



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

Privatisation of rural roads in Andhra in works, says CM Naidu

The Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, is considering a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for the construction and maintenance of rural roads, similar to national highways. This proposal, discussed in the state assembly and supported by MLAs, aims to alleviate financial pressure on the state budget. Naidu plans a pilot project in East and West Godavari districts, allowing private firms to collect tolls from heavy vehicles while exempting smaller vehicles. He emphasized the need for quality roads to enhance rural living conditions and urged MLAs to engage with the public for consensus before implementation.



Link of the article: (21st November, 2024)

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/privatisation-of-rural-roads-in-andhra-in-works-says-cm-naidu-101732129877854.html>

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Missing US airmen's search in Arunachal on: Consul General



Link of the article: (22nd November,

2024)<https://arunachalobserver.org/2024/11/23/missing-us-airmens-search-in-arunachal-on-consul-general/>

Kathy Giles-Diaz, the US Consul General in Kolkata, confirmed ongoing efforts by the US government to recover the remains of missing American airmen in Arunachal Pradesh. She highlighted the lack of awareness in the US about this cooperation, particularly as around 400 airmen are still unaccounted for from World War II, many due to crashes along the perilous "Hump" air route over the Himalayas. The Consul General expressed hope to promote this collaboration during its 88th anniversary next year and mentioned initiatives to support local students through educational resources and partnerships in Arunachal Pradesh.

ASSAM

Tiger blinded in vicious attack after wandering into village in Assam: Report

A three-year-old Royal Bengal tiger was assaulted by hundreds of locals on Wednesday when it went out of the Kamakhya reserve forest in Assam's Nagaon district. According to reports, the assault badly damaged and nearly blinded the vulnerable animal, prompting veterinarians to fear that the tigress will have to spend the remainder of its life in custody. Dr Bhaskar Choudhury, director of the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation, confirmed that both of the tigress's eyes had been seriously injured. "It appears that the left eye has been entirely injured. Furthermore, it has suffered head and abdominal traumas," he stated. Dr Choudhury went on to say that if the eye injuries do not improve, the animal will be unable to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild.



Link of the article: (23rd Nov 2024)

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/trending/tiger-blinded-in-vicious-attack-after-wandering-into-village-in-assam-report-101732367908945.html>

BIHAR

Nitish Government Allocates ₹8,837 Crore for Rural Road Development in Bihar



Link of the article: (22nd November, 2024)

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/state/bihar/pa/tna/fill-the-village-roads-with-speed-nitish-government-gave-8837-crores-to-beautify-rural-bihar/articleshow/115567263.cms>

The Bihar government, led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has announced a significant investment of ₹8,837 crore to enhance the state's rural road infrastructure. This initiative aims to beautify and upgrade village roads, promoting connectivity and development in rural areas. The project includes repairing damaged roads, constructing new ones, and ensuring high-quality standards. By improving rural connectivity, the government hopes to boost economic activity and ease access to essential services. The initiative underscores the administration's commitment to fostering growth and improving living standards in rural Bihar, aligning with broader developmental objectives.

(Translated from Hindi to English)

GUJARAT

MBBS student dies after ragging by seniors in Gujarat; college launches probe

An 18-year-old first-year MBBS student, Anil Methaniya, from GMERS Medical College in Gujarat's Patan district, died after allegedly being subjected to ragging by 15 second-year students. On November 16, 2024, Methaniya and other juniors were forced to stand for over three hours in a hostel room, enduring mental and physical harassment. Methaniya collapsed and was declared dead at the hospital. Police have filed an FIR against the accused under charges including culpable homicide and wrongful confinement. The college suspended the accused students and initiated a probe, with its anti-ragging committee confirming the involvement of 15 seniors in the incident.



Link of the article: (18th November, 2024)

<https://deshgujarat.com/2024/11/16/cattle-keepers-earn-rs-5-per-litre-by-selling-gaumutra-in-rural-bhabhar/>

HARYANA

Power Grid Joins Hands with Haryana Government to Upgrade Rural Crematoriums



Link of the article: (22nd November, 2024)

<https://indianmasterminds.com/news/power-grid-joins-hands-with-haryana-government-to-upgrade-rural-crematoriums-100293/>

The Power Grid Corporation has joined hands with the Haryana Government and Panchayat Department and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU will be introduced as part of Shiv Dham Yojana. The MoU aims to restore and construct crematoriums and burial grounds in the rural areas of Haryana. The MoU will also provide shelters, accessible roads, and boundary walls. MoU is managed by the State Development and Panchayat Department and ensures environmentally friendly space for last rites. The Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Cabinet Minister Rao Narbir Singh, Power Grid CMD RK Tyagi, Director (Personnel) Dr. Yatindra Dwivedi, Additional CEO of Haryana State CSR Trust Gaurav Singh, and senior officials from Power Grid and the Haryana government were present when MoU was signed.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Malana not only needs roads but also rations, villagers troubled by false promises have now appealed to Vikramaditya

A recent Dam burst in Malana, the connectivity to the Panchayat has been cut off, this has resulted in several problems including difficulty in accessing ration. One of the villagers even asked the PWD to visit the village and experience the problems themselves. They said that it is getting colder now and they need to store ration as the snow fall might happen anytime soon. Many individuals also have to pay a large amount of money to the labourers that procure ration for them, which has made the villagers quite upset. Frustrated villagers appealed to the Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya and demanded that arrangements for ration should be made in the village before the snow and rain. Many individuals also have to pay a large amount of money to the labourers that procure ration for them, which has made the villagers quite upset.

(Translated from Hindi to English)



Link of the article: (21st November)

<https://zeenews.india.com/hindi/zeepbh/himachal-pradesh/malana-village-food-shortage-and-road-problem-villagers-appealed-to-vikramaditya-for-help/2524412>

JAMMU & KASHMIR

ASHA workers promoting hygiene in rural Kashmir



Link of the article: (24th November, 2024)

<https://kashmirtimes.com/asha-workers-promoting-hygiene-in-rural-kashmir/>

In the remote village of Jundinambal, Baramulla, ASHA workers like Rafiq Begum play a pivotal role in transforming women's health and dignity. Rafiq, a Political Science postgraduate, began her work in 2019, addressing critical issues like menstrual hygiene in a community where stigma and financial constraints dominate. She educates women, provides subsidized sanitary pads, and normalizes discussions around menstruation, helping girls stay in school. Despite their efforts, challenges persist, including inadequate supplies and low-quality products. ASHA workers across Kashmir demand better pay and recognition for their indispensable work, empowering women to overcome health inequities and promoting dignity in rural communities.

JHARKHAND

Bitter Gourd Farming Thrives in Chakulia, Jharkhand

Farmers in Chakulia, Jharkhand, are actively engaged in the cultivation of bitter gourd (karela), marking a flourishing phase for this agricultural activity. The region's fertile soil and favorable climate contribute to successful yields, attracting more farmers to participate. Bitter gourd farming has become a key source of income, boosting the local economy. Farmers are busy sowing seeds and employing traditional and innovative methods to ensure healthy crops. This agricultural success reflects Chakulia's potential as a hub for vegetable farming, supporting livelihoods and promoting sustainable development in rural Jharkhand.

(Translated from Hindi to English)



[Link to the article: \(19th November 2024\):](https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/ghatsila/story-karela-farming-flourishes-in-chakulia-farmers-busy-planting-seeds-201732002941321.amp.html)

<https://www.livehindustan.com/jharkhand/ghatsila/story-karela-farming-flourishes-in-chakulia-farmers-busy-planting-seeds-201732002941321.amp.html>

KARNATAKA

Karnataka rural bodies get first instalment of Centre's Financial Commission grants



Link of the article: (22nd November, 2024)

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/karnataka/story/first-instalment-15th-financial-commission-grants-for-karnatakas-rural-local-bodies-released-2637884-2024-11-22>

The first installment of the 15th Finance Commission grants of 2024-2025 released by the central government aids 5,949 Karnataka gram panchayats. This will help the gram panchayats water management and sanitation, access to drinking water, rainwater harvesting initiatives, and water recycling projects along with rural development under constitutional guidelines. It will majorly focus on basic sanitation along with household water management and faecal sludge treatment. The ministry further communicates that funds have been allocated under an organized process which included recommendations from the Ministries of Panchayati Raj and Jal Shakti.

MAHARASHTRA

BJP-led Mahayuti dominant across regions, urban-rural divides

The Mahayuti coalition's strong victory – 233 out of the 288 seats – in the Maharashtra Assembly elections was made possible due to a humongous 14-point lead in vote shares (49.3% to 35.2%) over the Maha Vikas Aghadi. 48.4% of the rural and 49.5% of the semi rural populations voted for the Mahayuti alliance. The numbers from the rural/semi-rural agrarian hubs of Maharashtra suggest that the Mahayuti was able to overcome the farmer anger that was visible in the Lok Sabha election. The coalition did the best in semi-urban constituencies (51.9% vs 32.4% for the MVA) while the MVA's significant drop in support in urban seats (by 11.1 points) was helpful for the Mahayuti's rich harvest of 32 seats.



Link of the article: (24th November, 2024)

<https://www.thehindu.com/elections/maharashtra-assembly/bjp-led-mahayuti-dominant-across-regions-urban-rural-divides/article68902904.ece>

MANIPUR

Manipur: Indigenous communities to converge at Chadong village

The Chadong Village New Site in Manipur's Kamjong district will host the Manipur Indigenous People Cultural Exchange Festival 2024 on November 29-30, organized by the Indigenous People Forum Manipur and Manipur Tourism Department. The festival aims to unite indigenous communities through cultural interaction and mutual understanding. President Ashang Kasar emphasized the event's significance in fostering unity and celebrating heritage.

The venue, Chadong Village New Site, holds historical importance, being home to displaced residents after the Mapithel Dam submerged the original village. The festival will feature cultural performances, a talent show, and exhibitions of crafts and food, offering a unique cultural experience and promoting community bonds.



[Link of the article: \(23rd November, 2024\)](https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/manipur-indigenous-communities-to-converge-at-chadong-village)

<https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/manipur-indigenous-communities-to-converge-at-chadong-village>

ODISHA

Podhuan bhara procession on the eve of Prathamastami from Niali Madhab pitha to Puri Sri Mandir today



[Link of the article: \(22nd November, 2024\)](https://odishatv.in/news/crime/loot-in-hyderabad-company-rs-21-lakh-kept-hidden-odisha-village-recovered-248989)

<https://odishatv.in/news/crime/loot-in-hyderabad-company-rs-21-lakh-kept-hidden-odisha-village-recovered-248989>

On November 22, a grand Podhuan Bhara procession will take place from Niali Madhab Pitha to the Srimandir in Puri, marking the eve of Prathamastami, celebrated on November 23. This traditional Odia festival involves sending a bhara filled with various food items and gifts from a maternal uncle to his sister's home, honoring the eldest child. The procession will include rituals for Lord Jagannath and feature music, martial arts displays, and participation from numerous devotees. The bhara will contain items like new clothes, coconuts, jaggery, and special offerings for the deities, culminating in a presentation at Srimandir by 4 PM.

PUNJAB

State sees 77 farm fires, count rises to 10,682

Punjab reported 77 farm fires on Sunday, with Ferozepur leading at 10 cases, followed by Bathinda and Moga at eight each. This season's total now stands at 10,682, a significant drop compared to previous years: 83,002 in 2020, 71,304 in 2021, 49,922 in 2022, and 36,663 in 2023. Agriculture Department officials attribute the decline to effective measures and predict fewer fires as most wheat sowing is complete. Sunday's air quality index was poor in major cities, including Mandi Gobindgarh (270), Ludhiana (260), and Jalandhar (209), highlighting ongoing pollution concerns despite the reduced farm fire count.



Link of the article: (25th November, 2024)
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/state-sees-77-farm-fires-count-rises-to-10682/>

SIKKIM

North Sikkim: Teacher Murdered, Body Found in His Own Backyard



Link of the article: (23rd November, 2024)
<https://northeastlivetv.com/topnews/north-sikkim-teacher-found-murdered-body-buried-in-his-own-courtyard/>

Passang Tinku Lepcha, a teacher at the Government Senior Secondary School in Mangan, was found dead and buried in the courtyard of his home in Upper Singhik, North Sikkim. Following a tip, local officials exhumed the remains and made the horrifying discovery.

To ascertain the precise cause of death, the remains have been submitted for a postmortem. Police have verified that an unidentified person committed the crime, and a thorough investigation is being conducted to find and capture the murderer.

TELENGANA

Lagacharla row in Telangana: Pharma dreams face farmers' defiance

Land acquisition for a Pharma Village project in Telangana's Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's constituency has ignited violent protests among farmers and tribals. The situation escalated in Lagcherla village, resulting in an attack on Vikarabad District Collector Prateek Jain and other officials. Over a dozen tribals were arrested, causing local residents to flee their homes in fear of police retaliation, leaving behind vulnerable family members. Analysts P. Laxma Reddy and N. Ravi Kumar are observing this unfolding crisis, which is now intertwined with political tensions as the government faces accusations of mishandling the protests and suppressing dissent.



Link to the article: 22nd Nov 2024:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/lagacharla-row-in-telangana-pharma-dreams-face-farmers-defiance/article68895674.ece>

UTTAR PRADESH

Bottled Ganga water to be distributed to devotees at Mahakumbh 2025



Link of the article: 25th Nov 2024

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/India/bottled-ganga-water-to-be-distributed-to-devotees-at-mahakumbh-2025/ar-AA1uHMIo?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

The Uttar Pradesh government is set to facilitate over 25 crore devotees at the Prayagraj Mahakumbh 2025 with a unique initiative to provide sacred Triveni water at bus and railway stations. Women from self-help groups will manage the sale of Ganga water in designer moonj baskets, promoting Prayagraj's ODOP craft. Packaged in metal urns and bottles of various sizes, this service addresses the difficulty pilgrims face in collecting water amidst massive crowds. Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, over 1,000 women will receive training, empowering them through this project. Coordination with transport officials ensures seamless implementation, enriching pilgrims' spiritual experience.

UTTARAKHAND

These 110 outlets have the rich cultural heritage of Uttarakhand, also support the women of the hills

Women in the hills of Uttarakhand have sought economic support from the Char Dham Yatra. 110 travel outlets have opened at tourist places which are giving market to the products made by women and can also become a means of increasing the income of these women groups. The Uttarakhand State Rural Livelihood Mission (USRLM) has established 67172 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in 95 development blocks of 13 districts, which is now inclusive of about 5 lakh rural women. PM Modi has also urged tourists visiting the state to spend 5% of their travel expenses on local products. These outlets aim to introduce pilgrims and tourists to the rich traditions and culture of Uttarakhand and to improve the economic condition of rural women. Rural Development Secretary Radhika Jha said that handmade woolen clothes, hill spices, organic pickles, souvenirs and millet-based food products are sold at these stores. These travel outlets have proved effective in making women self-reliant and also play an important role in promoting the cultural heritage of the state.

(Translated from Hindi to English)



Link of the article: (21st November, 2024)

<https://www.rajyasameeksha.com/uttarakhand/31538-110-travel-outlets-of-uttarakhand-state-rural-livelihood-mission>

WEST BENGAL

A sudden fire in the slum of Gariahat, several huts were burnt to ashes



Link of the article: (22nd November, 2024)

<https://www.etvbharat.com/bn!/state/fire-in-slum-area-of-gariahat-in-kolkata-west-bengal-news-wbs24112207033>

A sudden fire broke out in Kankulia Basti, Gariahat, South Kolkata, around 8 PM on Friday, spreading panic in the slum. The blaze, fueled by bamboo structures and plastic fencing, quickly engulfed multiple huts. Locals initially tried to douse the flames, and the fire department was alerted. Seven fire engines arrived and extinguished the fire after 40 minutes of effort.

The fire destroyed 5–7 huts, leaving seven families homeless. Mayor Firhad Hakim and local councilor Sudarshana Roy visited the site, arranging temporary accommodation and food for the victims. The fire department cited an electrical disturbance as the cause, though no casualties were reported.

(Translated from Bengali to English)

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