



GRAMEEN SRIJAN



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While Buddha offered a moral vision for an ideal society, Panchayati Raj gives it a practical form by empowering people through decentralization.

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Rabindranath Tagore & Panchayati Raj System

Tagore's initiatives pioneered a decentralized, community-driven approach to rural development.



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Tech Blossoms in the Heart of Rural India



Celebrated on 11th May to commemorate India's technological achievements. The day highlights innovations and contributions of scientists and engineers in nation-building.

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Celebration of Panchayati Raj Day

Celebrated on 24th April with enthusiasm, highlighting the importance of grassroots governance.



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RANGACHERRA- Best GP for Climate Action



This small Gram Panchayat once struggled with issues that are all too common in rural areas—irregular electricity, lack of clean drinking water, and agricultural distress due to water scarcity.

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Activities of this Month

In May, SPRC organized the Chief Minister's programme, a happiness workshop, and training on women-friendly Panchayats.



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Speaking Power- Tool of leadership



In Rural Development, speaking is not just about delivering messages—it is about creating impact

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Message from the Hon'ble Chief Minister

"On the Occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day at SPRC, Tripura on 3rd May 2025,

I am delighted to be part of this important event at SPRC. As I often say, action is better than words. Real change comes from focused efforts and commitment on the ground. Today, we have witnessed the true spirit of rural progress.

The inauguration of the Smart Office at SPRC, built to international standards, along with the release of the Annual Report 2024-25 and the special edition of Grameen Srijan, reflects our dedication to transparency and innovation in governance. I congratulate all award-winning Panchayats and officials for their outstanding contributions.

Panchayati Raj is the foundation of our democracy. When rural communities lead, the entire nation moves forward. I appreciate the Panchayats that have become inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.

Tripura proudly received 7 National Panchayat Awards and became the first state to implement e-office at all three tiers. With UPI now active in most Panchayats, transparency in governance has been strengthened.

I am especially happy about the MoU signed with IIM Shillong, which will enhance leadership skills among Panchayati Raj stakeholders and help build future ambassadors of Tripura.

Let us work together to create a brighter, stronger, and more self-reliant rural Tripura".

Jai Hind.

Jai Tripura.

- Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura

FROM THE EDITORIAL'S DESK



Message from the Secretary

It is with great pleasure that I share a few words for the **May Edition** of Grameen Srijan. The past month has been marked by impactful initiatives that reflect our commitment to strengthen rural governance through innovation, collaboration, and empowerment.

The recognition of outstanding Blocks, Panchayats, and officials was a celebration of dedication at the grassroots. The signing of the MoU between RD (Panchayat) and IIM Shillong marks a significant step towards institutional capacity building and leadership development. Equally inspiring were the knowledge-sharing sessions such as "The Science of Smiles" and the ToT on "Championing Change: Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance", which addressed the importance of emotional well-being and women's leadership in governance.

These initiatives reaffirm our vision for a progressive and inclusive rural development framework. I extend my sincere appreciation to all departments, partners, and field functionaries for their continued efforts in turning this vision into reality.

Let us move forward with the same spirit of dedication and innovation.

Warm regards,

Shri Abhishek Singh, IAS

Secretary,

Department of RD (Panchayat),

Government of Tripura



Poverty Free Village



Healthy Village



Child Friendly Village



Water sufficient Village



Clean and Green Village



Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure



Socially Secured Village



Village with Good Governance



Women Friendly Village

THOUGHTS OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

WEST TRIPURA ZILA PARISHAD



বিশ্বজিৎ শীল
ভারপ্রাপ্ত সভাপতি
পশ্চিম ত্রিপুরা জিলা পরিষদ

১) আপনার জেলাকে নিয়ে আপনার স্বপ্ন কি?

উত্তর:- পশ্চিম ত্রিপুরা জিলা পরিষদের অন্তর্গত সমস্ত পঞ্চায়েত এবং পঞ্চায়েত সমিতি গুলি তাদের নেওয়া সংকল্পের উপর কাজ করে ২০৩০ সালের মধ্যে এলএসডিজির যে লক্ষ্যমাত্রাকে অর্জন করা। ভারপ্রাপ্ত সভাপতি হিসাবে আমার প্রচেষ্টা থাকবে পঞ্চায়েতের মাধ্যমে যাতে রাজ্য সরকার এবং কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের দেওয়া বিভিন্ন স্কীমের অর্থ সঠিক সময়ে সঠিক জায়গায় ব্যবহৃত হয়। পাশাপাশি আমার মূল স্বপ্ন হল পশ্চিম ত্রিপুরা জেলার অন্তর্গত সবগুলি পঞ্চায়েত এবং পঞ্চায়েত সমিতিগুলিকে ISO certified পঞ্চায়েত হিসাবে গড়ে তুলার।

২) কোন বিশেষ ক্ষেত্র গুলিতে আপনার জেলায় গ্রামোন্নয়নের ক্ষেত্রে বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দেওয়া আবশ্যিক বলে আপনার মনে হয়?

উত্তর:- আমি জিলা পরিষদের ভারপ্রাপ্ত সভাপতি হিসাবে সবচাইতে বেশী জোড় দেব বিভিন্ন পঞ্চায়েত, ব্লক এবং আমাদের পশ্চিম ত্রিপুরা জিলা পরিষদের নিজস্ব আয় বৃদ্ধির ব্যাপারে। পাশাপাশি আমাদের এই পশ্চিম ত্রিপুরা জিলা পরিষদের অন্তর্গত সমস্ত গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েতগুলির মধ্যে বিভিন্ন লাইন দপ্তরের সহযোগিতায় সচেতনতা মূলক কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে বাল্য বিবাহ এবং নেশা মুক্তির বিরুদ্ধে অভিযান আরো জোরদার করতে হবে। প্রত্যেক পঞ্চায়েতগুলিতে Good governance নিশ্চিত করতে হবে এবং Clean & Green পঞ্চায়েত রূপে তৈরী করতে হবে, পাশাপাশি মহিলা ক্ষমতায়নের উপর বিশেষ নজর দিতে হবে। পঞ্চায়েতের আওতাধীন অঙ্গনওয়াড়ী কেন্দ্রগুলির দিদিমণী এবং হেল্পারদের মাসিক বেতনভাতা ও আশাকর্মীদের মাসিক বেতনভাতা স্ব-স্ব পঞ্চায়েতের ওয়াকিং রিপোর্টের উপর হওয়া উচিত। সাথে বর্তমান The Tripura Panchayats (Taxes, Fees, Rates & Tolls) Rules, 2011 পরিবর্তন করে নতুনভাবে করা উচিত যাতে করে পঞ্চায়েতের নিজস্ব আয় বৃদ্ধি পেতে পারে। পাশাপাশি ভূ-গর্ভস্থ জলস্বর বাড়ানোর জন্য পাঞ্চায়েতগুলিকে যথাযথ পরিকল্পনা গ্রহন করতে হবে।

৩) আজ থেকে ৫ বছর পরে আপনার জেলাকে কোন অবস্থানে দেখতে চাইবেন?

উত্তর:-আজ থেকে ৫ বছর পর আমরা এসডিজি এর ১৭টি লক্ষ্যমাত্রাকে পূরন করে এই জেলাকে এই রাজ্য তথা ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে সর্বোচ্চ আসনে বসতে চাই সাথে প্রত্যেক পঞ্চায়েত এবং পঞ্চায়েত সমিতিগুলিকে ISO certified পঞ্চায়েত হিসাবে দেখতে চাই। পাশাপাশি জিলা পরিষদ, পঞ্চায়েত সমিতি এবং সকল গ্রাম পঞ্চায়েত গুলি কেন্দ্র এবং রাজ্য সরকার থেকে প্রদত্ত অর্থ ও নিজস্ব আয়ের মাধ্যমে নিজের পায়ে দাঁড়াতে পারে এবং নিজস্ব সম্পদ ও পরিশেবা যেমন- হাসপাতাল, ফায়ারসার্ভিস পরিশেরা, এমবুল্যান্স, শব-বাহী গাড়ী, শিশুদের জন্য উদ্যান, যুবক-যুবতীদের জন্য খেলার মাঠ, মহিলাদের জন্য প্রশিক্ষনকেন্দ্র ইত্যাদি তৈরী করতে পারে।

THOUGHTS OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

DHAIJAI ZILA PARISHAD



শ্রীমতী সুমিত্রা দাস
সভাধিপতি
ধলাই জেলা পরিষদ

১ আপনার জেলা বা ব্লক-কে নিয়ে আপনার স্বপ্ন কী?

উত্তর- ধলাই জেলা পরিষদের সভাধিপতি হিসেবে, আমার স্বপ্ন হল একটি স্বনির্ভর, শিক্ষিত, সুস্থ এবং ক্ষমতায়িত ধলাই গড়ে তোলা যেখানে প্রতিটি নাগরিক মর্যাদার সাথে সমৃদ্ধ হবে। আমি উন্নত রাস্তা, মানসম্পন্ন স্বাস্থ্যসেবা, ডিজিটাল শিক্ষা, নারী ও যুব ক্ষমতায়ন এবং উপজাতি ও গ্রামীণ সম্প্রদায়ের জন্য উন্নতির স্বপ্ন দেখি। আমার লক্ষ্য স্থানীয় জীবিকা জোরদার করা, আমাদের প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদ রক্ষা করা এবং শাসনে স্বচ্ছতা নিশ্চিত করা। জনকেন্দ্রিক নীতি এবং সক্রিয় জনসাধারণের অংশগ্রহণের মাধ্যমে, আমি ধলাইকে একটি আদর্শ জেলায় রূপান্তরিত করতে চাই- যেখানে উন্নয়ন প্রতিটি দোরগোড়ায় পৌঁছাবে এবং কেউ পিছিয়ে থাকবে না।

২. কোন বিশেষ ক্ষেত্র গুলিতে আপনার জেলা/ব্লক এলাকায় গ্রামীণ উন্নয়নের ক্ষেত্রে বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দেওয়া আবশ্যিক বলে আপনার মনে হয়?

উত্তর- ধলাই জেলার সামগ্রিক গ্রামীণ উন্নয়নের জন্য, প্রত্যন্ত ও উপজাতি অঞ্চলে শিক্ষার উন্নতির উপর বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দেওয়া উচিত। ধলাই জেলায় শিক্ষার উন্নতির জন্য, স্কুলের অবকাঠামোগত উন্নয়ন, যোগ্য শিক্ষকের প্রাপ্যতা নিশ্চিত করা এবং গ্রামীণ ও উপজাতি অঞ্চলে ডিজিটাল শিক্ষার প্রচারের উপর বিশেষ মনোযোগ দিতে হবে। শৈশবকালীন শিক্ষা জোরদার করা, ঝরে পড়ার হার হ্রাস করা এবং কন্যাশিশুদের শিক্ষাকে উৎসাহিত করা অপরিহার্য। আবাসিক স্কুল এবং হোস্টেল প্রত্যন্ত অঞ্চলের শিক্ষার্থীদের সহায়তা করতে পারে। যুবসমাজের ক্ষমতায়নের জন্য মাধ্যমিক স্তরে বৃত্তিমূলক প্রশিক্ষণ, কম্পিউটার সাক্ষরতা এবং ক্যারিয়ার নির্দেশিকা চালু করতে হবে। ধলাইয়ের দীর্ঘমেয়াদী উন্নয়ন এবং সামাজিক সমতার জন্য মানসম্পন্ন, অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক এবং শিক্ষা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।

৩. আজ থেকে পাঁচ বছর পরে আপনার জেলা/ব্লক এলাকাকে কোন অবস্থানে দেখতে চাইবেন?

উত্তর পাঁচ বছর পর, আমি আমার জেলা/ব্লককে একটি মডেল হিসেবে কল্পনা করি যেখানে প্রতিটি গ্রাম সর্ব-আবহাওয়া সড়ক দ্বারা সংযুক্ত থাকবে, প্রতিটি শিশু মানসম্মত শিক্ষার সুযোগ পাবে এবং প্রতিটি পরিবার পরিষ্কার জল, বিদ্যুৎ এবং স্বাস্থ্যসেবা উপভোগ করবে। আমি দেখতে পাচ্ছি ক্ষমতায়িত যুবসমাজ দক্ষতা উন্নয়ন এবং স্থানীয় কর্মসংস্থানের মাধ্যমে পরিবর্তনের নেতৃত্ব দেবে এবং নারীরা প্রশাসন ও অর্থনীতিতে সক্রিয়ভাবে অংশগ্রহণ করবে। কৃষি আধুনিকীকরণ করা হবে, জীবিকা বৈচিত্র্যময় হবে এবং উপজাতীয় ঐতিহ্য গর্বের সাথে সংরক্ষণ করা হবে। ডিজিটাল সংযোগ, স্বচ্ছ শাসনব্যবস্থা এবং সক্রিয় সম্প্রদায়ের অংশগ্রহণের মাধ্যমে, আমার এলাকা সকলের জন্য সমতা, মর্যাদা এবং সুযোগের মূলে নিহিত গ্রামীণ রূপান্তরের একটি উজ্জ্বল উদাহরণ হবে।

Buddha's Path to People's Power

Samarpita Debnath

*Panchayat Executive Officer
SPRC-Tripura*



In the village of Siddhapur, a young girl named Anaya sat under a banyan tree with her grandfather, Acharya Dev, a retired teacher. She was working on a school project about the Panchayati Raj System. "Grandfather," she asked, "Our teacher said Panchayati Raj is the way by which India govern their villages. But it seems so new. Where did these ideas come from?" Acharya Dev smiled. "It may seem new, child, but its spirit is very old, older than our textbooks. Let me tell you a story."

He briefed her about the life of Gautama Buddha, who, over 2,500 years ago, walked barefoot across India, teaching values of compassion, equality, and ethical living. He gathered a community of monks and nuns called the Sangha, where everyone, regardless of caste or gender, had an equal voice. They made decisions through dialogue and consensus, and not by command.

"That sounds like our Gram Sabha," said Anaya.

"Exactly," said Acharya Dev. "Our village meetings today echo the Sangha's spirit. Just as Gautama Buddha taught people to govern themselves with wisdom and kindness."

He continued, "Buddha also believed in Right Livelihood by earning without harming others. That's what good governance should be ethical, inclusive, and mindful of nature. Our elected panchayat leaders should be like the ideal rulers Buddha described as honest, patient, and caring for all."



Anaya's eyes lit up. "Daddu, So the ideas behind Panchayati Raj are like living Buddha's teachings in everyday life?"

"Yes my dear child," he nodded.

"Where Buddha envisioned a moral society, Panchayati Raj gives us the tools to build it from the bottom up."

The sun dipped low as the village bell rang and it was time for the Gram Sabha meeting. Anaya stood holding her notebook in hand.

"I want to listen today," she said. "Maybe one day, I'll be the speaker in the Sabha." Her grandfather smiled. "That's how it begins, a voice in the Sabha, echoing the wisdom of the Sangha."

From Sangha to Sabha

India's democratic roots are deeply embedded in its ancient traditions and philosophies. One of the most influential figures in this context is Gautama Buddha, whose teachings emphasizes on equality, ethical conduct, and collective well-being.

These principles of Buddha find a strong reflection in the Panchayati Raj system, which is the foundation of local self-governance in India. The idea of decentralisation of power lies in the heart of this system. These principles empowers people at the grassroots to participate directly in the governance and also decision-making.

How Buddha's Teachings Connect with the Panchayati Raj System

Democratic Principles and Collective Decision-Making

The Sangha was the monastic order founded by Buddha. It was democratic in nature. In the Sangha, decisions were made through open discussions, mutual agreement, and sometimes by voting. Everyone, regardless of seniority, had the right to speak and be heard. This approach is echoed in the Gram Sabha system under Panchayati Raj, where all the adult villagers participate in dialogues. Both systems are based on the belief that true democracy begins when decisions are made by the people themselves, not by distant authorities.

Social Equality and Inclusion

Buddha firmly rejected caste discrimination and welcomed people from all backgrounds into his Sangha, including women and those from lower castes. This commitment to social equality is mirrored in the Panchayati Raj system, which provides a decentralised structure of reserved seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women to ensure representation of all sections of society.

Decentralisation of Power and Local Self-Governance

One of the most important features of the Panchayati Raj system is the decentralisation of power from the central and state governments to local governing bodies. This allows villages to manage their own affairs through elected representatives who understand local needs. This idea aligns closely with Buddha's emphasis on self-discipline and community responsibility. Just as Buddha taught that individuals and communities should take charge of their own moral as well as spiritual development, the Panchayati Raj system encourages self-reliance and autonomy in local governance.

Ethical Leadership

In his teachings, Buddha outlined the qualities of a good ruler that is kindness, honesty, patience, and moral integrity. Leaders were expected to serve the people, not dominate them. The same values are essential for elected representatives in Panchayati Raj institutions, who are entrusted with public welfare and expected to act with integrity and accountability.

Peaceful Dialogue and Conflict Resolution

Buddha always encouraged non-violence and resolve differences through dialogue. The Sangha followed this principle, resolving conflicts through discussion rather than force. This is also reflected in the Panchayati Raj system, where village-level disputes are often settled through various community meetings and consensus, rather than through lengthy legal processes.

Conclusion

The core values of Buddha's teachings such as democracy, equality, ethical conduct, and public service, closely align with the spirit of the Panchayati Raj system. The idea of decentralisation shifts the power from distant authorities to the hands of the people in order to provide them real control over their development and governance. While Buddha offered a moral and spiritual vision for an ideal society, Panchayati Raj provides a practical structure to realize these ideals of Buddha. Together, they reflect the relevance of ancient Indian thought in shaping modern democratic institutions.



RABINDRANTH TAGORE AND PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

Chirabrata Debnath
Faculty (Rural Development)
SPRC – Tripura



The concept of Panchayati Raj aligns closely with Rabindranath Tagore's vision for rural self-governance, community development, and decentralized power. Tagore believed in empowering rural communities to manage their own affairs, which mirrors the core principles of Panchayati Raj. Rabindranath Tagore, the eminent poet, writer, artist, and environmentalist, was a key figure in the development of rural India and social reform in India. He was strongly committed to social responsibility and had a vision of villages being autonomous but networked.

Tagore's work set significant foundation for what came to be known as the Panchayati Raj system later on—the decentralized rural government model of India. His 15-point Village Reconstruction Charter, issued in 1906, was a visionary framework for revitalizing rural India. It emphasized self-reliance, community participation, and education. Key points included fostering communal harmony through interfaith education, improving village infrastructure like roads and schools, and empowering women via vocational training.

Tagore advocated for the use of indigenous goods, creation of a famine relief fund, and revival of local arts and festivals to strengthen cultural identity. The charter also promoted agricultural development using scientific methods and encouraged establishing schools that served both educational and social roles within the village community.

Observing exploitation by Zamindars and moneylenders, Tagore founded Patisar Bank in 1905 to offer low-interest loans to poor villagers, which was a significant step of rural reconstruction. He funded it partly with his 1913 Nobel Prize money. Both Tagore's initiative and the Panchayati Raj system aim at uplifting rural populations by addressing their immediate needs—be it credit, infrastructure, or livelihood.

Most notably through the establishment of the Sriniketan Institute of Rural Reconstruction in 1922, represented one of the earliest attempts at empowering villages from within, encouraging self-reliance, education, cooperative efforts, and sustainable development. This initiative focused on village reconstruction by encouraging villagers to address their own problems, rather than imposing solutions from outside. The institute took a scientific and comprehensive approach to village problems. It tackled multiple dimensions of rural life, recognizing that poverty, illiteracy, disease, and social superstition were interlinked. The focus of the institute was to –

i) Introducing new farming methods to increase productivity and sustainability

ii) Promoting local crafts and cottage industries to generate employment and economic self-reliance

iii) Enhancing basic hygiene and health standards through community awareness and services,

iv) Providing both formal and informal education to make the rural population an educated one,

v) Eliminating social evils and instilling a sense of collective responsibility.

Panchayati Raj system in India is indeed aligned with the vision and principles of the Sriniketan Institute of Rural Reconstruction (1922) because both share basic ideas about grassroots democracy, local self-governance, and holistic rural development. Derived from the points listed below, we can say two system mirror each other-

1. Local Participation and Empowerment:-

Sriniketan : Rabindranath Tagore believed that villagers should participate actively in their own development. Sriniketan focused on empowering villagers through education, self-reliance, and cooperative efforts.

Panchayati Raj: The system is built on the idea of bottom-up approach or decentralization—giving power to local bodies (gram panchayats) to plan and execute the same. It empowers people to make decisions relevant to their need.

II. Holistic Rural Development :-

Sriniketan: Not just economic development, but also cultural, educational, and health-related upliftment of villages was the goal.

Panchayati Raj: The XIth schedule of Indian Constitution gives Panchayats a constitutional basis to manage key development areas like local development, welfare, and economic planning —similar to Sriniketan's multifaceted approach.

III. Decentralized Planning :-

Sriniketan: Emphasized locally tailored solutions created and implemented by villagers themselves.

Panchayati Raj: Advocates planning from the village level upward. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment institutionalized this bottom-up approach.

IV. Training and Capacity Building :-

Sriniketan: Villagers were trained to manage their own affairs—vocational skills, agriculture, health practices.

Panchayati Raj: Modern institutions also focus on capacity building for panchayat members through training in governance, finance, and development schemes.

Tagore's various initiatives was the earliest models in India to envisage rural development not as a top-down policy, but as a decentralized or community-driven, participatory effort. Panchayati Raj follows the same essence, later institutionalized in the Constitution. Both aim to make villages self-reliant, participatory, and focused on development, making them substantially aligned.



‘Tech Blossoms in the Heart of Rural India’

Dr. Jaba Saha

Panchayat Executive Officer
SPRC-Tripura



Rural Innovation: Clay Refrigerator That Runs Without Electricity

1

Innovator:

Mansukhbhai Prajapati, a traditional potter from Gujarat, turned rural craftsmanship into groundbreaking innovation.

2

Founder of Mitticool:

He started Mitticool, a company that now produces 250+ eco-friendly clay products like refrigerators, water filters, tawas, and pressure cookers.

3

The Star Innovation - Clay Refrigerator:

Runs without electricity
Keeps fruits, vegetables, and dairy products cool and fresh

Uses natural cooling through evaporation
Ideal for rural areas and power-deficient regions

The Journey:

- Came from a family of potters who quit due to health issues caused by traditional methods.
- After various odd jobs, Mansukh took a loan of Rs 50,000 to revive pottery with safer techniques.
- Took 5 years to develop the clay refrigerator.
- Secured a patent for his invention.

Recognition:

Featured in Forbes' 2010 list of 7 Most Powerful Rural Indian Entrepreneurs, changing lives through innovation.

What's Next?

Mansukh is now working on building a clay house that stays naturally cool without air conditioning.



Source: (Better India)



“Tech Blossoms in the Heart of Rural India”

Telangana Man's Innovation Could Cut Village Electricity Bills by 30%!

1

Innovator:

Raju Mupparapu, a 30-year-old from Gopalapuram village, Warangal (Rural), Telangana.

2

The Problem:

Raju noticed streetlights in his village were left on even during the day, wasting a huge amount of electricity.

3

The Solution - Natural Street Light Switch:

Raju developed a smart device with a Light Dependent Resistor (LDR) sensor.

It automatically switches streetlights off during the day and on at dusk.

No manual intervention needed – it's fully automatic based on natural light.

Impact So Far:

Installed in 120 panchayats and Warangal municipality. Villages reported up to 30% reduction in electricity bills. Helps gram panchayats save money and manage monthly electricity dues more effectively.

Recognition:

Prashanth Patil, Collector of Nalgonda, praised the innovation, saying:

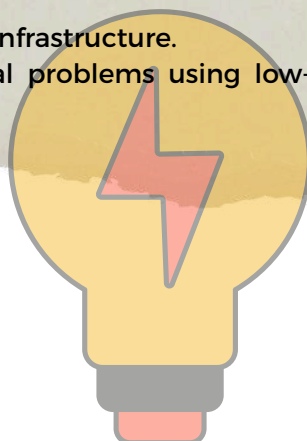
“A key lesson from Raju’s work is that raw talent thrives in rural India.”

Bigger Picture:

Promotes energy efficiency in rural infrastructure. Encourages local solutions for local problems using low-cost innovation.



Source:(Better India)



“Tech Blossoms in the Heart of Rural India”

"Waste Not, Want Not: Pyrolysis Powers a Greener Future in Indian Villages"

1

Technology:

Pyrolysis – a chemical recycling process that breaks down organic waste by heating it above 400°C in an oxygen-free chamber.

2

Benefits:

- Reduces indoor air pollution
- Improves soil fertility
- Generates clean energy (electricity, bio-oil, and syngas)

3

Study:

- Published in Science of the Total Environment.
- Based on a survey of ~1,200 rural households in Odisha, India.

Survey Findings:

- 80%+ want to switch from coal-based indoor cooking to cleaner fuels.
- Almost all prioritized reliable electricity access.
- 90% willing to sell agricultural waste for bioenergy production.

Proposed System: BioTRIG

- A community-level pyrolysis unit.
- Uses agricultural waste (e.g., rice straw, manure, wood).

Produces:

Bio-oil (for clean cooking)
Syngas (to power the system)
Electricity (for homes and businesses)
Biochar (improves soil and stores carbon)

Environmental Impact:

Could reduce GHG emissions by 350 kg CO₂ equivalent per person per year.

Social Impact:

Addresses issues faced by women and children due to smoke inhalation.
Helps with land degradation and energy poverty.

Sustainable Development Goals:

Aligns with several UN SDGs.

Supports the Indian government's initiatives for rural development and clean energy.

Conclusion:

BioTRIG offers a trigeneration solution.

If scaled nationally, it could significantly improve climate, health, and energy access in rural India.



Source: (ETEnergyworld.com)

"If Sunita Can Soar, Why Can't Rural Women Rise?"

1

- **Full Name:** Sunita Lyn Williams
- **Born:** September 19, 1965, in Euclid, Ohio, USA
- **NASA Career:** She became an astronaut in 1998.

2

- **Spaceflights:** STS-116 / Expedition 14/15 (2006-2007): She spent 195 days in space.
- **Expedition 32/33 (2012):** She spent another 127 days in space.

3

- **Records:** for the longest single spaceflight by a woman at the time (195 days).
- for most spacewalk time by a woman (over 50 hours total) for several years.

2024-25

June 5, 2024:

Starliner was launched with Sunita Williams as the pilot. Williams became the first woman to fly on a flight test of an orbital spacecraft.

The mission was originally planned to last eight days.

Mission extended:

Due to problems with Boeing's Starliner service module, the return was delayed. Williams and Wilmore remained aboard the International Space Station (ISS) for over nine months.

March 18, 2025:

Williams and Wilmore returned to Earth aboard SpaceX Crew-9.

Crew-9 had launched in September 2024 with two vacant seats to accommodate their return.

Astronaut ranking by time in space:

Before the mission: Williams was not among the top 50 astronauts by cumulative time in space.

August 24, 2024:

She reached the top 30.

Upon return in 2025:

Expected to be among the top 12 astronauts in total time spent in space.

Achievements

Spacewalks:

- Completed 7 spacewalks totaling 50 hours and 40 minutes – at one time, the world record for most spacewalks by a woman.

Ran a Marathon in Space:

- She ran the Boston Marathon on a treadmill aboard the International Space Station in 2007 – the first person to run a marathon in space!

Practiced Yoga in Space:

- Shared moments of calm by doing yoga in microgravity, inspiring many on Earth to stay healthy and balanced.

Source: (Google)



"Safe Water, Safe Lives: Arsenic Sensor for Rural Communities"

ARSENIC (AS)

Symbol: As

Atomic Number: 33

Group: V-A element

Type: Heavy, toxic, and ubiquitous

Occurrence: Found in atmosphere, soil, rocks, natural waters, and organisms



[2] Glamour or Danger?

Of the various sources of arsenic in drinking water probably poses the greatest threat to human health and is estimated to affect over 144 million people around the world.

In terms of abundance, it ranks 20th in earth's crust, 14th in sea water and 12th in the human system.

Detection Technique

FRET (Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer) is used as a Detection Technique

- Demonstrates increased FRET efficiency in presence of As(V)
- Linear response observed
- Method tested with natural lake water and yielded satisfactory results

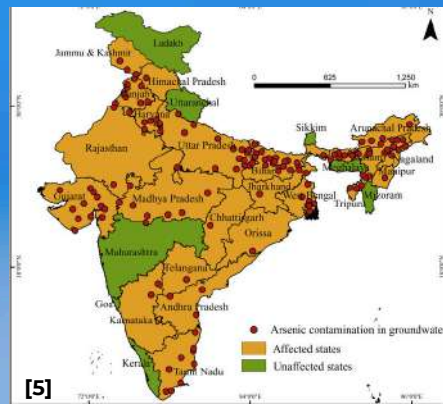
The WHO recommended guideline value of arsenic in drinking water is 10 ppb .



[4] Poisoned by Arsenic, Plagued by Disease



Toxic Tubewell: Keep Away!



Map of India: Arsenic Contamination Zones

Source:

1. <https://encyclopedia.pub/entry/39708>
2. <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna22546056>
3. Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical, Volume 241, 31 March 2017, Pages 1014-1023
4. slideshow/arsenic-pollution-/250340963
5. www.mapsofindia.com; Chakraborti et al., 2018 and references therein; CGWB, 2018).

NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY

National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated on 24th April, with great enthusiasm and fervour across various blocks under the RD (Panchayat) Department, commemorating the historic day when the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act came into force, empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as the three tier of governance. The celebration aimed to strengthen grassroots democracy and recognize the tireless efforts of Panchayat functionaries in rural development.



Chandipur RD Block



Jampui Hill RD Block



Rupaichari RD Block



Old Agartala RD Block



B.C Nagar RD Block



Charilam RD Block



Ambassa RD Block



Chawmanu R.D Block



South Baramura VC

Across the districts, the celebration was marked by a series of vibrant events and community-focused initiatives. Various blocks took the lead in organizing awareness camps, health and wellness camps, special Gram Sabhas, and interactive sessions with elected representatives and local citizens. These events provided a platform for discussing key issues affecting rural communities, such as sanitation, water supply, health, women empowerment, and livelihood generation.

ACTIVITIES OF THE DAY



Silachari RD Block

Sanitation and Cleanliness Drives were carried out under the Swachh Bharat Mission. PRIs, youth clubs, and school students actively participated in cleaning village surroundings, public spaces, and planting trees to promote a clean and green environment.

Cultural Programs and competitions such as essay writing, debates, quiz, drawing, and folk song/dance were organized in many schools and community halls to create awareness about the role and history of Panchayati Raj.



Khowai RD Block



Nalchar RD Block



Tepania RD Block



Salema RD Block



Gournagar RD Block



B.C Nagar RD Block



Best Gram Panchayat For Climate Action

RANGACHERRA -

A Village United for a Better Future

“

Nestled in the serene landscape of Mohanpur RD Block of West Tripura District, the village of Rangacherra has undergone a remarkable transformation. With a population of 3,272 spread across just 6 square kilometers, this small Gram Panchayat once struggled with issues that are all too common in rural areas—irregular electricity, lack of clean drinking water, and agricultural distress due to water scarcity.

In the past, life in Rangacherra was far from easy. Power cuts were frequent, and children often had to study in darkness. Access to drinking water was unreliable, and farmers, heavily dependent on monsoon rains, watched helplessly as their crops withered away.

Recognizing the need for change, the Panchayat took bold steps. Regular community meetings were held, awareness campaigns were launched, and most importantly, a 135 KW solar grid was installed under the PM-KUSUM scheme. This initiative marked a turning point.

A local resident shared, “The electricity problem had been going on for years. Children couldn’t study properly. But after the installation of the solar grid, things improved. We now have a steady power supply.”

The solar grid not only lit up homes but also powered irrigation pumps. Farmers, who had struggled for years, finally had the tools to irrigate their fields throughout the year.



Pranay Sarkar, a farmer in the village, said, "Earlier, due to water scarcity, I couldn't farm properly. Now with the solar-powered pump, I can cultivate in every season, and my income has doubled."

The Panchayat also introduced a solar-powered drinking water pump, ensuring a reliable supply of clean water to homes and Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). Children now have uninterrupted access to water and better learning environments.

Solar-powered streetlights were installed, making the village safer after dark, and 729 solar lamps were distributed to households. Waste management was addressed with the provision of dustbins, and environmental protection was prioritized through the plantation of 50,000 saplings.

Key Sustainability Indicators of Rangacherra GP

1. Capacity of Installed Solar Grid: 615 kW
(Benefitting 629 families, 38.16% women-headed households)
1. Solar Irrigation Pumps:
 - a. Total Capacity: 68,400 litres/day
 - b. Lift Head: 30 metres
2. Solarised Drinking Water Pumps:
 - a. Capacity: 45,000 litres/day
 - b. Pump Horsepower: Noted (HP)
 - c. Women-Owned Pumps: 27.59%
3. Solarised Anganwadi Centres (AWCs):
 - a. 100% coverage (300 W per AWC)
4. Streets Powered by Solar Lights: 100%
5. Rainwater Harvesting Systems at AWCs: 100% coverage
6. Biogas Plants: Capacity of 1 cum/family
7. Amrit Sarovar Area: 8.8 acres developed for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge
8. Households with Solar Lamps: 100%
9. Households with Waste Collection Dustbins: 100%

A biogas plant was set up to convert organic waste into clean cooking fuel, reducing dependence on firewood and fossil fuels. Another major achievement was the development of the Amrit Sarovar, which not only supports groundwater recharge and irrigation but also plays a role in reducing carbon emissions.



Solarised Street Light in Rangacherra GP



Awarded Best GP for Climate Action

Through these initiatives, Rangacherra has emerged as a model of climate-conscious rural development. What was once a struggling village is now a vibrant, self-reliant community. Rangacherra's journey stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved when local leadership, community participation, and sustainable practices come together with purpose and determination.

ACTIVITIES OF THIS MONTH



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, (Prof.) Dr. Manik Saha, attended a Programme on 3rd May '25, recognizing excellence in rural development, where awards were presented to top-performing Blocks, Panchayats, and officials. A key highlight was the signing of an MoU between the Department of RD (Panchayat), Government of Tripura, and IIM Shillong to enhance governance through academic collaboration. The event was graced by Smt. Nalini Prava Tripathy, respected Sabhadhipatis, and Department Secretary Sri Abhishek Singh.



A special programme titled
"The Science of Smiles:
Unlocking the Secrets of
Happiness"



The Programme was held at Pragna Bhawan on 17th May '25, drawing enthusiastic participation from officials. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Satinder Singh Rekhi, Founder of the Rekhi Foundation for Happiness, who shared deep insights into the science behind happiness, emotional well-being, and positive thinking.



TOT on Championing change Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance

The training programme was conducted to from 19th to 22nd May '25 to build capacity and promote gender-inclusive leadership at the grassroots level. The programme aimed to equip trainers with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to support and inspire women in Panchayati Raj Institutions to take on stronger leadership roles.





Speaking Power: A Tool of Leadership: A Catalyst for Management and Rural Development

Leadership is not merely about authority; it is about influence, vision, and the ability to inspire action. Among the many tools a leader possesses, speaking—the power of effective communication—stands out as the most transformative. In the realms of management principles and rural development, the ability to articulate ideas, motivate teams, and engage communities can determine the success or failure of initiatives.

The Power of Speaking in Leadership

A leader's voice is more than words—it is a strategic instrument that shapes perceptions, builds trust, and drives change. Management experts like Peter Drucker emphasized that "the most important thing in communication is hearing what isn't said." Effective leaders use speaking to:

Clarify Vision: A well-articulated mission aligns teams toward common goals.

Motivate & Inspire: Words have the power to ignite passion, especially in rural settings where motivation drives collective action.

Resolve Conflicts: Persuasive communication bridges gaps between stakeholders.

Foster Accountability: Clear expectations set through communication enhance responsibility.

Current Example: Jacinda Ardern's Crisis Communication

New Zealand's former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern demonstrated the power of empathetic leadership during crises like the Christchurch mosque shootings (2019) and the COVID-19 pandemic. Her clear, compassionate, and decisive communication unified the nation, proving that authentic speaking builds trust and drives collective action—a lesson applicable to rural leaders managing community challenges.

Management Principles: Communication as a Core Function

Henri Fayol's 14 Principles of Management highlight "Unity of Direction" and "Initiative," both of which thrive on strong communication. In rural development projects, where resources are limited and collaboration is key, leaders must:

Engage in Participatory Communication: Involve local communities in decision-making to ensure sustainability.

Adapt Messaging: Rural audiences may respond better to storytelling and local dialects than formal corporate jargon.

Leverage Feedback Loops: Continuous dialogue ensures that management strategies remain relevant.

Case Study: India's MGNREGA and Grassroots Leadership

India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)—one of the world's largest rural employment schemes—relies heavily on local leaders' communication skills to mobilize laborers, resolve disputes, and ensure transparency.

A 2023 World Bank report found that villages with effective local leaders saw 30% higher participation rates due to better awareness campaigns and trust-building dialogues.

Speaking for Rural Development: A Tool for Empowerment

Rural areas often suffer from information asymmetry, where policies fail due to poor dissemination. A leader's speaking ability can:

Educate & Mobilize: Whether promoting agricultural innovations or health campaigns, persuasive communication ensures adoption.



Advocate for Change: Leaders who speak effectively can influence policymakers to prioritize rural needs.

Build Social Capital: Trust is cultivated through transparent and consistent communication, strengthening community bonds.

Build Social Capital: Trust is cultivated through transparent and consistent communication, strengthening community bonds.

Recent Example: Kenya's Digital Farmer Advisory Systems

In 2024, Kenya's government partnered with local agricultural leaders to launch a voice-based advisory system for small farmers. Using radio broadcasts and mobile messages, leaders communicated weather forecasts, pest control methods, and market prices in local languages. The result? A 20% increase in crop yields, proving that culturally tailored speaking enhances rural productivity (Source: FAO, 2024).

Conclusion: The Leader's Voice as a Change Agent

In both management and rural development, speaking is not just about delivering messages—it is about creating impact. A leader who masters this power-tool can transform disorganized groups into cohesive teams and underdeveloped regions into thriving communities. As John C. Maxwell said, "Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."

Food for Thought:

- Can AI-driven communication tools replace the human touch in rural leadership?
- How can young leaders in developing nations be trained in persuasive speaking for community development?



The evidence is clear: Where words flow effectively, progress follows.