to secure accurate land records, which are essential for legal and agricultural purposes. The ongoing survey is critical for addressing land disputes and ensuring proper documentation for rural landholders.

(Translated from Hindi to English)

Link to the article: (September 15th, 2024)

https://www.livehindustan.com/bihar/farmers-are-facing-problem-in-rakba-khata-and-plot-number-during-bihar-land-survey-201726373871384.html#google_vignette

CHHATTISGARH

Brutality of Naxalites! 2 villagers hanged to death from a tree

Naxals, a group composed of individuals involved in the Naxalite movement (Maoist oriented, militant groups in India) kidnapped 3 people (including a student) from the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on the suspicion of them being police informants. While the student was released safely, the other two people that were kidnapped were tried in a kangaroo court and killed due to the concern that they were undercover as informants. Naxals defended themselves, the organisation claiming the incident to be their own.



Link to the article: (September 15th, 2024)

<https://www.livehindustan.com/chhattisgarh/naxalites-killed-2-villagers-in-bijapur-chhattisgarh-by-hanging-on-tree-201726136684824.html>

(Translated from Hindi to English)

GUJARAT

14 lakh houses built in Gujarat in nine years under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana



Link to the article: (September 10th, 2024)

<https://www.zeebiz.com/india/news-pradhan-mantri-awas-yojana-gujarat-built-14-lakh-houses-in-nine-years-under-government-housing-scheme-urban-and-rural-units-pm-narendra-modi-314067>

Gujarat has achieved a major milestone under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) with over 14 lakh houses constructed in 9 years, including 8.68 lakh urban and 5.57 lakh rural units. Notably, over 5.40 lakh houses are in women's or joint ownership, and 60% are allocated to Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. Gujarat leads in benefiting 6 lakh individuals through the Credit Link Subsidy. The state also became the first to convert houses into rental units under the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes scheme and was recognized with multiple awards for its PMAY achievements, including best performance awards for rural implementation.

HARYANA

Rural communities in South Haryana unite against Aravalli mining

More than 200 residents of Rajawas Village near South Haryana protested in response to the proposal to permit stone mining in Aravalli Hills. The protest was spearheaded by Mohit Ghughu, the sarpanch (head of village) of Rajawas Rathiwas Panchayat. Residents of all ages, men, women and children gathered at Rajawas in Mahendragarh district on Sunday to voice issues of ecological and environmental damage. The region is labeled as 'protected forest area', a home to sundry species of eagle, rusty spotted cat and striped hyena. The region is an ecological vital zone not only for the wildlife but also the local communities. Furthermore, legal and especially illegal mining is rampant in the region of South Haryana. It has dwindled water retention capacity with parched rivers and streams. Mohit Chughu further stated that the residents of Aravallis vow to shield their home from destruction.



Link to the article: (September 9th, 2024)

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/gurugram-news/rural-communities-in-south-haryana-unite-against-aravalli-mining-101725820338500.html>

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal Pradesh's Malana sees electricity restored after 42-day cloudburst-triggered outage; road still cut off



Link to the article: (September 13th, 2024)

<https://www.cnbc18.com/india/himachal-pradeshs-malana-sees-electricity-restored-after-42-day-cloudburst-triggered-outage-road-still-cut-off-19475792.htm>

Himachal Pradesh suffered a cloudburst in the month of August which led to power outage in villages for 42 days. The electricity was restored yesterday (12th September), however the village roads still remain inaccessible.

The village was supplied with essentials as the administration hired workers who sold the goods at a higher price. The conditions were extremely adverse, as critical patients had to be transported to hospitals on foot. Although the administration made efforts to use the newly constructed helipad, the trials failed due to clearance issues.

The administration is trying to construct a cableway for connectivity for the village which might take one month to be made. They are also working on creating a bridle path and have instructed the forest department to start the procedure.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Five-Day Programme to Improve Functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions Begins in Jammu

A five-day residential Management Development Programme (MDP) for Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) leaders began at the Indian Institute of Management, Jammu, organized by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj. It hosts 32 participants from 11 states and Union Territories, concluding on September 13. The MDP aims to enhance leadership, management, and governance skills among PRI officials, including district panchayat presidents and vice presidents. The intensive programme covers topics like leadership, ethics, rural innovation, and AI in governance. Participants will engage in expert-led sessions and discussions to foster collaborative governance and improve rural service delivery.



Link to the article: (September 10th, 2024)
<https://kashmirilife.net/five-day-programme-to-improve-functioning-of-panchayati-raj-institutions-begins-in-jammu-365881/>

JHARKHAND

PM Modi's Upcoming Jharkhand Visit and Major Rural Initiatives



Link to the article: (September 13th, 2024)
<https://www.en.krishakjagat.org/india-region/pm-modis-upcoming-jharkhand-visit-and-major-rural-initiatives/>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jharkhand to launch significant rural initiatives, including projects aimed at boosting agricultural development and rural infrastructure. His visit emphasizes the government's commitment to enhancing rural livelihoods, particularly through innovative programs designed to improve agricultural productivity and local economies. These efforts aim to uplift the rural population by addressing critical challenges in farming and infrastructure development.

KARNATAKA

Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi to discuss Kalyana Karnataka's overall development

A cabinet session is about to take place on 17th September to comprehensively discuss the development in Kalyana region in Karnataka is in session as stated by Shri Priyank Kharge, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. Usually, a cabinet meeting deliberates the development of the entire state. However, this cabinet session in Kalaburagi is specifically for the improvements to be made in the region of Kalyana. Industries providing various employment opportunities for the younger generations is one of chief areas of discussion for this meeting. Furthermore, Nipuna Karnataka, a joint scheme developed by the Department of Skill Development, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, will be launched in a couple of months.



Link to the article: (September 9th, 2024)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/cabinet-meeting-in-kalaburagi-to-discuss-kalyana-karnatakas-overall-development/article68622128.ece>

KERALA

Ward delimitation of Kerala local bodies: rural panchayats to have 1557 new members



Link to the article: (September 9th, 2024)

<https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2024/09/09/kerala-panchayat-ward-delimitation-notification-out.html>

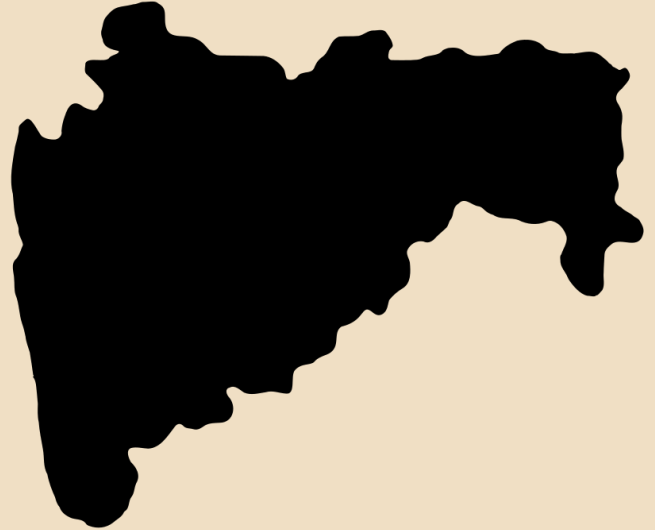
Rural areas across the state will get 1,557 newly elected representatives in the local body elections to be held next year. The state has finalized the delimitation of local body wards determining the number of wards and divisions of the gram panchayat block and district levels. This notification issued by the director of the local self government department brings an increase in the total number of wards setting the stage for more local governance participation, including seats reserved for women and schedule categories.

MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra's climate crisis: Traditional practices, modern promises fail to quench rural thirst

In Maharashtra's Satara, Mann Desh, a region deeply rooted in the Dhangar community's nomadic traditions, struggles with a severe water crisis. Despite centuries of shepherding the Deccan Plateau and surviving on their expertise to find water, the community continues to face dire shortages.

In today's tech-driven world, basic water supply remains elusive, and climate change has worsened the crisis, hitting farmers hard. In Mhaswad village, water supply reaches households only once every 12 days, leading to a dire situation for drinking, agriculture, and livestock. This scarcity also results in failed crops.



Link to the article: (September 12th, 2024)

<https://www.newslaundry.com/2024/09/12/maharashtra-climate-crisis-traditional-practices-modern-promises-fail-to-quench-rural-thirst>

MADHYA PRADESH

Big news for farmers, CM Mohan Yadav announced bonus on milk production



Link to the article: (September 15th, 2024)

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/madhya-pradesh/ujjain/big-news-for-farmers-in-mp-cm-mohan-yadav-announced-a-bonus-of-50-thousand-on-milk-production/articleshow/113371434.cms>

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav had big news for farmers in Ujjain, stating on Sunday that the milk producing farmers of the state would receive a bonus of 50 thousand rupees. This decision was taken after visiting the Sanchi Milk Union. Madhya Pradesh is second to only Rajasthan in milk production, however according to the CM, they are far behind and this will give them a boost in their production capacity. At present, the target has been set to increase the capacity of Ujjain Milk Union from 2.5 lakh tons to 10 lakh tons.

(Translated from Hindi to English)

MANIPUR

Scores of children infected by mumps-like viral infection in north of Ukhrul

Several school-going children in Chingjaroi village, Manipur's Ukhrul district, are infected with a mumps-like viral infection, affecting those aged 4 to 12. Symptoms include swollen face and neck, high fever, and difficulty chewing and swallowing. A father, Ason R, shared his concern about his two sons developing these symptoms. Many children are still suffering, with around 30-40 reported cases. Indigenous herbs are used for treatment, but no medical consultation has been sought. A doctor suggested using paracetamol and quarantining patients as the virus is contagious. The village lacks adequate healthcare services, worsening the situation.



Link to the article: (September 14th, 2024)

<https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/scores-of-children-infected-by-mumps-like-viral-infection-in-north-of-ukhrul>

ODISHA

Diarrhoea outbreak in Mathili kills 5



Link to the article: (September 14th, 2024)

<https://www.orissapost.com/diarrhoea-outbreak-in-mathili-kills-5/>

Diarrhoea has spread in the Mathili block of Malkangiri district, causing five deaths and 10 others to receive treatment. Notably September 7 to 9 was a flood-like situation. Two women from Atalguda and a family of three in Tulasi village, have died from diarrhoea. Ten people from Bara village are receiving treatment. Following the orders of the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dhaneshwar Mahapatra, two medical teams have been dispatched to investigate the cause and provide immediate medical treatment.

PUNJAB

Banks reluctant to extend Mandi Board loan for its rural roads repair project

The Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board is seeking a loan of ₹1,800 to ₹2,000 crore for rural road repairs, with 17,500 km in urgent need of maintenance. Private banks offered loans with high interest rates (up to 10%) and required government guarantees, leading the Board to prefer the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)'s offer of an 8.3% interest rate with an 18-24 month moratorium. The Board's financial crisis stems from the central government halting the release of rural development funds in 2021, with ₹5,850 crore in pending dues, worsened by debt from the previous Congress government's farm debt waiver scheme.



Link to the article: (September 11th, 2024)

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/India/punjab-banks-reluctant-to-extend-mandi-board-loan-for-its-rural-roads-repair-project/ar-AA1qpf1w?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

SIKKIM

Fresh blow to Push for ST status, Sikkim Proposal not considered by RGI



Link to the article: (September 13th, 2024)

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/fresh-blow-to-push-for-st-status-sikkim-proposal-not-considered-by-rgi-centre/cid/2047710>

Union tribal minister Jual Oram has sent a letter to Sikkim BJP MP Dorjee Tshering Lepcha, saying the Registrar General of India (RGI) hasn't considered the Sikkim government's proposal to grant scheduled tribe status to 12 communities. The BJP had promised to grant the 12 tribal communities ST status in 2014, and in 2019. The letter sent on the 10th of September explained that the RGI had examined the matter and the fact that members of many of the communities seeking the tribal status are Hindus was also seen as a stumbling block to the fulfillment of the demand.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu sanctions ₹500 crore for the rejuvenation of 5,000 minor irrigation tanks

In order to increase the water table in rural Tamil Nadu, the government has given orders for the rejuvenation of 5,000 minor irrigation tanks and ponds (also called oorani). This is happening in the context of extensive exploitation of groundwater. The aim of rejuvenating the ooranis is to make water storage available for drinking and farming purposes. This would necessitate desilting and deeping water spread areas, strengthening bunds, repairs and reconstruction, and desilting of supply channels. For this, the government has allotted ₹500 crore, half of which will come from the state budget and half as a grant from the State Finance Commission. A committee headed by the Collector of the respective district will approve proposals for the project.



Link to the article: (September 10th, 2024)
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-sanctions-500-crore-for-the-rejuvenation-of-5000-minor-irrigation-tanks/article68626388.ece>

TRIPURA

Tripura Congress Announces Protest Over Law and Order on September 23



Link to the article: (September 13th 2024)
<https://www.northeasttoday.in/2024/09/13/tripura-congress-announces-protest-over-law-and-order-on-september-23/>

The Tripura Pradesh Congress has announced plans to besiege the police headquarters on September 23. This is in protest of the administration's failure to address the impact of the recent floods, BJP's alleged misconduct during the panchayat elections, and a concern over women's safety in the state. The decision was announced by Pradesh Congress President Asish Kumar Saha at a press conference. AICC Secretary Christopher Tilak claimed that "[t]he administration is showing an apathetic attitude towards the distribution of relief materials and the rehabilitation of flood victims." He also accused the BJP of gaining their seats through force in the panchayat elections, and mentioned the lack of protection for women in Tripura.

TELANGANA

Telangana has an 84% shortage of CHCs in rural areas: Health Ministry

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the "Health Dynamics of India: Infrastructure and Human Resources 2022-23" report, previously known as Rural Health Statistics, on September 9, 2024. As of March 31, 2023, Telangana's rural areas had 4,228 sub-centres, 594 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), and 29 Community Health Centres (CHCs), facing a significant shortfall of 148 CHCs (84%). The report indicates a severe shortage of specialists at CHCs and highlights staffing deficits at various levels, including 771 vacancies for female health workers. The report underscores critical gaps in healthcare infrastructure and human resources across the state.



Link to the article: (September 10th, 2024)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tehangana/tehangana-has-84-shortage-of-chcs-in-rural-areas-health-ministry/article68622869.ece>

UTTAR PRADESH

How 30,000 villagers revived a dying river and changed their lives



Link to the article: (September 9th, 2024)

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/uttar-pradesh-how-30000-villagers-revived-a-dying-river-and-changed-their-lives/articleshow/113182887.cms>

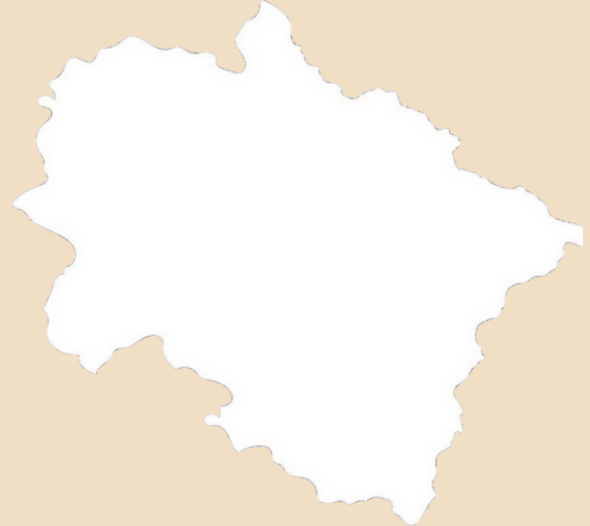
In Pratapgarh district, Uttar Pradesh, over 30,000 residents from 20 villages have successfully restored the Sakarni river's natural course over the past 10 months. Spearheaded by environmental activist Ajay Krantikari and backed by the MNREGS initiative, this collective effort has revitalized the river, boosting local agriculture and creating much-needed employment opportunities.

UTTARAKHAND

Uttarakhand: Pithoragarh News: 17 roads of rural areas including China border closed

People are facing issues in commuting due to road closure in 17 roads in rural areas including the China border due debris and boulders. The breaking of a hill near the Nagimal Temple led to the collapse of the road below. The continuous falling of boulders has made it challenging for the PWD to work hence clearing of the road is taking time. The villagers are demanding to make the roads operational as soon as possible.

(Translated from Hindi to English)



(Image taken from Alamy)

Link to the article: (September 11th, 2024)
<https://www.amarujala.com/uttarakhand/pithoragarh/17-roads-in-rural-areas-including-china-border-closed-pithoragarh-news-c-230-1-pth1001-117842-2024-09-11>

WEST BENGAL

Two tribal women allegedly lynched over 'witchcraft' practice in Birbhum's Mayureswar



Two tribal women, Ludki Kisku (54) and Dolly Hansda (42), were lynched by villagers in Birbhum's Mayureswar on suspicion of practising witchcraft. The women were tied to a tree and beaten to death with bamboo sticks after being accused of causing a boy's illness during a religious event. The perpetrators attempted to destroy evidence by dumping the bodies in a canal. Police arrested 15 people in connection with the murders. Family members of the victims delayed reporting due to threats. Witchcraft-related violence is not uncommon in southern Bengal, with previous incidents in districts like Birbhum.

Link to the article: (September 15th, 2024)
<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/two-tribal-women-allegedly-lynched-over-witchcraft-practice-in-birbhums-mayureswar/cid/2048102>

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