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 last Census (2011), of the total 1210.2 million population 833.1 million or 69 per cent 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 going through rapid changes. 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 incorporating exercises that focus on rural affairs into educational settings can have far-reaching effects in terms of 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

ANDHRA PRADESH

A 'CHILLY' SLUMP: MIRCHI FARMERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH WORRY AS PRICES GO DOWN AMID GLOBAL MARKET SHIFT

Guntur marketyard, Asia's largest mirchi yard, is witnessing distress among chili farmers due to a sharp price decline in the last ten days. Despite being active during the off-season, reduced international demand and production have led to sluggish business, disappointing farmers from distant places like Kurnool and Nandyal. Sudheer, a merchant, attributes the drop to slow international marketing and deficient rainfall impacting mirchi cultivation. The uncertainty over future arrivals from February to May raises concerns.

However, market experts foresee a potential 30 to 40 per cent price surge in the next season, offering hope. Currently, over 40 lakh bags of mirchi are stored in cold storage. Prices for various mirchi varieties have fallen by Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 as of Monday, with the situation expected to persist until international trades improve.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 28TH, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.NEWINDIANEXPRESS.COM/STATES/ANDHRAPRADESH/2023/NOV/28/A-CHILLY-SLUMP-MIRCHI-FARMERSIN-ANDHRA-PRADESH-WORRY-AS-PRICES-GO-DOWN-AMIDGLOBAL-MARKET-SHIFT-2636845.HTML



ASSAM

MINOR GIRL AMONG 2 KILLED IN WILD ELEPHANT ATTACK IN SEPARATE INCIDENTS

Amid the growing man-elephant conflicts in Assam, two people, including a 12-year-old girl, lost their lives as a result of attacks by wild elephants in separate incidences. The first occurrence occurred in the Doom Dooma district of Tinskukia, where a male adult elephant assaulted a minor named Lakhi Priya Patar while she was walking home with her family. At roughly 1:30 a.m. on Monday, the attack took place. When the family members called the forest officials, they arrived at the spot, and after she was transferred to a nearby hospital, medical personnel pronounced her dead. In another instance on Monday in Goalpara's Tengabari area, a wild elephant crushed a 40-year-old woman to death.

Amid the growing man-elephant conflicts in Assam, two people, including a 12-year-old girl, lost their lives as a result of attacks by wild elephants in separate incidences. The first occurrence occurred in the Doom Dooma district of Tinskukia, where a male adult elephant assaulted a minor pared Labbi Priva Pater.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 27TH, 2023)

TTPS://WWW.DAIJIWORLD.COM/NEWS/NEWSDISPLAY?NEWSID=II43860

GUJARAT

INAUGURATION: CLUSTER BMC INAUGURATED BY SARHAD DAIRY AT HODKO

A Cluster BMC (Bulk Milk Cooler) was inaugurated by Sarhad Dairy at Hodko village in Bhuj Taluk. The program was presided over by Valamjibhai Honbal, Vice Chairman of Amul GCMMF and Chairman of Sarhad Dairy. District BJP Mahila Morcha Vice President Rasikba Kesaria was present on this occasion.

Chairman of Sarhad Dairy Valamjibhai Hanbal said this is done on PM Modi's instructions. Animal husbandry have benefited greatly because of this. It started with 1500 liters, and now has the process of 3 lakhs liters of milk.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (DEC 4TH, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.DIVYABHASKAR.COHTTPS://WWW.DIVYABHASKAR.C

O.IN/LOCAL/GUJARAT/KUTCH/NEWS/CLUSTER-BMC-

INAUGURATED-BY-SARHAD-DAIRY-AT-HODKO-I32235643.HTML

(TRANSLATED FROM GUJARATI TO ENGLISH)



JAMMU & KASHMIR

INFRASTRUCTURAL GAPS PLAGUE GOVT SCHOOLS IN J&K | 5-YEAR PLAN TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES TO TAKE OFF

Jammu and Kashmir's government schools continue to be plagued by severe infrastructural deficits, and the much-discussed five-year plan to solve the problem has come to a halt. The quality of education that students get is impacted by the overcrowding of classrooms, especially in the primary sections. Unfortunately, a recent national study found that 66.4 percent of J&K fourth-grade kids share a classroom with more than one class—a substantial rise from 52.1 percent in 2018. Furthermore, roughly 72% of second-grade primary pupils share a classroom with one or more other classes.

This dire situation persists even as the J&K government declared 2022 and 2023 as the 'Year of Academic Transformation'.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (DEC 2ND, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.GREATERKASHMIR.COM/KASHMIR/INFRASTRUCTURAL-GAPS-PLAGUE-GOVT-SCHOOLS-IN-JK-5-YEAR-PLAN-TO-PROVIDE-ADEQUATE-INFRASTRUCTURE-FACILITIES-TO-TAKE-OFF/



KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA DEPUTY CM URGES TECH COMPANIES TO INVEST CSR FUNDS IN RURAL SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar urged tech companies to invest their CSR funds in rural school development during the Bengaluru Tech Summit. He disclosed discussions with Wipro's Rishad Premji, who pledged Rs 2000 crores for enhancing rural education quality. Shivakumar praised IT and biotech firms for contributing to the state's revenue, emphasizing collaboration between companies and the government. Recognizing Bengaluru's global tech standing, he highlighted the region's vast human resources, boasting two million IT employees in Karnataka.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 30TH, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.FREEPRESSJOURNAL.IN/EDUCATION/KARNATAKA-DEPUTY-CM-URGES-TECH-COMPANIES-TO-INVEST-CSR-FUNDS-IN-RURAL-SCHOOL-DEVELOPMENT Shivakumar commended IT Minister Priyank Kharge for organizing the summit and encouraged companies to share feedback for issue resolution.



KERALA

KERALA VILLAGES TO TURN INTO SAFE HAVEN FOR TECHIES

As part of the 'Fostering Technologies In Rural Area' (FOSTERA) project, the Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) will be setting up IT, ITEAS and BPO companies in villages across Kerala.

Under the project, a company with a minimum of 50 employees and a maximum of 1000 employees can be set up in a place which does not fall under the limits of either a municipal council or corporation. Through this, the state government plans to create around 10,000 job opportunities in rural areas, as quoted by the managing director of KSITIL.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (DEC 3RD, 2023)

https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/money/keralavillages-to-turn-into-safe-haven-for-techies-1.9124564 Extra financial aid has been promised to companies employing women (50-100%), differently abled and transgender people. After three successful years, the government will reward an amount equivalent to half of its running expenses.



MADHYA PRADESH

MORENA: "HOUSE AND LAND ARE FOR SALE," WROTE A DALIT PERSON. CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN FORCED BY BRAHMINS TO CAST BALLOTS.

In the Morena district's Khajuri village, Narayan Mahor has posted, "House and land are for sale," outside his residence. Police arrived here upon obtaining information about this. "Purushottam Sharma and Murari Lal Sharma of the same village had beaten him while pressuring him to vote for BSP," the Mahor family claimed. One week later, on Saturday, the Ambah police station opened a complaint under the Assault and Atrocity Act against the two of them.

The team led by Dainik Bhaskar arrived at Khajuri village and it was discovered that five bighas of government land were the root of the entire issue. Mahors and Brahmins live here, among others.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 27TH, 2023)

TTTPS://WWW.BHASKAR.COM/LOCAL/MP/MORENA/NEWS/DALIT-WROTE-HOUSE-AND-LAND-ARE-POR-SALE-THE-REALITY-THERE-132202159.HTML?

ERANCH MATCH ID=1260210022949383472&UTM CAMPAIGN=132202159&UTM MEDIUM=SHARING&
ERANCH REFERRER=H4SIAAAAAAAAAAAAASOKSKOTTLXTONMZMVMIK3SY8ZTTYUIYGZN9XYYDKOCAKE5R3

DFAAAA

TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH

MAHARASHTRA

CROPS ON ALMOST I LAKH HECTARES DAMAGED BY UNSEASONAL RAIN

The unseasonal rainfall and hailstorm over the last few days has damaged crops on almost 1 lakh hectares in Maharashtra. The farmers are already facing droughts in around 40 talukas in the state. Some of the regions affected include Thane, Palghar, Ahmednagar, Jalna, Parbhani, Nanded, Jalgaon, Pune, etc. In Nashik district, crops on around 332,833 hectares of land have been damaged. Nashik and Buldhana are the most horribly affected among all the others.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 28TH, 2023)

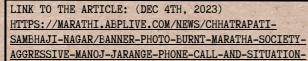
HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/MUMBAI/MAHAR ASHTRA-CROPS-ON-ALMOST-I-LAKH-HECTARES-DAMAGED-BY-UNSEASONAL-RAIN/ARTICLESHOW/105571143.CMS



MAHARASHTRA

PHOTO ON BANNER BURNT, TENSED ATMOSPHERE IN VILLAGE; DIRECTLY CALLED JARANG AND THE SITUATION WAS RESOLVED

At Kaigaon in Sillod taluka, an unidentified person burnt Manoj Jarange Patal's photo on a banner put up in the village in the wee hours of Sunday morning. As soon as this matter was realized in the morning, there was a tense situation in the village for some time. So, on getting information about the incident, the police also entered the village. At this time, the villagers took an aggressive stance demanding the arrest of the accused. Also, a large crowd of the locality had entered the spot. Finally, PSI Khade called Jarange Patal and told him what had happened. Jarange asked the villagers to stay calm.



UNDER-CONTROL-1234399

(TRANSLATED FROM MARATHI TO ENGLISH)



MANIPUR

FRESH VIOLENCE ERUPTS, I3 FOUND DEAD IN VILLAGE AFTER GUNFIGHT

At least 13 people died in a fresh bout of violence in Leithu village in the Tengnoupal district on 4th December. One officer stated that the nearest security forces were approximately 10 km away. He further said that the victims were not from the area and may have engaged in a firefight with a separate group. Neither the police nor the security forces confirmed the identities of the deceased. The authorities lifted the ban on mobile internet services on the 3rd (Sunday) itself after seven months, with the exception of the border districts in some areas. These areas are dominated by either the Kukis or Meiteis and have witnessed the majority of the violence and abductions in the past seven months.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (DEC 4TH, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.HINDUSTANTIMES.COM/INDIA-NEWS/MANIPURI3-FOUND-DEAD-IN-VILLAGE-AFTER-GUNFIGHT-AS-FRESH-VIOLENCE-ERUPTS-101701685502911.HTML



ODISHA

ODISHA GOVT AIMS TO RESOLVE LAND DISPUTES AND ISSUE RECORD OF RIGHTS

To address land disputes and ensure people receive their Record of Rights for land, VK Pandian conducted a comprehensive review of land disputes. In Jharsuguda district, land disputes affecting 18 villages in Lakhanpur Tehsil have been resolved. The CM, Naveen Patnaik, would also distribute land pattas to 900 families from seven villages. Through this, the government wishes to reduce land disputes as much as it can to also help bolster its election agendas.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (DEC 2ND, 2023)

HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/BHUBANESWAR/ODISHA-GOVT-AIMS-TO-RESOLVE-LAND-DISPUTES-AND-ISSUE-RECORD-OF-RIGHTS/ARTICLESHOW/I05684201.CMS

PUNJAB

PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY HOLDS TRAINING FOR RURAL WOMEN

The Department of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), organised a training programme for 48 rural women on "Food Preservation" in Alamgir village. Dr Dharminder Singh, principal extension scientist, urged the women to organise themselves in 'self-help groups' to enhance household income. Another technician shared information on food preservation and demonstrated the preparation of pickles. The Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) students also delivered a session on plantation and entrepreneurship.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 22ND, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.TRIBUNEINDIA.COM/NEWS/LUDHIANA/PUNJAB-AGRICULTURAL-UNIVERSITY-HOLDS-TRAINING-FOR-RURAL-WOMEN-565083



RAJASTHAN

WOMEN DID BUMPER VOTING ON 23 SEATS OF RAJASTHAN: WHENEVER WOMEN TURN OUT MORE, POWER CHANGES, WILL HISTORY BE ABLE TO REPEAT THIS TIME TOO?

Voter turnout in the latest Rajasthan Assembly elections saw a record 74.72% of women and 74.53% of men cast ballots. Notably, historically, there has been a shift in power anytime women have gained a significant vote. In the state, female candidates have continuously outperformed male candidates in terms of success rate. Special programs aimed at female voters were carried out by the BJP and Congress. Even though women make up 48% of all voters, there are still disproportionately few women elected to the assembly. Female voter turnout reached a historic high in the elections, which may have a big influence on the political environment.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 28TH, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.BHASKAR.COM/ELECTION-2023/RAJASTHAN-ASSEMBLY-ELECTION/NEWS/WOMEN-DID-BUMPER-VOTING-ON-23-SEATS-OF-RAJASTHAN-132206792.HTML (TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

के 23 सीटों पर महिलाओं ने की बंपर वोटिंग					
	विधानसभा	पुरुष	महिला	मतदान	प्रतिशत
	बांसवाड़ा	113637	114033	227674	81.03
	धरियावद	109687	111398	221086	80.47
	फतेहपुर	86907	92387	179295	70.75
	लक्ष्मणगढ्	102886	109815	212701	76.47
	दांतारामगढ्	108521	108682	217205	75.42
	ब्यावर	89169	90764	179934	69.82
	लाडनूं	93228	98719	191948	71.70
	डीडवाना	94919	99083	194003	73.43
	सोजत	83930	84114	168048	68.31
	मारवाड़ जंक्शन	89971	90732	180707	61.29
	बाली	109177	110634	219812	66.06
	आहोर	82490	83701	166191	61.24
	सिरोही	99476	101462	200938	66.01
	सलूम्बर	104995	106258	211254	71.58
	डूंगरपुर	95372	96171	191543	72.76
	आसपुर	96374	102654	199029	73.71
	सागवाड़ा	96898	106628	203527	73.73
	ਮੀਸ	77409	84876	162288	70.34
	कुम्भलगढ्	76926	78240	155168	68.53
	आसींद	109126	111058	220184	74.20
	मंडावा	88222	93465	181688	73.97
*	खैरवाड़ा	106649	109106	215755	72.50
	ग ढी	109643	114793	224436	77.57

TAMIL NADU

UPPER CASTE MEN ATTACK 5 DALITS WITH SWORDS FOR NOT SHOWING THEM RESPECT

Two individuals from an upper caste community were apprehended for assaulting five scheduled caste individuals, including a seven-year-old, at Perungudi in Madurai. R Mari and K Sasikumar attacked three Dalits verbally, invoking caste, and assaulted them with knives. They also injured Periyasamy and his grandson. The victims are stable in the hospital. Political figures like L Murugan and K Annamalai decried the incident, blaming increased atrocities against Dalits after the DMK's governance. They called for strict action. Concurrently, a missing Dalit youth's case amplifies concerns. The assault sparked widespread condemnation, urging authorities to tackle caste-based violence effectively.

Link to the article: (Nov 30, 2023)

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/two-thevar-

men-arrested-for-attacking-5-dalits-in-

madurai/articleshow/I05608477.cms?

utm source=contentofinterest&utm medium=text&utm campaign=cpps



TELENGANA

TWO PILOTS KILLED IN AN INDIAN AIR FORCE TRAINER AIRCRAFT CRASH IN TELANGANA'S MEDAK

A Pilatus PC-7 Mark II trainer aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed in Telangana's Toopran village during a routine training sortie, killing both pilots. The incident occurred around 9:30 a.m., with the aircraft catching fire shortly after the crash. No civilian casualties or property damage were reported. Officials from the Air Force Academy are assessing the situation, and a Court of Inquiry has been initiated to determine the accident's cause.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE (DEC 4TH, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/TELANGANA/TWO-PILOTS-KILLED-IN-AN-INDIAN-AIR-FORCE-TRAINER-AIRCRAFT-CRASH-IN-TELANGANAS-MEDAK/ARTICLE67603623.ECE



UTTAR PRADESH

RAPES, SNATCHINGS UP BUT ROBBERIES DOWN FROM LAST YR

Since the state government established the police commissionerate system in the district last year, there have been more rapes, snatchings, and home invasions, but fewer car thefts, robberies, and murders.

Police data from January 1 to November 15 shows that there was a 26% increase in rapes from 92 in 2022 to 116 in 2023, a 7% increase in residence burglaries from 214 to 229, and a 3% increase in snatchings from 422 to 434.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 28TH, 2023)

HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/GHAZIABAD/RAPES

-SNATCHINGS-UP-BUT-ROBBERIES-DOWN-FROM-LAST-

YR/ARTICLESHOW/105546047.CMS

Murders dropped by 3% from 94 to 91, attempted murder cases by 19% from 107 to 90, robberies by 21% from 74 in 2022 to 61 in 2023, car thefts by 13% from 2,364 to 2,097.



UTTAR PRADESH

RURAL WOMEN ARE BECOMING MILLIONAIRES IN UP, ANNUAL INCOME INCREASED THROUGH THIS SCHEME

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 77th Independence Day of the country that the government is working on making two crore women living in rural areas of the country Lakhpati Didi. Uttar Pradesh is leading in fulfilling this dream of PM Modi. Compared to other states, work on this scheme is going on faster in UP Government and women's earnings are also increasing. According to data, the earning of about 10.45 lakh group Sakhis in Uttar Pradesh has exceeded Rs 1 lakh.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE (NOV 27TH, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.ABPLIVE.COM/STATES/UP-UK/UP-RURAL-WOMEN-ARE-

RAPIDLY-BECOMING-LAKHPATI-DIDI-YOJNA-2546390

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI)

UP government is working seriously on this scheme. If work continues like this, then in the next three years the number of Lakhpati Didis in the state will increase to 29.24 lakh.



WEST BENGAL

SEVEN-DAY NORTH BENGAL FOLK CULTURE FESTIVAL COMMENCES AT TAKIMARI IN GAJALDOBA

The Takimari Rash festival and Baul Utsav, annually held at Gajaldoba under the Mantadari Gram panchayat of Rajganj, has commenced for the 25th year. Artists from Bangladesh, Assam, Jharkhand, and other areas in West Bengal are actively participating in the festival, which aims to preach the tales and values of Lord Krishna. Additionally, a carnival has also been scheduled to continue for seven days beginning from November 27 to December 3.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE (NOV 28TH, 2023)

HTTPS://SILIGURITIMES.COM/SEVEN-DAY-NORTH-BENGAL-FOLK-CULTURE-FESTIVAL-COMMENCES-AT-TAKIMARI-IN-GAJALDOBA/





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