



**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

### **MPDO falls sick during visit to remote tribal village, carried in Doli in ASR district**

An MPDO in Ananthagiri mandal, ASR district, was carried over 3 km on a makeshift stretcher after falling ill during a medical camp in the remote village of Karriguda, which lacks road connectivity. The MPDO, along with medical personnel, trekked over 8 km to provide care for villagers suffering from diarrhea. After receiving first aid, he was transported to a road point for further assistance. Residents have long demanded road access to their hilltop village, but despite allocated funds, the project remains incomplete, leaving locals frustrated with the lack of commitment from public representatives and officials.



**Link of the article: (15th November, 2024)**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/andhra-pradesh-mpdo-falls-sick-during-visit-to-remote-tribal-village-carried-in-doli-in-asr-district/articleshow/115325871.cms>

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH

### **40-year-old man attacks wife, others in Arunachal hospital; 3 killed, 7 injured**



A man holding a sword went on a stabbing spree in an Arunachal Pradesh hospital on Thursday, murdering three people, including his wife and daughter, and injuring six others, authorities said. The man, who is from Bameng, attacked individuals without cause. According to East Kameng police superintendent Kamdam Sikom, the attack injured his wife Tadu Sangbia, and daughter Nakia Sangbia, and several others who were inside the hospital. Police have apprehended the accused and are questioning him to determine the cause of the crime. Murder charges have also been filed.

**Link of the article: (14th November, 2024)**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/40yearold-man-attacks-wife-others-in-arunachal-hospital-3-killed-7-injured-101731588995354.html>

## ASSAM

### *Three Bodies Discovered Near Assam Manipur Border*

Three bodies were identified near the Assam-Manipur border on Friday, reported to be a few of the six people abducted by armed militants from Manipur's Jiribam district earlier this week. After the bodies were handed over to the Silchar Medical Hospital, post-mortems revealed one of the victims to be one of the women who had been abducted. Final confirmation of death and victim identification are in the process of release. In the Borobekra area of Manipur, armed militants abducted six individuals from Manipur leading to a brawl with security forces that led to the death of 11 militants on November 11. All the victims were from the Meitei community. A search operation has been initiated to locate the missing individuals



**[Link of the article: \(16th Nov 2024\)](https://guwahatipus.com/assam/three-bodies-discovered-near-assam-manipur-border)**  
**<https://guwahatipus.com/assam/three-bodies-discovered-near-assam-manipur-border>**

## BIHAR

### **Bihar's rural roads to undergo major upgrades**



**[Link of the article: \(16th November, 2024\)](https://www.livehindustan.com/bihar/25000-km-rural-roads-of-bihar-will-be-improved-2000-km-roads-will-be-made-double-lane-nitish-government-decision-201731738467412.html)**

**<https://www.livehindustan.com/bihar/25000-km-rural-roads-of-bihar-will-be-improved-2000-km-roads-will-be-made-double-lane-nitish-government-decision-201731738467412.html>**

The Bihar government plans to improve 25,000 km of rural roads, including upgrading 2,000 km to double-lane standards. This initiative aims to enhance connectivity and includes a seven-year maintenance plan with regular resurfacing. A dedicated app will provide real-time information on road conditions. The project, expected to cost over ₹30,000 crore, will prioritize high-traffic routes and minimize land acquisition needs. This effort aligns with the state's broader infrastructure development goals, including reducing travel times across Bihar. (Translated to English)

# CHHATTISGARH

## Will Chhattisgarh farmers not be able to sow paddy?

Paddy procurement in Chhattisgarh is becoming a problem for the farmers. Recently, an audio went viral in which an order to stop cultivating paddy was issued to farmers, which caused a huge uproar. While there is no proof of the audio, Congress is targeting the government. Former state Congress president Dhanendra Sahu said that the BJP government is affecting paddy cultivation. As a state, Chhattisgarh is known for agricultural cultivation but in recent years, the water level has gone down and water is needed for paddy cultivation.

*(Translated from Hindi to English).*

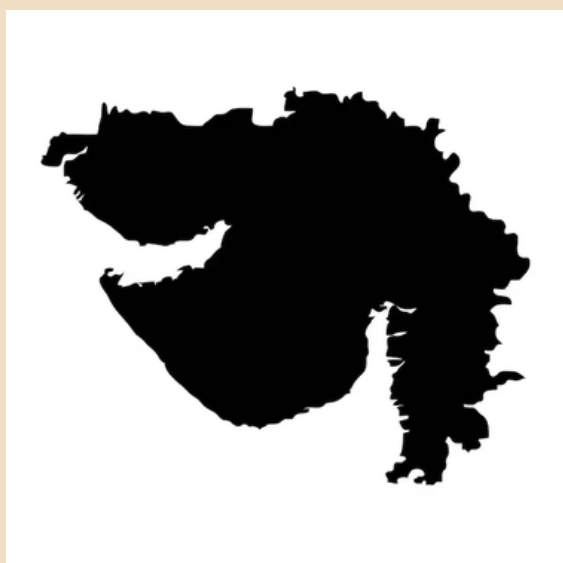


**Link of the article: (17th November, 2024)**

<https://hindi.news18.com/news/chhattisgarh/raipur-chhattisgarh-dhan-kharidi-government-ban-farmer-to-sow-paddy-order-audio-goes-viral-8842276.html>

# GUJARAT

## Cattle-keepers earn Rs. 5 per litre by selling Gaumutra in rural Bhabhar



**Link of the article: (16th November, 2024)**

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

.A groundbreaking Gaumutra plant, the first of its kind, begins operations on November 17 in Abala village, Bhabhar, North Gujarat. Local cattle-keepers can earn ₹5 per liter by selling cow urine, with current procurement at 1,500 liters daily. The plant will produce 10,000 liters of "Dhan Bhumi" liquid bio-fertilizer per day, promoting organic farming. Bhavesh Purohit, the plant's director, estimates that farmers in the region could earn up to ₹18 lakh monthly through this initiative. By converting Gaumutra into effective crop fertilizers, the plant supports sustainable agriculture and provides economic benefits to the farming community.

## HARYANA

### 500 High-Tech CM-PACS Centers to come up in Haryana to further empower farmers, boost rural development



About 500 new Central Government- Primary Agricultural Credit Society centres will be introduced in the state of Haryana to empower farmers and enhance rural development. This decision was taken and announced at Haryana's 15th Vidhan Sabha by the Governor of Haryana, Bandaru Dattatraya. The state government is planning to establish a network of cooperative organisations like Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACs). Additionally, the newly established FPOs and PACs will be given loans up to Rs. 1 Crore for constructing warehouses and storage spaces for grains.

**Link of the article: (13th November, 2024)**  
<https://www.babushahi.com/full-news.php?id=194589&headline=500-High-Tech-CM-PACS-Centers-to-come-up-in-Haryana-to-further-empower-farmers,-boost-rural-development>

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

### Bilaspur News: Lord Birsa Munda was remembered in Nilan village



Tribal Pride Day was organized by the Tribal Welfare Department and the local administration in village Neelan of Gram Panchayat Toba Sangwan under Sub-Division Shri Naina Devi Ji. The tribal correspondent officer, spoke about advocating the rights for the welfare of tribal communities. This day reminds of the sacrifices and struggles of tribal leaders and communities in the fight for justice and equality. A key aspect of the programme was the dissemination of information about government schemes aimed at the welfare of tribal communities, especially the Janjati Jan Kalyan Yojana. The programme focuses on improving the socio-economic conditions of the tribal population by providing better access to education, healthcare, housing and employment opportunities.  
 (Translated to English)

**Link of the article: (15th November, 2024)**  
<https://www.amarujala.com/himachal-pradesh/bilaspur/lord-birsa-munda-remembered-in-neelan-village-bilaspur-news-c-92-1-bls1001-126580-2024-11-15>

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Army traps Militants in Bandipora, Shootout on

In Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora, a shootout has erupted between the army and militants, with two militants reportedly trapped. This clash follows recent violence, including a grenade explosion in Srinagar's crowded Sunday market, injuring 12 civilians. Last week, security forces killed three terrorists in separate shootouts in Srinagar and Anantnag, where casualties included CRPF and police personnel. On November 2, two migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh were injured in a terrorist attack in Budgam while working on the Jal Jeevan Project. The recent surge in violence has heightened security concerns as authorities intensify anti-terror efforts across the region.

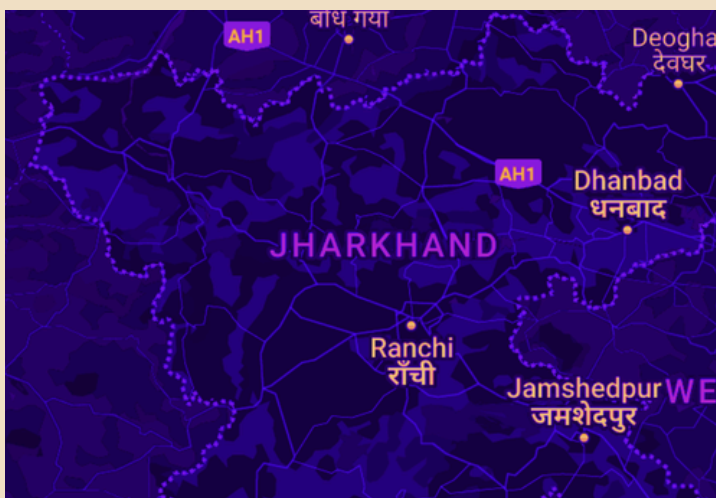


**Link of the article: (5th November, 2024)**

<https://news.abplive.com/news/india/bandipora-encounter-jammu-kashmir-army-traps-militants-shootout-on-1729219>

# JHARKHAND

## Tragic Drowning Incident Claims Four Lives in Jharkhand's Koyal River During Chhath Puja



Jharkhand's political dynamics are marked by distinct divides between urban and rural areas. Urban regions prioritize industrialization and infrastructure, while rural populations focus on welfare schemes and agriculture. These differences influence voting patterns, with urban areas leaning towards BJP and rural voters favoring JMM and Congress. Cultural and economic disparities further reinforce the division, creating challenges for balanced development and inclusive governance.

**Link of the article: (15th November, 2024)**

<https://thewire.in/politics/jharkhands-political-map-lines-sharply-drawn-between-urban-pockets-and-rural-areas>

## KARNATAKA

### Six arrested in Karnataka for assaulting youth after tying him to pole



The Bantwal Police have arrested six people for assaulting a 21 year old and tying him to a pole. The alleged incident took place at Kanchinadkapadavu in Sajipanadu village in Ullal taluk of Dakshina Kannada. Mohammed Mustafa, son of Abdul Rzak filed a complaint expressing that while visiting a distant relative, the six suspects harbored doubts against Mohammed for unspecified reasons. They further cornered the victim and tied him to a pole and assaulted him. He also stated that suspects intended to kill him. Mohammed suffered from injuries with the need for admission to a hospital on Sunday.

**Link of the article: (11h November, 2024)**

**<https://eng.ruralvoice.in/amp/international/world-banks-program-to-support-4-lakh-farmers-in-kerala-raise-9-million-for-agribusiness.html>**

## KERALA

### Centre allocates Rs 266 crore to Kerala under 15th Finance Commission...



The Centre has allocated grants of Rs 266.8 crore for rural bodies in Kerala ahead of the three bypolls in the State under the Fifteenth Finance Commission, as said by the Panchayati Raj Ministry. These funds are for all the 14 eligible district panchayats, 152 block panchayats and 941 gram panchayats in the southern state. "These funds are instrumental in making PRIs and RLBs more capable, accountable and self-reliant, thereby driving sustainable development across rural regions," the Ministry added.

**Link of the article: (12th November, 2024)**

**<https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2024/11/12/centre-allocates-grant-kerala-meghalaya-fifteenth-finance-commission.html>**



# MAHARASHTRA

## A clear rural-urban divide seen in Maharashtra voters' perspective

In the run-up to Maharashtra's Assembly election, a clear divide has emerged in terms of the issues at the top of voters' minds. Those in urban areas are drawn to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's influence and development agenda, while rural communities wrestle with the harsh realities of rising costs, inadequate minimum support prices (MSPs) for farm produce, and divisive rhetoric. The differences between rural and urban priorities underscores a central tension in the State's political arena, forcing the ruling Mahayuti and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi alliances to tackle contrasting demands. How they straddle the divide may prove decisive in shaping the election's outcome.



**Link of the article: (16th November, 2024)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/elections/maharashtra-assembly/high-prices-farm-distress-are-top-issues-for-maharashtras-rural-voters-but-city-dwellers-impressed-by-pms-agenda/article68867214.ece>

# MADHYA PRADESH

## Dalit village set on fire in post-poll violence



Image credit: istockphoto.com/suman bhaumik

**Link of the article: (14th November, 2024)**

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/dalit-village-set-on-fire-post-polls-in-madhya-pradeshs-vijaypur-7018970>

After the by-polls in Vijaypur Assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh, fire was set to a Dalit dominated village in Madhya Pradesh. The village, named Gohta village, was set aflame and terrified villagers ran to seek cover at a local police station. According to police staff, arguments and disputes between BJP and Congress workers that started at the beginning of the voting, lasted towards the end. The accused also pelted stones and vandalised houses during the assault.

# MANIPUR

## CSV's touring programme ends

The Chramram Segment Voice (CSV) concluded its touring programme on Saturday after visiting every village within the segment. Highlights included the RBCC Youth Gospel Meet at Chingkao and inspections of developmental projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The team addressed power supply issues, noting that some villages have lacked electricity since March, and identified a hazardous naked wire between Thiulon and Impa-Nkang villages. They urged the electric department to resolve these issues by November's end. A meeting with Thiulon authorities and youth groups discussed preparations for the 5th Chramram Segment Unity Cup in January 2025.



**Link of the article: (17th November, 2024)**  
<https://www.ifp.co.in/manipur/csvs-touring-programme-ends>

# ODISHA

## Loot in Hyderabad company; Rs 21 lakh kept hidden in Odisha village recovered



In a recent incident, police recovered ₹21 lakh that had been looted from a Hyderabad-based company, hidden in an Odisha village. After proper investigation and search at the founder's father-in-law's house, the money was discovered in a village in the Balasore district during a raid. Authorities acted on a tip-off regarding the stolen cash, which was linked to a robbery involving multiple suspects. The cash is currently still being counted. The founder is absconding and one person has been detained.

**Link of the article: (16th November, 2024)**  
<https://odishatv.in/news/crime/loot-in-hyderabad-company-rs-21-lakh-kept-hidden-odisha-village-recovered-248989>

## PUNJAB

### Punjab faces its worst paddy procurement crisis in 25 years

*Punjab is facing its worst paddy procurement crisis in 25 years, with delays in the process despite favorable weather conditions. Farmers are in distress, as evidenced by viral images of farmers pleading for help in grain markets. The crisis has sparked protests, with farm unions demanding immediate action. Coordination issues between the Central government, state authorities, and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) have worsened the situation. Farmers struggle with storage shortages, hybrid crop rejection, and labor disputes. The crisis is politically charged, with accusations against both state and Central governments for poor handling, threatening Punjab's agricultural future.*



**Link of the article: (16th November, 2024).**

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/agriculture/punjab-paddy-procurement-crisis-2024-msp-protests-storage-shortage-farmer-distress-fci-delays/article68835328.ece>

## SIKKIM

### French Ambassador highlights Sikkim's pioneering role in organic farming during official visit



**Link of the article: (12th November, 2024).**

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/french-ambassador-highlights-sikkims-pioneering-role-in-organic-farming-during-official-visit20241112142549/>

During a recent official visit, the French Ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain, praised Sikkim's leadership in organic farming. He emphasized Sikkim's achievement as the first fully organic state in India and highlighted the importance of sustainable agriculture. Lenain expressed interest in collaborating with Sikkim on environmental initiatives and enhancing trade relations, particularly in organic products. He also noted the state's potential to serve as a model for other regions aiming for sustainable practices. The visit aimed to strengthen ties between France and India, focusing on shared goals in agriculture and sustainability.

## TELANGANA

### Eight More Arrested in Connection with Lagacherla Pharma Village Protest

The Telangana Police have arrested eight more individuals linked to violent protests against the proposed Pharma Village in Lagacherla, raising the total arrests to 25. The protests erupted over concerns about environmental and health risks associated with the project, leading to clashes with police. Many residents have fled the village to avoid further arrests, as authorities intensify efforts to locate protestors. The Pharma Village aims to boost industrial growth, but local communities fear pollution and disruption to their lives. The escalating tension highlights a significant divide between government plans and community concerns regarding the project's implications for their environment and health.



**Link of the article: (16th November, 2024)**  
<https://munsifdaily.com/telangana-eight-more-arrested-in-connection-with-lagacherla-pharma-village-protest/>

## UTTAR PRADESH

### Uttar Pradesh government allocates rs 20 crores for winter relief: Blankets and bonfires for the vulnerable



**Link of the article: 16th Nov 2024**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/uttar-pradesh-government-allocates-rs-20-crores-for-winter-relief-blankets-and-bonfires-for-the-vulnerable/articleshow/115366580.cms>

The Uttar Pradesh government has released ₹20 crore to provide blankets and set up bonfires for vulnerable sections during the winter. ₹17.55 crore has been allocated to 351 tehsils for blankets and ₹1.75 crore for bonfires, with districts like Ghazipur and Gorakhpur receiving ₹38.5 lakh each. CM Yogi Adityanath emphasized the purchase of high-quality blankets and directed officials to ensure temporary shelters, food, clothing, and medical aid for the destitute, refugees, and homeless. Relief Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami stated that district magistrates and tehsildars have been instructed to conduct surveys and identify individuals at risk from the cold wave, ensuring timely assistance.

## UTTARAKHAND

### Administrators will sit in village and area panchayats, will be appointed in district panchayats next month

The Uttarakhand Tri-Tier Panchayat Organization is agitating for the extension of the tenure of three-tier panchayats in 12 other districts except Haridwar. Uttarakhand Tri-Tier Panchayat Sangathan is requesting an extension of three-tier panchayats' tenure in 12 other districts except Haridwar. The representatives of the panchayat state that due to the COVID pandemic they could not conduct meetings. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had also summoned a report from Secretary Panchayati Raj, but departmental officials say that the tenure of panchayats cannot be extended. There are more than three thousand area panchayat members in the state, after their tenure administrators will be appointed at gram panchayats by 10th Dec.



**[Link of the article: \(12th November, 2024\)](https://www.amarujala.com/dehradun/administrators-will-sit-in-village-and-gram-panchayats-uttarakhand-government-news-in-hindi-2024-11-12)**

**<https://www.amarujala.com/dehradun/administrators-will-sit-in-village-and-gram-panchayats-uttarakhand-government-news-in-hindi-2024-11-12>**

## WEST BENGAL

### Bengal; Death, Despair stalk Sharbatola people in Purulia Village



**[Link of the article: \(19th November, 2024\)](https://www.newsclick.in/bengal-death-despair-stalk-shabartola-people-purulia-village)**

**<https://www.newsclick.in/bengal-death-despair-stalk-shabartola-people-purulia-village>**

The Shabar tribal community in Shabartola, a settlement in Harjora village, Purulia district, faces extreme poverty, malnutrition, and isolation. Over the past three months, multiple deaths have occurred due to starvation, and many villagers, including children, lack basic education and Aadhaar-linked access to rations. Employment opportunities have dwindled, leaving residents without means of survival. Homes are crumbling, water supply is unreliable, and healthcare remains inaccessible, with many suffering from chronic illnesses. Despite promises from local authorities, no substantial aid has reached the community. The Shabartola residents live on the brink of despair, disconnected from the opportunities of modern society.

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