FLAME UNIVERSITY

# 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

# THREE COPS SUSPENDED FOR ASSAULTING DALIT YOUTH IN ANDHRA

Three police officers from Padmanabham police station, including a sub-inspector and two constables, have been suspended and booked under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for allegedly subjecting a 24-year-old Dalit youth to severe treatment during questioning about a rooster theft in their village. The incident occurred when Bandevapuram Papu and Gali Yesubabu were summoned to the police station for questioning.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 3, 2023) <u>HTTPS://WWW.NEWINDIANEXPRESS.COM/STATES/ANDHRA-</u> <u>PRADESH/2023/OCT/03/THREE-COPS-SUSPENDED-FOR-</u> <u>ASSAULTING-DALIT-YOUTH-IN-ANDHRA-2620370.HTML</u> The constables allegedly confined them and physically assaulted them, resulting in Papu sustaining a leg fracture. The incident led to protests, with Papu's relatives and Dalit organizations demonstrating outside the police station. DCP Naganna intervened and ordered ACP Vivekananda to investigate the allegations, leading to the suspension of the three officers.



# ASSAM

### RURAL SELF EMPLOYMENT TRAINING INSTITUTE CONDUCTS TRAINING ON POULTRY FARMING

A one-day training course on poultry farming was presented by the Rural Self Employment Training Institute in Sivasagar. Naveen Dihingra, the Chief General Manager of NABARD's Assam Regional Office, officially launched the program. The marquee meeting was chaired by Pabitra Kumar Borah, Director of RSETI.

Speaking to the instructors, the CGM urged to make use of the chances for self-employment provided by the different state and federally funded programs. Rajib Dutta, a journalist, Kishore Rabha, DDM, NABARD Sivasagar, Dipak Kumar, LDM, and PNB were all present at the event.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 7, 2023)

<u>HTTPS://WWW.SENTINELASSAM.COM/NORTH-EAST-INDIA-</u> <u>NEWS/ASSAM-NEWS/ASSAM-RURAL-SELF-EMPLOYMENT-TRAINING-</u> <u>INSTITUTE-CONDUCTS-TRAINING-ON-POULTRY-FARMING-669971</u> The CGM also formally launched new RSETI infrastructure (the Computer Laboratory) with CAPEX funding from NABARD. 35 trainers from around the Sivasagar district participated in the event.



# BIHAR

# THREE POLICEMEN SUSPENDED FOR THROWING DEAD BODY IN THE RIVER

Three policemen in Muzaffarpur have been arrested for throwing a man's body into a canal below a bridge. The incident, which went viral on social media, led to a departmental inquiry and the conviction of the three officers. A driver and two other home guard personnel were also suspended from duty. The police administration lost consciousness when the video went viral, leading to a swift investigation.

The accused argued that parts of the body had been immersed in the canal, but within an hour, action was taken against the three officers. The incident has raised concerns about the safety of the public and the safety of the police.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 8, 2023) <u>HTTPS://WWW.PRABHATKHABAR.COM/STATE/BIHAR/BIHAR-</u> <u>GRAMIN-ROAD-PROJECT-NEWS-AS-MANY-PROJECTS-TO-</u> <u>START-INCLUDING-GALI-NALI-YOJANA-SKT</u>

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

# GUJARAT

### WILDLIFE WEEK WAS CELEBRATED BY THE FOREST DEPARTMENT IN RAWAPAR AND OUR VILLAGE

Taluka's Rawapar as well as Amara village celebrated Wildlife Week organized by West Kutch Forest Department under the guidance of DCF Jhala. Round led by Nakhtrana West Range Forester Bihola: Environment, wildlife, and human connections were talked about, this was celebrated in schools among children.

Drawing competitions were organized related to wildlife, and forest. Principal and staff of the school were present to encourage the children, and prizes were distributed based on winners of the first three ranks.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 8, 2023) <u>HTTPS://WWW.DIVYABHASKAR.CO.IN/LOCAL/GUJARAT/KUTCH/N</u> <u>EWS/I37-LAKHS-WERE-WITHDRAWN-FROM-THE-ACCOUNT-OF-A-</u> <u>TRADER-IN-JAKHOU-I3I902581.HTML</u>

(TRANSLATED FROM GUJARATI TO ENGLISH)



# HARYANA

### KHATTAR APPROVES 2 NEW WORKS UNDER RURAL AUGMENTATION PROGRAMME WORTH OVER RS I2 CRORE

Manohar Lal Khattar, the chief minister of Haryana, approved two new projects costing more than Rs. 12 crore as part of the rural augmentation initiative in the districts of Rewari and Palwal. The government spokesperson stated that the two approved projects are "the improvement of the water supply scheme by installation of two tubewells along with the construction of UGT 100 KL and laying of distribution pipeline in village Pachanka Tehsil Hathin, District Palwal.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 4, 2023)

HTTPS://INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ARTICLE/CITIES/CHANDIGARH/HA RYANA-KHATTAR-RURAL-AUGMENTATION-REWARI-PALWAL-8967886/ At an estimated cost of Rs. 2.27 crore," and "the canal based industrial waterworks and raw water pumping station, Rohrai, Kosli, Rewari at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.43 crore."



# HARYANA

### HARYANA CM MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR REGULARISES 303 ILLEGAL COLONIES

3,000 crore will be spent by the Manohar Lal Khattar-led Haryana government to build the basic infrastructure for the regularised colonies. He declared that 303 illegal colonies spread across 14 different state districts would become legal with immediate effect. In a media interview, Khattar stated that 110 colonies are under the control of the city and nation planning department, while 193 colonies spread across 39 municipalities are under the authority of the urban local bodies department.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 7 2023) <u>HTTPS://WWW.HINDUSTANTIMES.COM/CITIES/CHANDIGARH-</u> <u>NEWS/HARYANA-CM-MANOHAR-LAL-KHATTAR-REGULARISES-</u> 303-ILLEGAL-COLONIES-I01696619383517.HTML

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

He added that 2.9 lakh homes have been constructed in these colonies. Khattar stated that strict regulations have been put in place for this and that special monitoring will be conducted in the future to prevent the mushrooming of illegal territories.



# JAMMU & KASHMIR

### JJM ACHIEVES 70% COVERAGE OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS WITH TAP WATER CONNECTIONS.

With the J&K Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) covering 70% of rural families with tap connections for drinking water, the UT administration in J&K has accomplished yet another milestone. In terms of monitoring and regulating water quality at the national level, J&K has likewise earned the ranking of number 2. 13.16 lakh (70%) of the mission's target population of 18.68 lakh households in rural areas have so far received tap water connections, advancing the mission's goal of saturation quickly. HThe Jal Jeevan Mission is a flagship project of the UT that aims to install Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) inside every rural home, capable of supplying water at a minimum service level of 55 litres per capita per day and of a quality that complies with BIS 10500. A total of 1.50 lakh water samples have been examined at 98 water testing labs spread out across the UT to check the quality of water delivered to rural regions.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 9, 2023) <u>HTTPS://WWW.GREATERKASHMIR.COM/TODAYS-</u> <u>PAPER/KASHMIR-TODAYS-PAPER/SHOPKEEPERS-HOLD-</u> <u>PROTEST-IN-SOPORE-FOR-REMOVAL-OF-ROAD-DIVIDERS</u>

# KARNATAKA

### IN KARNATAKA, BANK EMPLOYEES MAY SOON HAVE TO DEAL WITH CUSTOMERS IN KANNADA

Talks are ongoing in the Karnataka Development Authority (KDA) to make it mandatory for Kannada to be the primary language to be spoken in all banks in rural Karnataka. This has arisen after a rising number of complaints of the use of English being too foreign for the locals to understand and respond to. Since banks act as a lifeline in rural areas, and provide services such as Aadhaar, Passport, and other government document centers, the use of Kannada would ensure smooth and simple communication between both parties, with less space for mistakes and confusion.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 3, 2023) HTTPS://ECONOMICTIMES.INDIATIMES.COM/NEWS/INDIA/IN -KARNATAKA-BANK-EMPLOYEES-MAY-SOON-HAVE-TO-DEAL-WITH-CUSTOMERS-IN-KANNADA-ONLY/ARTICLESHOW/I03479077.CMS The proposal is currently in its discussion stages.





### MADHYA PRADESH

### UJJAIN- IRREGULARITIES IN THE NAME OF REPAIRS IN 40 DISTRICT SCHOOLS: REPAIR WORK WAS NOT DONE ON HALF THE SCHOOL'S ROOF, YET PAYMENT WAS MADE TO THE CONTRACTORS.

In the government schools of Ujjain District, siphoning of government funds, worth lakhs of rupees have been discovered. Funds were released for the maintenance work of school buildings. Despite partial completion of work, the contractors were paid in full, by the DEO office.

The discrepancies were discovered when the Bhaskar team visited the villages to check the actual work. The team discovered leaking roofs of schools that were not repaired, cracks covered by putting some plaster and paint.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 7, 2023):

HTTPS://DAINIK-B.IN/OFXG7KFCGDB

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

The ceilings, walls, and ramps had cracks and had not been repaired per the work order. Classes of such schools got interrupted due to leaking roofs. The principals of the 40 affected schools have now received a show-cause notice from the DEO office, paired with instructions from the district administration.



# MAHARASHTRA

### DAILY AVG OF DEATHS AT NANDED HOSPITAL I3

According to a preliminary survey conducted by the chief secretary, Manoj Saunik, the daily average of deaths at Nanded hospital is 13. The survey was conducted after a sudden spurt in the number of deaths in government-run hospitals. The monthly deaths in Nagpur were 532 with an average of 17 deaths per day. In Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, the monthly deaths were 426 and daily deaths were 14. The official attributed the alarming number of deaths in Nanded to an acute shortage of life-saving medicines and drugs.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 05, 2023)

HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/NAGPUR/SO ON-DISASTER-RELIEF-KITS-RESCUE-TRAINING-FOR-VILLAGERS/ARTICLESHOW/I04056623.CMS He also suggested that doctors should be available roundthe-clock in the hospital premises to ensure prompt medical attention.



# MANIPUR

### DON'T CHANGE NAMES OF PLACES, WARNS MANIPUR GOVERNMENT

The government of Manipur asked organisations and individuals in the state to not change the names of "districts, sub-divisions, places, institutions, and addresses of such institutions" on their own as this may create conflict between the communities. This order was issued by Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi and released on October 6, and warned of "appropriate actions" according to law if any individual or organisation is found to be involved in such renaming.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 5, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/DONT-CHANGE-NAMES-OF-PLACES-WARNS-MANIPUR-GOVERNMENT/ARTICLE67393496.ECE This was issued after instances of organisations changing names of districts, places and institutions based on ethnic lines after conflict between the tribal Kukis and non-tribal Meiteis broke out.



# ODISHA

### ANDHRA VILLAGES WISH TO MERGE WITH ODISHA

There has been a historical dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha over the Kotia villages, and a recent development saw two villages; Rebba and Vanadhara, stage a protest to become part of Odisha as the AP government has continually ignored their needs and not developed necessary road networks to connect the villages to health-care services. Due to the heavy rainfall, the nearby river, Nagavali, is flooded, cutting off the access of 500 people from any emergency services.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 5 2023) HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/VISAKHAPA TNAM/TWO-TRIBAL-VILLAGES-IN-ANDHRA-PRADESHS-MANYAM-DISTRICT-WANT-TO-MERGE-WITH-ODISHA/ARTICLESHOW/I03374779.CMS They wish to merge with Odisha as they have been proactive in developing road and health networks for Tribal areas. The villages have not seen any development over the 75 years that India has been independent.



# PUNJAB

### PUNJAB: 550 RURAL DISPENSARIES DON'T HAVE EVEN BASIC MEDS

Around 550 rural dispensaries in Punjab are facing a shortage of basic medicines such as paracetamol, common antibiotics, and painkillers. The rural medical officers associations have repeatedly raised this issue with the concerned authorities, including the Zilla Parishads, but no action has been taken to replenish the medicine stocks. The last supply of medicines was three months ago, and these dispensaries cater to 10,000 people. The rural medical associations believe that the Punjab government are wilfully negligent in this issue to promote the Aam Admi Clinics (AACs).

#### LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 5, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.HINDUSTANTIMES.COM/CITIES/CHANDIGARH-NEWS/PUNJAB-550-RURAL-DISPENSARIES-DON-T-EVEN-HAVE-BASIC-MEDS-101696447451629.HTML Officials from the PHC say that they have not received any orders for medicines while most of the dispensaries rely on NGO donations. Individuals from the medical community believe this slow bureaucracy and red tape is making the process even more difficult.



# RAJASTHAN

### SOCIAL WELFARE AND INCLUSION IN RAJASTHAN

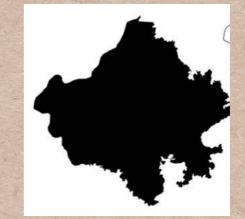
The Social Welfare Week in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan, has concluded successfully. Under this, social worker started the rally with disabled children from the school premises and slogans were raised about voting. The event aimed at promoting social welfare initiatives and community engagement. Various activities and programs were organized to raise awareness about social issues and encourage participation in welfare projects. The event got involvement from local communities, furthering unity and solidarity between them as well.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 7, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.BHASKAR.COM/LOCAL/RAJASTHAN/TONK/NEWS/ST RIKE-OF-TRADERS-AND-FARMERS-ENDS-I31898871.HTML

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

By the end of the week, participants and organizers expressed satisfaction with the event's impact, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in promoting social welfare and communal harmony in the region.



# RAJASTHAN

### AMBUJA CEMENTS REVIVES A RURAL OASIS IN RAJASTHAN AMPLIFYING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ambuja Cements revives a rural oasis as part of its commitment to rural development. In line with this commitment, Ambuja Cements CSR arm has spearheaded a transformative journey in Didiya Kala Village, Nagaur, Rajasthan.

In its initiatives to meet the specific needs of the village, Ambuja Cements encompassed a diverse range of activities.

These activities include the implementation of innovative water management systems such as setting up household Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Systems (RRWHS), and the establishment of Farm Ponds.

The organization has implemented these innovative water management systems to ensure efficient usage of water, and to secure a sustainable water supply for the community.



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

HTTPS:HTTPS://WWW.APNNEWS.COM/AMBUJA-CEMENTS-REVIVES-A-RURAL-OASIS-IN-RAJASTHAN-AMPLIFYING-SUSTAINABLE-COMMUNITY-DEVELOPMENT/

# TAMIL NADU

### TWAD BOARD TO INCREASE PIPED WATER SUPPLY BY ABOUT 700 MLD IN RURAL DWELLINGS IN 3 YEARS

The Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) Board aims to boost water supply by 600-700 million liters per day (mld) in three years, mainly targeting rural areas through 36 schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Currently supplying 2,000 mld (excluding Chennai), they plan to increase this by 700 mld. Rural residents, who currently receive 25-30 liters per capita per day (lpcd), will see an increase to 55 lpcd. Of 125 lakh rural households earmarked for tap connections, 92 lakh have been covered.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 3 2023) HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/CITIES/CHENNAI/TWAD-EOARD-TO-INCREASE-PIPED-WATER-SUPPLY-BY-ABOUT-700-MLD-IN-RURAL-DWELLINGS-IN-3-YEARS/ARTICLE6737634I.ECE The TWAD Board also revised its tariff structure and is enhancing infrastructure with 56 retrofitting schemes.

# TAMIL NADU

### 60TH-ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD AND BAJRANG DAL CANCELED; 52 ARRESTED IN TRICHY SRIRANGAM

The highly anticipated 60th-anniversary public gathering of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal organizations, originally slated to take place in Thiruvanaikaval, Trichy Srirangam, has been officially cancelled. This decision marks a significant development in the event's planning and execution.

/WWW.GOOGLE.COM/AMP/S/WWW.BHASKAR.COM/AMP/L

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 9, 2023)

TRANSLATED FROM TAMIL

WEEK-CONCLUDES-IN-PRATAPGARH-I31954938.HTMI

Furthermore, in connection with the planned event, law enforcement authorities apprehended a total of 52 individuals, underlining the seriousness of the situation. For more comprehensive insights and details regarding this development.



# TRIPURA

### EX-CHIEF SEEKS NITI AAYOG AID FOR TRIPURA DISTRICT COUNCIL

The former chairman of TIPRA Motha Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma met Tripura's Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha regarding the development of TTAADC (Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council) and following that meeting, headed to Delhi to request funds from Niti Aayog. He said they have previously submitted over 100 projects to the Chief Minister and received 1.18 crore in funding for road construction in TTAADC, but they still need more aid for building more roads, for ambulances, and for salaries.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 5 2023) HTTPS:HTTPS://WWW.INDIATODAYNE.IN/TRIPURA/STORY/EX-TIPRA-CHIEF-PRADYOT-MANIKYA-SEEKS-NITI-AAYOG-AID-FOR-DEVELOPMENT-OF-TRIPURA-DISTRICT-COUNCIL-689426-2023-I0-05 The TWAD Board also revised its tariff structure and is enhancing infrastructure with 56 retrofitting schemes.



#### **Seventh Edition**

# UTTAR PRADESH

### 'YOGI GOVT TO EXTEND BUS SERVICES TO EVERY VILLAGE SOON': UP TRANSPORT MINISTER

The Yogi Government in Uttar Pradesh has announced plans to extend state-owned bus services to all of the state's 1,00,983 villages by the end of the year. Currently, only 4,593 village panchayats lack government bus services out of a total of 59,163. A survey will be conducted to identify underserved villages and assess suitable routes for motor vehicles. Separate bus services will be initiated for villages within a two-kilometer radius of those lacking government bus services.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 5, 2023) HTTPS://WWW.FREEPRESSJOURNAL.IN/INDIA/YOGI-GOVT-TO-EXTEND-BUS-SERVICES-TO-EVERY-VILLAGE-SOON-UP-TRANSPORT-MINISTER This initiative builds upon previous achievements, including connecting every district to the state capital through government buses and launching special services connecting prominent cities in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi. It aims to enhance public transportation and connectivity across the state.



# WEST BENGAL

### TITLE: GOVERNOR CV ANANDA BOSE STEPS UP: DONATES SALARY FOR WEST BENGAL FLOOD RELIEF

West Bengal is facing a severe flood situation impacting seven districts, prompting large-scale evacuations and causing one fatality due to lightning in Purba Barddhaman District. Governor CV Ananda Bose has pledged to donate his one-month salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, demonstrating personal commitment to relief efforts. The floods have resulted from heavy rainfall across multiple districts, including Bankura and Purulia, prompting waterlogging in some areas like Ghatal in Paschim Medinipur district. The state government has responded by opening 35 relief camps, distributing around 14,467 pieces of tarpaulin to affected citizens, and evacuating thousands to safer locations.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 4, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.ONEINDIA.COM/INDIA/WEST-BENGAL-GOVERNOR-DONATES-SALARY-FLOOD-RELIEF-GEN-3650055.HTML Additionally, approximately 90 thousand cusecs of water have been released from Maithon and Panchet Dams, monitored by the Damodar Valley Corporation. Governor Bose's donation serves as an example of solidarity and empathy during this crisis, offering both financial aid and symbolizing unity. The state government's measures aim to alleviate the suffering of those affected by this natural calamity.



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