
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

RAINFALL DEFICIT LEAVES ANDHRA PRADESH FARMERS IN DIRE STRAITS

The Agriculture Department in Ongole flagged a critical issue with dehydrated crops, risking damage to about 49.28 thousand hectares if no significant rainfall occurs within a week. JD-A S Srinivasa Rao urgently reported the situation to higher authorities, emphasizing the prolonged dry spell's severity. The Kharif season cultivation in the district represents 66.6% of the normal acreage, while Rabi season farming is postponed due to the drought. Crucial Rabi crops like Bengal gram, tobacco, black gram, and paddy await cultivation, accounting for 7.8% of the regular acreage.

Maize and Jowar serve as alternative crops in specific areas. Srinivasa Rao stressed the need for prompt action, awaiting guidance from higher authorities and closely monitoring the dehydrated crop situation for timely intervention.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(NOV 3, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.NEWINDIANEXPRESS.COM/STATES/ODISHA/2023/OCT/28/AP-INTRUDES-INTO-KOTIA-VILLAGE-AGAIN-CONDUCTS-HEALTH-CAMP-AT-DHULIPADAR-2627825.HTML](https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2023/oct/28/ap-intrudes-into-kotia-village-again-conducts-health-camp-at-dhulipadar-2627825.html)

ASSAM

4000 SCHOOLS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ASSAM BY 2028

The Assam government plans to build 4,000 modern schools throughout the state in the next 5 years. This project's blueprint was discussed during a meeting between CM Sarma and representatives of the education department, and State Education Minister Pegu was also present. CM Sarma declared that Assam is embarking on the largest-ever endeavor to construct schools, demonstrating his commitment. He further added that for the next 5 years, there would be 2 new schools established every day. The government will provide these institutions with funding of ₹5 crores, which will be distributed in phases. In addition, CM Sarma called the former Anganwadi center management "chicken coops" and even pledged to provide funding of ₹25 crore to each Anganwadi facility in Assam.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE \(OCT 31ST, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.GUWAHATIPLUS.COM/ASSAM/4000-SCHOOLS-TO-BE-CONSTRUCTED-IN-ASSAM-BY-2028](https://www.guwahatiplus.com/assam/4000-schools-to-be-constructed-in-assam-by-2028)

HARYANA

SUNIL JAGLAN OF HARYANA WILL GIVE THE MANTRA OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO SARPANCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Sunil Jaglan has been selected as the keynote speaker for the Sarpanch Samvad to be held in all the states across the country in which a total of 50 programs will be held. He is the only Sarpanch who will give the basic mantra of rural development to Sarpanches across the country on this subject. Quality Council of India is adopting Sunil Jaglan's Bibipur model to create a quality village.

It is noteworthy that apart from the Prime Minister and President of India, the foreign media has also been a fan of Sunil Jaglan's model of rural development and women empowerment.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE (NOV 5TH, 2023)

[HTTPS://WWW.AMARUJALA.COM/CHANDIGARH/SUNIL-JAGLAN-OF-HARYANA-WILL-GIVE-THE-MANTRA-OF-RURAL-DEVELOPMENT-TO-SARPANCHES-ACROSS-THE-COUNTRY-2023-11-05](https://www.amarujala.com/chandigarh/sunil-jaglan-of-haryana-will-give-the-mantra-of-rural-development-to-sarpanches-across-the-country-2023-11-05)

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

HARYANA

FARMERS CHEER AS SUGAR MILL IN YAMUNANAGAR STARTS EARLY OPERATION

The Saraswati Sugar Mills Limited in Yamunanagar began its crushing operation for this season (2023-24) earlier than usual on Tuesday, which has made the sugarcane farmers in the area happy. Chief operating officer (COO) of the sugar mill SK Sachdeva started the crushing operation. The Yamunanagar sugar mill is renowned for its superior efficiency and productivity in addition to its timely payment of farmers.

However, the state government's tardiness in announcing the price increase and the lack of an increase in sugarcane prices irritate the farmers. The farmers are requesting a price increase for sugarcane to Rs 450 per quintal.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE (OCT 31ST, 2023)

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/haryana-farmers-cheer-as-sugar-mill-in-yamunanagar-starts-early-operation/articleshow/104858770.cms>

KARNATAKA

SIDDARAMAIAH PROMISES 7-HOUR POWER SUPPLY FOR FARMERS IN KARNATAKA

The state is planning to transfer over 1,500 crore rupees to the Energy Department to provide electricity supply to the rural villages, especially in North Karnataka, where the lack of electricity has become a struggle for survival. They are also promoting the establishment of solar and other renewable sources of energy for future years. This is due to a 43% increase in demand for electricity over the past 2 years. Post covid, the agriculture sector has bounced back into its peak production, requiring electricity usage at such high values. The government has ensured an adequate and constant supply of the same.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(NOV 6, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.WIONEWS.COM/INDIA-NEWS/ANGRY-WITH-FREQUENT-POWER-CUTS-KARNATAKA-FARMERS-THREATENS-OFFICIALS-WITH-A-LIVE-CROCODILE-AT-THEIR-OFFICE-65I603](https://www.wionews.com/india-news/angry-with-frequent-power-cuts-karnataka-farmers-threatens-officials-with-a-live-crocodile-at-their-office-65i603)

KERALA

THIS KERALA VILLAGE BETS BIG ON MUSHROOM COFFEE BRAND

Lalu Thomas, an entrepreneur of rural Thalavoor, Kerala has launched a mushroom coffee brand called 'La Bae' developed with support from Krishi Vigyan Kendra. It is the first to enter this niche business in Kerala. Its monthly turnover has crossed Rs 1 lakh in just a few months in the export and online markets. The panchayat has come up with 'Koon Gramam', which is a project to expand mushroom cultivation especially to women beneficiaries in Thalavoor. Five varieties of mushrooms are used for manufacturing mushroom coffee which is made with arabica coffee from Wayanad, Kerala.

Its health benefits have attracted health conscious consumers. This business is said to grow once it's introduced in the domestic market along with other mushroom products.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(NOV 2, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/KERALA/THIS-KERALA-VILLAGE-BETS-BIG-ON-MUSHROOM-COFFEE-BRAND/ARTICLE67465790.ECE](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/this-kerala-village-bets-big-on-mushroom-coffee-brand/article67465790.ece)

MADHYA PRADESH

FARMER EARNING LAKHS FROM NEW VARIETY OF WHEAT: INCOME OF RS 5 LAKH IN ONE SEASON; UJJAIN FARMER RECEIVED MANY AWARDS

A Ujjaini farmer is growing a new type of wheat and making thousands of rupees. He is spending less while making more money. A new wheat variety called GW-513 was planted in five acres last year, and it produced a profit of almost five lakh rupees.

Ashwini Singh Chauhan, a farmer from Sankala Khedi, has won over 25 farming-related national and state honors. He served on the Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University's board of management in Jabalpur. Following his Political Science graduation, he decided to become a farmer. He began cultivating on ancestors' land in 1999.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(NOV 2, 2023\)](https://dainik-b.in/fvxqyoispee)

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

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

Traditional farming did not initially produce high profits. A few years later, drip irrigation was used for farmland. As a result, the income began to rise. He currently has more than 50 acres of land.



MAHARASHTRA

FIRST MARATHA-KUNBI REGISTRY FOUND IN DAPOLI IN KONKAN, SEARCH FOR CASTE RECORDS BEGINS

A 47-year-old farmer from Domgaon in Paranda taluka in Dharashiv District committed suicide by hanging himself from a lemon tree in his own field on Friday (October 27) around 1 pm. The farmer, identified as Baliram Devidas Sable, took this extreme step due to the government's failure to provide reservation to the Maratha community. His cousin Ganesh Sable informed the police that Baliram has two children- one pursuing higher studies while the other is disabled. His father is paralyzed. Baliram only owned one and a half acre of agricultural land being the only source of income. This is not the first time such an incident has occurred. Recently, three people committed suicide for Maratha Reservation on the same day in Marathwada.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(NOV 6, 2023\)](https://www.lokmat.com/ratnagiri/the-first-maratha-kunbi-record-in-konkan-is-found-in-dapoli-a-a746/)

[HTTPS://WWW.LOKMAT.COM/RATNAGIRI/THE-FIRST-MARATHA-KUNBI-RECORD-IN-KONKAN-IS-FOUND-IN-DAPOLI-A-A746/](https://www.lokmat.com/ratnagiri/the-first-maratha-kunbi-record-in-konkan-is-found-in-dapoli-a-a746/)

(TRANSLATED FROM MARATHI TO ENGLISH)

MANIPUR

MANIPUR VIOLENCE: TRIBAL MLAS SEEK POLICE COMMANDOS' REMOVAL, MEITEI GROUP CHIEF SHOT

The Kuki-Zomi community of Manipur strengthened their demand that the state police forces be removed from the border town of Moreh after two days of intensive search and combing operations and unprovoked brutality toward the people. The Kuki-Zomis are the dominant community in the town, and a few thousand Meitei residents have been displaced. Ten MLAs from the community appealed to the Union Home Affairs Ministry on the 3rd to remove all Manipur police commandos deployed in Moreh, and replace them with "neutral central forces".

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(NOV 4, 2023\)](#)

[HTTPS://INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ARTICLE/INDIA/MANIPUR-DISPLACED-STUDENTS-GIVEN-FREE-ADMISSION-9001041/](https://indianexpress.com/article/india/manipur-displaced-students-given-free-admission-9001041/)

The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal, the apex body of Kuki tribes in Tegnoupal city where Moreh is located, alleged that the police commandos in the town were accompanied by members of Arambai Tenggol, a radical Meitei group. During this situation, the chief of a radical Meitei group, Pramot Singh, came under attack by unknown armed assailants in Imphal on 3rd morning.



RAJASTHAN

NAFFED INTRODUCES MOBILE COUNTERS FOR PULSES AND ONIONS ACROSS JAIPUR

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has introduced mobile counters in cities like Jaipur to provide affordable pulses and onions to the public. In Jaipur, they are selling gram dal and onions at Rs 25 per kg and chana dal at Rs 60 per kg. These counters are strategically located across the city to ensure accessibility. Due to low onion arrivals from Maharashtra and other states, onions are currently being sold at higher prices in the market, but NAFED is helping to stabilize prices. On average, more than 30 tonnes of goods are sold daily through these mobile vans in Jaipur, benefitting both urban and rural areas.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE \(NOV 2ND, 2023\)](#)

<https://www.bhaskar.com/local/rajasthan/jaipur/news/new-lentils-also-along-with-onion-132087510.html>

[\(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH\)](#)

RAJASTHAN

POMEGRANATE AMID SAND DUNES: HOW RAJASTHAN FARMERS STRUCK GOLD

Pomegranates in the desert? That's what Chandraprakash Mali is growing on 80 out of his total 123 bigha (49.2 acres) land in Dechu village of Rajasthan's Phalodi district, almost midway between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer. The 50-year-old's orchard on which he grows 9,000 pomegranate or anar plants – surrounded by sand dunes in an arid agro-climatic zone where one mostly sees *Prosopis juliflora* (an alien invasive plant), perennial shrubs such as safed bui (desert cotton) and aak (*Calotropis procera*), and the hardy khejri flowering tree grow – is testimony to what technology and human enterprise can do.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (NOV 6, 2023)

[HTTPS://INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ARTICLE/INDIA/POMEGRANATE-AMID-SAND-DUNES-HOW-RAJASTHAN-FARMERS-STRUCK-GOLD-9014711/](https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pomegranate-amid-sand-dunes-how-rajasthan-farmers-struck-gold-9014711/)

TAMIL NADU

SCHEDULED CASTE YOUTHS IN TIRUNELVELI ASSAULTED, STRIPPED AND URINATED UPON; SIX ARRESTED

In Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, on October 30, 2023, six individuals from an intermediate caste were arrested for allegedly assaulting, stripping, and urinating on two Scheduled Caste youths, Manoj Kumar and Mariappan. The victims had gone to the Thamirabarani river for a bath, where the accused stopped and attacked them after learning about their Dalit background. The victims were also robbed of money and mobile phones.

The accused have been taken into custody and charged under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE (NOV 2ND, 2023)

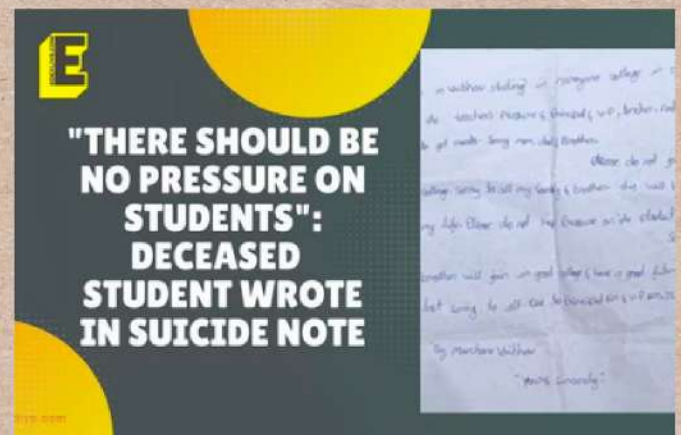
[HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/TAMIL-NADU/SCHEDULED-CASTE-YOUTHS-IN-TIRUNELVELI-ASSAULTED-STRIPPED-AND-URINATED-UPON-SIX-ARRESTED/ARTICLE67484770.ECE](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/scheduled-caste-youths-in-tirunelveli-assaulted-stripped-and-urinated-upon-six-arrested/article67484770.ece)

TELANGANA

I7-YEAR-OLD GIRL STUDENT DIES BY SUICIDE; FAMILY ACCUSES SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, STAFF

On October 31, a tragic incident occurred in Pedda Eklara village, Telangana, where a 17-year-old intermediate student named Dasari Vasudha from the Social Welfare Girls Residential School took her own life in her room. Following the distressing news, a large gathering of the girl's family, relatives, and villagers converged at the school and attempted to confront the principal and staff, accusing them of responsibility for the incident. It took the police several hours to restore order.

Vasudha's body was moved to Banswada Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination. The authorities have promised to investigate and take legal action in response to the family's complaint.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE \(NOV 1ST, 2023\)](https://www.eexplive.com/news/2023/nov/01/teLANGANA-I7-YEAR-OLD-GIRL-STUDENT-DIES-BY-SUICIDE-FAMILY-ACCUSES-SCHOOL-PRINCIPAL-STAFF-38526.html)

[HTTPS://WWW.EEXPLIVE.COM/NEWS/2023/NOV/01/TELANGANA-I7-YEAR-OLD-GIRL-STUDENT-DIES-BY-SUICIDE-FAMILY-ACCUSES-SCHOOL-PRINCIPAL-STAFF-38526.HTML](https://www.eexplive.com/news/2023/nov/01/teLANGANA-I7-YEAR-OLD-GIRL-STUDENT-DIES-BY-SUICIDE-FAMILY-ACCUSES-SCHOOL-PRINCIPAL-STAFF-38526.html)

UTTAR PRADESH

DAILY COURT DIGEST: MAJOR ENVIRONMENT ORDERS

On November 1, 2023, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) instructed the chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh to submit a report regarding the improper handling of solid waste in Jagjevanpur village, Ghaziabad district. The NGT had previously issued a directive on April 26 for this report, which was not fulfilled. The NGT requested the chief secretary to address remedial actions, assess the status of legacy waste at the site, and evaluate waste processing facilities.

A report from Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN) on October 5 did not provide satisfactory explanations for the current waste management and lacked details on other sites with legacy waste.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE \(NOV 3RD, 2023\)](https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/daily-court-digest-major-environment-orders-november-3-2023-92642)

[HTTPS://WWW.DOWNTOEARTH.ORG.IN/NEWS/GOVERNANCE/DAILY-COURT-DIGEST-MAJOR-ENVIRONMENT-ORDERS-NOVEMBER-3-2023-92642](https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/daily-court-digest-major-environment-orders-november-3-2023-92642)

WEST BENGAL

HOOGHLY MAKES DEEP INROADS INTO ITS BANKS

The banks of the Hooghly River in Kolkata, West Bengal, are experiencing significant erosion, with several stretches of the riverbank being severely affected. The banks have cracked and collapsed, allowing the water to nearly reach the land, causing the loss of a park. Due to a lack of government protective measures, local warehouses and residents have resorted to placing concrete waste and other materials along the banks to mitigate erosion. Experts advise that the best ways to deal with this problem are to prevent encroachment and to implement controlled plantations along the riverbank. The erosion is exacerbated by human activities and the destruction of natural greenery.



[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(NOV 3, 2023\)](https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/hooghly-makes-deep-inroads-into-its-banks/cid/I977235)

[HTTPS://WWW.TELEGRAPHINDIA.COM/MY-KOLKATA/NEWS/HOOGHLY-MAKES-DEEP-INROADS-INTO-ITS-BANKS/CID/I977235](https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/hooghly-makes-deep-inroads-into-its-banks/cid/I977235)

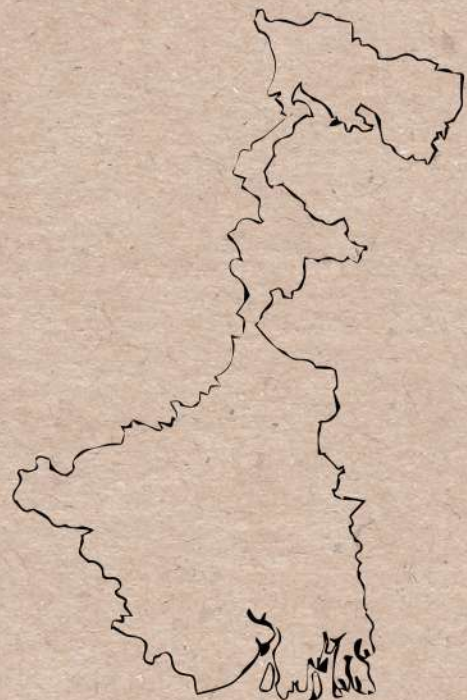
WEST BENGAL

MGNREGA WORKERS IN WEST BENGAL SEEK WORK UNDER 'KHELA HOBE' SCHEME

The 'Khela Hobe' scheme, announced by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in July 2023 to provide employment to MGNREG workers, faces criticism as 741 workers in Purulia have applied for work, but none have received it. The scheme's details remain unclear. Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS) questions the Union government's delay in investigating corruption allegations that led to MGNREGA fund freeze in the state since December 2021. The PBKMS blames the BJP leadership for ignoring the agricultural workers' suffering and highlights their political silence. The Trinamool Congress threatens protests if MGNREGA funds are not released.

[LINK TO THE ARTICLE: \(NOV 3, 2023\)](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mgnrega-workers-in-west-bengal-seek-work-under-khela-hobe-scheme/article67477361.ece)

[HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/MGNREGA-WORKERS-IN-WEST-BENGAL-SEEK-WORK-UNDER-KHELA-HOBE-SCHEME/ARTICLE67477361.ECE](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mgnrega-workers-in-west-bengal-seek-work-under-khela-hobe-scheme/article67477361.ece)





CONTRIBUTORS

The Rural Sociology Students' Team

Aditi Bamba
Aditya Gowda
Adya Dalmia
Diya Ponnappa
Khushi Kapur
Pragya Mishra
Prisha Anand
Rishabh Sharma

Sanika Yelve
Sargam Sundrani
Shaaivya Setia
Stuti Mathur
Swathi Suresh
Trishala S
Vaidat Agarwal
Vedika Basu

Editors of the Week: Trishala S and Shaaivya Setia
Newsletter Design: Simeryn Sohi and Vandana Bhaskar

