



**THE**

**WEEKLY**

**RURAL**



**NEWSLETTER**

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# ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

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## 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. 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 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 far-reaching effects on students' awareness of 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

## These farmers will save the world

Regenerative farming is transforming rural communities globally, notably through India's Andhra Pradesh Community-based Natural Farming initiative, which has empowered 1 million farmers to restore soil health naturally. This program, initiated by Rythu Sadhikara Samastha in 2016, promotes innovative agricultural methods that eliminate costly chemicals, enhancing crop yields and incomes. Women's groups play a crucial role, in gaining financial independence and political influence. The initiative's principles are being adapted internationally, including in Zambia, where local farmers are learning these techniques. This collaborative effort aims to create a global community focused on sustainable agriculture, addressing climate change and food security while fostering social equity.



**Link to the article: (October 4th, 2024)**

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2024-10/these-farmers-will-save-the-world-eco-farming-india.html>

# ARUNACHAL PRADESH

## Arunachal Pradesh Man Defrauded Of Rs 92 Lakh By Guwahati Resident



**Link to the article: (October 5th, 2024)**

<https://www.northeasttoday.in/2024/10/05/arunachal-pradesh-man-defrauded-of-rs-92-lakh-by-guwahati-resident/>

Dheeraj Pao was taken into custody by the Itanagar Capital Police on charges of defrauding an Arunachal Pradesh resident out of Rs 92 lakh. Pao is accused of tricking Jumda Padu, the victim, into investing in a fictitious project involving the building of Airtel towers in Arunachal Pradesh by pretending to be the director of "M/S Rhodus Estates Private Limited."

Following a comprehensive investigation, a team from the Capital Police located Pao's home in Guwahati. Late on Thursday, in cooperation with the Assam Police, the arrest was made.

## ASSAM

### Woman stabbed to death in Udalguri over witchcraft allegations

Punia Orang, a woman in the Chhaya Basti area in Udalguri, was stabbed to death with an axe for allegedly being accused of participating in witchcraft. The incident, as per police investigations, happened on Tuesday. Jeme Kheria, the man accused of committing the murder, hacked the deceased to death after allegations were raised of the woman being involved in witchcraft and ritualistic activities.

The police have taken the accused into custody and investigations are currently ongoing to investigate whether there were more people charged in the murder.



**Link to the article: (October 1st, 2024)**

<https://nenow.in/north-east-news/assam/assam-woman-stabbed-to-death-in-udalguri-over-witchcraft-allegations.html>

## BIHAR

### Rural Dam Breaks in Vaishali, Flood Victims' Troubles Worsen



**Link to the article: (October 2nd, 2024)**

<https://www.jagran.com/bihar/patna-city-bihar-flood-alert-rural-dam-breaks-in-vaishali-troubles-of-flood-victims-continue-23808772.html>

A rural dam in Vaishali district of Bihar broke, intensifying the flood situation in the area. The incident has worsened the plight of flood-affected residents, leading to further displacement and damage to properties. Local authorities are providing aid and relief, but the breach has made the situation more challenging, highlighting the urgency of addressing flood management in the region.

(translated from Hindi)

# CHATTISGARH

## Mastermind who opened fake SBI bank in Chhattisgarh arrested

Police arrested one of the 8 members of a gang who opened a fake SBI bank in Chhapora village of Malkharoda police station area, Janjgir Champa. The accused and 7 others committed fraud by taking money under the guise of taking a job in the State Bank of India and forged joining letters to open a fake bank. When arrested, it was revealed that the accused took 6 lakh 60 thousand from various UPI IDs of the villagers who came to the bank.

(translated from Hindi)



**Link to the article: (October 1st, 2024)**

<https://www.patrika.com/janjgir-champa-news/janjgir-champa-news-mastermind-who-opened-fake-sbi-bank-arrested-in-chhattisgarh-19043211>

# GOA

## Protests intensifies across Goa over Subhash Velingkar's arrest



**Link to the article: (October 6th, 2024)**

<https://www.thegoan.net/goa-news/protests-intensifies-across-go-over-subhash-velingkar-arrest/119962.html>

Protests in Goa intensified after tensions accumulated through Shubhash Velingkar's derogatory remark regarding St. Xavier's Church last week. Police and state authorities have confirmed that attempts are being made to apprehend and hold Velingkar. Christians from Taleigao, Caranzalem, Panaji, St. Cruz, and Mercedes marched to the Panaji Police station on Sunday morning to demand Velingkar's arrest. Tensions increased on Saturday night when police used batons to break up a protest, and there was a noticeable police presence in Margao's historic market area.

During the Margao protests, many were detained, and residents of Vagator stopped the Vagator-Anjuna road with burning tyres and assaulted a photojournalist. Dozens of protesters in Valpoi marched to the police station, demanding the government take action against Velingkar.

# GUJARAT

## Gujarat's Kheti Bank organizes cleanliness drive

On Gandhi Jayanti and the 10th anniversary of Swachhta Hi Seva, Gujarat State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Ltd. (Kheti Bank) organized a large-scale cleanliness drive. Led by Chairman Dolar Kotecha, the event saw participation from Vice Chairman Jeevan Bhai Ahir, directors, staff, and BJP State Mantri Raghu Bhai Humbal. Humbal praised the bank's dedication to cleanliness and social responsibility. The initiative paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and concluded with a collective pledge, inspired by the Prime Minister's call "Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath," encouraging citizens to dedicate time to keeping the nation clean.



**[Link to the article: \(October 3rd, 2024\)](#)**

**<https://www.indiancooperative.com/co-op-news-snippets/gujarats-kheti-bank-organizes-cleanliness-drive/>**

# HARYANA

## Haryana Assembly Elections 2024 | Bond between farming and sports manifests in electoral politics



**[Link to the article: \(October 2nd, 2024\)](#)**

**<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/haryana-assembly-elections-2024-bond-between-farming-and-sports-manifests-in-electoral-politics-3216420>**

The state of Haryana has been established as the powerhouse of sports and emerging sporting talents. Owing to the rural landscape, the state has gained recognition in this field. Sport is deeply ingrained in the soil of Haryana and it was noteworthy to the political parties as well. The political party wants to please and attract voters in Haryana by supporting the sporting class. In the 2019 elections, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sent out three Olympians namely Yogeswhar Dutta, Babita Pogat in Wrestling and Sandeep Singh in Hockey. A similar trend has been noticed in this year's Assembly polls. The Congress sent out Vinesh Phogat while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) nominated Kavita Dalal for weightlifting. BJP has also chosen Deepak Hooda. Sports like Wrestling and Kabaddi are pivotal to the rural lifestyle. During the harvest seasons, locals organize wrestling and kabaddi competitions and the farmers contribute prize money.

# HIMACHAL PRADESH

## Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Cell to facilitate rural development

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Cell was inaugurated at the Government Post Graduate College, Chamba, by Principal Prof Rakesh Rathore on Saturday 5th October.

This cell was started to utilise the knowledge and resources to bring about positive changes in rural communities aiming towards rural development. In the session Prof. Kuldeep Raj on holistic development of the villages.

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Cell also aims to bridge the gap between higher education and rural communities.



**Link to the article: (October 6th, 2024)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/unnat-bharat-abhiyan-cell-to-facilitate-rural-development/>

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## DG Rural Sanitation discusses FSTPT

Director General of Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra, convened a virtual meeting with the engineering teams of RDD&PR from Kupwara, Shopian, Kulgam, and other Kashmir districts to strengthen sanitation infrastructure. The meeting focused on ensuring the teams' understanding of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) processes for sustainable sanitation solutions across the region. Malhotra emphasized capacity building, regular project monitoring, and close coordination with the Directorate of Rural Sanitation to address any challenges during implementation. The meeting concluded with a collective call to action for all stakeholders to ensure the successful establishment of FSTPs, enhancing public health through improved sanitation.



**Link to the article: (October 4th, 2024)**

<https://www.thekashmirmonitor.net/dg-rural-sanitation-discusses-fstpt/>

## JHARKHAND

### Forest Department Uses Bees to Protect Elephants and Villagers in Chakulia

In Chakulia, Jharkhand, the Forest Department has implemented an innovative method to manage human-elephant conflict by using bees. The Humble Bee organization will plant 250 honeybee boxes in Chouthiya village and Haripur village. The sound of bees helps deter elephants from entering village areas, thus reducing crop damage and ensuring the safety of both villagers and wildlife. This method has proven effective in preventing conflicts, offering a sustainable solution to protect the region's biodiversity.



Photo Credit: Google Images

**Link to the article: (October 6th, 2024)**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/ranchi-news/jharkhand-cabinet-approves-free-housing-scheme-for-800k-poor-families-101697646010023.html>

## KARNATAKA

### Gandhi Sakshi Kayaka 2.0 software application launched by Karnataka for better management of funds and projects in rural infrastructure



**Link to the article: (October 2nd, 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/gandhi-sakshi-kayaka-20-software-application-launched-by-karnataka-for-better-management-of-funds-and-projects-in-rural-infrastructure/article68709449.ece>

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October, Minister Priyank Kharge revealed the launch of a new software application, the Gandhi Sakshi Kayaka 2.0. This is a new technological development by the Center for Smart Governance to enhance the management of funds and projects as stated by the Minister of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, and Information Technology, Priyank Kharge. The Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL) launched a new work monitoring system (WMS) designed to focus on the transparency of work and ensure the efficient utilization of funds and accountability.



## KERALA

### Congress majority governing body of Agriculture and Rural Development Bank dissolved; temporary charge for CPM governing body

The governing body of the Kerala State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank, which has a majority of Congress members, has been dissolved. The government handed over the responsibility to a temporary governing body, citing the reason that the budget could not be passed at the annual general meeting held on the 28th. The bank had planned to disburse agricultural loans worth Rs 3,500 crore in the coming financial year. The interest rate on the loan was estimated to be less than 10 per cent. It could not be implemented as it was not approved by the general body. The decision to waive off the loans of 52 victims of the Wayanad disaster also failed to get the approval of the general meeting.



**Link to the article: (October 1st, 2024)**

<https://keralakaumudi.com/en/news/news.php?id=1394382&u=congress-majority-governing-body-of-agriculture-and-rural-development-bank-dissolved-temporary-charge-for-cpm-governing-body-1394382>

## MADHYA PRADESH

### MP cops arrest 2 from Raj to heist in Neemuch rural bank

Cops in the Neemuch district solved a case relating to a bank robbery in Chitakheda village in Madhya Pradesh, arresting two accused. They planned robberies using Google Maps to search for potential targets and routes before committing the crime. On September 17th, both armed assailants stormed the Madhya Pradesh Gramin bank in Chitakheda village, injuring three people and stealing Rs 71,660. Both have been involved in multiple robberies across Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan over the past two years.



Photo Credit: Google Images

**Link to the article: (October 6th, 2024)**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/bank-robbers-arrested-major-heist-solved-in-neemuch-mp/articleshow/113990609.cms>

# MAHARASHTRA

## The fight against sickle cell disease: how one hospital in rural Maharashtra is making a difference



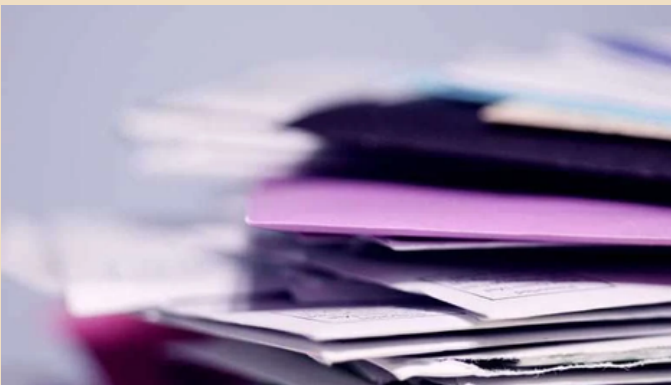
**Link to the article: (October 4th, 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/the-fight-against-sickle-cell-disease-how-one-hospital-in-rural-maharashtra-is-making-a-difference/article68712637.ece>

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is very common among India's rural population. The Chinchpada Hospital, located in the tribal Western Khandesh region of Maharashtra state has an initiative that over 2 gruelling years, has managed to secure State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) cards for around 250 of the 350 sickle cell disease patients. The cards guarantee that patients will receive free blood transfusions across Maharashtra, a vital service. Recognising that sickle cell disease patients are highly prone to infections like bacterial pneumonia, influenza, and meningitis, the hospital has also provided these patients with free preventive vaccinations for all these diseases. They also conduct awareness programs.

# MANIPUR

## Don't abolish Panchayat Raj from Manipur: PRI



**Link to the article: (October 2nd, 2024)**

<https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/dont-abolish-panchayat-raj-from-manipur-pri>

Representatives of Manipur's Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) have urged the state government not to dissolve Panchayat Raj and to extend the tenure of the 5th General Panchayat election representatives until the 6th election is announced. They cited the Manipur Panchayat Raj Act 1994, which allows previous representatives to continue if elections are delayed. Despite a promise to hold elections in September, no notification has been issued. Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee spokesperson Seram Nekan highlighted the failure of rural development projects due to the lack of elected representatives and criticized the formation of administrative committees as violating the law.

# MIZORAM

## Chakma council to introduce Mizo language as a subject in schools



**Link to the article: (October 5th, 2024)**

<https://nnews.in/mizoram/mizoram-chakma-council-to-introduce-mizo-language-as-subject-in-schools/14575/>

The Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) has chosen to add Mizo as a topic in schools under its authority. By promoting the Mizo language and culture among students, this action seeks to protect it and foster a greater awareness of the region's history. The resolution states that all government-managed schools, local body schools, and Samagra Shiksha institutions in the CADC territory from primary to upper levels shall include Mizo in their curricula. To properly carry out this decision, the CADC will hire Mizo language instructors as soon as the Mizoram government provides the funds required.

# PUNJAB

## In Punjab, 8,000 'paddy cops' out to check field fires



**Link to the article: (October 6th, 2024)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/in-punjab-8000-paddy-cops-out-to-check-field-fires/amp/>

The Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government has deployed around 8,000 "Paddy Police" personnel to curb stubble burning across the state. These personnel, organized into 612 flying squads, are overseen by senior officers from Inspector to Special Director General of Police. In addition to patrolling squads from other departments, police teams have been tasked with preventing law and order issues. Senior officers monitor hotspots across 28 police districts, with nodal officers supervising stubble-burning incidents. So far, 193 farm fire cases have been reported this year, 75% fewer than in the same period last year, due to government preventive measures and delayed paddy harvesting. Six FIRs have been filed.

## SIKKIM

### Rural Sikkim holds massive Gram Sabha to shape local development

Rural Sikkim recently held a significant Gram Sabha to discuss and shape local development initiatives. The event saw active participation from various stakeholders, including government officials and community members, who addressed pressing issues such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Participants emphasized the importance of grassroots involvement in decision-making processes to ensure that development aligns with local needs. The Gram Sabha aimed to empower residents by fostering transparency and accountability in governance, ultimately striving for sustainable growth in rural areas of Sikkim.



**Link to the article: (October 2nd, 2024)**

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/sikkim/story/rural-sikkim-holds-massive-gram-sabha-to-shape-local-development-1101161-2024-10-02>

## TAMIL NADU

### Three village panchayats oppose move to annex rural local bodies with Tirunelveli Corporation



**Link to the article: (October 2nd, 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/three-village-panchayats-oppose-move-to-annex-rural-local-bodies-with-tirunelveli-corporation/article68709732.ece>

Three village panchayats are protesting the State Government's decision to merge the local rural bodies with Tirunelveli Corporation. Out of 12 villages, Ramaiyanpatti, Thaazhaiyoothu, and Ittaeri village panchayat residents and ward members have raised their banners. They say that this move will make them ineligible for various rural development schemes such as MGNREGP as well as increase taxes, despite 80% of the population being farmhands. They raised black flags as a mark of their opposition, and three ward members rolled on the ground in protest against the annexure move.

# TELANGANA

## Woman burnt to death on suspicion of witchcraft

A 45-year-old woman was reportedly burned to death by a group in Katriyal village, Telangana, on suspicion of practising black magic. The attack occurred Thursday night when at least six individuals assaulted her at home and set her ablaze. Police arrived after receiving reports and rushed the injured woman to a hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries. The assailants had accused her of harming a family member through witchcraft. A murder case has been filed, and the suspects have been identified, with further investigations underway according to police statements.



**Link to the article: (October 4th, 2024)**

<https://munsifdaily.com/telangana-news-woman-burnt-to-death-on-suspicion-of-witchcraft/>

# TRIPURA

## Prohibitory orders imposed in North Tripura's Kadamtala after 'communal' clash

There were communal clashes at Kadamtala over a collection of Durga Puja subscriptions (donations) on October 6. Reportedly, the violence began when members of a local club demanded 5000 rupees from a vehicle carrying a patient. The cab driver refused and the club members allegedly assaulted those in the vehicle, after which residents responded. Two houses were vandalised by a mob, and several people suffered injuries. The police have arrested three individuals concerning the incident. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Dharmanagar, Sajal Debnath, has imposed prohibitory orders until October 9 (Wednesday).



**Link to the article: (October 2nd, 2024)**

<https://www.northeastherald.in/tripura/prohibitory-orders-imposed-in-north-tripuras-kadamtala-after-communal-clash>

# UTTAR PRADESH

## UP sets new record with 36.80 saplings

Under the "Ped Lagao, Ped Bachao Campaign 2024," the Uttar Pradesh government planted a record 36.80 crore saplings between July 20 and September 30, surpassing its target of 36.50 crore. Launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the campaign aimed to boost the state's green cover. Key contributors included the rural development department with 13.54 crore saplings and the forest department with 12.92 crore. Sonbhadra district led with 1.55 crore saplings planted, followed by Jhansi and Lakhimpur Kheri. The state also promoted the "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" initiative, encouraging tree planting in honour of mothers, reinforcing Uttar Pradesh's commitment to environmental conservation.



Photo Credit: Google Images

**Link to the article: (October 2nd, 2024)**  
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/uttar-pradesh-breaks-record-by-planting-3680-crore-saplings-in-2024/articleshow/113861953.cms>

# UTTARAKHAND

## DM strict on two rural motorways closed for a long time



Photo Credit: istock (Google Images)

**Link to the article: (October 4th, 2024)**  
<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/uttarakhand-chamolli-mana-village-selected-for-pradhan-mantri-janajatiya-unnat-gram-abhiyan20240924083321/>

Two roads in Uttarkashi district have been closed for a long time. The district magistrate has given orders to open these roads immediately and take action against the department officials for the delay in opening of roads. DM Dr. Meherban Singh Bisht held a meeting of the concerned departmental officers regarding the restoration and reconstruction of government assets damaged by the disaster in the district where he appreciated the prompt response of the departments. Officials reported that the rock cutting was in process and more human resources would be deployed to the site for faster opening of roads. The District Magistrate directed all the departments to provide the assessment of government assets affected by the disaster during the monsoon season this year by October 10, with quick action to construct bridges in place of trolleys installed for the movement of people at various places in the district.

(translated from Hindi)

# WEST BENGAL

## World Wide Fund for Nature, India takes initiative for conservation of wildlife in north Bengal

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has launched the "Strengthening Landscape Management and Conservation" project in Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar, North Bengal. Headed by Sumit Roy, the project focuses on reducing man-animal conflicts, especially with elephants and leopards. It aims to create safe corridors for elephant movement, collaborate with the state forest department, and explore income opportunities for villagers through alternative crops less likely to attract wildlife. A survey of elephant corridors and nearby human settlements will begin next week to support long-term conservation efforts.



**Link to the article: (October 6th, 2024)**

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/world-wide-fund-for-nature-india-takes-initiative-for-conservation-of-wildlife-in-north-bengal/cid/2053511>

# CONTRIBUTORS

Ace Patil  
Ananya Mahadevan  
Deshna Kamdar  
Kanoopreiya Vatsa  
Kimberly Roy  
Mishita Thapar

Nritu Luthra  
Noor Das  
Presth Bhardwaj  
Ritika Verma  
Rujula Talloo  
Snehal Khurana

**Editor of the Week: Noor Das**  
**Newsletter Design: Mishita Thapar, Ananya Mahadevan**

