



**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

### Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan launches Palle Panduga in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan inaugurated 30,000 development projects across 13,326 villages in Krishna district on October 14 as part of the Palle Panduga initiative, with an estimated cost of ₹4,500 crore. This effort follows record-breaking village meetings held on August 23, 2024. The projects, primarily focused on roads and water conservation, will be executed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). In Kankipadu, specific projects include 11 cement roads and a compound wall for the Community Health Center. Notable attendees included Minister Kollu Ravindra and various local MLAs.



**[Link to the article: \(14th October, 2024\):](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/deputy-chief-minister-pawan-kalyan-launches-palle-panduga-in-krishna-district-of-andhra-pradesh/article68751872.ece)**  
**<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/deputy-chief-minister-pawan-kalyan-launches-palle-panduga-in-krishna-district-of-andhra-pradesh/article68751872.ece>**

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH

### One arrested in inter-state narcotics smuggling; cannabis seized



**[Link to the article: \(17th October, 2024\)](https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2024/10/17/one-arrested-in-inter-state-narcotics-smuggling-cannabis-seized/)**  
**<https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2024/10/17/one-arrested-in-inter-state-narcotics-smuggling-cannabis-seized/>**

On Wednesday, during a usual inspection at the police checkpoint, the West Kameng district police broke an interstate narcotics smuggling organization and arrested one of its members. The police detained Thulunga Wary and recovered 30 packets of cannabis weighing roughly 150 kg from his hands.

According to the investigation, Wary obtained the cannabis from Kalaktang and was scheduled to transfer it to Assam. The investigators assume that other people are participating in this smuggling ring. They also confiscated the vehicle in which he was transporting the cannabis. Bhalukpong police have made their third arrest in a drug-related case this month.

# ASSAM

## 8 coaches of Agartala-Lokmanya Tilak Express derails in Assam

Eight coaches of the Agartala-Lokmanya-Tilak express got derailed at the Dibalong station in Assam on Thursday. The incident occurred in the Lumding division of the Lumding-Bardarpur Hill station.

No casualties or injuries have been reported. The running of trains in this station line section has been suspended for the time being. Railways relief and medical officials have been posted alongside the railway division to supervise the restoration and management. The railway department, in a statement, has released helpline numbers in Lumding. The management of the station has started, with the officials ensuring a thorough check to prevent future incidents.



**[Link to the article: \(17th October, 2024\)](https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/8-coaches-of-agartala-lokmanya-tilak-express-derails-in-assam20241017180607/)**

**<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/8-coaches-of-agartala-lokmanya-tilak-express-derails-in-assam20241017180607/>**

# BIHAR

## AI to Revolutionise Rural Road Maintenance in Bihar



**[Link to the article: \(19th October, 2024\)](https://www.etvbharat.com/hi/!state/artificial-intelligence-will-be-used-to-maintain-rural-roads-in-bihar-bihar-news-brs24101902320)**

**<https://www.etvbharat.com/hi/!state/artificial-intelligence-will-be-used-to-maintain-rural-roads-in-bihar-bihar-news-brs24101902320>**

The Bihar government is utilising Artificial Intelligence (AI) to monitor and maintain rural roads, aiming to save ₹800 crore. AI will help identify encroachments and improve inspection quality through a control command centre. This GIS-based system will oversee the activities of engineers and officials to ensure better road upkeep, reducing human intervention. The initiative includes constructing and upgrading 26,000 kilometres of rural roads by 2025. The move aims to enhance road quality, environmental balance, and fiscal efficiency. *(Translated from Hindi to English)*

# CHHATTISGARH

## Workshop tackling drug abuse and prevention

The School of Studies in Anthropology at Pt Ravishankar Shukla University has organised a day long awareness workshop on “Drug Abuse and Trafficking Prevention and Laws about Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan”. Alcohol consumption in rural areas of Chhattisgarh have significantly increased over the last two decades as pointed out by Prof. Jitendra Kumar Premi, head of the department of Anthropology, particularly by the younger generation. Therefore this program is used to help people reduce their consumption and/or get over addiction.



**Link to the article: (20th October, 2024)**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/raipur/combating-drug-abuse-key-insights-from-prsu-workshop/articleshow/114402764.cms>

# GUJARAT

## Two including MNREGA official suspended for siphoning off funds to tune of Rs 18L for 21 ‘fake projects’



A technical assistant and a Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS) under the MGNREGA scheme in Dahod, Gujarat, were suspended for allegedly siphoning Rs 18.41 lakh through 21 fake projects. The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) found that documents had been forged to show non-existent works, including check dams and cattle sheds. These projects were falsely marked as completed, with payments recorded for labor and materials. The DRDA ordered the Taluka Development Officer (TDO) to file an FIR against the accused employees. Further investigation is underway to trace financial transactions linked to the fraud.

**Link to the article: (16th October, 2024)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/mnrega-official-suspended-dahod-9622149/>

# HARYANA

## FIRs to be filed against farmers who...': Haryana govt implements strict measures against stubble burning

First Information Reports (FIRs) will be filed against farmers who indulge in the practice of burning the residues of paddy crops. According to the department of agriculture under the government of Haryana, this a combat against the practice of agriculture and forest fires and a step towards promoting agricultural practices more sustainable to the environment. The authorities will closely monitor the initiative to curb stubble burning and enhance the effectiveness of the new mandate.



**[Link to the article: \(18th October, 2024\)](#)**

**<https://www.businesstoday.in/india/story/firs-to-be-filed-against-farmers-who-haryana-govt-implements-strict-measures-against-stubble-burning-450645-2024-10-18>**

# HIMACHAL PRADESH

## 4 rural students to get free education up to Class XII



Four meritorious students from rural areas of the state have been selected through a two-stage entrance examination, which was conducted for the first time in the state, for free education up to Class XII at VidyaGyan School of the Shiv Nadar Foundation. The students were congratulated by the Educational Minister, who said that these students will be provided with good quality education at no cost.

**[Link to the article: \(20th October, 2024\):](#)**

**<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/4-rural-students-to-get-free-education-up-to-class-xii/>**

## JAMMU & KASHMIR

### Fire & Emergency Services Deptt fails to set up requisite fire service stations

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: (16th October, 2024)**

<https://www.greaterkashmir.com/kashmir/fire-emergency-services-deptt-fails-to-set-up-requisite-fire-service-stations/>

## JHARKHAND

### A farmer going to cut grass in Sonahatu died due to electric shock



**Link to the article: (20th October, 2024)**

<https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/ranchi/story-farmer-dies-from-electric-shock-in-tangatang-village-jharkhand-201729434377819.html>

A farmer named Pustam Puran, 56, from Tangatang village, Jharkhand, died from an electric shock while cutting grass for livestock. He came into contact with an 11,000-volt power line. Local authorities, including police and electricity department officials, responded to the incident. The electricity department provided an interim compensation of ₹10,000 to the bereaved family. This is not the first such incident in the area, as similar fatalities have occurred due to faulty power lines, leading to widespread anger among villagers. *(Translated from Hindi to English)*

# KARNATAKA

## Funding Alert: Karnataka ITBT Calls for Groundbreaking Ideas in Water and Sanitation from Startups

The Department of Electronics, Information Technology, and Biotechnology under the government of Karnataka will be hosting "Harnessing Innovation for a Water-Secure Hygienic Future in Rural Karnataka," a summit in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj on October 29th. This summit has been organized by will be addressing the key challenges faced by the rural areas concerning water sanitation and scarcity of water. The Karnataka Rural Water and Sanitation Sustainability Summit focuses on exploring technologies that will provide clean and sanitised water supply. The summit aims to foster collaboration among the government bodies, industries and visionaries to empower rural areas and communities.



[Link to the article: \(18th October\ 2024\)](https://thelogicalindian.com/environment/karnataka-to-tackle-rural-water-and-sanitation-issues-with-innovative-tech-at-upcoming-sustainability-summit-41936)  
<https://thelogicalindian.com/environment/karnataka-to-tackle-rural-water-and-sanitation-issues-with-innovative-tech-at-upcoming-sustainability-summit-41936>



# MADHYA PRADESH

## How Global Tensions Are Affecting Farmers in Madhya Pradesh

Earlier, there have been several reports of farmers of Madhya Pradesh struggling because of lack of a vital fertilizer, di-ammonium phosphate. Approximately 90% of India's supply of the fertilizer comes from international sources which have been interrupted by recent conflicts, forcing vessels to take longer routes and often increasing transportation and insurance costs. Madhya Pradesh, which is one of India's leading states in terms of agricultural produce, requires around 7 lakh metric tonnes of di-ammonium phosphate for the rabi season.



[Link to the article: \(19th October 2024\)](https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/explainer-how-global-tensions-are-affecting-farmers-in-madhya-pradesh-6827211)

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/explainer-how-global-tensions-are-affecting-farmers-in-madhya-pradesh-6827211>

# MAHARASHTRA

## Pune Rural tops state in road accident deaths



[Link to the article: \(21st October 2024\)](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/pune-rural-leads-maharashtra-in-road-accident-deaths-with-1093-fatalities-in-2023/amp_articleshow/114405027.cms)

[https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/pune-rural-leads-maharashtra-in-road-accident-deaths-with-1093-fatalities-in-2023/amp\\_articleshow/114405027.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/pune-rural-leads-maharashtra-in-road-accident-deaths-with-1093-fatalities-in-2023/amp_articleshow/114405027.cms)

The Pune Rural police jurisdiction, which recorded 1,093 road accident fatalities in 2023, had the most such deaths among Maharashtra's 11 commissionerates and 38 district police units last year, data released by the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has revealed. Overall, the state saw a marginal drop in road deaths — from 15,478 victims in 2022 to 15,434 in 2023.

"But the numbers are still high," stated CID Chief Prashant Burde. "They can be attributed to a combination of factors such as human error and defects with our road infrastructure," he said.

# MANIPUR

## Churachandpur DC launches RWUS project

The Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS) launched the "Rebuilding Livelihoods for Indigenous Displaced Women in Manipur" project, benefiting 1000 displaced women, including vegetable vendors, artisans, and small traders. Project Head Deborah Infimate announced that the initiative would include psycho-social counseling for victims of gender-based violence and a two-day market fair for beneficiaries. Launched by Churachandpur DC Dharun Kumar, the project aims to empower women as a marker of societal progress. RWUS has also provided significant relief aid, including food, medical supplies, and support to displaced individuals, totaling Rs 2.5 crore to date.



[Link to the article: \(16th October, 2024\)  
https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/churachandpur-dc-launches-rwus-project](https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/churachandpur-dc-launches-rwus-project)

# ODISHA

## Despite low income, 73 per cent of rural families in Odisha save money



[Link to the article: \(20th October, 2024\)  
https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2024/Oct/20/despite-low-income-73-per-cent-of-rural-families-in-odisha-save-money](https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2024/Oct/20/despite-low-income-73-per-cent-of-rural-families-in-odisha-save-money)

A recent survey revealed that 73% of rural families in Odisha manage to save money despite low income levels. The study, conducted by the Odisha State Rural Livelihoods Mission, highlights that these families prioritise savings for emergencies and future needs. Interestingly, many households save through informal means, such as self-help groups or local savings schemes. The findings suggest a strong financial discipline among rural populations, reflecting their resilience and adaptability in challenging economic conditions. This trend underscores the importance of promoting formal savings channels to enhance financial security further.

## PUNJAB

### "There Will Be Chaos": Supreme Court Refuses To Stay Punjab Rural Polls

The Supreme Court of India refused to stay the ongoing panchayat elections in Punjab, which began at 8 am on Tuesday, citing potential chaos if courts intervene on polling day. Chief Justice DY Chandrachud emphasized the gravity of the situation, noting that the high court had likely recognized this and vacated its earlier stay on the elections. The Supreme Court is set to hear challenges against the Punjab and Haryana High Court's decision that allowed the elections, despite around 1,000 petitions seeking their cancellation. The high court had previously stayed the poll process before reversing its decision.



[Link to the article: \(15th October, 2024\)](https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/punjab-panchayat-elections-2024-there-will-be-chaos-supreme-court-chief-justice-dy-chandrachud-refuse-to-stay-punjab-rural-polls-6792536)

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/punjab-panchayat-elections-2024-there-will-be-chaos-supreme-court-chief-justice-dy-chandrachud-refuse-to-stay-punjab-rural-polls-6792536>

## SIKKIM

### Village Tourism Festival Started in Darap



[Link to the article: \(17th October, 2024\)](https://jantaserishta.com/local/sikkim/sikkim-village-tourism-festival-started-in-darap-3591175?infinitescroll=1)

<https://jantaserishta.com/local/sikkim/sikkim-village-tourism-festival-started-in-darap-3591175?infinitescroll=1>

The Sikkim Village Tourism Festival has commenced in Darap. The event aims to promote local culture, traditions, and tourism in the region. Various activities are planned, including cultural performances, handicraft exhibitions, and local cuisine showcases. The festival seeks to engage both locals and tourists, fostering a sense of community while highlighting the unique heritage of Sikkim. Officials hope this initiative will boost tourism and provide economic benefits to the local population. *(Translated from Hindi)*

## TAMIL NADU

### Tamil Nadu rains: Erode records 207.80 mm of rainfall; farmer dies in Namakkal

On Sunday (October 13) evening, it rained heavily across various parts of the Salem, Erode, and Namakkal districts. The rural areas in these districts received moderate rainfall. Periyasamy, a farmer aged 58 and a resident of Arasadikadu village, was washed away by the Thirumanimutharu river in Tiruchengode locality. He was distributing milk in his locality when he crossed the bridge over the river and slipped. The river had swollen due to rainfall, and he was washed away by the strong currents. Firefighters rushed to the site after being contacted by local residents, and recovered his body after an hour of searching. The Elachipalayam police have registered a case and are investigating.



**[Link to the article: \(14th October, 2024\):](https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/tamil-nadu-rains-erode-records-20780-mm-of-rainfall-farmer-dies-in-namakkal/article68751642.ece)**  
**<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/tamil-nadu-rains-erode-records-20780-mm-of-rainfall-farmer-dies-in-namakkal/article68751642.ece>**

## TELANGANA

### 25 hi-end sparingly used laptops donated to poor rural girls of Govt schools

Claranet India Private Limited, a Hyderabad-based tech firm, donated 25 high-end laptops valued at Rs. 32 lakh to the NGO PURE (People for Urban and Rural Education). The donation includes ten I-5 Dell Latitude 3420, three I-7 Dell Latitude 3420, and six Lenovo ThinkPads, all nearly new with warranties. Claranet's team, including HR Head Srujani Choudhury and Finance Head Syed Wasay, participated in the handover attended by PURE representative Aruna Dara. The laptops will soon be distributed to underprivileged rural girls in government schools, supporting PURE's mission focused on education and youth leadership initiatives.



**[Link to the article: \(17th October, 2024\)](https://telanganatoday.com/hyderabad-25-hi-end-sparingly-used-laptops-donated-to-poor-rural-girls-of-govt-schools)**  
**<https://telanganatoday.com/hyderabad-25-hi-end-sparingly-used-laptops-donated-to-poor-rural-girls-of-govt-schools>**

## TRIPURA

### Youth dies due to 'torture in police custody'; five cops arrested in Tripura



**[Link to the article: \(17th October, 2024\)](https://way2barak.com/youth-dies-due-to-torture-in-police-custody-five-cops-arrested-in-tripura/)**

**<https://way2barak.com/youth-dies-due-to-torture-in-police-custody-five-cops-arrested-in-tripura/>**

Two tribal youths, Badal Tripura (34) and Chiranjit Tripura (35), were arrested for allegedly stealing rubber sheets from a godown on October 13. The family members of Badal, a resident of Kaladepa village, filed a complaint on October 14 with the police that he was severely tortured during custody at the Manubazar police station, and released the next day without treatment. Badal died on October 17 from his injuries. Soon after his death, locals staged a demonstration outside the Manubazar police station demanding punishment for the police personnel involved in Badal's torture. Hundreds of people put up a road blockade on the Agartala-Sabroom National Highway at Manubazar. A case was registered against five police personnel including a Sub-Inspector, and they were subsequently arrested. Leader of Opposition Jitendra Chaudhary also brought attention to the incident.

## UTTAR PRADESH

### Lucknow: After the city, dengue spreads in rural areas as well



**[Link to the article: \(17th October, 2024\)](https://www.amarujala.com/lucknow/after-the-city-dengue-spread-in-rural-areas-also-lucknow-news-c-13-1-lko1029-916928-2024-10-17)**

**<https://www.amarujala.com/lucknow/after-the-city-dengue-spread-in-rural-areas-also-lucknow-news-c-13-1-lko1029-916928-2024-10-17>**

Dengue is spreading in Lucknow, affecting both urban and rural areas. On Wednesday, 57 new dengue patients were reported, including 12 from rural regions, along with three malaria cases. The Health Department's report detailed the distribution of dengue cases: eight in Aliganj and Chandernagar, seven each in Indiranagar and Silver Jubilee, and several others across different localities. To date, the city has recorded 1,248 dengue and 451 malaria patients this year. Health teams conducted surveys in 1,231 houses, issuing notices to 12 properties where conditions were found conducive to mosquito breeding. Efforts are ongoing to control the outbreak.

(Translated from Hindi)

## UTTARAKHAND

### CEC Rajiv Kumar's chopper makes emergency landing in Uttarakhand

The chief election commissioner was stuck in a remote village in Pithoragarh district on the 16th of October, due to an emergency landing of his helicopter due to bad weather. The CEC was going to Milan village on the remote hills to see the tough terrain and how elections were conducted in the area. The CEC was provided with shelter and was safe. The rescue teams from Indo-Tibetan-Border and the district administration rushed to the spot.



[Link to the article: \(16th October, 2024\)](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/helicopter-carrying-cec-rajiv-kumar-makes-emergency-landing-in-uttarakhand/article68760757.ece)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/helicopter-carrying-cec-rajiv-kumar-makes-emergency-landing-in-uttarakhand/article68760757.ece>

## WEST BENGAL

### This Deserted Bengal Village Springs To Life Once A Year



[Link to the article: \(17th October 2024\)](https://www.etvbharat.com/en/!bharat/this-deserted-bengal-village-springs-to-life-once-a-year-enn24101704029)

<https://www.etvbharat.com/en/!bharat/this-deserted-bengal-village-springs-to-life-once-a-year-enn24101704029>

For 15 years, Bengagram village in West Bengal has remained abandoned, with its only moment of revival during the annual Laxmi Puja. Villagers, who left after ghostly rumors spread in 2008-09, return briefly to worship the goddess before leaving again. Despite attempts by local authorities to restore basic amenities like electricity and roads, the villagers remain unconvinced, continuing to live elsewhere. The sense of abandonment, both by the government and within their community, runs deep, with the Puja serving as the sole thread connecting them to their ancestral land

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