# 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

### AP INTRUDES INTO KOTIA VILLAGE AGAIN, CONDUCTS HEALTH CAMP AT DHULIPADAR

On Friday, the Andhra Pradesh (AP) administration organized a large-scale health camp in Dhulipadar village in Kotia panchayat, prompting intervention from Pottangi block development officer (BDO) SK Patnaik. The AP health team, part of the Jagananna Arogya Suraksha program, conducted the camp and door-to-door visits, distributing medicines in multiple villages. However, the BDO's intervention led to their retreat. This incident follows a previous similar intrusion by AP officials six days earlier in Phatusenari village.

Allegedly, the AP government has employed agents in 21 villages under Kotia panchayat to garner support ahead of the upcoming general election. The ease of intrusion has been facilitated by the reported lack of obstruction from the Koraput administration.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 28, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.NEWINDIANEXPRESS.COM/STATES/ODISHA/202 3/OCT/28/AP-INTRUDES-INTO-KOTIA-VILLAGE-AGAIN-CONDUCTS-HEALTH-CAMP-AT-DHULIPADAR-2627825.HTML



### ASSAM

### DEPLORABLE ROAD CONDITIONS FORCE LOCALS TO REPAIR IT BY THEMSELVES

The locals in the Kheroni area of Assam are concerned about the poor state of the roads, to an extent that they are now compelled to use their own money to fix them. The West Karbi Anglong District faces a similar situation. This happened in the West Karbi Anglong locality of Matikhula, but no action was taken by the authorities. The department in charge of the road is Lok Nirman. Using the road is challenging for both pedestrians and vehicles, including ambulances. On top of that, it also links the Kheroni-Jirikiding PWD road to Matikhula Village. The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council has come under fire from local residents for failing to establish usable roads in the area, and they have requested that the council take swift action.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 25, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.SENTINELASSAM.COM/NORTH-EAST-INDIA-NEWS/ASSAM-NEWS/ASSAM-DEPLORABLE-ROAD-CONDITIONS-FORCE-LOCALS-TO-REPAIR-IT-BY-THEMSELVES-672370



### GUJARAT

### DHORDO, WINNER OF UNWTO'S BEST TOURISM VILLAGE AWARD, IS READY FOR RANN UTSAV

United Nations World Trade Organization has named the village of Dhordo in Kutch, Gujarat as one of the best tourism villages in the world. This is the only village in India to be conferred this prestigious award. This gateway to the renowned white desert in Gujarat, is all set to host the Rann Utsav from November 1, 2023 to February 20, 2024.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 26, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.HINDUSTANTIMES.COM/LIFESTYLE/TRAVEL/DHOR DO-WINNER-OF-UNWTO-S-BEST-TOURISM-VILLAGE-AWARD-IS-READY-FOR-RANN-UTSAV-101698298101872.HTML This year Dhordo acquires greater significance due to the UNWTO recognition. People from across the world visit Dhordo for its white-rann festival, although prior permission is required to enter.





### HARYANA

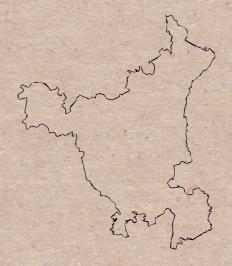
#### HARYANA NOD TO 30 WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

Administrative approval for nine sewerage projects worth Rs 283 crore and thirty water supply projects costing Rs 1,018 crore were given by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday. The projects are for 15 districts, including Ambala, Hisar, Kurukshetra, Jind, Panchkula, Rohtak, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Charkhi Dadri, Yamunanagar, Karnal, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh, Kaithal, and Palwal. The projects under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 mission will be carried out by the public health engineering department.

The chief minister announced that 18 additional water supply projects valued at more than Rs 425 crore would shortly be approved for inclusive public health engineering development throughout the state.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 24, 2023)

HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/CHANDIGARH/HA RYANA-NOD-TO-30-WATER-SUPPLY-PROJECTS/ARTICLESHOW/I04664435.CMS



### HARYANA

### HARYANA GOVERNMENT APPROVES 8 NEW WORKS WORTH MORE THAN RS I.25 CRORE UNDER RURAL PROMOTION PROGRAM

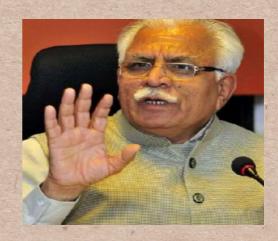
Under the Rural Promotion Programme, the Haryana government (BJP) has granted administrative approval for eight new projects totaling more than Rs 1.25 crore to improve the water supply sector in the districts of Yamunanagar and Ambala. Giving information in this regard, the BJP spokesperson said that among the 8 approved works, the installation of a new tube well in place of a damaged tube well in village Ambwala (Bhil Chhapar) of Yamunanagar district for Rs 16.36 lakh, and ordered to install a new tube well in place of the defective tube well in Ballana Village of Ambala district for 16.35 Lakh.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 26,2023)

HTTPS://WWW.JAGRAN.COM/HARYANA/AMBALA-AMBALA-HARYANA-GOVERNMENT-APPROVES-8-NEW-WORKS-WORTH-MORE-THAN-RS-ABOVE-2-CRORE-UNDER-RURAL-PROMOTION-PROGRAM-23565754.HTML

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)

A new tube well will also be installed in village Dhurka at the same cost of 16.35 lakh and another will also be installed in Pratap Nagar village of Yamunanagar district at the cost of 15.25 lakh.



### JAMMU & KASHMIR

#### 5 LET TERRORISTS KILLED ALONG LOC IN KUPWARA

According to Kashmir zone ADGP Vijay Kumar, at least five Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an ongoing shootout with a combined force of Army and J&K police along the LoC in the Machil sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Thursday. Infiltration efforts from across the border into the Kashmir Valley have increased as winter approaches and snow blankets this mountain setting. On Wednesday, a high-level security meeting in Srinagar evaluated the situation in the Union territory for the next winter months.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 27, 2023)

HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/INDIA/5-LET-TERRORISTS-KILLED-ALONG-LOC-IN-KUPWARA/ARTICLESHOW/I04737114.CMS



### KARNATAKA

## ANGRY WITH FREQUENT POWER CUTS, KARNATAKA FARMERS BRING LIVE CROCODILE TO POWER STATION

In a bizarre case of desperation, Karnataka locals in the northern district of Vijayapura took a live crocodile to the electricity board head office in protest against the power cuts. The farmers raised their concern of running into such dangerous reptiles, snakes, and crocodiles in their farms due to the lack of electricity. Following a steep rise in electricity consumption in the state, the state board promised electricity supply to the district and bordering villages to tackle these issues.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 26, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.WIONEWS.COM/INDIA-NEWS/ANGRY-WITH-FREQUENT-POWER-CUTS-KARNATAKA-FARMERS-THREATENS-OFFICIALS-WITH-A-LIVE-CROCODILE-AT-THEIR-OFFICE-651603



### KERALA

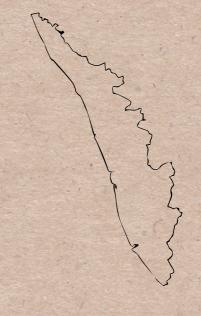
### NABARD PLEDGES RS 500CR LOAN PACKAGE FOR FARMERS IN KERALA

NABARD has promised to offer a loan worth Rs 500 crore at an interest rate of 8.5%. Due to the struggle of 'Supplyco' in repaying the loans, banks have refrained from offering it loans and hence, farmers have faced an additional pressure. NABARD has promised a crop loan at a subsidised rate as well as restoration of the education loan.

An amount of Rs. 100 crore has been committed under the scheme, modelled on the Kisan Credit Card which facilitates additional crop loans for farmers.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 29, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.NEWINDIANEXPRESS.COM/STATES/KERALA/2023/OCT/ 29/NABARD-PLEDGES-RS-500CR-LOAN-PACKAGE-FOR-FARMERS-IN-KERALA-2627971.HTML



### MADHYA PRADESH

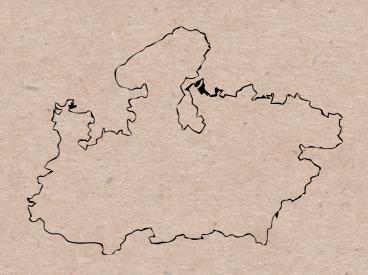
INDORE: SHAJAPUR DISTRICT HAS 732 GIRLS FOR 1000 BOYS IN 3IK FIRST-TIME VOTERS

The Shajapur district's electoral rolls show a worrying gender gap among first-time voters. Only 13,211 of the 31,251 first-time voters in the 18-19 age group are female, as opposed to 18,039 men.

The lowest women-to-men ratio among all age groups in the district is seen in the 18-19 age group, where there are only 732 girls for every 1000 male voters. According to official statistics, the female-to-male ratio in the 30-39 age range is also skewed, with 915 females for every 1,000 males, which is lower than the district's average ratio of 946. In Shajapur district, there are 1,044 more women than men in the 60+ age group.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 23, 2023)

HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/INDORE/SHAJA PUR-DISTRICT-HAS-732-GIRLS-FOR-I000-BOYS-IN-3IK-FIRST-TIME-VOTERS/AMP ARTICLESHOW/I04638142.CMS



### MAHARASHTRA

#### SUICIDE FOR MARATHA RESERVATION

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: (OCT 28, 2023)

HTTPS://MARATHI.ABPLIVE.COM/NEWS/DHARASHIV/SUICIDE-CONTINUES-IN-MARATHWADA-FOR-MARATHA-RESERVATION-ANOTHER-SUICIDE-IN-DHARASHIV-DISTRICT-I223136

(TRANSLATED FROM MARATHI TO ENGLISH)



### MAHARASHTRA

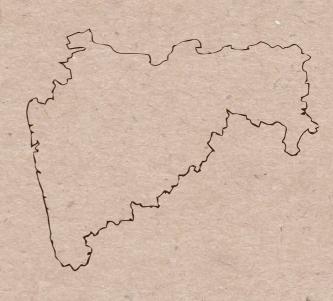
#### HUNGER STRIKES IN EACH VILLAGE, WARNS JARANGE

The members of community would start hunger strikes starting 29th Oct in every village across Maharashtra, said Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange. He also announced that if anything were to happen to the Maratha community due to these hunger strikes, the government would be held responsible for the same. Jarange refused to be examined by a medical professional, even though he was observed to be visibly weak four days into his 'fast-unto-death'. As a result of this, the Maharashtra government has now committed to providing reservation to the Maratha community.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 29, 2023)

HTTPS://TIMESOFINDIA.INDIATIMES.COM/CITY/AURANGABAD/HUNGER-

STRIKES-IN-EACH-VILLAGE-WARNS-JARANGE/ARTICLESHOW/I04792427.CMS



### MANIPUR

# MANIPUR MINISTER BASANTA KUMAR SAYS 98% OF DISPLACED STUDENTS GIVEN FREE ADMISSION

The Manipur Minister of Education, Th. Basanta Kumar Singh stated that 98.28% of students displaced by the ethnic conflict in the state have been given free admission and the necessary facilities such as stationary items, mobile phones and identity cards and certificates to continue their education. According to Singh, approximately 15,915 students were registered at 347 relief camps and 15,641 have been re-admitted to nearby schools. He said that the state government had taken up various remedial measures for the displaced students since the violence began in the state, and added that the education department has developed alternative teaching-learning methods for them

These include a free educational TV channel called Lairk on Jio TV, and a drama based on academic curriculum called Radio Class being aired by All India Radio, Imphal.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 26, 2023)

HTTPS://INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ARTICLE/INDIA/MANIPURDISPLACED-STUDENTS-GIVEN-FREE-ADMISSION-9001041/

### **ODISHA**

# CM SCHEME LAUNCHED IN RAYAGADA AND JHARSUGUDA DISTRICTS

The controversial CM Scheme "Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha" was launched in Rayagada and Jharsuguda districts, allotting Rs. 91 Crore and Rs. 39 Crore respectively. The program provided funds for protecting the basic foundation of Odisha culture, especially the Jagannath Culture. The development funds would also be sanctioned for creation of digital banking, internet availability, and video conferencing abilities in these districts to increase employment and development opportunities. However the scheme remains controversial as ever, but the government is continuing with widespread implementation of the same.



LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 30,2023)

HTTPS://OMMCOMNEWS.COM/ODISHA-NEWS/CM-NAVEEN-LAUNCHES-AMA-ODISHA-NABIN-ODISHA-SCHEME-IN-RAYAGADA-JHARSUGUDA-DISTS-SANCTIONS-FUNDS

#### **PUNJAB**

# FIRST PERSON: FARMERS RUNNING OUT OF WATER IN PUNJAB, INDIA

This UN article talks about the issue of water scarcity in Punjab using the case of three farmers in Punjab. Amandeep Singh says that they have to dig deeper and spend more money to reach groundwater and because of water scarcity, everyone will face losses. Harjeet Singh says that with the lack of rain, the groundwater acts as the only source of irrigation and requests the world to come together to solve the problem of water scarcity

Lastly, Vishvajeet Jyani believes that we must combine traditional knowledge with modern technology to preserve water and the government plays a huge role in incentivising farmers to produce other than rice and water-intensive crops.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 25, 2023)

HTTPS://NEWS.UN.ORG/EN/STORY/2023/IO/II42782



### RAJASTHAN

#### FARMERS PROTEST FOR WATER

Farmers of Takhatgarh had started a protest over the sharing of water from the Jawai dam, which ended on Thursday evening after reaching a conclusion. The conclusion stated that 4400 MCFT of water would be given to farmers for irrigation. The protests were held in the form of sit-ins, and rallies which were stopped by the police. Farmers had also threatened to not vote if they did not get an agreement. This prompted the governing authorities to take a decision for the same after two days of sit-ins.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 26, 2023)

HTTPS://DAINIK-B.IN/DHWJTCYPDEB

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)



#### RAJASTHAN

# RKALERT INFOTECH: THIS DIGITAL MARKETING FIRM IN A RAJASTHAN VILLAGE HAS GOOGLE. FACEBOOK AS CLIENTS

Rkalert Infotech: This digital marketing firm in a Rajasthan village has Google, Facebook as clients. Based out of Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district, Rkalert Infotech Limited, which commenced its operations more than a decade back on a humble note, today offers digital marketing services to global behemoths such as Facebook, Google, and Yahoo. This digital marketing firm, which operates from the district's Gudha Gorji town, today employs more than 50 people from the region.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 29, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.MONEYCONTROL.COM/NEWS/BUSINESS/RKALERT-INFOTECH-THIS-DIGITAL-MARKETING-FIRM-IN-A-RAJASTHAN-VILLAGE-HAS-GOOGLE-FACEBOOK-AS-CLIENTS-II5950II.HTML Founder of Rkalert, Rakesh Kumar Saini, states that he started working in the digital marketing space in 2013, and gradually started developing interest to explore further. With no formal technical knowledge or a degree course, Rakesh has organically expanded his company and extended its operations to international clients as well.



### TAMIL NADU

# T.N. CM STALIN URGES CENTRE TO RELEASE FUNDS FOR MGNREGS

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has written to Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Giriraj Singh, urging the immediate release of funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the state. He requested the release of a total wage liability amounting to ₹2,696.77 crore. While the Government of India allocated ₹4,903.25 crore for unskilled wages in 2023-24, only ₹418.23 crore has been partially released, leaving a balance of ₹1,337.20 crore yet to reach the workers...

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 27, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.THEHINDU.COM/NEWS/NATIONAL/TAMIL-NADU/TN-CM-STALIN-URGES-CENTRE-TO-RELEASE-FUNDS-FOR-MGNREGS/ARTICLE67465410.ECE CM Stalin emphasized the significance of MGNREGS in providing livelihood opportunities and women's empowerment in rural areas



### TAMIL NADU

# TAMIL NADU FARMERS PROTEST KARNATAKA'S CAUVERY WATER REFUSAL IN HUMAN CHAIN DEMONSTRATION

In protest against the Karnataka government's refusal to release water from the Cauvery River and the central government's lack of condemnation of this action, a human chain demonstration took place at Mukkombu Mellani in Trichy district. Led by the District President of the Farmers' Union, MP Chinnadurai, the protesters began their march from the entrance area of Mukkombu.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 27, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.DAILYTHANTHI.COM/NEWS/STATE/FARMERS-WOMEN-HUMAN-CHAIN-STRUGGLE-IN-MUKKOMBU-MANELA-I080458

(TRANSLATED FROM TAMIL TO ENGLISH)

They intended to proceed to Vathali, but police authorities granted permission only for a human chain protest on the Cauvery Bridge, sparking disagreement. Despite this, the participants marched across the Cauvery River bridge and formed a human chain by holding each other's hands.



### TELANGANA

# VILLAGERS DOWNSTREAM MEDIGADDA BARRAGE SPEND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

In Jayashankar Bhupalapalli district, residents downstream of the Medigadda barrage are deeply concerned as the pillars of a bridge in Manthani Assembly Constituency sank by 0.6 meters, causing widespread fear and discussions about potential future threats to the area. Villages like Peddampeta, Lenkalagdda, Parikena, and others are worried that the Medigadda barrage could catastrophically impact their communities if issues persist.

construction quality, leading to heightened police security at the site and disrupted road connectivity between Maharashtra and Telangana. Sleepless nights have become common among the local population since the incident.

Doubts have arisen about the barrage's safety and

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 24, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.DECCANCHRONICLE.COM/NATION/IN-OTHER-NEWS/24I023/VILLAGERS-DOWNSTREAM-MEDIGADDA-BARRAGE-SPEND-SLEEPLESS-NIGHTS.HTML



### UTTAR PRADESH

RURAL WOMEN WILL GET 33 PERCENT DISCOUNT ON NEW ELECTRICITY CONNECTIONS, NEW RATES WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED

Preparations have started to finalize the new cost data book to be prepared regarding the rates of new electricity connections, rates of consumer goods, etc. in the state. There will be a meeting of the Electricity Supply Review Panel Sub Committee regarding this on October 30. The issue of giving a 33 percent discount to rural women and a 15 percent discount to urban women on making new connections has also been included in the agenda of the meeting.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 28, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.AMARUJALA.COM/AMP/LUCKNOW/UP-RURAL-WOMEN-WILL-GET-33-PERCENT-DISCOUNT-ON-NEW-CONNECTIONS-2023-10-28

(TRANSLATED FROM HINDI TO ENGLISH)



### WEST BENGAL

#### WEST BENGAL TEACHER AMONG TOP 10 FINALISTS FOR \$IM GLOBAL EDUCATION PRIZE

Deep Narayan Nayak, a teacher from Asansol, West Bengal, is among the top 10 finalists for the 2023 Global Teacher Prize, competing with educators from 130 countries. His innovative teaching methods, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, have positively impacted underprivileged children. Known as the 'Teacher of the Streets,' Nayak teaches at the Tilka Manjhi Adivasi Free Primary School. During lockdown, he transformed outdoor spaces into classrooms, bridging the digital divide for disadvantaged children. He also educated parents, especially mothers and grandmothers, to break the cycle of illiteracy, and addressed issues like malnutrition and child exploitation.

LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 26, 2023)

HTTPS://WWW.NDTV.COM/EDUCATION/WEST-BENGAL-TEACHER-AMONG-TOP-IO-FINALISTS-FOR-IM-GLOBAL-EDUCATION-PRIZE-4515984 Nayak's teaching techniques increased literacy rates, eradicated superstitions, and promoted sustainability. His 'Teacher at Your Doorstep' program aimed to reduce absenteeism and school dropouts.



### WEST BENGAL

NADIA: 'AN INDIVIDUAL WAS CAUGHT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO DISPOSE OF A WOMAN'S BODY WRAPPED IN PLASTIC AFTER ALLEGEDLY COMMITTING MURDER'

A man was recently arrested in Harinhat, Nadia, for allegedly trying to dispose of a plastic-wrapped woman's body, which was an extremely disturbing incident. The woman, who rented a home nearby, is said to have been strangled and killed. Locals became suspicious and the man was taken into custody. This incident was one of several graphic cases that were recently reported from West Bengal.

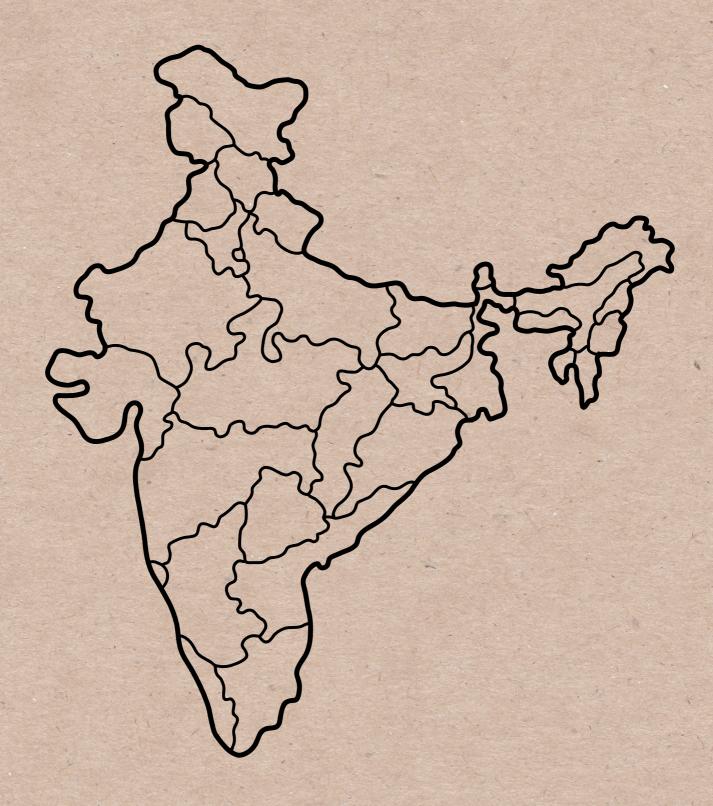
LINK TO THE ARTICLE: (OCT 25, 2023)

HTTPS://BENGALI.ABPLIVE.COM/DISTRICT/A-MAN-WAS-CAUGHT-WHILE-THROWING-THE-PLASTIC-WRAPPED-BODY-AFTER-KILLING-A-WOMAN-I019106

(TRANSLATED FROM BENGALI TO ENGLISH)

Other cases included the alleged murder of a husband in Haldia and the suspected murder of a former partner in Kaliyaganj. Investigations are ongoing to determine the exact motives behind these tragic events.





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