



**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

### Pawan Kalyan announces Rs 6 crore contribution for flood relief in AP, Telangana

On September 4, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced a total donation of Rs 6 crore for flood relief in the affected Telugu states. This includes Rs 1 crore each for the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Chief Ministers' Relief Funds and Rs 4 crore allocated for 400 villages in Andhra Pradesh, providing Rs 1 lakh to each panchayat. Kalyan emphasised his commitment to help flood victims and criticised opposition leaders for their comments on relief efforts. He also highlighted ongoing sanitation measures and the government's swift response to support affected communities, including a focused 100-day sanitation drive.



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

<https://www.m9.news/politics/andhra-pradesh-govt-begins-purification-of-village-secretariats/>

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH

### Team SEEANG visits Siang River flood damage areas under Lower Mebo



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

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/arunachal-pradesh/arunachal-groups-protest-nhpcs-mega-dam-site-survey/article68590013.ece>

On Wednesday, the Siang Ecosystem Environment Animal Nurturing Group visited flood damage sites in Sigar, Ralling, Borguli, Seram, and Namsing villages down the Siang River to assess the damage in at-risk areas. The river's left bank covers the agricultural fields of Ralling and Motums, where overflowing has eroded numerous hectares of land. The team also observed flood damage at Borguli, Seram, and Namsing, where the flooding Siang River has eroded fields, roads, and electric lines.

The state government constructed 35 Cr rupees worth of control bunds at the Sigar village, which the team observed to have collapsed, destroying the villages

# ASSAM

## 28 'declared foreigners' sent to transit camp

On 2nd September, 28 individuals deemed as "declared foreigners" by the Foreigners' Tribunals were taken from multiple villages in Barpeta district and sent to a transit camp in Matia, Goalpara district.

As part of the state's ongoing efforts to identify and deport illegal immigrants, 9 women and 19 men were escorted under tight security to the transit detention camp, serving as a temporary holding facility for persons awaiting legal action. The Additional Superintendent of Police, Bidyut Bhuyan, made a statement on Monday, claiming these persons to be "illegal foreigners", and would be sent to the 3000-capacity holding center in Goalpara.

The families of these persons have not been given any additional information.



**Link to the article: (September 3, 2024)**

<https://boroktimes.com/assam-to-designate-poba-reserve-forest-as-wildlife-sanctuary/>

# BIHAR

## Land Mafia Sparks Public Outrage Over Sale of Government Land in Bihar



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

<https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/state/bihar/bihar-news-people-anger-erupted-over-the-purchase-and-sale-of-government-land-land-mafias-accused-of-selling-land>

In Bihar's Champaran district, public outrage erupted after land mafias were accused of selling government land illegally. Villagers, led by local leader Manjesh Sahni, protested against the sale of around 15 acres near Sripatnagar and Bahri Sthan schools. Despite warnings to officials and previous halts by authorities, the illegal transactions resumed. The community has threatened further protests if higher-level investigations do not commence promptly to curb these land deals.

(Translated from Hindi to English)

# CHHATTISGARH

## Even after 78 years of Independence, this village is still waiting for development, electricity and roads

The villagers of Jatkairi Mohalla, a dependent village of Januwa in Bharatpur have been denied access to electricity, roads and development for years now, despite various protests and requests. Children find it difficult to go to school due to the muddy conditions of roads. One villager, Santosh Yadav, mentioned that there was talk of electricity poles but nothing has come of that promise. The current village Sarpanch has been trying for four years now to speak to the MLA and Ministry to solve this issue, but nothing has come of it. Water and electricity are the biggest problem, as people have to walk long distances for water and have to be carried to the hospital in cots without a stable road.

(Translated from Hindi to English)



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

<https://mpcg.ndtv.in/chhattisgarh-news/officials-are-not-ready-to-listen-to-the-problems-of-bharatpur-villagers-are-forced-to-drink-dirty-rainwater-6461257>

# GUJARAT

## Taranetar fair to begin on Sept 6; Rural Olympics and traditional competitions to be held



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

<https://deshgujarat.com/2024/08/28/khambhaliya-had-nearly-18-inch-rain-in-24-hours-jamnagar-over-15-inch/>

The Taranetar Fair, held in Taranetar village, Gujarat, is a vibrant celebration of the region's culture and heritage, rooted in the legendary Draupadi Swayamvar. It showcases Saurashtra's rich traditions, with communities like the Bharwad, Ahir, Rabari, and Kathi participating in colorful attire. Highlights include traditional dances like Garba and Dandiya Raas, vibrant embroidered umbrellas, and lively livestock exhibitions. The fair also features the Rural Olympics with a variety of sports competitions for children and adults. For the first time, traditional cultural contests will be held, promoting folk art and artists through music, dance, embroidery, and more.

# HIMACHAL PRADESH

## Himachal government adamant on giving Palampur Agricultural University's land to Tourism Department



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

<https://www.ruralvoice.in/states/decision-to-transfer-palampur-agricultural-university-land-to-tourism-department-is-final-notification-soon-said-cm-sukhvinder-sukhu.html>

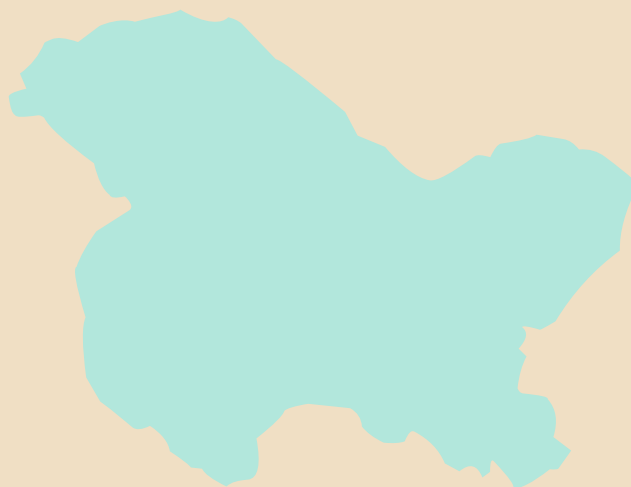
The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh said that the decision to hand over 112 hectares of land of Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Agricultural University, Palampur (CSK) to the Tourism Department for 'Tourism Village' in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh is final. This land will soon be transferred to build a 'tourism village'. He also mentioned that no casinos will be built on this land. The opposition party leader argued that the construction of the tourism village can hinder the academic environment of the university. Additionally, even the university students and teachers are against this decision, however the government says it is final. The students require the land for experiments and other educational activities and the land is being reduced which is unfair for them. However, the government said that they will be given another land for educational purposes.

(Translated from Hindi to English)

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## SHG members demand Block Office at Gund, Ganderbal

Members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) Umeed program in Ganderbal, Kashmir, are demanding a block office in Gund due to the inconvenience of distant existing blocks. Predominantly women, these SHG members face challenges in accessing resources and support, which hampers their productivity and community development. During a meeting, they highlighted the difficulties of traveling long distances and requested authorities to establish a block office at Gund, already recognized by the NRLM. The NRLM Umeed program empowers rural women through self-help groups, and establishing a local block office would be a crucial step in enhancing its success.



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

<https://kashmirreader.com/2024/09/04/shg-members-demand-block-office-at-gund-ganderbal/>

# JHARKHAND

## Rural Roads in Jharkhand Worsen, Causing Public Distress



The condition of rural roads in Jharkhand has deteriorated, causing significant distress to the residents. Villagers in areas like Rania, Torpa, and Murhu have been struggling due to the damaged roads, which have not been maintained for years. These roads are crucial for daily commuting and access to essential services like education and healthcare. Locals have voiced their concerns multiple times but have yet to see action from the authorities. The worsening road infrastructure continues to affect the quality of life in these regions.

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

<https://lagatar.in/roads-in-rural-areas-are-dilapidated-people-are-worried/>

(Translated from Hindi to English)

# KARNATAKA

## Karnataka plans 'historic' 2,500-km human chain on September 15

On the occasion of World Democracy Day on 15th September, the government of Karnataka is planning to design a human chain of 2,500 km from Bidar to Chamarajanagar. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah stated that this human chain will stand against the forces trying to pull down democracy. Furthermore, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDPR) said that students will be visiting libraries in Gram Panchayat to recite the preamble on 15th September.



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

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/karnataka/karnataka-plans-historic-2500-km-human-chain-on-september-15-3178813>

## KERALA

### Kerala among states with lowest tap water coverage in rural households: Official data



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

<https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/tap-water-coverage-rural-households-india-kerala-lowest-1.9881473>

All states and Union Territories have now achieved over 50% coverage of tap water connections in rural households, according to official data. However, Kerala is among the states with the least coverage. The states with the lowest coverage are West Bengal at 52.30%, Rajasthan at 52.91%, Kerala at 53.62%, Jharkhand at 54.26%, and Madhya Pradesh at 64.84%.

Under the Har Ghar Jal scheme, which aims to provide tap water connections to all rural households by the end of the year, significant progress has been made. Currently, 11 states and UTs have achieved 100% coverage.

## MAHARASHTRA

### Retired educators to tackle teacher shortages in Maharashtra's rural schools

The government has recognised the issue of vacant teaching posts in rural schools with low enrollment, affecting students' education.

The identification of the problem has led to a major policy shift aimed at addressing the teacher shortage in schools with low student enrollment, which has been introduced by the Maharashtra School Education and Sports Department. The government seeks to harness the experience of retired teachers while also tackling the state's surplus of unemployed teaching graduates. However, the decision has faced criticism from teachers' unions and educational activists, who argue it may limit opportunities for young educators.



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

<https://www.mid-day.com/amp/mumbai/mumbai-news/article/retired-educators-to-tackle-teacher-shortages-in-maharashtras-rural-schools-23388277>



# MADHYA PRADESH

## Double murder case- Father and son were found buried in critical condition



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

<https://mpcg.ndtv.in/madhya-pradesh-news/double-murder-in-raghogarh-bodies-of-father-and-son-found-in-field-guna-police-6513125>

There was an uproar after the bodies of a man and his son were found in a maize field near ITI college under Raghogarh police station in Guna district, Madhya Pradesh. The pair had left to graze their goats as usual, but did not return home that night. On the next day, family members went looking for the 80 year old father and his 30 year old son. Upon hearing the news, people furiously blocked the national highway and the family protested on the main road of the city, shouting slogans and blocking the pathways. The family demanded to know the murderer, and accused the police of having a lax attitude, making people angrier. Police have said that the case is under investigation.

(Translated from Hindi to English)

# MANIPUR

## Three Kuki bunkers destroyed after rocket attacks

In Bishnupur district, Manipur, Kuki militants launched attacks using long-range rockets, resulting in the death of 78-year-old civilian RK Rabei and injuring six others. Police and additional forces conducted operations in response, destroying three bunkers in Churachandpur village. Security forces, including military helicopters, were deployed for aerial patrolling, while senior officers managed the situation on-site. Despite being fired upon, police retaliated and repelled the attack. Movement along NH-37 and NH-2 was secured for essential supplies, with 101 checkpoints set up across the state. Authorities urged the public to stay alert and avoid spreading or believing in rumors.



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

<https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/release-village-volunteers-immediately>

## MIZORAM

### 25 wild boar carcasses found under mysterious circumstances



Link to the article: (September 3rd, 2024)

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/odisha-9-year-old-found-dead-local-boy-detained-1820250>

A Heavily decayed carcasses, believed to be wild boars, were discovered on the De Lui bank in Tlabung, Mizoram, raising concerns about a potential African Swine Fever outbreak on Friday. Authorities found bones, and bear footprints, likely from scavengers who consumed the remains. Initial reports suggested 17 carcasses, but the inspection revealed 25. The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department is in the process of disinfecting the area to prevent further complications as African Swine Fever continues to spread in these areas. No official reason and record for the death of the boars has been released.

## ODISHA

### Monstrous 11-ft king cobra rescued from home after chasing monitor lizard

An 11-foot cobra was rescued from Bangra village and was later released into the Dukra wildlife range, in Mayurbhanj. A video of this incident has been going viral on social media, it shows the officials carrying the snake out of the house and tying it up to carefully transport it. The snake was 11 ft long and weighed 6.7 kgs. After being examined by a local veterinarian, the snake was released. The snake had entered the house while chasing a monitor lizard as per the man whose house the snake had entered.



Link to the article: (September 4th, 2024)

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/sc-to-hear-punjab-s-plea-for-release-of-rural-development-funds-on-sept-2-124083000404\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/sc-to-hear-punjab-s-plea-for-release-of-rural-development-funds-on-sept-2-124083000404_1.html)

## PUNJAB

### 533 animals registered under insurance scheme in Muktsar



The Risk Management and Livestock Insurance Scheme was launched in the Muktsar district in May under the National Livestock Mission, according to which animals can be insured up to Rs 70,000 each. The scheme costs Rs 1,120 for the owners of cross breeds of cow or buffalo coming under general category and Rs 672 for owners belonging to SC/ST category respectively. At present, insurance of 533 animals has been done in which 479 belong to general category and 54 belong to SC/ST category. Nevertheless, there is a problem of low takeoff; farmers such as Brinder Singh blames it for the low insurance coverage, which does not come close to replacing the animals and the rising expenses. In order to further extend more assistance to the owners of the livestocks, he supports free insurance. At the same time, the computerized 21 st livestock census is still in progress.

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

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/533-animals-registered-under-insurance-scheme-in-muktsar/>

## SIKKIM

### 4 Army personnel killed after vehicle plunges into gorge in Sikkim's Pakyong

At least four Indian Army personnel died in a road accident on Thursday, 5th September, while on their way from Pedong in West Bengal to Zuluk in Sikkim. The accident took place along Silk Route in Sikkim's Pakyong district. The vehicle skidded off the road and fell approximately 700 to 800 feet down the gorge at Vertical Veer, near Dalopchand Dara along Rhenock Rongli state highway officials said. The incident reflects the dangerous nature of the roads as well as the lack of upkeep of the historical route.



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

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/Aug/29/panels-to-be-set-up-to-pick-model-solar-villages-in-tamil-nadu>

## TAMIL NADU

### September 13 is last date to apply for T.N.'s green entrepreneurship scheme



The Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission (TNSRLM) has introduced a scheme to empower rural entrepreneurs and their eco-friendly businesses, named the “Green Entrepreneurship Scheme.” There are multiple requirements for eligibility, including the business being eco-friendly, having MSME or Aadhar recognition, and having an annual income of 4 lakh rupees. The scheme offers 4 lakhs in loan assistance given in three installments, with additional incentives. The deadline for application for the Scheme is September 13. District Collector P. Akash has encouraged entrepreneurs to apply promptly.

**Link to the article: (September 8th 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/September-13-is-last-date-to-apply-for-tns-green-entrepreneurship-scheme/article68618852.ece>

## TRIPURA

### Tripura police contributes over Rs 23 lakhs to provide aid for flood-affected people

On Friday (6th September), CM Manik Saha announced a package of 564 crore rupees for flood-affected areas and people in Tripura. Excessive rainfall starting August 19 caused floods and landslides, leading to 72,000 people being displaced and 31 losing their lives. The floods have caused extensive damage to public infrastructure and agricultural land alike. The initial estimate of damage caused by the floods is 14,247 crore rupees. In a show of support, Director General of Police Amitabh Ranjan, on behalf of all ranks of the state police, contributed 23 lakhs to the CM's relief fund. CM Saha expressed his gratitude to the department on X.



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

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/tripura-police-contributes-over-rs-23-lakhs-to-provide-aid-for-flood-affected-people20240908033701>

## TELANGANA

### In Telangana's Gollagudem Village, Clash Over Evil Eye Ritual Leads To Physical Violence



In Gollagudem village, Telangana, a recent incident illustrates the enduring influence of superstitions in rural areas despite modern advancements. When Ramulu fell ill, his wife Venkatalakshmi suspected his condition was due to the 'evil eye' and sought help from Gangamma, a local healer known for performing rituals to ward off negative energies. After Gangamma conducted a ritual and discarded the ritual items on the road, villagers panicked, leading to an assault on Gangamma, Venkatalakshmi, and the ailing Ramulu. The police intervened, taking the injured to the hospital and initiating an investigation, highlighting the persistent grip of superstitions in contemporary society.

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

<https://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/sitapur/rural-stadium-will-be-built-in-anogi-village-sitapur-news-c-102-1-slko1052-118239-2024-09-01>

## UTTAR PRADESH

### Deteriorating Conditions in This UP District, Two More Deaths - Health Department's Negligence Proving Costly

A severe fever has occurred in the villages of Ulla, Nauna and Chamrpura, which is the Islamnagar block, and it has resulted in many deaths due to which the situation has turned bad and the health intervention initiative has not been effective. Till date, five people, with a student and a youth each from Nauna and Ulla, and one from Chamrpura died. The health department is doing death audits but have not been associating the deaths with malaria. Lack of proper hygiene and flooded roads are causing sickness to be rampant. The Chandousi hospitals are attending many of the affected villagers but the health teams have not been able to get to the Chamrpura even if the situation is worsening.



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

<https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/badaun-up-news-situation-worsened-in-this-district-of-up-two-more-people-died-negligence-of-health-department-is-taking-a-heavy-toll-23793411.html>

(Translated from Hindi to English)

## UTTRAKHAND

### A model village will be built in every development block under rain water harvesting



In the Haldwani village, rainwater harvesting systems will be made mandatory in private and commercial buildings that come under 400 meters of the government area. The aim is to create a model village for rainwater harvesting. In this village each house should have a rainwater harvesting system according to its capacity. Even for government offices, the rainwater harvesting system should be present, the budget for which will be sanctioned by the government. It has been directed that if any commercial institution has not made a rainwater harvesting system and is using more water they should be immediately sent a notice and their water connection would be disconnected.

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

<https://www.amarujala.com/uttarakhand/nainital/model-village-built-every-development-block-haldwani-news-c-337-1-shld1034-114117-2024-09-07>

(Translated from Hindi and English)

## WEST BENGAL

### Collapse of earthen embankment causes panic in the village

A sudden landslide at the Gomor River embankment in Pakhiralaya village, Gosaba, caused panic as villagers and irrigation officials worked overnight to prevent flooding. Despite their efforts, the embankment collapsed again, prompting the construction of a ring embankment, which affected three homes. Villagers, frustrated by repeated collapses, demand a concrete structure, criticizing the administration's lack of action. Local officials expressed concerns about the central government's failure to repair the embankment, despite the area's significance as an international waterway, and pointed to delays in funding, hindering permanent solutions.



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

<https://www.anandabazar.com/west-bengal/24-parganas/residents-of-pakhiralaya-village-of-gosaba-in-trouble-after-river-destroyed-dam/cid/1544245>

(Translated from Bengali to English)

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