

# 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

## 'OURS IS A FARMER-FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT': KAKANI GOVARDHAN REDDY

A In a State Assembly discussion on agriculture, Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy highlighted the YSRC government's pro-farmer initiatives, highlighting Andhra Pradesh's impressive growth rate of 13.07% in 2021-22 compared to the national average of 10%. He also predicted a growth rate of 13.18% in the current fiscal year, surpassing the national average of 11.2%.

Reddy emphasized Andhra Pradesh's role as a model for other states, investing Rs 1,70,463 crore in agriculture and farmer welfare over the past 52 months. He also criticized the previous TDP regime for their treatment of farmers and highlighted investments in paddy procurement and Rural Business Knowledge Centers.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEP 27, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.NEWINDIANEXPRESS.COM/STATES/ANDHRA-PRADESH/2023/SEP/27/OURS-IS-A-FARMER-FRIENDLY-GOVERNMENTKAKANI-GOVARDHAN-REDDY-2618634.HTML](https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2023/sep/27/ours-is-a-farmer-friendly-government-kakani-govardhan-reddy-2618634.html)



# ASSAM

## ASSAM OFFICIAL GIVEN COMPULSORY RETIREMENT BY GOVERNMENT AFTER ARREST IN GRAFT CASE

AKhabiruddin Ahmed, the Block Development Officer of the Chapar-Shalkosa subdivision from Dhubri district, who was arrested on September 27 for corruption, has been told to retire voluntarily, according to a story in India Today. A departmental investigation that revealed the officer was engaging in corrupt behaviour at work led to the state intervention.

After receiving a formal notice from the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Khabiruddin's employment has been terminated. With effect from September 27, he will have to leave his job.

Khabiruddin was taken into custody two years ago after getting caught in a corruption scandal while serving as the Block Development Officer of the Gauripur subdivision.

The Panchayat and Rural Development Department has finally decided to terminate his employment after a comprehensive investigation.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEP 27, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.MSN.COM/EN-IN/NEWS/INDIA/ASSAM-OFFICIAL-GIVEN-COMPULSORY-RETIREMENT-BY-GOVERNMENT-AFTER-ARREST-IN-GRAFT-CASE/AR-AAIHK2IR](https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/india/assam-official-given-compulsory-retirement-by-government-after-arrest-in-graft-case/ar-AAIHK2IR)





# BIHAR

## RURAL ROADS, TOLLS WILL BE CONNECTED IN 20 DISTRICTS OF BIHAR.

The rapid construction of rural roads in Bihar is underway, with a total length of approximately 8283 kilometers. By March 2024, extensive construction of rural roads will be completed in Bihar, connecting about 7209 settlements or hamlets. This plans to happen to about 20 districts in Bihar which includes Araria, Purnia, Muzaffapur and Madhubani districts. The construction process is currently ongoing and is anticipated to accelerate following the conclusion of the monsoon season. The Rural Works Department has explicitly instructed all its engineers to ensure the timely construction of these roads, while maintaining a high standard of quality.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the road construction efforts, the department has been directed to geo-tag and generate a comprehensive report of the completed roads. This initiative aims to document and preserve detailed information regarding the newly constructed roads. Additionally, noteworthy developments have arisen concerning the construction of drainages and streets.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 1ST, 2023)  
[HTTPS://WWW.PRABHATKABAR.COM/STATE/BIHAR/BIHAR-GRAMIN-ROAD-PROJECT-NEWS-AS-MANY-PROJECTS-TO-START-INCLUDING-GALI-NALI-YOJANA-SKT](https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/state/bihar/bihar-gramin-road-project-news-as-many-projects-to-start-including-gali-nali-yojana-skt)

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

# GUJARAT

## MOBILE PORT FRAUD: I.37 LAKH WITHDRAWN FROM TRADER'S ACCOUNT IN JAKHOU

A complaint has been lodged against Isam of Jamnagar, who withdrew Rs 1.37 lakh from the account of a person dealing in mosquito netting at Jakhou port of Abdasa. According to the details, the complainant Husenbhai Suya has filed a complaint against the accused Akbar Satar Jam at the cyber police station. According to Husenbhai, the accused had come with his car to the complainant's riots at Jakhou port. The accused told him that the internet was not working in his phone.

After sometime, the SIM card kept in the complainant's phone got switched off. When the complainant went to join the new number in his Bank account, three transactions occurred from his account.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEP 27, 2023)  
[HTTPS://WWW.DIVYABHASKAR.CO.IN/LOCAL/GUJARAT/KUTCH/NEWS/137-LAKHS-WERE-WITHDRAWN-FROM-THE-ACCOUNT-OF-A-TRADER-IN-JAKHOU-131902581.HTML](https://www.divyabhaskar.co.in/local/gujarat/kutch/news/137-lakhs-were-withdrawn-from-the-account-of-a-trader-in-jakhou-131902581.html)

(TRANSLATED FROM GUJARATI TO ENGLISH)



# HARYANA

## FOUR FARMERS, 10 OFFICIALS TO FACE THE HEAT FOR FARM FIRES IN KARNAL

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department reported four farmers from the Karnal district to the police for burning stubble despite a ban on doing so. After the Haryana Space Application Centre (HARSAC) identified five instances of farm fires in Barsat, Kambopura, Kutana, and Gharaunda, the department took action against the farmers. According to DC Yadav, the district has implemented Section 144 of the CrPC, which forbids burning crop waste that contributes to air pollution.

Meetings have been held by the department in the villages. To reduce the number of cases, village-level tracking groups have been requested to be more vigilant.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 1, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.TRIBUNEINDIA.COM/NEWS/HARYANA/FOUR-FARMERS-10-OFFICIALS-TO-FACE-THE-HEAT-FOR-FARM-FIRES-IN-KARNAL-549257](https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/four-farmers-10-officials-to-face-the-heat-for-farm-fires-in-karnal-549257)

# HARYANA

## CHALLENGE RALLY ON 8TH, RURAL SANITATION WORKERS WILL GO ON STRIKE FROM 10TH

Regarding their unresolved demands, thousands of rural sanitation workers in Haryana will conduct a rally in Karnal on October 8 and go on a three-day state-wide strike from October 10 to 12. Rural Safai Karmachari Union Haryana (CITU) has issued a warning that the 3-day strike would extend longer if the demands are not met by October 12.

This warning was issued during the Rural Safai Karmachari Union meeting on Sunday at Prabhat Bhawan. Comrade Vinod, the district secretary of the CITU, and Sandeep Ladhot, he union's block head, claimed that the requests for

a monthly salary of Rs. 26 thousand, inclusion on the payroll of BDPO, hiring one employee for every 400 people, etc., are not being paid attention to.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 2 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.AMARUJALA.COM/HARYANA/ROHTAK/RURAL-CLEANING-WORKERS-WILL-GO-ON-STRIKE-FROM-EIGHT-TO-EIGHT-ROHTAK-NEWS-C-I7-ROHIOI8-260472-2023-10-02](https://www.amarujala.com/haryana/rohtak/rural-cleaning-workers-will-go-on-strike-from-eight-to-eight-rohtak-news-c-i7-rohioi8-260472-2023-10-02)

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)





# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## SHOPKEEPERS HOLD PROTEST IN SOPORE FOR REMOVAL OF ROAD DIVIDERS

Several vendors from a number of marketplaces in Sopore town, Baramulla district, held a non-violent demonstration against the administration on Thursday over the building of road dividers at the main chowk, stating that the road blockade is affecting their business. "More than 500 shopkeepers are facing tremendous hardships and losses in business since the last two years as local administration has erected concrete road dividers at main chowk which adversely affects our business," said Mohammad Sadiq Lone, a shopkeeper at main bazaar.

He stated that Sopore's main chowk is historic and should stay open for traffic circulation.

In the meantime, a police team arrived on the scene and informed the shops that they would meet with officials to discuss and resolve their concerns, prompting the shopkeepers to end their protest.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEP 29, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.GREATERKASHMIR.COM/TODAYS-PAPER/KASHMIR-TODAYS-PAPER/SHOPKEEPERS-HOLD-PROTEST-IN-SOPORE-FOR-REMOVAL-OF-ROAD-DIVIDERS](https://www.greaterkashmir.com/todays-paper/kashmir-todays-paper/shopkeepers-hold-protest-in-sopore-for-removal-of-road-dividers)

# KARNATAKA

## WORLD BANK SANCTIONS FUNDS FOR WATER CONNECTIONS IN RURAL HOMES IN KARNATAKA

A \$363 million loan from the World Bank has been approved for rural Karnataka, India, in order to guarantee the availability of clean and potable water there. The state government would be able to use its own funds for other initiatives by using the loan to pay for its portion of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Eight disbursement-linked incentives make up the loan, with the provision of functioning household tap connections being the main priority.

Additionally, the money will be utilized to improve institutional training, monitor water quality, and restore tanks in seven districts. Whether the loan will be counted towards the central government's portion is up for debate.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEP 27, 2023)

[HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/BENGALURU/WORLD-BANK-SANCTIONS-FUNDS-FOR-WATER-CONNECTIONS-IN-RURAL-HOMES-IN-KARNATAKA/ARTICLESHOW/I03977007.CMS](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/CITY/BENGALURU/WORLD-BANK-SANCTIONS-FUNDS-FOR-WATER-CONNECTIONS-IN-RURAL-HOMES-IN-KARNATAKA/ARTICLESHOW/I03977007.CMS)



# KERALA

## WELCOME TO LITTLE-KNOWN KANTHALLOOR IN KERALA, WHICH WON UNION GOVERNMENT GOLDEN AWARD FOR BEST RURAL TOURISM PROJECT

Kanthalloor, a village in Idukki, Kerala has been making headlines for having received the "gold" award in best rural tourism projects from the union government. It got recognised as so because of its unique ecotourism. It has many attractions including diverse fruit and vegetable farms, trekking opportunities, visits to prehistoric burial sites, and Chinnar wildlife sanctuary. The beautiful small village is locally known as the "Kashmir of Kerala". The award was received by PB Nooh, Kerala's tourism director who acknowledged the importance of an award that honors the ethnic and sustainable ecotourism practiced by Kanthalloor.

Efforts like a ban on plastic and proper waste collection have been made to ensure the same. Kanthalloor's panchayat is also the first in the country to implement women friendly tourism.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 1, 2023)

[HTTPS://THESOUTHFIRST.COM/KERALA/WELCOME-TO-LITTLE-KNOWN-KANTHALLOOR-IN-KERALA-WHICH-WON-UNION-GOVERNMENT-GOLDEN-AWARD-FOR-BEST-RURAL-TOURISM-PROJECT/](https://thesouthfirst.com/kerala/welcome-to-little-known-kanthalloor-in-kerala-which-won-union-government-golden-award-for-best-rural-tourism-project/)

# MADHYA PRADESH

## BETUL- DAM WORTH AROUND RS 300 CRORE FALLING PREY TO CORRUPTION, LARGE PART OF DAM UNDER CONSTRUCTION WASHED AWAY. FARMERS CROPS GETTING RUINED.

The monsoon has washed away a major portion of the Rs 307 crore Gadha Dam that is being built in Betul. The crops produced in the fields of many farmers have suffered significant damage as a result of the flood water brought on by the dam break. Farmers in the area have charged officials, including the contractor, of negligence during construction.

The local farmers frequently voiced their concerns about building neglect to the corporation and officials even when the dam's layout plan was published, but no one paid attention to them, and as a result, a sizable portion of the area next to the structure—roughly 6 meters tall and 50 meters long—became corrupted. Numerous farmers' crops have been destroyed by the water.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEP 26, 2023):

[HTTPS://WWW.NEWSPURAN.COM/DAM-WORTH-RS-300-CRORE-FALLING-PREY-TO-CORRUPTION-LARGE-PART-OF-DAM-UNDER-CONSTRUCTION-WASHED-AWAY](https://www.newspuran.com/dam-worth-rs-300-crore-falling-prey-to-corruption-large-part-of-dam-under-construction-washed-away)

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)





# MAHARASHTRA

## DHANGAR COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN RESERVATION FROM TRIBALS', PROTEST BY TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS OF NASHIK

The Dhangar community is agitating for 21 days, demanding a reservation separate from tribal quotas. This has sparked aggression within the tribal society in Nashik district. Rasta Roko protests were held in Dindori and Trimbakeshwar talukas opposing the inclusion of the Dhangar community in tribal reservations. Another agitation is planned for October 1, reiterating the tribal community's objection to granting reservation to the Dhangar community within the tribal quota. In Dindori town, a significant road stop protest took place, with tribals urging the government to prioritize

their existing reservation needs. On the Nashik-Vani road, tribal community members protested, stressing that current reservations are insufficient and should not be extended.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEP 29, 2023)

[HTTPS://MARATHI.ABPLIVE.COM/NEWS/NASHIK/NASHIK-LATEST-NEWS-PROTEST-BY-TRIBAL-COMMUNITY-ON-NASHIK-VANI-ROAD-NEAR-DINDORI-MAHARASHTRA-NEWS-1213721](https://marathi.abplive.com/news/nashik/nashik-latest-news-protest-by-tribal-community-on-nashik-vani-road-near-dindori-maharashtra-news-1213721)



# MAHARASHTRA

## SOON, DISASTER RELIEF KITS, RESCUE TRAINING FOR VILLAGERS

Villages in Maharashtra will soon be equipped with disaster relief kits and around a dozen residents will be given rescue training so that they can act quickly in the face of calamities. Often, it takes around half an hour for professional help to arrive, according to relief and rehabilitation minister Anil Patil. The locals are usually the first to help but they are not equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to handle and aid people effectively. A proposal is being created with Gram Panchayats for the same. In addition, 'fire bikes' may be planted to fight infernos in congested bylanes.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEP 30, 2023)

[HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/NAGPUR/SON-DISASTER-RELIEF-KITS-RESCUE-TRAINING-FOR-VILLAGERS/ARTICLESHOW/I04056623.CMS](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/CITY/NAGPUR/SON-DISASTER-RELIEF-KITS-RESCUE-TRAINING-FOR-VILLAGERS/ARTICLESHOW/I04056623.CMS)





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# MANIPUR

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## NIA ARRESTS ONE FROM MANIPUR'S CHURACHANDPUR FOR 'WAGING WAR AGAINST INDIA'

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The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested a 51 year old man identified as Seiminlun Gangte from the hill district of Churachandpur, a Kuki-Zo dominated area, on Saturday. He was brought to Delhi after his arrest and will be produced before the court. The Manipur Police said that he is one of the accused in a bomb blast case in Kwakta, an area dominated by Meitei Pangals or Muslims.

This is a case related to a transnational conspiracy by terrorists in Myanmar and Bangladesh and militant leaders in India to "wage war" against the Indian Government by exploiting the ethnic unrest in Manipur.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT I, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/NIA-ARRESTS-ONE-FROM-MANIPURS-CHURACHANDPUR-FOR-WAGING-WAR-AGAINST-INDIA/ARTICLE67366932.ECE](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nia-arrests-one-from-manipurs-churachandpur-for-waging-war-against-india/article67366932.ece)



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# ODISHA

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## DOUBLE MURDER OVER SUSPECTED SORCERY PRACTICE IN GHODAPANKA VILLAGE

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A double murder took place in the Gajapati district of Odisha. A couple was killed in the presence of neighbours on Monday late evening. While there is no exact reason given yet, it is suspected that the murder was done due to suspected sorcery practices. While they were bleeding to their death, the neighbours refused to help due to fear of being attacked by the miscreants.

One of the deceased had survived an earlier murder attempt for similar reasons. The police have started their investigations on the same, and five suspects have been detained.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEPT 26 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.NEWINDIANEXPRESS.COM/STATES/ODISHA/2023/SEP/26/DOUBLE-MURDER-OVER-SUSPECTED-SORCERY-ROCKS-GHODAPANKA-VILLAGE-IN-ODISHAS-GAJAPATI-DISTRICT-2618411.HTML](https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2023/sep/26/double-murder-over-suspected-sorcery-rocks-ghodapanka-village-in-odishas-gajapati-district-2618411.html)





# PUNJAB

## 18 YEARS ON, PUNJAB HAS NO RULES FOR DISBURSAL OF UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE

Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), an ombudsman has ordered unemployment allowance for over 300 workers in 13 villages of Patiala District, Punjab. According to the Act, the Centre pays wages for workers while the state government gives the unemployment allowance when 100 days of work during a financial year is not provided. Ombudsman Gurnetar Singh received 100 complaints over the past few years regarding the disbursement of unemployment allowance to workers in Punjab.

MGNREGA officials tried to disburse the funds but even after 18 years of this Act, there were no rules and official notifications on how to go about disbursing the funds.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEPT 25, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.HINDUSTANTIMES.COM/CITIES/CHANDIGARH-NEWS/18-YEARS-ON-PUNJAB-HAS-NO-RULES-FOR-DISBURSAL-OF-UNEMPLOYMENT-ALLOWANCE-101695585592734.HTML](https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/18-years-on-punjab-has-no-rules-for-disbursement-of-unemployment-allowance-101695585592734.html)

# RAJASTHAN

## TRADERS, FARMERS END SIT-IN FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKET

The farmers' and traders' sit-in at the Todaraisingh agricultural market in Rajasthan ended after just a day, due to getting a written assurance from the Agriculture Market Secretary. The protesters had demanded better facilities for the market as it lacked essential infrastructure and development, even though it generated substantial tax revenue for the government. The market currently lacks platforms, toilets, tin sheds, and proper roads, leading to crop damage and losses for farmers and traders - for which reason they staged a sit-in.

The officials have now promised to construct two concrete roads and two large tin sheds, leading to the end of the protest.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEPT 27, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.BHASKAR.COM/LOCAL/RAJASTHAN/TONK/NEWS/STRIKE-OF-TRADERS-AND-FARMERS-ENDS-131898871.HTML](https://www.bhaskar.com/local/rajasthan/tonk/news/strike-of-traders-and-farmers-ends-131898871.html)

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)



# RAJASTHAN

## TWO VILLAGES OF THE STATE WIN THE BEST TOURISM VILLAGE COMPETITION 2023

In collaboration with the global initiative "Travel for Life," the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in India, along with the United Nations World Tourism Organization and UN Environment, have announced the winners of the "Best Tourism Village Competition 2023." Two villages in Rajasthan have been recognized for their tourism potential: Menar Village in Udaipur secured the silver award, and Naurangabad Village in Karauli received the bronze.

The competition featured gold, silver, and bronze categories and attracted 795 applications from villages across India. This initiative aims to promote sustainable tourism in these rural areas.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEPT 30, 2023)

[HTTPS://BUSINESSNEWTTHISWEEK.COM/BUSINESS/RAJASTHAN-TWO-VILLAGES-OF-THE-STATE-WIN-THE-BEST-TOURISM-VILLAGE-COMPETITION-2023/](https://businessnewsthisweek.com/business/rajasthan-two-villages-of-the-state-win-the-best-tourism-village-competition-2023/)



# TAMIL NADU

## TN LAUNCHES ONLINE PLATFORM TO PAY HOUSE, PROFESSIONAL TAXES, WATER CHARGES FOR PANCHAYAT LIMITS

In a significant rural development move, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has launched an online tax portal that specifically benefits residents in village panchayats. This portal allows them to conveniently pay various taxes and charges online, eliminating the need for rural residents to physically visit local offices for these transactions. Additionally, the Chief Minister inaugurated 1,000 new classrooms under the Child Friendly School Infrastructure Development Programme, emphasizing the importance of education in rural areas.

Furthermore, the introduction of a portal for efficient accounting of rural local bodies highlights the government's commitment to improving rural governance and services. This holistic approach underscores the focus on rural development and accessibility in Tamil Nadu.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEPT 26, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/TAMIL-NADU/TN-LAUNCHES-ONLINE-PLATFORM-TO-PAY-HOUSE-PROFESSIONAL-TAXES-WATER-CHARGES-FOR-PANCHAYAT-LIMITS/ARTICLE67348143.ECE](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tn-launches-online-platform-to-pay-house-professional-taxes-water-charges-for-panchayat-limits/article67348143.ece)





# TAMIL NADU

## NAAM TAMILAR PARTY PROTESTS KARNATAKA'S CAUVERY RIVER STANDOFF AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED DENIAL OF TAMIL RIGHTS

FA demonstration was organized by the Naam Tamilar Party to protest against the Karnataka Government's refusal to release water from the Cauvery River and the Central Government's alleged denial of Tamil rights. Chattay Duraimurugan, the State Policy Propagation Secretary of the party, led the protest in front of Pudur Bus Stand. Participants also criticized the central BJP government for allegedly discriminating against Tamil Nadu's rights despite condemnation. Demonstrators raised slogans against the Karnataka government for not complying with river and water commission orders. Various party leaders, including Arun Jayaseelan, Abbas, Sivanandham, Saral, Pandiammal, Anbarasi, Sachin Fatima, and others, joined the protest. The demonstration aimed to highlight these grievances and demand action.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 1, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.DAILYTHANTHI.COM/NEWS/STATE/NAAM-TAMIL-PARTY-PROTEST-IN-MADURAI-I063860](https://www.dailythanthi.com/news/state/naam-tamil-party-protest-in-madurai-i063860)

(TRANSLATED FROM TAMIL TO ENGLISH)

# TELANGANA

## TELANGANA COURT SENTENCES MAN TO DEATH FOR KIDNAP, MURDER OF 9-YEAR-OLD BOY

A 22-year-old mechanic, Sagar, was sentenced to death in Mahabubabad district, Telangana, for kidnapping and murdering a 9-year-old boy in October 2020. Sagar, acquainted with the boy's father, abducted the child to extort ransom upon discovering a recent property purchase. He took the boy to Annaram village, administered sleeping pills, and strangled him to prevent exposure. Sagar demanded a ransom of Rs 45 lakh from the parents, then incinerated the boy's body to eliminate evidence. Police confirmed the motive as ransom, but Sagar killed the boy out of fear of being caught. The charred body was discovered four days later.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEPT 29, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.NEWS9LIVE.COM/STATE/TELANGANA/TELANGANA-A-COURT-SENTENCES-MAN-TO-DEATH-FOR-KIDNAP-MURDER-OF-9-YEAR-OLD-BOY-2304336](https://www.news9live.com/state/teLANGANA/TELANGANA-COURT-SENTENCES-MAN-TO-DEATH-FOR-KIDNAP-MURDER-OF-9-YEAR-OLD-BOY-2304336)



# UTTAR PRADESH

## 'LAND JIHAD' THE LATEST CATCHPHRASE IN UP POLITICS? RSS SOUNDS ALARM, PLANS 'AWARENESS DRIVE' IN RURAL AREAS

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist organization, has raised concerns about 'Land Jihad' in Uttar Pradesh, distinct from the controversial 'Love Jihad.' 'Land Jihad' involves Muslims purchasing land in Hindu-majority areas and constructing religious structures. It allegedly leads to Hindu displacement and demographic shifts. The RSS and affiliated groups view it as a conspiracy to alter the religious composition of certain regions.

Despite the RSS's warnings and plans to create awareness, the Uttar Pradesh government has not commented on the issue. This development adds to ongoing debates about religious and land-related tensions in Indian politics.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEPT 30, 2023)  
[HTTPS://WWW.NEWS18.COM/POLITICS/LAND-JIHAD-THE-LATEST-CATCHPHRASE-IN-UP-POLITICS-RSS-SOUNDS-ALARM-PLANS-AWARENESS-DRIVE-IN-RURAL-AREAS-8598367.HTML](https://www.news18.com/politics/land-jihad-the-latest-catchphrase-in-up-politics-rss-sounds-alarm-plans-awareness-drive-in-rural-areas-8598367.html)

# WEST BENGAL

## IN WEST BENGAL, FOUR VILLAGES ARE PRESERVING A CULTURE OF GENERATIONS-OLD INDIGENOUS BOAT RACES

For nearly a decade, several villages in southern West Bengal have celebrated a tradition of indigenous boat races along the region's smaller rivers. This practice is deeply rooted in the local culture and involves men who bring their own boats, known as "sarki", which can carry 20 people. Those not directly competing provide logistical support, including cheering and cooking. During the race days, participating boats are accompanied by a 'follow boat' called 'dongi' in Bengali, where the men reside when not racing. These races, known as 'baich khela' or 'nouka baich' in Bengali, take place in September after the monsoon season, and the villagers have free time after sowing their paddy crops. The tradition is linked to Goddess Manasa as a farewell ritual.

However, the younger generations are less inclined to participate due to the hard work, time commitment, and limited financial return. Consequently, only a few boats participated in recent years due to high maintenance costs and food expenses.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (SEPT 28, 2023)

[HTTPS://INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ARTICLE/CITIES/KOLKATA/WEST-BENGAL-FOUR-VILLAGES-CULTURE-INDIGENOUS-BOAT-RACES-8959968/](https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/kolkata/west-bengal-four-villages-culture-indigenous-boat-races-8959968/)







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