

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

PLEA TO CANCEL LICENCE GIVEN FOR STONE QUARRYING NEAR VILLAGE IN TIRUNELVELI

Residents of Thaathanooththu in Shankar Nagar village submitted a plea to Collector K.P. Karthikeyan, urging the cancellation of a stone quarrying license due to safety risks and environmental harm. With a predominant livelihood in cattle rearing and agriculture, the excessive use of explosives by the quarry operators endangered both livestock and cultivable lands. Moreover, structural damages were observed in the village due to the vibrations caused by nearby quarries. Similarly, other organizations, including the National Backward Class Welfare Association, Thamizhar Viduthalai Kalam, coastal

fishermen groups, and the Tamil Nadu HMS Construction Unorganised Workers' Forum, presented petitions on issues like caste-based census, local employment opportunities, regular fishermen's grievance redressal meetings, and simplified procedures for housing subsidies, along with an appeal for a 'Deepavali bonus' for construction workers.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 16, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/CITIES/MADURAI/PLEA-TO-CANCEL-LICENCE-GIVEN-FOR-STONE-QUARRYING-NEAR-VILLAGE-IN-TIRUNELVELI/ARTICLE67426554.ECE.](https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/madurai/plea-to-cancel-licence-given-for-stone-quarrying-near-village-in-tirunelveli/article67426554.ece)

ASSAM

ASSAM APPEALS FOR FINANCING FROM WORLD BANK FOR RURAL BRIDGE PROGRAMME

The Assam Government has applied for monetary assistance from the World Bank for the Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Programme in an effort to improve rural connectivity in the state. This program's goal is to improve the Assam Public Works and Road Department's capacity to manage roads and bridges while establishing strong, inclusive, and durable connectivity in rural Assam. Due to the significant building expenses involved, the state government has requested financial aid. A previous open bidding process for the construction of 21 rural bridges under 48 crores had been initiated by the Assam PWD.

However, the government has now decided to increase the scope of the project and spend 62 crores building an extra 28 rural bridges. According to sources, initial consent has been granted by the World Bank.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 10, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.GUWAHATIPLUS.COM/ASSAM/ASSAM-SEEKS-WORLD-BANK-FINANCING-FOR-RURAL-BRIDGE-PROGRAMME](https://www.guwahatipius.com/assam/assam-seeks-world-bank-financing-for-rural-bridge-programme)

BIHAR

10 ANGANWADI WORKERS TO GO ON HUNGER STRIKE FROM OCTOBER, OVER ONE LAKH CHILDREN AFFECTED

Residents of Thaathanooththu in Shankar Nagar village submitted a plea to Collector K.P. Karthikeyan, urging the cancellation of a stone quarrying license due to safety risks and environmental harm. With a predominant livelihood in cattle rearing and agriculture, the excessive use of explosives by the quarry operators endangered both livestock and cultivable lands. Moreover, structural damages were observed in the village due to the vibrations caused by nearby quarries. Similarly, other organizations, including the National Backward Class Welfare Association, Thamizhar Viduthalai Kalam, coastal

fishermen groups, and the Tamil Nadu HMS Construction Unorganised Workers' Forum, presented petitions on issues like caste-based census, local employment opportunities, regular fishermen's grievance redressal meetings, and simplified procedures for housing subsidies, along with an appeal for a 'Deepavali bonus' for construction workers.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 9, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.PRABHATKHBAR.COM/STATE/BIHAR/SASARAM/ANGANWADI-WORKERS-ON-STRIKE-WILL-NOT-EAT-FOOD-FROM-OCTOBER-10-AXS](https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/state/bihar/sasaram/anganwadi-workers-on-strike-will-not-eat-food-from-october-10-axs)

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

GUJARAT

BHASKAR EXPOSE: TOILETS AND GROUNDS WERE CLEANED BY STUDENTS

A cleanliness drive sometimes involves cleaning, but at the primary school in Sokhda village, principal Ushaben Chavda asked the children to clean the toilets and the school field. If they do not clean, the toilets get locked and the girls are forced to defecate in the open. Complaints were registered about this.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 14, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.DIVYABHASKAR.CO.IN/LOCAL/GUJARAT/RAJKOT/NEWS/THE-TOILETS-AND-GROUNDS-OF-THE-STUDENTS-WERE-CLEANED-131988427.HTML](https://www.divyabhaskar.co.in/local/gujarat/rajkot/news/the-toilets-and-grounds-of-the-students-were-cleaned-131988427.html)

(TRANSLATED FROM GUJARATI TO ENGLISH)



HARYANA

MLA DAHIYA DIRECTS COOP. DEPTT FOR UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF FERTILIZER TO FARMERS, TOOLS FOR STUBBLE MANAGEMENT

MLA Rural Rjnesh Dahiya headed over a significant gathering with the elected officials of the Cooperative Department for the continuous supply of fertiliser for planting wheat to the farmers and agricultural equipment for managing stubble. He said that Punjab will only be successful if our farmers are content. As a result, farmers should avoid any sort of issues and should receive a continuous supply of fertiliser during wheat season.

According to him, throughout the paddy season, farmers should get education on how to properly dispose of grass and receive equipment through authority. In the meantime, he warned that anybody noticed selling fertiliser illegally would face harsh punishment. Additionally, he urged the farmers in the area not to burn the paddy waste.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 10, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.BAEUSHAHI.COM/VIEW-NEWS.PHP?](https://www.baushahi.com/view-news.php?id=172483&headline=mla-dahiya-directs-coop.-deptt-for-uninterrupted-supply-of-fertilizer-to-farmers,-tools-for-stubble-management)

[ID=172483&HEADLINE=MLA-DAHIYA-DIRECTS-COOP.-DEPTT-FOR-UNINTERRUPTED-SUPPLY-OF-FERTILIZER-TO-FARMERS,-TOOLS-FOR-STUEBLE-MANAGEMENT](https://www.baushahi.com/view-news.php?id=172483&headline=mla-dahiya-directs-coop.-deptt-for-uninterrupted-supply-of-fertilizer-to-farmers,-tools-for-stubble-management)



HARYANA

BARREN LAND WAS CONVERTED INTO 'GOLD' FROM STUBBLE, CROPS STARTED GROWING IN THE FIELD DUE TO THIS MIRACLE OF THE FARMER

In October, the paddy crop is harvested all over the nation. In North India, occurrences of stubble burning are also rising at this time. Every year, a significant number of these instances also take place in Haryana. To prevent farmers from burning stubble, the government is implementing a program to raise awareness. Farmers who burn stubble are being subjected to harsh punishment. A farmer in Karnal is producing well by using stubble as fertilizer in his fields rather than burning it.

According to farmer Samarth Singh, he tends to 60 acres of land. On part of these acres, they use a cutter to harvest the stubble and blend it into the soil (in-see-to management), while on other acres, they use a baler to create bales (ex-see-to management).

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 15 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.AAJTAK.IN/AGRICULTURE/AGRICULTURE-RURAL-NEWS/STORY/PARALI-PRABANDHAN-HARYANA-FARMER-GROWS-CROPS-ON-BARREN-LAND-BY-USING-STUBBLE-AS-FERTILISERS-SDLBSA-1799796-2023-10-15](https://www.aajtak.in/agriculture/agriculture-rural-news/story/parali-prabandhan-haryana-farmer-grows-crops-on-barren-land-by-using-stubble-as-fertilisers-sdlbsa-1799796-2023-10-15)

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)



JAMMU & KASHMIR

HAILSTORM DAMAGES APPLE CROP IN SOUTH KASHMIR

The unharvested apple crop was severely damaged by a severe hailstorm that struck numerous villages in the Shopian and Kulgam districts of south Kashmir on Sunday evening. The villages of Kanjiullar, Kapran, Feripora, Pratappora, and Vehil in the Shopian district were impacted by the hailstorm. The hailstorm, which predicted disaster for the unharvested crop, lasted for about 8 to 10 minutes, according to Muhammad Asif, a farmer from Kanjiullar, who spoke with Greater Kashmir.

He indicated that around 60 percent of the crop in the region was yet to be harvested. The apple farmers have gone through massive losses over recent years due to the perennial shutdown of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, market glut, and unseasonal snowstorms.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 16, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.GREATERKASHMIR.COM/KASHMIR/HAILSTORM-DAMAGES-APPLE-CROP-IN-SOUTH-KASHMIR](https://www.greaterkashmir.com/kashmir/hailstorm-damages-apple-crop-in-south-kashmir)

KARNATAKA

TRADERS' BODY URGES TO LIFT BAN ON MUSLIM VENDORS IN TEMPLE FAIRS FOR DASARA FESTIVAL

A traders' association in coastal Karnataka is requesting district authorities to permit Muslim vendors to participate in temple fairs during the upcoming Dasara festival season. Last year, some shrines banned Muslim vendors, citing concerns raised by Hindu groups. The association, comprising members from diverse religious backgrounds, seeks permission for Muslim vendors to set up stalls on public roads near temples, not within temple premises.

The ban started amid the hijab controversy in Karnataka, with the BJP government justifying it using existing rules. The association is concerned about the economic losses experienced by Muslim vendors.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 15, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://THEWIRE.IN/RIGHTS/KARNATAKA-TRADERS-BODY-URGES-TO-LIFT-BAN-ON-MUSLIM-VENDORS-IN-TEMPLE-FAIRS-FOR-DASARA-FESTIVAL](https://thewire.in/rights/karnataka-traders-body-urges-to-lift-ban-on-muslim-vendors-in-temple-fairs-for-dasara-festival)

KERALA

MGNREGA: KERALA WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS TO LAUNCH NATIONWIDE PROTEST IN FRONT OF PARLIAMENT

The NREG Workers' Federation, affiliated to the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) is planning to launch a nationwide protest opposing the reduction in working days and budget for MGNREGA. Centre's reduced budget allocation is said to have reduced working days and wages. The centre had sanctioned only 6 crore working days, when the Kerala government had prepared a labor budget for 10 crore days. The General Secretary of the Union General, S Rajendran, alleges that these changes weaken the scheme.

Major demands of the federation include increasing wage from Rs. 333 to Rs.700, ensuring 200 working days, inclusion of NREGA workers under the ESI limit, formulation of national welfare board, provision of additional wage to matrons for additional work, and inclusion of workers in group insurances among others.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT I2, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://ENGLISH.MATHRUBHUMI.COM/NEWS/KERALA/MGNREGA-KERALA-WORKERS-ORGANISATIONS-TO-LAUNCH-NATIONWIDE-PROTEST-IN-FRONT-OF-PARLIAMENT-I.8980413](https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/mgnrega-kerala-workers-organisations-to-launch-nationwide-protest-in-front-of-parliament-1.8980413)



MADHYA PRADESH

NARMADAPURAM- SAVED BARREN LAND FROM CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS: NARMADAPURAM FARMER DOES ORGANIC FARMING, ALSO MAKES FERTILIZER; PROFIT 3.5 LAKH

Chemical fertilizers are widely used by farmers to increase yields. Roop Singh Rajput is a farmer from Rohna village who has developed a distinctive reputation by practicing organic farming. He owns roughly 4 acres of land for farming. He spent 13 years farming using chemicals but wasn't making much profit. Even premium grains were hard to get by. He considered switching to organic farming in 2012-2013 and then took training from the Agricultural Department.

Chemical fertilizers according to him produce well for a few years but the soil's fertility begins to decline and the area gradually turns arid leading to a decline in production. He produces manure using cow dung and vermicompost. He has received high-quality grains, increased soil fertility, and made a yearly profit of 3.5 lakhs.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT I3, 2023\):](#)

[HTTPS://DAINIK-B.IN/OFXG7KFCGDE](https://dainik-b.in/ofxg7kfcgde)

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)



MAHARASHTRA

STRUGGLE OVER LOCAL MANAGEMENT, IN SANEGAON, WOMEN ATTEMPT TO SET THEMSELVES ON FIRE.

A conflict rose at Sanegaon Jetty after a local dumper owner was run over by a car while opposing outside dumper traffic. The incident led to roadblocks on Alibag-Roha road and some women even tried to set themselves on fire. Indo Energy International Jetty, located in Sonegaon, brings coal for the steel company through barges. The jetty management and local dumper owners are in conflict over the increase in transport rates and locals' complaints of extortion. A local dumper owner who was protesting the tension at the jetty was run over by a train and seriously injured.

Coal trains were stopped by road blocking on Alibag-Roha route, so the atmosphere was tense. Deputy Superintendent of Police Sonali Kadam brought the situation under control.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT I3, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.LOKMAT.COM/RAIGAD/STRUGGLE-OVER-SANEGAON-IN-LOCAL-MANAGEMENT-A-A653/](https://www.lokmat.com/raigad/struggle-over-sanegaon-in-local-management-a-a653/)

(TRANSLATED FROM MARATHI TO ENGLISH)

MANIPUR

MANIPUR GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS CIRCULATION OF VIDEOS, IMAGES DEPICTING VIOLENCE

The state government issued an order on 11th October, prohibiting the circulation of images and videos depicting violence and damage to property in the state. This order was issued to restore normalcy in the ethnic conflict ridden state after such media went viral on social media platforms. Any person in possession of such images or videos can go to the nearest police station in any jurisdiction, and submit them for taking appropriate action.

The government stated that circulation of such content will be severely dealt with and those responsible will be booked under the law and provision of misuse of technology, the IPC and IT Act. The violence in the state has been going on since May 3.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT I2, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/INDIA/MANIPUR-GOVT-PROHIBITS-CIRCULATION-OF-VIDEOS-IMAGES-DEPICTING-VIOLENCE/ARTICLESHOW/104372828.CMS?FROM=MDR](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/manipur-govt-prohibits-circulation-of-videos-images-depicting-violence/articleshow/104372828.cms?from=mdr)

ODISHA

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING ODISHA GOVERNMENT'S NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a new scheme 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha' (our Odisha, New Odisha), which will provide Rs. 50 Lakh to every panchayat to protect places of worship, upgrade sites of historical significance, and improve rural infrastructure and digital access. The main controversy surrounding the policy comes from the opposing BJP party, which pointed out that the advertisement of the policy uses the conch symbol, which is the symbol of the BJD party.

Additionally, they have an issue with the timing of the policy. A BJP spokesperson said that they will take this issue to the courts and try to repeal the policy or change its implementation to reduce any public bias which may come up during the elections.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 13 2023\)](https://www.indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-politics/odisha-govts-rural-development-scheme-controversy-8980142/)

[HTTPS://INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ARTICLE/EXPLAINED/EXPLAINED-POLITICS/ODISHA-GOVTS-RURAL-DEVELOPMENT-SCHEME-CONTROVERSY-8980142/](https://www.indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-politics/odisha-govts-rural-development-scheme-controversy-8980142/)

PUNJAB

₹121 CRORE SCAM UNEARTHED IN PUNJAB RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATS DEPT

Six villages in Block Ludhiana-2, namely Salempur, Sekhewal, Selkiana, Bounkar Gujran, Kadiana Khurd, and Dhanansu, received a total award of ₹252.94 crore after the acquisition of hundreds of acres of land. However, 120.87 crores of this money was embezzled by Block Development and Panchayat Officers (BDPOs), panchayat secretaries, and Sarpanches. Minister of Punjab rural development and panchayat minister, Laljit Singh Bhullar has ordered a probe into this matter because no one can withdraw money from this Fixed Deposit without administrative and technical approvals.

The Minister has already ordered chargesheets against the accused officers and instructed the retrieval of this money without approval from the accused officers. Similar discrepancies in money allotment and embezzlement were found in other villages.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 14, 2023\)](https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/i21-crore-scam-uneearthed-in-punjab-rural-development-panchayats-dept-i0i697226806435.html)

[HTTPS://WWW.HINDUSTANTIMES.COM/CITIES/CHANDIGARH-NEWS/I21-CRORE-SCAM-UNEARTHED-IN-PUNJAB-RURAL-DEVELOPMENT-PANCHAYATS-DEPT-I0I697226806435.HTML](https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/i21-crore-scam-uneearthed-in-punjab-rural-development-panchayats-dept-i0i697226806435.html)

RAJASTHAN

HOME VOTING FACILITY TO ELIGIBLE VOTERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RAJASTHAN

On October 12, 2023, Rajasthan Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta informed that for the first time in Rajasthan, the Commission will provide home voting facility to eligible voters. This is applicable for senior citizens above 80 years and those with over 40% disabilities. To utilize this service, eligible voters must fill out a 12-D form within 5 days of the election notification, submitted to booth-level officers. The list of home voters will be shared with recognized political parties.

A designated polling team will assist these voters in casting their votes via postal ballots. The initiative addresses the needs of 11,76,085 elderly voters and 5,60,876 disabled voters in the state.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 12, 2023)
[HTTPS://WWW.DRISHTHIAS.COM/STATE-PCS-CURRENT-AFFAIRS/HOME-VOTING-FACILITY-TO-ELIGIBLE-VOTERS-FIRST-IN-RAJASTHAN#:~:TEXT=ACCORDING%20TO%20THE%20INSTRUCTION S%20OF,THE%20FACILITY%20OF%20HOME%20VOTING.](https://www.drishthias.com/state-pcs-current-affairs/home-voting-facility-to-eligible-voters-first-in-rajasthan#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20instruction%20of,the%20facility%20of%20home%20voting.)

RAJASTHAN

THIS RAJASTHAN VILLAGE CELEBRATES BIRTH OF EVERY GIRL CHILD BY PLANTING III TREES, DETAILS INSIDE

Nestled in the Rajsamand district of southern Rajasthan, the village of Piplantri is setting a remarkable example by championing the cause of girl children and rejuvenating the environment simultaneously. Piplantri has emerged as a breath of fresh air amidst a media landscape riddled with stories of rape, abuse, and violence against girls. The village has made it a tradition to plant 111 saplings for every newborn girl, nurturing these trees alongside the growth of the girls themselves.

This extraordinary initiative addresses not one but two pressing societal issues: the empowerment of girl children and the rejuvenation of the environment. For the past 15 years, Piplantri has worked tirelessly to increase its green cover and promote gender equality.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 15, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.DNAINDIA.COM/VIRAL/REPORT-THIS-RAJASTHAN-VILLAGE-PIPLANTRI-CELEBRATES-BIRTH-OF-EVERY-GIRL-CHILD-BY-PLANTING-III-TREES-DETAILS-INSIDE-3064642#TBL-EM-LNSPVFI7TPPVU6T30J](https://www.dnaindia.com/viral/report-this-rajasthan-village-piplantri-celebrates-birth-of-every-girl-child-by-planting-iii-trees-details-inside-3064642#TBL-EM-LNSPVFI7TPPVU6T30J)

TAMIL NADU

MAHALAYA AMAVASAI: A SACRED TIME TO HONOR ANCESTORS IN TRICHY

Mahalaya Amavasai, spanning from the full moon to the new moon in the month of Puratasi, is the period when ancestors, or Pitrus, are believed to descend from the sky to Earth. Puratasi Amavasya, the main day of this observance, is considered the optimal time for Bidurkarma, including darpanam offerings. Offering darpanam on this day is thought to be as beneficial as offering it for all the months.

During Mahalaya Amavasai, many people gathered in Trichy, taking a holy dip in the Cauvery river and performing rituals to honor their ancestors at locations like Trichy Srirangam Amma Mandapam Paditura, Veereswaram Garuda Mandap, and Melur Ayyanar Temple.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 15 2023\)](https://www.dailythanthi.com/news/state/srirangam-amma-mandapam-people-gather-at-cauvery-river-1073043)

[HTTPS://WWW.DAILYTHANTHI.COM/NEWS/STATE/SRIRANGAM-AMMA-MANDAPAM-PEOPLE-GATHER-AT-CAUVERY-RIVER-1073043](https://www.dailythanthi.com/news/state/srirangam-amma-mandapam-people-gather-at-cauvery-river-1073043)

(TRANSLATED FROM TAMIL TO ENGLISH)



TAMIL NADU

IIT MADRAS TAKES SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS AND 3D-PRINTING TO RURAL SCHOOLS THROUGH 'DEVICE ENGINEERING LABS'

IIT Madras has initiated the 'Device Engineering Lab' (DEL) program, aimed at bringing scientific and engineering concepts to rural schools in Tamil Nadu. The program, designed for students in grades VIII to XI, focuses on teaching scientific principles and applying 3D printing to create everyday objects. DEL features a three-year curriculum with hands-on training in device engineering and 3D printing.

The labs are equipped with affordable devices related to the school syllabus to foster a culture of making and enhance design and fabrication skills. This initiative, connecting IIT Madras students with rural schools, aims to instill an entrepreneurial mindset among students while offering potential livelihood opportunities.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 11, 2023\)](https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/news/iit-madras-takes-scientific-concepts-and-3d-printing-to-rural-schools-through-device-engineering-labs-101697008868955.html)

[HTTPS://WWW.HINDUSTANTIMES.COM/EDUCATION/NEWS/IIT-MADRAS-TAKES-SCIENTIFIC-CONCEPTS-AND-3D-PRINTING-TO-RURAL-SCHOOLS-THROUGH-DEVICE-ENGINEERING-LABS-101697008868955.HTML](https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/news/iit-madras-takes-scientific-concepts-and-3d-printing-to-rural-schools-through-device-engineering-labs-101697008868955.html)



TELANGANA

THREE INCLUDING TWO WOMEN DROWN IN LAKE IN SIDDIPET

Three sanitation workers, including two women, tragically drowned in Tigul village's lake during Bathukamma festival preparations. The victims were Giripally Bharathi (40), Yellam Yadamma (43), and Karmulla Babu (25). The village was preparing for "Engilipula Bathukamma" festivities, and the panchayat organized a lake cleanup for the upcoming celebrations. Unfortunately, the workers went missing while cleaning, prompting a search and eventual recovery of their bodies by divers.

The incident cast a pall of sorrow over the village, leading to a police investigation and registration of a case.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 14, 2023\)](https://telanganatoday.com/three-sanitation-workers-go-missing-in-lake-in-siddipet)

[HTTPS://TELANGANATODAY.COM/THREE-SANITATION-WORKERS-GO-MISSING-IN-LAKE-IN-SIDDIPET](https://telanganatoday.com/three-sanitation-workers-go-missing-in-lake-in-siddipet)

TRIPURA

MALARIA OUTBREAK IN TRIPURA'S BORDER VILLAGES

Five people in Tripura are in the hospital after a sudden outbreak of malaria. Some of them were left unattended for several days with high fevers and the outbreak has been spreading to villages other than the source. The patients admitted at the hospital range in age from 1 year old to 65 years old. Locals reported that authorities had not used DDT spray in the mosquito prone areas and that many more people are sick but unable to bear the financial burden of travel and hospitalization.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 15 2023\)](https://tripuratimes.com/times/malaria-outbreak-in-tripura%E2%80%99S-border-villages-I2356.html)

[HTTPS://TRIPURATIMES.COM/TTIMES/MALARIA-OUTBREAK-IN-TRIPURA%E2%80%99S-BORDER-VILLAGES-I2356.HTML](https://tripuratimes.com/times/malaria-outbreak-in-tripura%E2%80%99S-border-villages-I2356.html)

UTTAR PRADESH

UP GOVT TO FELICITATE WOMEN HEADS OF GRAM PANCHAYATS

The Uttar Pradesh government is set to honor women heads of model gram panchayats in celebration of International Rural Women's Day during Navratri. They will also facilitate training for approximately 17,500 women leaders with the help of voluntary organizations between October and mid-January 2024. This training will focus on improving their knowledge of rights, leadership skills, and communication abilities. The Panchayati Raj department has launched Mission Shakti 4.0 to promote women's participation in rural areas, including formulating annual

action plans addressing women and girls' specific needs. Additionally, ongoing initiatives aim to enhance the rights, leadership capabilities, and communication skills of women representatives. As part of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, over 1.15 lakh participants will receive training through the Panchayati Raj Training Institute and the District Panchayat Resource Centre.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 16, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.DAIJIWORLD.COM/INDEX.PHP/NEWS/NEWSDISP LAY?NEWSID=1130783](https://www.daijiworld.com/index.php/news/newsdisp Lay?newsid=1130783)

WEST BENGAL

'BLOOD-SOAKED BODY FOUND ON NH IN ALIPURDUAR, INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY'

Gourab Mukherjee, an Alipurduar resident, was discovered dead on a Sunday in the Garam Basti neighbourhood of Kalchini, Siliguri. The previous Saturday night, Gourab, a security guard employed by a nearby hotel, had informed his family that he would be arriving late. However, the next day, his blood-soaked body was found at the Dima Setu sector of National Highway 31.

Officials from the Kalchini police station and Nimti Outpost swiftly arrived at the scene to recover the body after receiving a tip. An ongoing, thorough investigation is currently underway to determine the circumstances surrounding this unsettling incident.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 15, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://SILIGURITIMES.COM/BLOOD-SOAKED-BODY-FOUND-ON-NH-IN-ALIPURDUAR-INVESTIGATION-UNDERWAY/](https://siliguritimes.com/blood-soaked-body-found-on-nh-in-alipurduar-investigation-underway/)



WEST BENGAL

THREE DEAD, SEVERAL FEARED TRAPPED IN COAL MINE COLLAPSE IN WEST BENGAL

A coal mine collapse in West Bengal's Paschim Bardhaman district resulted in at least three fatalities, with more individuals feared trapped. The incident occurred during illegal coal extraction from an Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) mine in the Narayankudi area. The victims were identified as Dinesh Ruidas (38), Sumir Bauri (17), and Surjit Sen (21).

An investigative team led by Sitarampur's Director General of Mines Safety Region 1, Irfan Ahmed Ansari, attributed the incident to illegal extraction in a legal mine. Rescue operations are ongoing to locate and assist those trapped in the mine.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(OCT 13, 2023\)](https://www.deccanherald.com/india/west-bengal/three-dead-several-feared-trapped-in-coal-mine-collapse-in-west-bengal-2724993)

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