



पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग  
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI



# **Voices of Change**

## Sarpanches at the Forefront

A Compendium of  
Special Guests of 79<sup>th</sup> Independence Day





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# Foreword



On the eve of India's Independence Day, we salute the spirit of nation-building that starts in our villages. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, water and sanitation have become the bedrock of Viksit Bharat, driving health, productivity, and dignity for every household.

India's water and sanitation journey draws from centuries of community stewardship from stepwells and tanks to Mahatma Gandhi's call to place cleanliness at the heart of national renewal. In our time, this legacy has been revitalized as a Jan Andolan: Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) restoring dignity through safe sanitation; Jal Jeevan Mission delivering Har Ghar Jal with quality and reliability; and sustained citizen participation. Together, these efforts are the everyday foundations of a resilient, Swachh, Sujal rural India.

Programmes provide the platform, but the custodians are the people. Our Sarpanches are the first-mile leaders of governance who mobilise communities, steward local resources, and translate plans into outcomes all of which are examples of Jan Bhagidari in action that is locally planned, owned, and sustained, helping India advance towards a Viksit Bharat enabling Swachh Sujal Gaon.

This booklet profiles Sarpanches and Village, Water Sanitation Committee Presidents from across States/ UTs who have turned intent into outcomes. I congratulate the featured leaders and acknowledge the tireless efforts of State, district, and field teams and partners. May these practices be discussed in Gram Sabhas, adapted locally, and scaled widely.

Jai Hind.

A handwritten signature in green ink, which appears to read 'C.R. Patil', with a horizontal line underneath.

**C. R. Patil**  
Union Minister of Jal Shakti



# Foreword



**G**uided by the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the journey to Viksit Bharat runs through our Gram Panchayats. When villages secure safe water, dignified sanitation and responsible waste management, they create everyday gains in health, learning and livelihoods—delivered through Jan Bhagidari.

The focus for us is on execution with reliability. That means household tap water that is tested and trusted; strong operations & maintenance for schemes; source sustainability through recharge and catchment care; village-level solid and liquid waste management that includes greywater reuse and plastic waste aggregation; safe faecal sludge management; water quality surveillance led by community institutions (including women's groups); and the safety and dignity of sanitation workers. These are practical, measurable tasks—and they are being delivered best where local leadership owns the outcome.

At the centre stands the Sarpanch, not an appointed functionary but an elected representative and the first mile of governance. A Sarpanch's public endorsement often carries more local weight than any celebrity message: when the Sarpanch supports a programme, the village listens. In practice, Sarpanch leadership multiplies impact of trust and credibility.

This booklet, 'Voices of Change – Sarpanches at the Forefront' highlights Sarpanches who are leading this on ground and from the front. I extend my appreciation to all Sarpanches, field functionaries and partners for their steady support. Let these stories inspire more villages to adopt, adapt, and scale good practices, advancing our collective resolve for a cleaner and healthier rural India.

Jai Hind.

**Shri V. Somanna**

Hon'ble Minister of State for Jal Shakti



# Foreword



India's villages are the heart of our nation, and at that heart stand our Sarpanchs, the protectors and guardians of local well-being. They are more than elected leaders; they are the stewards of the community's resources, the voice of the people, and the custodians of development. When a Pradhan commits to a cause, whether it is protecting water sources, promoting irrigation efficiency, or ensuring equitable access to clean drinking water, the entire community moves together in that direction.

The Department of Water Resources works to safeguard and manage India's water assets—rivers, aquifers, irrigation systems, and rural water sources so that they can sustain generations to come. This mission cannot be fulfilled without local leadership. Pradhans and Gram Panchayats act as the first responders to water challenges: guarding against over-extraction, promoting conservation practices, ensuring proper use of irrigation, and protecting catchment areas. Their decisions influence the resilience of agriculture, the availability of safe drinking water, and the long-term health of our ecosystems.

As guardians of local resources, Pradhans embody Jan Bhagidari mobilising community participation, linking government schemes with on-ground needs, and ensuring that every drop of water is used wisely. Their role as trusted leaders allows them to inspire behavioural change that no policy alone can achieve.

This booklet recognises the outstanding work of such leaders from across States/UTs. I congratulate all featured Pradhans and urge them to continue their work with the same commitment, ensuring that our villages remain strong, self-reliant, and sustainable.

Jai Hind.

**Raj Bhushan Choudhary**  
Minister of State for Jal Shakti of India



# Message



It is a privilege to present this special compilation profiling Sarpanches from across the country who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation in their villages. This year, as we celebrate Independence Day, selected grassroots leaders from every State and Union Territory have been invited as special guests to witness the national celebrations in New Delhi. Guided by the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this is a gesture of national respect for those who, at the first mile, make public health a lived reality for rural communities. Their voices and experiences are invaluable in shaping policies that will take us closer to Viksit Bharat@20247.

The Gram Panchayat is the foundation of local self-governance, entrusted under the Seventy-third Constitutional Amendment with responsibilities vital to community well-being, including drinking water and sanitation. At its helm, the Sarpanch is more than an elected representative—they are the nucleus of trust, governance, and change. When a Sarpanch supports a programme, the village listens. Through Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), they mobilise Jan Bhagidari, steward resources, and ensure that mission goals translate into cleaner habitations, safer water, and healthier families.

Across the country, Sarpanches are leading the way by sustaining ODF status, implementing solid and liquid waste management, reusing greywater, reducing plastic waste, ensuring water quality, and promoting source sustainability. Under initiatives like GOBARDhan, waste is being converted into wealth, while climate-resilient measures such as rainwater harvesting, recharge structures, and drought and flood preparedness are becoming community norms. Importantly, dignity and safety for sanitation workers are now part of the agenda.

This booklet is both a record and an inspiration. It showcases how local leadership, backed by community participation and convergence with allied programmes, can deliver lasting results. I congratulate all featured Sarpanches, and I urge Districts, Blocks, and Gram Sabhas to learn from and adapt these practices. Let us carry forward this spirit of people-led development, ensuring that every village becomes a Swachh, Sujal Gaon, and together we build a healthier, more resilient rural India.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Ashok K.K. Meena'.

**Ashok K.K. Meena**

Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation



# Message



**A**cross rural India, the real test of any mission is not in its announcement, but in its delivery and sustainability. This compendium, 'Voices of Change: Sarpanches at the Forefront', celebrates Sarpanches who have bridged that gap, turning plans into daily realities for the people they serve. In recognition of their exceptional contributions to the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and the Jal Jeevan Mission, these local leaders have been invited as special guests to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort—a tribute to their role in shaping the foundations of a stronger, healthier rural India.

In village after village, these Sarpanches have driven improvements that go well beyond infrastructure. They have established systems for safe drinking water access, ensured the continuity of ODF Plus status, promoted scientific waste management and embedded practices such as greywater reuse, water quality testing and source sustainability into the fabric of community life. They have mobilized the community, strengthened local institutions and fostered accountability—ensuring that what is built is maintained, and what is promised is delivered.

Their approaches, be it to reclaim water bodies, transform waste into resources, introduce low-cost innovations or build resilience against droughts and floods, demonstrate that there is no single path to success. What unites them is the combination of ownership, adaptability and a willingness to learn, all of which are hallmarks of strong village leadership.

By integrating water and sanitation efforts, and by linking them to health, livelihoods and environmental outcomes, these Sarpanches are contributing to a broader rural transformation.

I extend my appreciation to each leader profiled here, as well as to the State/UT, district and partner teams who have supported them. May these experiences encourage more villages to find their own solutions, strengthen their systems and contribute to our shared vision of a Swachh, Sujal and resilient rural India on the road to Viksit Bharat @2047.

**Shri Kamal Kishore Soan**

Additional Secretary & Mission Director (SBMG-NJJM)  
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation



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# **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**



Sarpanch Name  
**Lenglie Foki**

Age: **52**

Gram Panchayat  
**Nancowry Tribal Council**

Village  
**Munak**

Block  
**CD Block Nancowry**

District  
**Nicobar**

State/UT  
**A & N Islands**

## Shri Lenglie Foki's Vision of Inclusive Development in Nancowry Tribal Council

In the Gram Panchayat of Nancowry Tribal Council nestled within the Nancowry Block of Nicobar District in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a unique blend of tradition and progress is being nurtured under the leadership of Shri Lenglie Foki, the 52-year-old Sarpanch of the Nancowry Tribal Council. His exemplary governance and inclusive approach have earned him and his Panchayat the honor of being invited as Special Guests to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Shri Foki's leadership stands out for its deep respect for Nicobari traditions, which he has skillfully integrated with modern administrative frameworks. His efforts have fostered inclusive decision-making, mobilizing youth and women and ensuring that marginalized households are actively involved in health, sanitation, and livelihood programs. Through this, he has promoted social equity and community ownership, making development a shared responsibility.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Munak has emerged as a Model tribal village, maintaining high standards of sanitation and sustainability. Shri Foki's commitment to cleanliness is reflected in regular awareness campaigns, community participation, and the promotion of hygienic practices across the village.

His leadership in the Jal Jeevan Mission has been equally impactful. Through strategic planning, inter-departmental coordination, and community engagement, he ensured tap water access to every household. His advocacy for rainwater harvesting and greywater reuse has fostered a culture of water conservation, improving public health and environmental resilience.

Shri Lenglie Foki's governance is a powerful example of how traditional wisdom and modern innovation can come together to uplift communities. His work has not only transformed Munak but has also inspired other tribal villages across the Nicobar region.

As India celebrates Independence Day, Munak stands as a symbol of inclusive and sustainable development—led by a Sarpanch who believes in progress rooted in culture and community.



Sarpanch Name  
**Smt Rameshwari**

Age: **37**

Gram Panchayat  
**Campbell Bay, Great  
Nicobar**

Village  
**Campbell Bay**

Block  
**Campbell Bay**

District  
**Nicobar District**

State/UT  
**A & N Islands**

## Like a Beacon, Smt. Rameshwari Leads Campbell Bay To Cleanliness

In the remote village of Campbell Bay, nestled in the Nicobar District of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a remarkable story of transformation is being written under the leadership of Smt. Rameshwari, the 37-year-old Sarpanch of Campbell Bay Gram Panchayat. Her unwavering dedication to sanitation, health and water access has earned her and her Panchayat the honor of being invited as a Special Guest on Independence Day.

Smt. Rameshwari has made sanitation a top priority, ensuring that Campbell Bay maintains its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. Through regular inspections, household visits, and awareness campaigns, she has inspired families to consistently use their toilets and embrace hygienic practices. Her collaboration with health workers and community volunteers has created a culture of cleanliness and pride, making Campbell Bay a model for neighboring villages.

Her leadership in the Jal Jeevan Mission has been equally impactful. She worked tirelessly to ensure tap water connections in every household, holding meetings, coordinating with officials, and mobilizing community support. Her innovative efforts, including rainwater harvesting and water reuse initiatives, have improved both health and sustainability in the village.

These achievements have not gone unnoticed. Campbell Bay Gram Panchayat received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs for excellence in user fee collection in South Andaman District, a Commendation Certificate from the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of A & N Islands for outstanding performance in 2024 and a Certificate of Appreciation from the District Administration, Nicobar, for supporting malnourished children through the Poshan Mitra initiative under the Kuposhan Mukht District Abhiyan.

Smt. Rameshwari's leadership is a testament to the power of grassroots governance, especially when driven by compassion, innovation, and community engagement. Her efforts have not only improved lives in Campbell Bay but have also inspired a movement across the islands.

As India celebrates Independence Day, Campbell Bay stands tall as a symbol of progress and pride—led by a woman who turned vision into reality.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri K. Rudra Murthy**

Age: **57**

Gram Panchayat  
**Hut Bay, Little Andaman**

Village  
**Hut Bay**

Block  
**Hut Bay**

District  
**South Andaman**

State/UT  
**A & N Islands**

## Shri K. Rudra Murthy's Vision for a Cleaner, Greener Hut Bay

In the picturesque village of Hut Bay, located in South Andaman District of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a transformation has taken place under the leadership of Shri K. Rudra Murthy, the 57-year-old Sarpanch of Hut Bay Gram Panchayat. His tireless efforts in sanitation, environmental conservation and community engagement have earned him the honor of being invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, Hut Bay has achieved significant milestones in promoting cleanliness and hygiene. A massive cleanliness drive was conducted across all wards, public spaces and sea beaches, involving enthusiastic participation from students, volunteers and residents. These efforts raised awareness about the importance of a clean environment and instilled a sense of civic pride.

Key tourist spots and marketplaces underwent extensive beautification and sanitation upgrades, with the installation of dustbins, regular garbage collection, and waste segregation systems to ensure long-term cleanliness. These initiatives have not only improved the village's appearance but also enhanced its appeal as a tourist destination.

In a bid to combat climate change and improve green cover, the Panchayat launched large-scale plantation drives, planting hundreds of trees and encouraging environmental stewardship among citizens.

One of the most notable achievements is the revitalization of Chidambaram Park, once a neglected space, now transformed into a vibrant, eco-friendly recreational area. With seating arrangements, lighting and play zones for children, the park stands as a model public space under the Swachh Bharat initiative.

Shri K. Rudra Murthy's leadership has turned Hut Bay into a cleaner, greener and more community-driven village. His efforts reflect the power of grassroots governance and the impact of collective action.

As India celebrates Independence Day, Hut Bay shines as a symbol of sustainable development and civic responsibility—guided by a leader who believes in progress through participation.



Sarpanch Name  
**Venkateswar Rao**

Age: **40**

Gram Panchayat  
**Shivapuram Gram  
Panchayat**

Village  
**Panchawati**

Block  
**Rangat**

District  
**North & Middle Andaman**

State/UT  
**A&N Islands**

## Sanitation, Sustainability and Scenic Stewardship: Shri Venkateswar Rao's Vision for Shivapuram

In the lush and scenic expanse of Shivapuram Gram Panchayat, located in Rangat Block of North & Middle Andaman District, a transformation has unfolded under the leadership of Shri Venkateswar Rao, the 40-year-old Sarpanch of Shivapuram. His visionary approach to grassroots development has earned him the honor of being invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort.

Spanning over 25 kilometers and home to natural treasures like Moricedera, Panchawati and Dhanni Nallah beaches, along with a stunning waterfall at Panchawati, Shivapuram is not only a tourist gem but now also a model of cleanliness and sustainability.

Under Shri Rao's leadership, the Panchayat has achieved ODF Plus Model status, with a strong focus on solid and liquid waste management. Regular cleanliness drives, especially at tourist spots and village areas, have elevated sanitation standards. His hands-on involvement in health awareness campaigns and promotion of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) has fostered a culture of hygiene and dignity.

In parallel, his strategic leadership in the Jal Jeevan Mission ensured tap water access to every household. Through effective coordination, community engagement, and sustainable practices like rainwater harvesting and greywater reuse, the Panchayat has seen a significant improvement in public health and water conservation.

These efforts have not only uplifted Shivapuram but also inspired neighboring villages to adopt similar practices. His participatory governance model has created a ripple effect of positive change across the region.

Shivapuram's achievements have been recognized with:

- The "Clean and Green Panchayat" Award, securing 2nd Position in the UT of A&N Islands by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India.
- The "Swachh Panchayat Award" during the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign 2024 by the Directorate of RD, PRIs & ULBs, A & N Administration.

Shri Venkateswar Rao's leadership exemplifies how ecological stewardship, infrastructure development, and community empowerment can go hand in hand. As India celebrates Independence Day, Shivapuram stands as a beacon of sustainable rural development-guided by a leader who turned natural beauty into a foundation for progress.



# Andhra Pradesh



Sarpanch Name  
**Smt. Challa Naga  
Malleswari**

Age: **56**

Gram Panchayat  
**Thummalapalem**

Village  
**Thummalapalem**

Block  
**Prathipadu**

District  
**Guntur**

State/UT  
**Andhra Pradesh**

## Transformational Journey of Thummalapalem GP under Smt. Challa Naga Malleswari's Leadership

In Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district lies the village of Gram Panchayat of Thummalapalem, which tells a story of rural transformation and sustainable development. At its helm is Smt. Challa Naga Malleswari, the 56-year-old Sarpanch whose leadership has earned her the honor of being invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort.

Thummalapalem GP has undergone a profound metamorphosis, having achieved ODF+ Model status, with every household equipped with a toilet, effectively eliminating open defecation and fostering a culture of hygiene. The successful rollout of the Har Ghar Jal scheme ensured piped water supply to all homes, significantly improving public health and daily life.

One of the cornerstones of this transformation was the establishment of a Solid Waste Processing Centre (SWPC), complete with a dedicated shed for systematic waste segregation and management. Regular community awareness campaigns on sanitation and waste segregation galvanized villagers into action, instilling a sense of ownership and responsibility.

These initiatives have not only made Thummalapalem a visually clean and sustainable GP, but also a model for others to emulate. The Panchayat has been recognized as a SWPC Supreme LTC for best practices in solid waste management and as a ODF+ Model Village for its comprehensive achievements in sanitation.

Smt. Malleswari's impact goes beyond infrastructure. A staunch advocate for women empowerment, she has actively involved women in village-level decision-making and cleanliness drives, fostering Mahila Sadikarata and proving that grassroots governance thrives when women lead.

Her message resonates with clarity and conviction:

"Clean water and a clean village are everyone's right – and women must lead this change from the front."

As Thummalapalem GP celebrates its achievements on the national stage, Smt. Challa Naga Malleswari stands as a symbol of what determined leadership, community participation, and inclusive governance can accomplish.



Sarpanch Name  
**Sri Udala Chinna Balaiah**

Gram Panchayat  
**Kowlur**

Block  
**Panyam**

District  
**Nandyal**

State  
**Andhra Pradesh**

## Sri Udala Chinna Balaiah's Leadership in Kowlur's Clean Transformation

In the village of Kowluru, located in Panyam Block of Andhra Pradesh's Nandyal District, a remarkable transformation has taken place—thanks to the able leadership of Sri Udala Chinna Balaiah, Sarpanch of Kowlur Gram Panchayat. His dedication to infrastructure, sanitation and public health has earned him the honor of being invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort.

One of the most impactful changes has been the construction of cement-concrete roads and drainage canals throughout the village. These developments have ensured that surplus rainwater and sewage no longer accumulate on roads, significantly improving hygiene and accessibility.

Kowlur has also adopted a community-driven waste management system, where green ambassadors collect segregated dry and wet waste from households and transport it to designated waste processing facilities. This initiative has fostered a cleaner environment and active civic participation.

The village has 100% toilet usage, with every resident using their individual household toilets. Ongoing awareness campaigns continue to reinforce the importance of sanitation and dignity.

To ensure safe drinking water, the Panchayat has implemented inline chlorination for its two Overhead Storage Reservoir (OHSR) tanks, guaranteeing clean water access for all residents.

Sri Udala Chinna Balaiah's leadership reflects a deep commitment to inclusive development and strategic resource utilization. His efforts have turned Kowlur into a model village—clean, organized, and forward-looking.

As the nation celebrates Independence Day, Kowlur stands proudly among its shining examples, thanks to the dedication and vision of its Sarpanch.



Sarpanch Name  
**Pitta Narasamma**

Age: **45**

Gram Panchayat  
**Gotluru**

Village  
**Gotluru**

Block  
**Dharmavaram**

District  
**Sri Sathya Sai**

State/UT  
**Andhra Pradesh**

## Change: Smt. Pitta Narasamma's Vision for Cleaner Gotluru

In the village of Gotluru, nestled in the Dharmavaram Block of Sri Sathya Sai District of Andhra Pradesh, the dynamic and determined 45-year-old Sarpanch of Gotluru Gram Panchayat Smt. Pitta Narasamma is leading a transformation from the front. Her unwavering commitment to cleanliness, community empowerment and sustainable development has earned her the honor of being invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort.

Under her leadership, Gotluru has become a model of effective solid waste management. The village has successfully implemented a door-to-door waste collection system using the Bin-Bag System, which is not only well-maintained but also owned and operated by the local community. This grassroots approach has fostered a sense of responsibility and pride among residents.

Self Help Groups (SHGs) have played a pivotal role in raising awareness about waste segregation, with clap mitras educating households on separating wet and dry waste. These efforts have been complemented by people-centric awareness campaigns, consistently conducted over the years to instill sustainable habits.

What sets Gotluru apart is the collaborative leadership between officials and non-officials, and the strategic utilization of all available resources—financial and human—for the greater good of the Panchayat. This synergy has led to visible improvements in sanitation and community engagement.

Smt. Narasamma's tireless efforts have been formally recognized by the Dharmavaram Mandal Praja Parishad (MPP), which appreciated her contributions in its general body meeting. Her leadership is a testament to the power of inclusive governance and the impact of women at the grassroots level.

As Gotluru steps into the national spotlight, Smt. Pitta Narasamma stands as a symbol of transformative leadership—proving that with vision, unity, and dedication, even the smallest villages can achieve greatness.

The image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag's saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. These stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy bands that curve from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement. The background is a solid, light orange color. Centered on the right side of the image is the text 'Arunachal Pradesh' in a bold, orange, serif font.

# Arunachal Pradesh



Sarpanch Name  
**Ganpang Pansa**

Age: **60**

Gram Panchayat  
**Kamoi**

Village  
**Kamoi**

Block  
**Longman Anchal**

District  
**Longding**

State/UT  
**Arunachal Pradesh**

## Shri Ganpang Pansa – Transforming Kamoi into the Cleanest Village in Longding District

**K**aimoi, a gram panchayat in Longman Anchal of Longding district, Arunachal Pradesh, is home to 749 residents, primarily dependent on agriculture. With a literacy rate of just 24.43%, the village once faced challenges of unhygienic surroundings, free-roaming livestock, and limited sanitation and drinking water facilities.

Under the leadership of Shri Ganpang Pansa, Sarpanch of Kamoi, the Gram Panchayat has embarked on a remarkable journey of transformation. Inspired by the achievements of neighbouring award-winning villages, Shri Pansa mobilised the Village Development Committee, Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), women's groups, and youth to prioritise cleanliness, safe water access, and beautification.

Through the Swachh Bharat Mission–Grameen, Kaimoi constructed Individual Household Latrines, ensuring complete access to sanitation. Intensive IEC and BCC activities drove behavioural change, with community members adopting waste segregation, maintaining public spaces, and participating in cleanliness drives.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, Kaimoi achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), ensuring safe drinking water for every household. The VWSC successfully collected ₹2.17 lakh in water tariffs, reflecting strong community ownership of the scheme.

Shri Pansa institutionalised regular gram sabhas, launched a “Cleanest Colony Award” every two months, and encouraged stakeholder collaboration, leading to visible improvements. These efforts culminated in Kaimoi being awarded Cleanest Village in Longding District on Republic Day 2023 and Most Active VWSC in Arunachal Pradesh by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in March 2024.

Today, Kaimoi is known for its floral beauty, cleanliness, and hospitality, with plans to develop as a tourism destination. Shri Pansa's leadership has turned a vision of sanitation and safe water into a lived reality, embodying the spirit of Swatantrata Ka Utsav, Swachhata Ke Sang on this Independence Day.



**Assam**



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Pradip Basumatary**

Age: **43**

Gram Panchayat  
**Bahbari**

Village  
**Barengabari**

Block  
**Gobardhana**

District  
**Baksa**

State/UT  
**Assam**

## Leading by Example: Shri Pradip Basumatary's Vision Transforms Bahbari Gram Panchayat in Assam

In the village of Barengabari, nestled within Bahbari Gram Panchayat in Gobardhana block of Assam's Baksa district, a remarkable story of community-led transformation is unfolding. At the heart of this progress is Shri Pradip Basumatary, the 43-year-old Sarpanch whose dedication to sustainable development and public engagement has made his Panchayat a model for others to follow.

Under his leadership, the village has embraced the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II with enthusiasm and ownership. The residents of Barengabari have actively contributed to maintaining ODF Plus sustainability, thanks to a series of awareness and promotional activities initiated by Shri Basumatary. From cleanliness drives and plantation campaigns to household-level waste segregation and the reuse of single-use plastics, the Panchayat has seen widespread participation from youth, self-help groups, and villagers alike.

Shri Basumatary's approach has been rooted in community mobilization. Through interpersonal communication, convergence-level awareness meetings and consistent promotion of hygiene practices, he has fostered a culture of responsibility and environmental consciousness. His efforts have led to a surge in demand for sanitary latrines, increased awareness about personal hygiene and a deeper understanding of the importance of safe drinking water.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, 105 households in the village have been connected with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), ensuring regular access to clean drinking water. This has significantly improved the quality of life in the village, reducing the burden on women and enhancing public health.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to rural development and community empowerment, Shri Pradip Basumatary has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national honor not only celebrates his leadership but also highlights the power of grassroots governance in shaping a cleaner, healthier, and more aware rural India.

Shri Basumatary's journey is a testament to what can be achieved when a leader works hand-in-hand with the community, turning collective effort into lasting impact.



Sarpanch Name  
**Jitu Kumar Rabha**

Age: **37**

Gram Panchayat  
**Dhanubhanga**

Village  
**Madang Pt-II**

Block  
**Rangjuli**

District  
**Goalpara**

State/UT  
**Assam**

## Shri Jitu Kumar Rabha's Vision for a Self-Reliant and Clean Madang Pt-II

In the village of Madang Pt-II, located in Dhanubhanga Gram Panchayat of Rangjuli block in Assam's Goalpara district, a story of community empowerment and sustainable development is being written—led by the dedicated efforts of Shri Jitu Kumar Rabha, the 37-year-old Sarpanch whose leadership has brought visible change to the lives of his people.

Shri Rabha's commitment to cleanliness and public health has been central to his work. Every Saturday, he mobilized villagers—especially women—to participate in collective cleaning drives, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in their surroundings. Under his guidance, traditional bamboo dustbins were installed throughout the village, encouraging proper waste disposal and reviving eco-friendly practices. These efforts have helped Madang Pt-II move steadily toward becoming a Swachh Village, where hygiene and environmental responsibility are part of daily life.

Beyond sanitation, Shri Rabha has focused on economic empowerment. He actively supported villagers in establishing small-scale businesses such as banana plantations and pig farms, helping families become self-reliant. His efforts to connect people with government schemes have enabled many to improve their livelihoods and access resources that were previously out of reach.

Through consistent awareness campaigns and community meetings, Shri Rabha has fostered a culture of participation and informed decision-making. His proactive approach has not only improved infrastructure and hygiene but also strengthened the social fabric of the village.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to rural development and community leadership, Shri Jitu Kumar Rabha has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national honor reflects the impact of his work and the spirit of service that defines his leadership.

His journey stands as a powerful example of how grassroots governance, when driven by compassion and vision, can uplift entire communities and pave the way for a brighter, self-sustaining future.



Sarpanch Name  
**Sri Bubul Chandra Dutta**

Age: **52**

Gram Panchayat  
**Madhya Charigaon**

Village  
**Mout Gaon**

Block  
**North West Jorhat**

District  
**Jorhat**

State/UT  
**Assam**

## Shri Bubul Chandra Dutta's Impactful Leadership in Jorhat, Assam

In the village of Mout Gaon, nestled within Madhya Charigaon Gram Panchayat in North West Jorhat block of Assam's Jorhat district, a story of committed leadership and transformative public service is being written. At the center of this progress is Shri Bubul Chandra Dutta, the 52-year-old Sarpanch whose tireless efforts have elevated his Panchayat as a model of rural development.

Shri Dutta's work under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) has brought lasting change to his community. Through his leadership, every household in the Panchayat has been provided with a functional tap connection, ensuring access to clean drinking water. His involvement has gone far beyond administrative duties—he has personally led village meetings, resolved community concerns, and guided field-level implementation to ensure that no household is left behind.

Equally impactful has been his work in sanitation. Shri Dutta has actively promoted hygiene awareness, strengthened Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), and spearheaded initiatives in solid and liquid waste management. His hands-on approach has led to improved hygiene standards and meaningful behavioral change at the grassroots level, fostering a healthier and more informed community.

His leadership is marked by a deep sense of service and accountability. By engaging with villagers directly and building strong local institutions, he has created a culture of participation and responsibility. The results are visible—not just in infrastructure, but in the mindset of the people.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to water and sanitation, Shri Bubul Chandra Dutta has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national honor is a fitting tribute to a leader whose quiet determination has made a powerful impact on rural lives.

His story is a reminder that true leadership is not about titles, but about action. Shri Dutta's work continues to inspire others across Assam and beyond, setting a benchmark for what is possible when dedication meets purpose at the grassroots level.



Sarpanch Name  
**Sri Jayanta Bori**

Age: **48**

Gram Panchayat  
**Jonai**

Village  
**Ratkey**

Block  
**Murkongselek Tribal  
Development Block  
(MSTD)**

District  
**Dhemaji**

State/UT  
**Assam**

## Sri Jayanta Bori Leads Jonai GP to Sanitation Excellence

In the remote village of Ratkey, nestled within the Murkongselek Tribal Development Block (MSTD) of Dhemaji district, Assam, a transformation in sanitation and sustainability has taken root. At the heart of this transformation is Sri Jayanta Bori, the 48-year-old Sarpanch of Jonai Gaon Panchayat, whose leadership has turned vision into reality.

Under his guidance, Jonai Gaon Panchayat has emerged as a pioneer institution in the region, prioritizing the construction of Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) systems to ensure long-term sanitation solutions. Waste management plants have been set up both at the village and Panchayat levels, designed to handle biodegradable waste, plastic and grey water. Segregation sheds have been built to support door-to-door waste collection, ensuring that waste is sorted and processed efficiently.

These efforts have not only improved the cleanliness and health standards of the community but have also earned Jonai Gaon Panchayat the distinction of becoming the first ODF Plus Model Village in Dhemaji district—a milestone that reflects both innovation and commitment.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the sanitation sector, Sri Jayanta Bori was awarded the State-Level Swachhata Award in 2022 by the Government of Assam. This honor celebrates his dedication to building a cleaner, healthier future for his community.

Sri Jayanta Bori has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This prestigious invitation is a tribute to his leadership and the transformative impact of Jonai Gaon Panchayat's sanitation initiatives.

As the nation celebrates its freedom, the story of Jonai stands as a powerful example of how grassroots governance, when driven by purpose and community spirit, can lead to lasting change. Sri Jayanta Bori's journey continues to inspire Panchayats across India to pursue sustainable development with courage and conviction.



**Bihar**



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Manoj Kumar  
Mandal**

Age: **48**

Gram Panchayat  
**Raghopur**

Village  
**Shankarpur**

Block  
**Kharik**

District  
**Bhagalpur**

State/UT  
**Bihar**

## Shri Manoj Kumar Mandal: A Grassroots Leader Transforming Raghopur Through Sanitation, Health, and Education

In the village of Shankarpur, nestled within Raghopur Gram Panchayat of Kharik Block, Bhagalpur District, a transformation is underway—led by Shri Manoj Kumar Mandal, the 48-year-old Mukhiya whose dedication to community development has earned him an invitation to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort as a special guest.

Under his leadership, Raghopur has achieved ODF Plus status, marking a significant milestone in sanitation and public health. Shri Mandal has played a pivotal role in improving waste and polluted water management, ensuring that the Panchayat not only remains clean but also environmentally conscious.

His approach is deeply rooted in community participation. Through regular Swachhata Chaupals, cleanliness meetings and dialogue sessions, he has mobilized Jeevika Didis, Self Help Group members and residents to take ownership of sanitation efforts. These gatherings have become platforms for awareness, collaboration, and collective action.

Beyond cleanliness, Shri Mandal has made notable contributions in health and education. He frequently organizes health camps for both Panchayat workers and the general public, ensuring access to basic healthcare. He also supports the education of children from economically weaker sections by providing books, notebooks, and essential learning materials, fostering a culture of learning and opportunity.

His tenure has seen Raghopur evolve into a Panchayat where sanitation, health and education go hand in hand—creating a cleaner, healthier, and more empowered community. For his outstanding work in sanitation, he has been honored by the district magistrate, a testament to his impactful leadership.

As India celebrates Independence Day, Raghopur stands as a shining example of grassroots governance done right — led by a Mukhiya who believes in progress through participation and compassion.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Brajesh Kumar**

Age: **45**

Gram Panchayat  
**Raj Karsaghat**

Village  
**Karsaghat**

Block  
**Sidhwalia**

District  
**Gopalganj**

State/UT  
**Bihar**

## Turning Waste into Worth: Shri Brajesh Kumar's Innovative Leadership in Karsaghat

In the village of Karsaghat, located in Sidhwalia Block of Gopalganj District, Bihar, a transformation in sanitation and environmental management is being led by Shri Brajesh Kumar, the 45-year-old Mukhiya of Gram Panchayat Raj Karsaghat. His innovative approach to waste management and commitment to community development have earned him the recognition of being invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort.

Shri Kumar has pioneered a unique initiative in solid and liquid waste management, setting a new benchmark for rural sanitation. Under his leadership, organic waste collected from households is processed using the Naped method to produce high-quality compost. Branded as "Gopali Compost", this product has gained popularity among local farmers and has been officially certified for its quality by the Joint Director of Chemicals and Quality Control, Agriculture Department, Government of Bihar. The revenue generated from its sale is reinvested into the Panchayat's cleanliness campaigns, creating a sustainable cycle of waste-to-resource transformation.

His efforts extend to polluted water management, where he has overseen the construction of drainage systems and community soak pits along village roads. These interventions have significantly reduced stagnant water and improved the overall hygiene of the area.

Through his active leadership, Karsaghat has achieved ODF Plus status, and his contributions to environmental conservation continue to inspire neighboring Panchayats. Shri Brajesh Kumar's work exemplifies how innovation, community engagement, and dedication can turn everyday challenges into opportunities for growth and sustainability.

As India celebrates Independence Day, Karsaghat stands as a model of rural resilience and progress—led by a Mukhiya who transformed waste into a symbol of pride and prosperity.



Sarpanch Name  
**Smt. Prema Devi**

Age: **36**

Gram Panchayat  
**Motipur**

Village  
**Motipur**

Block  
**Rosera**

District  
**Samastipur**

State/UT  
**Bihar**

## Smt. Prema Devi: Leading Motipur Towards a Cleaner, Greener Future

In Bihar's Samastipur district, within the Rosera block, lies the village of Motipur—a place that has become a beacon of rural transformation under the leadership of its Mukhiya, Smt. Prema Devi, aged 36. Her approach to sanitation, sustainability and inclusive development has earned her the privilege of being invited to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort as a Special Guest, a testament to her dedication and impact.

Smt. Prema Devi's most notable achievement has been the successful implementation of the Gobardhan Scheme, which has revolutionized waste management in the Panchayat. The biogas produced from organic waste is now used by 132 families for cooking, and also powers the preparation of mid-day meals in local schools and Anganwadi centers. Additionally, compost generated from biodegradable waste brings in annual revenue of ₹36,000 to ₹37,000 for the Panchayat, turning waste into a valuable resource.

Her efforts extend beyond sanitation. She has led impactful initiatives in rainwater harvesting and greywater management, ensuring that all government buildings in the Panchayat are equipped with rainwater harvesting systems. Soak pits have been constructed near public and private handpumps, improving water conservation and groundwater recharge.

These transformative efforts have earned Motipur widespread recognition. Under her leadership, the Panchayat has received numerous awards, including the Nanaji Deshmukh National Pride Gram Sabha Award, the Atal Award, the Climate Action Special Award, and the Healthy Panchayat Award, among others. Her work has also been acknowledged with honors such as the Aparajita Women Honor Certificate, the Karmyogi Samman, and the State-Level Women Honor, reflecting her role as a trailblazer in grassroots governance.

Smt. Prema Devi's journey is a powerful example of how committed leadership, community engagement, and innovative thinking can transform a village. Motipur today stands as a model of cleanliness, sustainability, and empowerment—led by a woman who turned challenges into opportunities and inspired a movement of change.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Kanhaiya Prasad  
Kushwaha**

Age: **48**

Gram Panchayat  
**Siswania**

Village  
**Bishunpurwa**

Block  
**Lauriya**

District  
**West Champaran**

State/UT  
**Bihar**

## Shri Kanhaiya Prasad Kushwaha's Cultural Path to Cleanliness in Siswania

In the village of Bishunpurwa, nestled within Siswania Gram Panchayat of Lauriya Block, West Champaran District, a unique blend of culture and community action has sparked a sanitation revolution. At the heart of this transformation is Shri Kanhaiya Prasad Kushwaha, the 48-year-old Mukhiya whose leadership has redefined how awareness and action can go hand in hand.

Known for his passion for music and cultural engagement, Shri Kushwaha has used his talent to connect with the people of his Panchayat, spreading messages of cleanliness and hygiene through songs and performances. His creative approach has not only captured attention but also inspired behavioral change across the community.

One of his most notable achievements is the transformation of the local waste management unit into a vibrant cleanliness park. This space, which includes a solid organic waste management facility, has become a symbol of pride for the village—a place of beauty, learning and even leisure, with its growing popularity as a selfie point.

Beyond solid waste, Shri Kushwaha has also taken significant steps in polluted water management. A Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU) established due to his efforts now serves as a model for neighboring Panchayats. The unit processes plastic waste from Siswania and surrounding areas, promoting responsible disposal and recycling.

Under his leadership, Siswania has achieved ODF Plus status, reflecting a deep commitment to sanitation and environmental conservation. His efforts have not only improved infrastructure but also fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility among villagers.

Shri Kanhaiya Prasad Kushwaha's journey is a testament to how cultural expression, community involvement, and innovative thinking can come together to create lasting change. As India celebrates Independence Day, Siswania stands as a shining example of grassroots leadership—led by a Mukhiya who turned music into a movement and sanitation into a shared mission.

A stylized graphic of the Indian national flag, featuring the saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. The stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy bands that curve around the central text, creating a sense of movement and depth. The background is a solid light orange color.

# Chhattisgarh



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Kheliya Bai Patel**

Age: **33**

Gram Panchayat  
**Amalidih**

Village  
**Amalidih**

Block  
**Kawardha**

District  
**Kabeerdham**

State/UT  
**Chhattisgarh**

## How Mrs. Kheliya Bai Patel Transformed Amalidih Village

**A**malidih village in Chhattisgarh's Kabeerdham district tells a remarkable story of grassroots leadership and community-driven change led by Mrs. Kheliya Bai Patel, the 33-year-old Sarpanch of Amalidih Gram Panchayat, who has led a sanitation revolution that has turned her village into a model of cleanliness and civic responsibility.

Just a few years ago, dry waste lay scattered across various wards of Amalidih, posing health risks and diminishing the quality of life for its residents. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Mrs. Patel took decisive action. A proposal for proper waste disposal was passed in the Gram Sabha, marking the beginning of a transformative journey.

Under her leadership, volunteers were identified and equipped with tricycles to facilitate door-to-door waste collection. Through persistent awareness campaigns, villagers were educated about the importance of cleanliness and encouraged to participate actively in maintaining hygiene.

Today, the waste collection process is managed efficiently by local women's groups, who ensure that every household contributes to keeping the village clean. The results are visible and inspiring — Amalidih now stands as a shining example of what community collaboration and visionary leadership can achieve. There is no filth in sight, and the villagers are proud and happy with the improved sanitation infrastructure.

In recognition of her outstanding work, Mrs. Kheliya Bai Patel has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, a prestigious honor that celebrates her commitment to public service and sustainable development.

Her story is a testament to the power of local governance and the impact of women leaders in shaping a cleaner, healthier India.



# **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu**



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Yashvant Aban  
Ghutiya**

Age: **43**

Gram Panchayat  
**Kherdi**

Village  
**Kherdi**

Block  
**Dadra & Nagar Haveli**

District  
**Dadra & Nagar Haveli**

State/UT  
**Dadra & Nagar Haveli  
and Daman & Diu**

## Shri Yashvant Aban Ghutiya's Vision for Kherdi's Inclusive Growth

In the village of Kherdi, located in the Dadra & Nagar Haveli Block of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, a wave of transformation has been led by the dynamic and forward-thinking Shri Yashvant Aban Ghutiya, the 43-year-old Sarpanch of Kherdi Gram Panchayat. His inclusive and innovative approach to governance has earned him and his Panchayat the honor of being invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort.

Under his leadership, Kherdi has seen a remarkable rise in infrastructure development, with improved roads, reliable drinking water facilities and enhanced sanitation systems. These upgrades have laid the foundation for a healthier and more connected village.

Shri Ghutiya has championed women empowerment, promoting Self Help Groups (SHGs), organizing skill development workshops and introducing women-friendly policies that have strengthened the role of women in local governance and economic activity.

Kherdi has also embraced digital governance, launching platforms for grievance redressal, service delivery and transparency in administration.

Environmental sustainability is another pillar of his leadership. Initiatives such as solid waste management, rainwater harvesting, and green village campaigns have made Kherdi cleaner and more resilient.

His commitment to social welfare is evident in the Panchayat's regular education drives, healthcare camps, and targeted schemes for the upliftment of underprivileged families.

Recognized under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen for maintaining high sanitation standards, Kherdi stands today as a Model village—clean, inclusive, and digitally empowered.

Shri Ghutiya's guiding philosophy is simple yet powerful: "A strong Panchayat is built when every villager becomes a partner in its progress. My vision is to create a self-reliant, clean, and inclusive village where every voice is heard."

As India celebrates Independence Day, Kherdi's journey under Shri Yashvant Aban Ghutiya's leadership serves as a shining example of what participatory governance can achieve.



Sarpanch Name  
**Meenakshi Jivan**

Age: **43**

Gram Panchayat  
**Maharana Pratap**

Village  
**Vanakbara**

Block  
**Diu**

District  
**Diu**

State/UT  
**Dadra & Nagar Haveli  
and Daman & Diu**

## Smt. Meenakshi Jivan: A Visionary Leader Shaping Maharana Pratap GP's Future

In Maharana Pratap Gram Panchayat, located in Diu Block of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, a wave of transformation has been led by Smt. Meenakshi Jivan, the 43-year-old Sarpanch. Her tenure from 2020 to 2025 has been marked by a deep commitment to cleanliness, education, infrastructure and inclusive development—earning her the honor of being invited as a Special Guest on Independence Day at the Red Fort.

Smt. Meenakshi Jivan actively promoted the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, personally visiting households to raise awareness about sanitation and hygiene. Her grassroots approach helped foster a culture of cleanliness across the village. She also educated villagers about the 'Nal Se Jal' scheme, ensuring that the community understood the importance of safe and accessible drinking water.

Her environmental initiatives included tree plantation drives around schools and kindergartens, instilling ecological awareness among children and families. She spearheaded the construction of two modern, well-equipped schools, enhancing educational infrastructure and opportunities for the village's youth.

Under her leadership, Vanakbara saw the installation of new drainage lines and streetlights, improving public health and safety. She also facilitated the division of Vanakbara Gram Panchayat into two new Panchayats, enabling more focused governance and resource distribution.

In 2024–2025, she oversaw the construction of public toilets near the fish market and jetty, addressing a critical need for sanitation in high-traffic areas.

Her efforts in public health were recognized when Vanakbara achieved TB-Free Panchayat status in 2024. She was honored under the "TB Harega Desh Jeetega" initiative by the Collector of Diu, a testament to her proactive and compassionate leadership.

Smt. Meenakshi Jivan's journey reflects the power of inclusive governance, where community engagement, infrastructure development, and health awareness come together to create lasting change. As India celebrates Independence Day, Vanakbara stands as a model of progress—led by a woman who turned vision into action and uplifted an entire community.



Sarpanch Name  
**Manisha Sanjaykumar**

Age: **39**

Gram Panchayat  
**Zolawadi Gram  
Panchayat**

Village  
**Malala, Zolawadi**

Block  
**Diu**

District  
**Diu**

State/UT  
**Dadra & Nagar Haveli  
and Daman & Diu**

## Smt. Manisha Sanjaykumar: A Community-Centered Leader Transforming Zolawadi

In the Gram Panchayat of Zolawadi located in Diu Block, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, a quiet yet impactful change has taken place under the leadership of Smt. Manisha Sanjaykumar, the 39-year-old Sarpanch whose dedication to public service has earned her the honor of being invited as a Special Guest on Independence Day.

During her tenure, Smt. Manisha focused on improving sanitation, infrastructure, and community engagement. She led the construction of a public toilet near the Pothia Dada Temple, addressing a long-standing need for hygienic facilities in a high-footfall area. Her commitment to the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen was evident in her door-to-door outreach, where she personally educated families about the importance of cleanliness and proper sanitation practices.

Known for her responsiveness and inclusive leadership, she actively welcomed public suggestions, ensuring that the Panchayat's development reflected the needs and aspirations of its residents. Her efforts helped foster a sense of ownership and pride among the villagers.

Under her leadership, Zolawadi Gram Panchayat achieved 100% tap water coverage and was honored by the Government of India under the Har Ghar Jal Mission (2024–25). The Panchayat was also recognized as an ODF+ Panchayat (2021–22), and she received accolades under the “Diu Kahe Hum Swachh Rahein” campaign (2021) by the Collector of Diu, for her role in promoting behavioral change and sustainable cleanliness.

Smt. Manisha Sanjaykumar's tenure stands as a testament to the power of grassroots leadership. Her ability to blend infrastructure development with community participation has made Zolawadi a model Panchayat—clean, connected, and committed to progress.

As India celebrates Independence Day, Zolawadi shines as a symbol of transformation, led by a Sarpanch who turned public service into a mission of empowerment and change.



Goa



Sarpanch Name  
**Gauravi Guruprasad Naik**

Age: **41**

Gram Panchayat  
**Harvalem**

Village  
**Harvalem**

Block  
**Bicholim**

District  
**North**

State/UT  
**Goa**

## Gauravi Guruprasad Naik: Transforming Harvalem into a Model Panchayat

**T**he Village Panchayat of Harvalem, in Bicholim Block of North Goa, is one of the state's youngest Panchayats, formed in 2013–14. In just over a decade, it has established itself as a clean, organised, and forward-looking local body. At the centre of this progress is Smt. Gauravi Guruprasad Naik, whose leadership has combined infrastructure development with active citizen engagement to turn Harvalem into a model Panchayat.

Smt. Naik's leadership has been defined by her hands-on approach and emphasis on community participation. She has consistently worked with Self-Help Groups, local committees, and residents to ensure that every initiative is implemented effectively and sustained over time. Her focus has been on creating lasting systems for sanitation, waste management, and water supply.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Harvalem has been declared an ODF Model Panchayat. Every household has a toilet, and community toilets have been installed at public locations. A Material Recovery Facility (MRF) shed has been constructed with XV Finance Commission funds to process segregated waste. Through MGNREGS, soak pits have been built for every household to treat liquid waste, and SHGs have stitched and distributed cloth bags to reduce plastic use. CCTV cameras track illegal dumping, and door-to-door waste collection—both wet and dry—is carried out regularly.

Harvalem has also excelled under the Jal Jeevan Mission, achieving 100% Functional Household Tap Connections. For this, it received a certificate of appreciation from the Union Minister, recognising its valuable contribution to providing safe drinking water to every resident.

Beyond sanitation and water, Smt. Naik has promoted environmental and social awareness through Beti Bachao Beti Padhao rallies and neem tree plantation drives. The Panchayat's work has been recognised with awards for Best Environmental Practices under the UNEP theme "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally" and the title of Cleanest Panchayat in North Goa.

On this Independence Day, Harvalem's journey under Smt. Gauravi Guruprasad Naik reflects how committed leadership and active public participation can create a Panchayat that is not only clean and sustainable, but also a source of pride for every resident.



Sarpanch Name  
**Swoosie Mazel De Souza**

Age: **28**

Gram Panchayat  
**Quelossim**

Village  
**Quelossim**

Block  
**Mormugao**

District  
**South**

State/UT  
**Goa**

## Swoosie Mazel De Souza: Steering Quelossim towards ODF Plus Model & Har Ghar Jal Excellence

Quelossim, located in Mormugao taluka of South Goa district, is a village rich in agricultural and fishing traditions, with a population of over 3,200 residents. Spread across more than 1,065 hectares, it has steadily developed into a clean, well-organised, and forward-looking Panchayat. At the centre of this transformation is Smt. Swoosie Mazel De Souza, whose dedicated leadership has combined effective administration with active community participation to make Quelossim an ODF Plus Model village.

Smt. De Souza's leadership approach is rooted in inclusive decision-making and cooperation. By engaging farmers, fishers, Self-Help Groups, and youth clubs, she has built a strong community spirit that drives both cleanliness and development efforts. Her administration has focused on creating sustainable infrastructure and ensuring its long-term maintenance.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Quelossim has been declared ODF Plus Model. Every household has access to a functional toilet, and all schools and Anganwadi centres are equipped with sanitation facilities. Solid waste management systems are in place, along with greywater management arrangements that include treatment at the termination points of drains. IEC messages and visual cleanliness have become a consistent feature of public spaces.

Through the Jal Jeevan Mission, Quelossim has achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connections, certified in April 2022. Regular water quality monitoring ensures that residents enjoy safe drinking water, contributing to better public health outcomes.

Beyond these flagship programmes, the Panchayat has organised a variety of initiatives under Atmanirbhar Bharat and Swayampurna Goa, including free eye check-up camps, tree plantation drives, and awareness rallies such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. Efforts to preserve cultural heritage and environmental balance have also been prioritised.

On this Independence Day, Quelossim's achievements under Smt. Swoosie Mazel De Souza leadership stands as a testament to how strong local governance, combined with active citizen involvement, can deliver cleanliness, safe water, and sustainable growth for all.



Sarpanch Name  
**Sou. Saheema Sudesh  
Gaude**

Age: **38**

Gram Panchayat  
**Surla**

Village  
**Surla**

Block  
**Bicholim-Goa**

District  
**North Goa**

State/UT  
**Goa**

## Sou. Saheema Sudesh Gaude Leads Surla Village Towards Sustainable Progress

**S**ou. Saheema Sudesh Gaude, Sarpanch of Village Panchayat Surla, located in Bicholim Block, North Goa, has emerged as a dynamic leader driving transformative change in her community. Her leadership has been instrumental in elevating Surla into a model village through a series of impactful initiatives across sanitation, agriculture, water access, and community development.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Village Panchayat Surla has constructed a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) shed to manage solid and liquid waste effectively. The Panchayat has implemented door-to-door garbage collection, cleaned black spots and roadsides, and ensured visual cleanliness throughout the village. These efforts have culminated in Surla being declared an Open Defecation Free (ODF) village, with every household equipped with toilets and soak pits.

In recognition of these achievements, Surla received the Cleanliness Village Panchayat Award from Ravindra Bhavan Sankhalim, representing the Sankhalim Constituency.

In a bid to promote agricultural sustainability, the Panchayat has successfully converted 38,000 square meters of non-cultivable land into productive fields for fodder cultivation. This initiative, supported by BAIF and the Atal Gram Agency, Government of Goa, has not only revitalized unused land but also strengthened the village's agricultural economy.

Under the Har Ghar Jal initiative of the Jal Jeevan Mission, Surla has achieved the prestigious Har Ghar Jal certification from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. This milestone ensures that every household in the village has access to safe and reliable drinking water.

Sarpanch Gaude's vision for Surla is deeply rooted in infrastructure development, sanitation, education, community engagement, and women empowerment. Guided by the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, she aims to sustain the village's ODF Plus status through innovative and inclusive governance.

In recognition of her exemplary work, Sou. Saheema Sudesh Gaude has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, a moment of pride not just for her but for the entire village of Surla. Her journey stands as a testament to how grassroots leadership can drive meaningful change and inspire communities to build a cleaner, healthier, and more empowered future.

The image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag's saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. These stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy ribbons that curve from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement. The background is a solid, light orange color. In the center-right of the image, the word "Gujarat" is written in a bold, orange, serif font.

# Gujarat



## Gujarat

Sarpanch Name  
**Solanki Narendrasinh**

Age: **38**

Gram Panchayat  
**Akhod**

Village  
**Akhod**

Block  
**Vagra**

District  
**Bharuch**

State/UT  
**Gujarat**

## Akhod: Gujarat's Smart Village Rising Under the Leadership of Shri Solanki Narendrasinh

In the heart of Bharuch District, nestled within Vagra Block, lies the progressive village of Akhod, a shining example of rural transformation and sustainable development. At the forefront of this journey is Shri Solanki Narendrasinh, the 38-year-old Sarpanch of Akhod Gram Panchayat, whose leadership has turned the village into a model of innovation, cleanliness and community empowerment.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G), Akhod has achieved remarkable milestones. Every household in the village now has access to toilet facilities, and a daily door-to-door waste collection system ensures that the village remains impeccably clean. Waste segregation and disposal—both solid and liquid—are managed through a systematic and environmentally conscious approach. Through creative IEC activities such as wall paintings, street plays and Swachhta rallies, Akhod has successfully maintained its status as an ODF Plus Model Village.

In parallel, the village has excelled under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). With 100% of households certified under the Har Ghar Jal initiative, residents enjoy safe and reliable drinking water through functional household tap connections.

Akhod's development goes beyond sanitation and water. The village boasts essential public facilities including a Primary Health Centre (PHC), a post office, a bank and schools that cater to primary education. Over the past three years, the Gram Panchayat has deepened one existing pond and developed another through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model—enhancing both livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

One of the most innovative additions is the Gray Water Treatment Plant, equipped with a fully automatic Nano Effluent Treatment System. This system not only reduces manpower and electricity costs but also uses herbal raw materials in its treatment process, reflecting Akhod's commitment to eco-friendly solutions. Akhod's achievements have been recognized at the national level. The village has been honored with the Nirmal Gram Puraskar and the Swachh Gram Puraskar, celebrating its excellence in sanitation and governance. Today, Akhod stands as a beacon of smart, self-reliant rural development—where education, cleanliness, environmental care, and digital growth converge. Under Shri Solanki Narendrasinh's leadership, the village echoes the vision of a sustainable and developed Bharat.



Sarpanch Name  
**Daiben Hareshbhai  
Humbal**

Age: **34**

Gram Panchayat  
**Bhimasar**

Village  
**Bhimasar**

Block  
**Anjar**

District  
**Kachchh**

State/UT  
**Gujarat**

## Bhimasar: A Smart Village Shaped by the Vision of Smt. Daiben Hareshbhai Humbal

In Gujarat's Kachchh District, within Anjar Block, lies the vibrant village of Bhimasar, a beacon of rural innovation and sustainable development. At the helm of this transformation is Smt. Daiben Hareshbhai Humbal, the 34-year-old Sarpanch of Bhimasar Gram Panchayat, whose dynamic leadership has earned her and her Panchayat the honor of being invited to the Red Fort as a Special Guest on Independence Day.

Under her stewardship, Bhimasar has fulfilled all key objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G). Every household has access to toilet facilities, and a daily door-to-door waste collection system ensures that the village remains impeccably clean. Waste segregation and disposal—both solid and liquid—are managed through a structured and environmentally conscious system. Through creative IEC activities such as wall paintings, street plays and Swachhta rallies, Bhimasar has proudly maintained its status as an ODF Plus Model Village.

In parallel, the village has excelled under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). With 100% of households certified under the Har Ghar Jal initiative, residents enjoy safe and reliable drinking water through functional household tap connections.

Bhimasar's development extends far beyond sanitation and water. The village is home to a public library, Primary Health Centre (PHC), post office, bank, Gaushala (cow shelter) and schools ranging from primary to higher secondary. Well-constructed roads and the Green Bhimasar Project, which includes planting 10 trees per household, reflect the Panchayat's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Over the past three years, the Gram Panchayat has developed six new ponds through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and deepened four existing ponds, enhancing water conservation and supporting livelihoods.

Bhimasar's excellence has been recognized with 13 prestigious awards, including the Samras Gram Panchayat Award, Nirmal Gram Puraskar, Swarnim Gram Puraskar, Shreshth Gram Panchayat, Mahila Pani Samiti Award, Swachh Gram Puraskar, Susashan Panchayat Award, Best V.C.E Award, Gujarat Poshan Abhiyan Award, Pandit Deendayal Panchayati Raj Sashaktikaran National Award, Smart Village Award and CAG Auditor of India Recognition.

Bhimasar's achievements reflect a deep commitment to education, cleanliness, environmental care, and digital transformation. The village has even hosted esteemed guests such as the World Bank team and the Prime Minister of Nepal, further cementing its reputation as a model of excellence.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shashikant  
Bhupendrabhai Patel**

Age: **43**

Gram Panchayat  
**Sultanpur**

Village  
**Sultanpur**

Block  
**Jalalpore**

District  
**Navsari**

State/UT  
**Gujarat**

## Sultanpur: A Village of Innovation and Inclusion Under the Leadership of Shri Shashikant Bhupendrabhai Patel

In Gujarat's Navsari District, within Jalalpore Block, lies the forward-thinking village of Sultanpur, where community-driven development and inclusive governance have flourished under the leadership of Shri Shashikant Bhupendrabhai Patel, the 43-year-old Sarpanch of Sultanpur Gram Panchayat. His visionary approach to sanitation, sustainability, and social welfare has earned him the honor of being invited as a special guest to the Red Fort on Independence Day.

Sultanpur has achieved 100% toilet coverage, with every household actively using the facilities. A robust door-to-door waste collection system ensures daily management of solid waste, while composting of wet waste provides organic fertilizer distributed to local farmers. Plastic waste is responsibly sold to scrapyards, promoting recycling and reducing environmental impact.

For liquid waste management, the village has implemented community soak pits, magic pits, individual pits, and kitchen gardens, effectively managing greywater and enhancing household sustainability. A resolution passed by the Gram Panchayat to ban plastic and promote cloth bags has been widely embraced, with cloth bags distributed to every household.

Public awareness has been a cornerstone of Sultanpur's success. Through IEC activities such as hoardings, murals, signboards, cleanliness slogans, and puppet shows, the village has cultivated a strong culture of hygiene and civic responsibility. A community toilet built in a public area stands out not only for its utility but also for its inclusive design—featuring Braille signage, making Sultanpur the first village in Gujarat to ensure toilet accessibility for the visually impaired.

Sultanpur is implementing the Har Ghar Jal Yojana, driven by active public participation under the leadership of the Sarpanch. The village has also been declared an ODF Model Village, reflecting its commitment to cleanliness and public health.

Beyond infrastructure, Shri Patel has championed social empowerment. Mothers of newborn girls are honored with a ₹5,000 reward. Households with the best kitchen gardens—a key component of greywater reuse—are recognized with incentive awards, encouraging sustainable practices and community pride.

Under Shri Shashikant Bhupendrabhai Patel's leadership, the village continues to inspire others across Gujarat and beyond.

The image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag's saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. These stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy ribbons that curve from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement. The background is a solid, light orange color. In the center-right of the image, the word "Haryana" is written in a bold, orange, serif font.

# Haryana



Sarpanch Name  
**Ms. Sumitra Devi**

Age: **48**

Gram Panchayat  
**Sherpura**

Village  
**Sherpura**

Block  
**Siwani**

District  
**Bhiwani**

State/UT  
**Haryana**

## Sherpura: A Village Transformed by the Visionary Leadership of Ms. Sumitra Devi

In Haryana's Bhiwani District, nestled within Siwani Block, lies the village of Sherpura, a shining example of grassroots transformation and sustainable development. At the forefront of this change is Ms. Sumitra Devi, the 48-year-old Sarpanch of Sherpura Gram Panchayat whose inclusive and determined leadership has earned her the honor of being invited as a special guest to the Red Fort on Independence Day.

Under her stewardship, Sherpura has evolved into an ODF Plus Model Village, driven by the principles of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G). Through participatory development and convergence of schemes, the Panchayat constructed a dedicated Solid Waste Management (SWM) shed using SBM-G and Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) funds. A sanitation vehicle and staff were mobilized for daily waste collection and street cleaning, significantly improving public hygiene and encouraging behavioral change.

Sherpura also pioneered grey water management through the Nehveen GWM Project, connecting all 147 households to safe disposal infrastructure. Wastewater reuse was creatively integrated with micro-irrigation systems, boosting agricultural productivity while reducing dependence on groundwater.

The village's transformation extended beyond sanitation. Parks, open gyms, and school wall murals were developed to reinforce cleanliness messages. Infrastructure upgrades included covered cremation facilities, restored school buildings, and tap installations on public water sources to prevent water wastage. These initiatives were supported through inter-scheme convergence with MGNREGA and MICADA, fostering resilience, social cohesion and community awareness.

Ms. Sumitra Devi's leadership is marked by her ability to galvanize the community through unity and ownership. Her efforts have made Sherpura a beacon of sustainability and grassroots innovation.

As she aptly puts it: "As Mahatma Gandhi said, 'Public opinion will do what violence can never do.' Our journey in Sherpura shows that with unity, ownership, and vision, even the smallest village can lead the way in development."

Sherpura today stands as a proud example of what committed leadership and community participation can achieve—echoing the spirit of a clean, inclusive, and developed Bharat.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Ravinder Singh**

Age: **55**

Gram Panchayat  
**Bhadarpur**

Village  
**Bhadarpur**

Block  
**Tigaon**

District  
**Faridabad**

State/UT  
**Haryana**

## Bhadarpur: A Village Reimagined Through the Leadership of Shri Ravinder Singh

In the vibrant village of Bhadarpur, located in Tigaon Block of Faridabad District, Haryana, a revolution in rural development has taken place under the leadership of Shri Ravinder Singh, the 55-year-old Sarpanch of Bhadarpur Gram Panchayat. His unwavering commitment to participatory governance, sanitation, and social inclusion has transformed the village into a model of sustainable progress and earned him an invite to the Independence Day celebration at the Red Fort.

Facing initial resistance and apathy, Shri Ravinder Singh began his journey by mobilizing the community through Gram Sabhas, fostering awareness around sanitation, education, and harmony. His revival of the village's primary school—through structural repairs, vibrant wall art, and tree plantation—sparked a renewed sense of pride and led to a noticeable increase in student attendance.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), he oversaw the construction of a Community Sanitary Complex, effectively addressing open defecation and promoting dignity, especially for women. Strategic convergence with MGNREGA enabled the development of public parks, playgrounds, and open gyms, enriching the village's social and recreational life.

Shri Ravinder Singh also prioritized household water access and clean energy, facilitating the installation of tap water connections and PNG gas lines, which significantly improved hygiene and reduced health risks. A standout initiative was the creation of a solar-powered wastewater reuse system, developed in partnership with MICADA, which now supports year-round irrigation for 30 local farmers, enhancing agricultural resilience and sustainability.

His efforts have instilled a strong sense of civic responsibility and inter-community trust, demonstrating how localized leadership and integrated development schemes can uplift entire villages. Bhadarpur's success has inspired neighboring Panchayats to adopt similar models of inclusive growth.

As he reflects on the journey, he shares: "As Mahatma Gandhi said, 'Public opinion will do what violence can never do.' Our village believed in that power—and the results are visible in every street, every smile, and every park of Bhadarpur."

Today, Bhadarpur stands as a beacon of grassroots transformation, where infrastructure, environment, and community spirit come together to shape a better future.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Jasmer Singh**

Age: **54**

Gram Panchayat  
**Sultanpur**

Village  
**Sultanpur**

Block  
**Nilokheri**

District  
**Karnal**

State/UT  
**Haryana**

## Sultanpur: A Village of Dignity and Sustainability Under the Leadership of Shri Jasmer Singh

In Haryana's Karnal District, within Nilokheri Block, lies the village of Sultanpur, a model of integrated rural development and environmental stewardship. Since 2019, Shri Jasmer Singh, the 54-year-old Sarpanch of Sultanpur Gram Panchayat, has led a transformative journey rooted in community participation, innovation and a deep commitment to public health and dignity.

One of the most remarkable achievements under his leadership is the creation of a five-pond system for wastewater treatment, developed under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G). These ponds are not only functional but beautifully maintained, adorned with flowering plants and national symbols, blending utility with civic pride. Shri Singh's personal involvement in their upkeep—contributing labor and overseeing water care—reflects his hands-on approach and dedication.

To promote climate resilience, rainwater harvesting systems have been installed in key community buildings, supporting groundwater recharge and sustainable water use. Solid waste management has been institutionalized through daily door-to-door collection, with waste segregation handled at a dedicated center.

Sultanpur has achieved 100% household toilet access, alongside the construction of a functional community toilet, reinforcing its commitment to safe sanitation. Public spaces across the village feature wall art and murals that convey powerful messages on cleanliness and sustainability. Parks and green areas have been enhanced for recreation, and a community-managed hygiene complex fosters participatory ownership and pride.

The Panchayat's efforts have been widely recognized by both State and Central Government authorities, and Shri Jasmer Singh was honored during the launch of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2025, celebrating his contributions to water conservation and grassroots innovation.

His leadership is guided by a philosophy of empowerment and unity. As he puts it: "We must plant ideas of cleanliness and sustainability just like we plant trees—with care, patience, and commitment. Only then will our villages thrive for generations."

Today, Sultanpur stands as a beacon of rural progress, where sanitation is not just infrastructure but a pathway to dignity, health, and environmental harmony.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Ratanpal Singh**

Age: **32**

Gram Panchayat  
**Neerpur Rajput**

Village  
**Neerpur Rajput**

Block  
**Ateli Nangal**

District  
**Mahendragarh**

State/UT  
**Haryana**

## Neerpur Rajput: A Village Reimagined Under the Leadership of Shri Ratanpal Singh

In the heart of Mahendragarh District, within Ateli Nangal Block, lies the village of Neerpur Rajput, a symbol of rural innovation and inclusive development. At the forefront of this transformation is Shri Ratanpal Singh, the 32-year-old Sarpanch whose dynamic leadership has reshaped the village's future through a blend of environmental stewardship, infrastructure development, and community empowerment.

Recognizing the challenge of water scarcity, Shri Singh led the excavation of dedicated ponds for rainwater harvesting and domestic wastewater management. These initiatives have significantly improved groundwater recharge and reduced water wastage, laying the foundation for long-term water security. His commitment to sustainability is reflected in regular motivational camps, where villagers are sensitized on water conservation, cleanliness and ecological responsibility—fostering a culture of civic pride and environmental care.

Under his stewardship, Neerpur Rajput secured over ₹1 crore in CSR funding from private companies. These funds were strategically utilized to install high-lumen lighting systems across the village, enhancing safety and visibility during nighttime hours.

A strong advocate for green development, Shri Singh oversaw the plantation of 250 ornamental and shade trees, including palm, kadam, Arjun, and Ashoka, along major routes and community spaces—blending aesthetics with ecological balance.

Perhaps the most groundbreaking achievement is the creation of Haryana's first Day-Night stadium on Panchayati land, offering structured sports and recreation facilities to the village's youth. This initiative not only promotes physical well-being but also strengthens community engagement and pride.

His integrated approach to development—balancing infrastructure, environment, and social inclusion—has made Neerpur Rajput a beacon of rural transformation. The village has been recognized by both State and Central Government authorities for its exceptional performance in sanitation and water conservation. Shri Ratanpal Singh was honored during the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2025, and on 26th June 2025, he was felicitated by the Superintendent of Police for declaring Neerpur Rajput an addiction-free village.

His philosophy is rooted in collective responsibility and long-term vision. As he says: "Water is not just a resource—it is our responsibility. In Neerpur Rajput, every drop saved is a step toward a greener future. Together, we grow."

The image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag's saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. These stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy bands that curve from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement. The background is a solid, light orange color. Centered on the right side of the image is the text 'Himachal Pradesh' in a bold, orange, serif font.

# Himachal Pradesh



Sarpanch Name  
**Pawan Kumar**

Age: **45**

Gram Panchayat  
**Sikandar**

Village  
**Kohalvi**

Block  
**Bamsan**

District  
**Hamirpur**

State/UT  
**Himachal Pradesh**

## Sarpanch Pawan Kumar Leads Sikandar Gram Panchayat's Journey to Sustainability

In the Gram Panchayat of Sikandar in Bamsan Block, Hamirpur district, Himachal Pradesh, a transformation has taken place under the leadership of Sarpanch Pawan Kumar. His vision and dedication have transformed the Panchayat into a model of rural sustainability, earning him the honour of being invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort—a proud recognition of his grassroots impact.

With a population of 1,667 residents across 490 families and 5 wards, Sikandar faced a pressing challenge: water scarcity. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Pawan Kumar ensured that tap water connections reached every household and government office. Through MGNREGA, the Panchayat constructed rainwater harvesting tanks and restored traditional water sources like wells.

Sanitation and waste management became another cornerstone of development. The Panchayat implemented a comprehensive solid and liquid waste disposal system. Plastic segregation stores were set up in every village, with collected waste sent to the solid waste plant in Samirpur. Incinerators were installed for the safe disposal of sanitary pads, and compost pits were built for biodegradable waste. In two villages, drainage systems were linked to wastewater treatment tanks, while soak pits and kitchen gardens were developed in other households to manage greywater.

To promote health and hygiene, regular health camps are organized, and sanitary vending machines have been installed to support menstrual hygiene. For youth engagement, playgrounds have been developed, encouraging physical activity and community bonding.

Sikandar Panchayat also took a creative step in promoting cleanliness by painting eight sanitation slogans in each village, reinforcing awareness and pride in public hygiene. With two primary schools and one middle school, the Panchayat ensures access to education while maintaining a strong focus on infrastructure and civic responsibility.

Sarpanch Pawan Kumar's leadership has turned challenges into opportunities, making Sikandar a beacon of sustainable rural development. His story is a testament to how thoughtful planning, community participation, and innovative solutions can uplift an entire region—one household at a time.



## Himachal Pradesh

# Sarpanch Sandeep Kumar Leads Thanedhar's Green Transformation

Sarpanch Name  
**Sandeep Kumar**

Age: **42**

Gram Panchayat  
**Thanedhar**

Village  
**Thanedhar**

Block  
**Narkanda**

District  
**Shimla**

State/UT  
**Himachal Pradesh**

In Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district, Gram Panchayat Thanedhar in Narkanda Block, has emerged as a shining example of rural transformation under the leadership of Pradhan Sandeep Kumar. His commitment to transparency, innovation and inclusive governance has not only improved infrastructure and sanitation but also empowered the community to take ownership of its development journey.

When the new Panchayat team took charge in 2021, they were immediately confronted with a pressing issue: unmanaged garbage. With no structured waste disposal system and the burden of hiring private vehicles for transportation, the Panchayat faced both logistical and financial challenges. Recognizing the urgency, Sarpanch Sandeep Kumar led the construction of a Segregation Shed and initiated door-to-door waste collection. But the real breakthrough came in 2022, when the Panchayat successfully applied for a Plastic Waste Management Plant under the Swachh Bharat Mission. To ensure sustainability, they also purchased their own pickup vehicle using Panchayat funds.

Today, Thanedhar has distributed color-coded dustbins to every household and extended its waste collection services to five neighboring Panchayats. Over 10,000 kg of plastic waste has been treated so far, making it a model for rural waste management in hilly terrains.

The Panchayat's commitment to environmental sustainability is further reflected in the Green Thanedhar Mission, under which more than 30,000 deodar trees have been planted in collaboration with the Forest Department and local residents. An annual month-long sanitation campaign involving the entire community reinforces civic responsibility and pride.

Transparency and digital engagement are at the heart of Thanedhar's governance model. The Panchayat maintains an active Facebook page, WhatsApp group, and website, where all developmental activities are shared publicly.

To promote women's empowerment, regular programs are organized to strengthen SHGs and encourage self-reliance. These efforts have earned the Panchayat two prestigious National Panchayat Awards in the financial year 2022-23:

- 2nd Position in Socially Secured Village
- 3rd Position in Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Award

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and the Panchayat's holistic development, Sarpanch Sandeep Kumar was invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. Thanedhar today stands as a beacon of what rural India can achieve when innovation meets determination, and when governance is rooted in transparency, sustainability, and community participation.



Sarpanch Name  
**Aruna Sharma**

Age: **44**

Gram Panchayat  
**Banah-Dhinni**

Village  
**Kahan**

Block  
**Pachhad**

District  
**Sirmaur**

State/UT  
**Himachal Pradesh**

## Sarpanch Aruna Sharma Leads Banah-Dhinni Through Community-Driven Sanitation Initiatives

In the Gram Panchayat of Banah-Dhinni in Pachhad Block, Sirmaur district, Himachal Pradesh, a transformation in sanitation and public health has taken root under the leadership of Sarpanch Aruna Sharma, aged 44. Her tireless efforts to improve hygiene, waste management and water access have transformed the Panchayat into a model of rural cleanliness and sustainability.

Aruna Sharma made it her mission to ensure that every household in the Panchayat had access to a toilet and understood its proper use. Special attention was given to economically weaker families, ensuring the construction of individual toilets to eliminate open defecation and reduce the spread of disease.

To manage wastewater from kitchens, soak pits were constructed, and for solid waste, waste collection centers were built near homes. Public toilets were installed at key locations such as community centers, Anganwadi centers, health facilities, and schools, ensuring sanitation access for all. The Panchayat also constructed compost pits for biodegradable waste and installed incinerators for the safe disposal of sanitary pads.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Panchayat ensured tap water supply to every household, while also restoring traditional water sources like stepwells to provide clean drinking water. These efforts were supported by women's groups, health workers, and active community participation.

In recognition of these achievements, Gram Panchayat Banah-Dhinni was awarded ₹1 lakh under the Maharishi Valmiki Sampurna Swachhta Abhiyan for the year 2021–2022, which was utilized to further sanitation efforts. The Panchayat was also declared a Model Panchayat for its excellence in both sanitation and water management.

As a result of her visionary leadership and inclusive approach, Sarpanch Aruna Sharma was invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Her story is a testament to how grassroots leadership, when combined with community participation and government support, can create lasting change and inspire other villages to follow the path of cleanliness, health and dignity.

The background of the image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag. The saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy bands that curve around the central text. The saffron band is at the top left, the white band is in the middle, and the green band is at the bottom right. The text is centered in the white band.

# Jammu & Kashmir



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Rajinder Kumar  
Sharma**

Age: **61**

Gram Panchayat  
**Talla Tanda**

Village  
**Chak Nobad**

Block  
**Sunderbani**

District  
**Rajouri**

State/UT  
**Jammu & Kashmir**

## Rajinder Kr Sharma Leads Talla Tanda to Sanitation Success Through Community Engagement

In the Gram Panchayat of Talla Tanda in Sunderbani Block, Rajouri district, Jammu & Kashmir, a transformation in sanitation and public health has taken place—led by DDC Member Sh. Rajinder Kumar Sharma, aged 61. His leadership has not only improved infrastructure but transformed mindsets, making cleanliness a shared community value.

Recognizing that building toilets alone wouldn't solve the problem, Mr. Sharma focused on changing behavior and social norms under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). He launched a comprehensive Information, Education, and Communication campaign, organizing mohalla-wise awareness camps, street plays, poster campaigns, wall paintings, and school outreach programs. These efforts were designed to reach villagers of all ages and literacy levels, making sanitation a relatable and urgent issue.

One of his most impactful strategies was engaging schoolchildren as "Swachhta Ambassadors", empowering them to spread hygiene messages within their homes and neighborhoods. He also mobilized women's groups to lead by example, fostering a culture of cleanliness and responsibility.

Through consistent engagement and inclusive communication, Mr. Sharma helped the village achieve ODF Plus status, with open defecation becoming socially unacceptable. Today, Talla Tanda stands as a model Gram Panchayat, not just for its infrastructure, but for the deep-rooted behavioral change among its residents.

In recognition of his transformative work, Sh. Rajinder Kumar Sharma was invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, a national honour that reflects the impact of his grassroots leadership.

His story is a powerful example of how effective communication, community involvement, and visionary leadership can drive sustainable change in rural India.



**Jharkhand**



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Selay Munda**

Age: **36**

Gram Panchayat  
**Gopinathpur**

Village  
**Laujora Kala**

Block  
**Chakradharpur**

District  
**West Singhbhum**

State/UT  
**Jharkhand**

## Shri Selay Munda: A Torchbearer of Rural Transformation in Jharkhand

In Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, a remarkable story of grassroots leadership is unfolding. Shri Selay Munda, the 36-year-old Sarpanch of Gopinathpur Gram Panchayat, has emerged as a beacon of rural transformation, bringing tangible change to the lives of people across seven villages under his jurisdiction.

Under his guidance, the Panchayat has made significant strides in sanitation through the Swachh Bharat Mission. Every household now has access to individual toilets, NADEP compost pits, soak pits, and plastic segregation centers. His own village, Laujora Kala, has been declared an Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus Model, reflecting the success of community-driven cleanliness initiatives. Shri Munda has also ensured that clean drinking water reaches every home through the Jal Jeevan Mission, a milestone that has improved health and hygiene across the region.

Employment generation has been another cornerstone of his work. Through effective implementation of MGNREGA, he has created local job opportunities, reducing migration and strengthening the village economy. Recognizing the importance of accessible healthcare, he oversaw the construction of a new health center within the Panchayat, allowing villagers to receive medical attention without having to travel far. Infrastructure development has continued with the installation of streetlights through DMFT, improving safety and mobility after dark.

Shri Munda has also championed women's welfare through the Maiyaan Samman Yojana, under which women aged 18 to 50 receive ₹2500 per month. This initiative has empowered women economically and enhanced their quality of life. His commitment to transparency and modernization is evident in the near-complete digitization of land records under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), covering 99% of the Panchayat's villages. This achievement earned the Panchayat a certificate of appreciation from the Department of Land Resources.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to rural development and grassroots leadership, Shri Selay Munda has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. While the invitation is a moment of national honor, it is his relentless work on the ground that truly defines his legacy—a legacy built on service, empowerment, and transformation.



Sarpanch Name  
**Vimal Yadav**

Age: **28**

Gram Panchayat  
**Bhandaro**

Village  
**Balidih**

Block  
**Sarwan**

District  
**DeogharState**

State/UT  
**Jharkhand**

## Young Leader Driving Change: Shri Vimal Yadav's Vision Transforms Bhandaro Gram Panchayat

In the Gram Panchayat of Bhandaro in Sarwan block of Jharkhand's Deoghar district, a swift transformation is underway. At just 28 years old, Shri Vimal Yadav, the elected Mukhiya of Bhandaro, has emerged as a dynamic force for grassroots development, bringing meaningful change to the lives of residents across thirteen villages under his Panchayat.

Located approximately 18 kilometers from the district headquarters, Bhandaro has seen remarkable progress under Shri Yadav's leadership. One of his most impactful achievements has been the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Through the MVS, tap water connections have been provided to 1,468 households, ensuring a daily supply of clean drinking water.

This initiative has brought immense relief, especially to women, who no longer have to carry water over long distances under the scorching sun. The joy on their faces reflects not just convenience but improved health and dignity. Six villages in the Panchayat have already been certified under the "Har Ghar Jal" initiative.

Shri Yadav has also made significant strides in sanitation and waste management. Under Phase 2 of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), he has led efforts to establish effective systems for managing solid and liquid waste. His dedication has resulted in eight villages being certified as ODF Plus Model villages, setting an example for others in the region.

His leadership is marked by a deep sense of responsibility and connection to the community. As a public representative, he has consistently worked to ensure that development reaches every household. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to rural governance and public welfare, Shri Vimal Yadav has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort—a moment of national pride that reflects the impact of his work far beyond his Panchayat.

His journey stands as a powerful example of how young, committed leadership can drive sustainable change at the grassroots level.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Suneshwar Singh**

Age: **40**

Gram Panchayat  
**Karwai**

Village  
**Kui**

Block  
**Garu**

District  
**Latehar**

State/UT  
**Jharkhand**

## Shri Suneshwar Singh's Leadership Sets a Benchmark for Rural Development

In the Gram Panchayat of Karwai in Garu block of Jharkhand's Latehar district, a wave of transformation is taking place. At the helm of this is Shri Suneshwar Singh, the 40-year-old Sarpanch whose dedication to public service has turned his Panchayat into a model of grassroots governance and sustainable development.

Located nearly 45 kilometers from the district headquarters, Karwai Panchayat comprises eight villages that have witnessed significant progress under Shri Singh's leadership. Through the Jal Jeevan Mission, 923 households have been provided with tap water connections via 32 different schemes. Every home now receives clean drinking water daily, and the Panchayat has been certified under the "Har Ghar Jal" initiative. This achievement has brought immense relief to villagers, especially women, who no longer have to walk long distances to fetch water. The availability of safe water has not only saved time but also improved health and hygiene across the community.

Shri Singh's approach to governance is deeply participatory. He personally visited households to raise awareness about water tax collection, encouraging residents to contribute and take ownership of the services they receive. Monthly Gram Sabhas are held to inform villagers about various government schemes, fostering a culture of transparency and civic responsibility. Despite the Panchayat's remote location, the residents today are well-informed and actively engaged in local governance.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), both Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been successfully implemented. Toilets have been constructed in every household, and solid and liquid waste management systems have been established, making Karwai a model Panchayat. All eight villages have been developed as ODF Plus Model villages, showcasing the impact of sustained efforts in sanitation and environmental management.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Shri Suneshwar Singh has been honored at both the block and district levels. His work stands as a testament to what committed leadership can achieve, even in the most remote corners of the country. This year, his achievements have earned him a place of national pride—he has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, a moment that not only honors his efforts but also shines a spotlight on the transformative power of grassroots governance. Shri Singh's journey is a powerful reminder that real change begins at the village level, with leaders who are deeply connected to their communities and driven by a vision of inclusive progress.



**Kerala**



Sarpanch Name  
**Sheeba AV**

Age: **50**

Gram Panchayat  
**Peralassery**

Village  
**Mavilayi**

Block  
**Edakkad**

District  
**Kannur**

State/UT  
**Kerala**

## Sheeba AV's Leadership Transforms Peralassery Panchayat in Kerala

In Kerala's Kannur district, the Peralassery Gram Panchayat has emerged as a shining example of sustainable development and civic responsibility. At the heart of this transformation is Smt Sheeba AV, the 50-year-old Sarpanch whose leadership has turned Peralassery into a model for cleanliness, waste management and green governance.

Peralassery has become a benchmark for decentralized and scientific waste management under the Haritha Mission. Through strong community participation, the Panchayat has achieved 100% toilet coverage, earning the status of an ODF Plus Panchayat. Several localities, including Mupperiya, Kottam, Vellachal and Peralassery, have been declared Haritha Sundara Towns, and the Cherumavilayi Dam site has been transformed into a model Haritha Tourism Spot.

A dedicated team of 36 trained Haritha Karma Sena members operates across all 18 wards, collecting and processing waste efficiently. The Panchayat has established 40 Mini Material Collection Facilities (MCFs) and a central MCF spanning over 270 square meters, equipped with essential amenities and fire safety measures.

Peralassery has also embraced digital innovation. Using the Harithamithram mobile app, the Panchayat has digitized waste collection and monitoring. QR codes have been distributed to every household and institution, enabling real-time tracking and improving transparency. Regular review meetings at the Panchayat, cluster, and consortium levels ensure continuous progress.

Creative campaigns have played a key role in driving behavioral change. Initiatives like Haritha Pathashala, Haritha Nyayapathashala, Plogathons, Swachhata Olympics, Radio Green Peralassery and Green Protocol enforcement have engaged children, youth and the wider community in environmental stewardship. The Panchayat strictly bans single-use plastics at public events, promoting reusable and eco-friendly alternatives.

Haritha Karma Sena members now earn income from both user fees and the sale of segregated waste. Safety and training have also been prioritized, with all workers equipped with proper gear and trained in fire safety and first aid.

In recognition of its achievements, Peralassery has received several prestigious awards, including the Haritha Town (Green Town) Recognition, the Best CDS Award (Kudumbashree) and the Haritha Karma Sena Award—the first of its kind in Kannur. In honor of her exemplary leadership, Sheeba AV has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri V. Kunhi Bava**

Age: **69**

Gram Panchayat  
**North Trikaripur**

Village  
**North Trikaripur**

Block  
**Nileshwar**

District  
**Kasaragod**

State/UT  
**Kerala**

## Shri V. Kunhi Bava's Vision for a Cleaner, Greener Kerala

In the coastal district of Kasaragod in Kerala, the North Trikaripur Gram Panchayat has emerged as a shining example of what committed leadership and community participation can achieve. At the helm of this transformation is Shri V. Kunhi Bava, the 69-year-old Sarpanch of North Trikaripur, whose tireless efforts have turned the Panchayat into a model of scientific waste management and sustainable development.

Comprising 21 wards, Trikaripur was officially declared a Garbage-Free Panchayat in March 2025, and has also earned the distinction of being an ODF+ Model Panchayat. In addition, every household now enjoys access to safe and reliable drinking water through a well-maintained pipeline network.

Under Shri Bava's leadership, the Panchayat has built a robust infrastructure for waste collection and processing. A team of 42 Haritha Karma Sena members conducts door-to-door waste collection, supported by a network of 162 mini-MCFs, bins, bottle booths and a centrally located, state-of-the-art Material Collection Facility (MCF).

Innovative initiatives have further strengthened Trikaripur's waste management efforts. Over 5,000 ring compost units and 210 Bokashi buckets were distributed to promote household-level organic waste treatment. In a pioneering move, 1,000 menstrual cups were distributed to reduce sanitary waste. The Panchayat also tackled illegal dumping near the railway station by converting the area into a beautifully landscaped garden with the help of voluntary organizations.

Digital tools and regular monitoring have ensured efficiency and transparency. Daily door-to-door collection is tracked, monthly review meetings are held, and user fee collection has reached 90%, significantly boosting the income of Haritha Karma Sena workers. For the first time in the state, a mini-crane has been installed at the MCF to handle heavy baled waste, showcasing Trikaripur's commitment to innovation.

Awareness campaigns and cleanliness competitions in schools and colleges have helped instill environmental values in the younger generation. All institutions have undergone green audits and grading, reinforcing the Panchayat's commitment to sustainability. In recognition of its achievements, Trikaripur Gram Panchayat has received several awards, including the Best MCF in the District and the Best Haritha Karma Sena in the Block.

In honor of his exemplary leadership, Shri V. Kunhi Bava has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national recognition celebrates not only his personal dedication but also the collective spirit of a community that has embraced cleanliness, innovation, and civic pride.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Viju Mohan. V**

Age: **60**

Gram Panchayat  
**Arynad**

Village  
**Arynad**

Block  
**Vellnad**

District  
**Thiruvananthapuram**

State/UT  
**Kerala**

## Shri Viju Mohan V's Green Revolution in Arynad, Kerala

In the hilly terrains of Arynad village, located in Vellnad block of Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district, a remarkable transformation is underway. At the forefront of this change is Shri Viju Mohan V, the 60-year-old Sarpanch of Arynad Gram Panchayat, whose leadership has turned his Panchayat into a model of sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Spanning over 104.92 square kilometers and home to more than 33,000 people across 11,602 families — including Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities — Arynad has seen a series of impactful initiatives under Shri Mohan's guidance. Under Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), 89 individual toilets and 5 public toilets with tap facilities were constructed, leading to the Panchayat being declared an ODF Plus village on March 27, 2023.

His commitment to cleanliness and ecological restoration was further demonstrated through the Malinyamuktham Nava Keralam campaign. Thirteen waste-strewn areas were cleaned, and green spaces were created in their place. Two Miyawaki forests, a "Pachathuruthu" (green patch) and "Sneharaamangal" (loving groves) were developed with the help of NSS student units. To discourage littering, 33 bottle booths and 20 twin litter bins were installed and 21 CCTV cameras were set up.

In the realm of organic waste management, 3,800 bio-bins were distributed to households, and three community-level systems were established and are now operational. For non-organic waste, 37 Haritha Karma Sena members collect waste using push carts, which is then stored in 44 segregation sheds. An electric vehicle transports the waste to a 2,250 sq ft Material Collection Facility, where it is processed using modern machinery and supplied to cement companies.

Arynad's achievements have not gone unnoticed. On February 2, 2024, it was declared a litter-free village in Thiruvananthapuram district. On March 17, 2025, it reached another milestone—being declared a completely garbage-free village. Today, 34 offices, 11 schools, 33 anganwadis, and 2 colleges in the Panchayat proudly operate as green offices. A Kudumbashree enterprise also thrives here, crafting handicrafts from waste materials, adding a layer of economic empowerment to environmental responsibility.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to sanitation, waste management, and community mobilization, Shri Viju Mohan V has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national honor reflects the far-reaching impact of his work and the inspiration it offers to other leaders across the country.

The background of the image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag. The saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy bands that curve from the top left towards the bottom right. The saffron and green bands have a slight gradient and shadow, giving them a sense of depth and movement. The white band is also rendered with soft shading. The overall composition is clean and modern, with the text centered on the right side.

# Madhya Pradesh



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Neetu Parihar**

Age: **37**

Gram Panchayat  
**Pura Banwar**

Village  
**Berni**

Block  
**Bhitarwar**

District  
**Gwalior**

State/UT  
**Madhya Pradesh**

## Neetu Parihar Leads Pura Banwar's Transformation Through Sanitation & Water Initiatives

**M**rs. Neetu Parihar, aged 37, the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Pura Banwar in Bhitarwar Block, Gwalior district, Madhya Pradesh, has emerged as a beacon of progressive rural leadership. Under her stewardship, the Panchayat has achieved remarkable milestones in sanitation, water access, and digital governance, earning national acclaim and transforming the village into a model of sustainable development.

As part of the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase-2, Mrs. Parihar made sanitation a personal mission. She led the construction of 15 community NADEP compost pits, 10 soak pits, and 2,300 meters of concrete drainage lines, ensuring effective solid and liquid waste management. These efforts resulted in Pura Banwar being declared both an ODF Plus Model Village and a "Har Ghar Jal" village, with every household receiving access to clean drinking water.

Her commitment to modernization and transparency is reflected in the complete digitization of Panchayat records and the Panchayat's achievement of ISO certification. These advancements have not only improved administrative efficiency but also enhanced public trust and participation.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Mrs. Neetu Parihar was honoured with the National Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023 by the Hon'ble President of India. She was also invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, a moment of pride for her village and the entire region.

Her leadership style is rooted in community engagement, sustainability, and innovation. Through her efforts, Pura Banwar has seen visible improvements in public health, environmental cleanliness, and civic awareness. Her journey stands as a testament to the power of determined, educated, and empathetic leadership in building resilient and empowered communities.



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Kavita Dhurve**

Age: **35**

Gram Panchayat  
**Khumkal**

Village  
**Aradongri**

Block  
**Jamai**

District  
**Chhindwara**

State/UT  
**Madhya Pradesh**

## Kavita Dhurve Transforms Aradongri into a Clean and Sustainable Village

**M**rs. Kavita Dhurve, aged 35, the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Khumkal, village Aradongri, in Jamai Block, Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh, has emerged as a dynamic leader in grassroots governance. Her commitment to sanitation, sustainability and community engagement has brought visible transformation to her village, earning her recognition and respect across the region.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, Mrs. Dhurve led a campaign of morning follow-ups and ratri chaupals to engage villagers in discussions about hygiene and sanitation. Her efforts resulted in 100% toilet construction, making the village open defecation free. In the next phase, she focused on solid and liquid waste management, constructing NADEP compost pits, soak pits, and drainage systems for wastewater disposal. A water tank was also built to ensure access to clean water.

At the household level, soak pits, leach pits, and kitchen gardens were developed with community participation. To streamline waste collection, the Panchayat purchased a waste collection vehicle, enabling daily door-to-door collection of wet and dry waste, which is then sent to a nearby segregation shed for processing.

In a unique and inspiring initiative, Mrs. Dhurve created a “Swachhata Park” using scrap materials — an innovative space for community recreation that has become a model for neighboring Panchayats.

Her leadership has been recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation from the District Collector under the Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan. In further recognition of her impactful work, she has been invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Mrs. Dhurve has also taken bold steps to make the village free from single-use plastic. She passed a resolution to reduce plastic usage and personally distributed cloth bags to households, setting an example for others. She ensured the successful implementation of the Har Ghar Nal Jal scheme, guaranteeing daily water supply to every home. Regular Gram Sabha meetings and timely delivery of government scheme benefits remain central to her governance approach.

Her journey is a shining example of how committed, community-focused leadership can drive sustainable change and inspire a culture of cleanliness, innovation, and empowerment in rural India.



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Aarti / Omkar Patel**

Age: **54**

Gram Panchayat  
**Tirla**

Village  
**Tirla**

Block  
**Tirla**

District  
**Dhar**

State/UT  
**Madhya Pradesh**

## Aarti Patel Leads Tirla Village to Cleanliness and Community Satisfaction

**M**rs. Aarti Patel, aged 54, the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Tirla in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, has made a significant impact on village sanitation and public health through practical and community-driven solutions. Her leadership has transformed Tirla into a cleaner, healthier, and more aware village, earning her the District-Level Excellence in Sanitation Certificate for 2023–24.

One of the major challenges in Tirla was the accumulation of dry waste outside homes, which posed serious health and hygiene concerns. To address this, Mrs. Patel led the initiative to purchase a diesel waste collection vehicle at the Panchayat level. This enabled door-to-door waste collection, ensuring safe disposal and eliminating garbage piles from public spaces. Today, the village is visibly cleaner, and residents have become more conscious of hygiene and sanitation.

Her efforts have not only improved the physical environment but also boosted community morale. The cleanliness drive has been widely appreciated, and the Panchayat's proactive approach has set an example for neighboring villages.

In recognition of her dedication to public welfare and sanitation, Mrs. Aarti Patel was invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, a national honour that reflects the significance of her grassroots leadership.

Her story is a testament to how focused, local governance can bring about meaningful change in rural communities, improving both quality of life and civic pride.



Sarpanch Name  
**Lakshika Dagar**

Age: **25**

Gram Panchayat  
**Chintaman Jawasiya**

Village  
**Chintaman Jawasiya**

Block  
**Ujjain**

District  
**Ujjain**

State/UT  
**Madhya Pradesh**

## Lakshika Dagar: Youngest Sarpanch of MP Leading Chintaman Jawasiya Toward Inclusive Growth

**A**t just 25 years old, Lakshika Dagar, the Sarpanch of Chintaman Jawasiya in Ujjain Block, Madhya Pradesh, is redefining rural leadership with a focus on inclusive development, women empowerment, health, and education. As one of the youngest female Sarpanches in the state, she has brought fresh energy and vision to village governance, ensuring that progress reaches every doorstep.

Under her leadership, the Panchayat has seen the construction of a maternity center, regular health camps, and significant improvements in primary healthcare facilities. For children, a new primary school was built, complete with a dedicated prayer and activity space, and educational campus drives were organized to promote learning and retention. Her commitment to education is reflected in the village's efforts to maintain school attendance and accountability through regular monitoring of schools, Anganwadis, and health centers.

Lakshika has also championed women's empowerment by linking women to self-help groups and providing skill-based training to promote economic independence. Infrastructure development has been a key priority, with new roads, drainage systems, and waste collection vehicles improving connectivity and cleanliness. A new Anganwadi center is under construction to support early childhood care and create employment opportunities for women.

Her innovative and inclusive approach has earned her multiple accolades, including being named the Youngest Female Sarpanch of Madhya Pradesh, and featured as an Expert Speaker at MIT World Peace University, Pune. She was selected among India's Rising Leaders – 30 under Thirty, and also featured in the Zee Rishtey Awards segment "Khana Gaana Fungama." Her book, Lakshika Dagar, was published by Benzaiten Publications, and she was listed in the first 25 under 25 by a leading policy and politics magazine.

In recognition of her impactful work, Lakshika Dagar was invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, a national honour that reflects her growing influence and the transformative change she is driving in her community.

She believes, "When a woman leads, a village rises—not just in development, but in dignity, voice, and vision." Her journey is a testament to the power of youth, education, and empathy in shaping the future of rural India.

The image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag's saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. These stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy bands that curve around the central text, creating a sense of movement and depth. The background is a solid, light beige color.

# Maharashtra



Sarpanch Name  
**Prakash Kawalu Kharabe**

Age: **49**

Gram Panchayat  
**Paldongri**

Village  
**Paldongri**

Block  
**Mohadi**

District  
**Bhandara**

State/UT  
**Maharashtra**

## Shri Prakash Kawalu Kharabe's Vision to Map Paldongri's Path to Progress

In Maharashtra's Bhandara district, the small village of Paldongri has emerged as a beacon of rural transformation. With a population of just 701, this village in Mohadi Taluka has achieved cleanliness, sustainability, and inclusive development. At the center of this success story is Shri Prakash Kawalu Kharabe, the 49-year-old Sarpanch whose leadership has turned Paldongri into an ODF Plus Model Village under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and a "Har Ghar Jal" village under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Every one of the village's 150 families has been provided with individual garbage bins, and waste is collected daily using an e-rickshaw and a tricycle equipped for wet and dry segregation. Women-led SHGs play a central role in managing waste segregation and composting organic waste using the NADEP method. This compost supports three nurseries maintained by the Gram Panchayat.

In support of the plastic ban, cloth bags have been distributed to all households, significantly reducing plastic usage. Public dustbins have been installed at key locations, and menstrual hygiene management initiatives are actively promoted. The village has developed a closed drainage system, and 90 families have been equipped with individual soak pits for effective wastewater management.

All public institutions — including the Gram Panchayat office, schools, and anganwadis — are ISO certified and equipped with rainwater harvesting systems. Solar energy powers public infrastructure, further demonstrating Paldongri's commitment to sustainability. Under the "Har Ghar Nal Se Jal" initiative, every household receives 55 liters of clean tap drinking water per person per day. Water quality is ensured through regular testing, and a digital billing system with household water meters has been implemented for transparency and efficiency.

Paldongri's achievements have earned it widespread recognition. Under Shri Kharabe's leadership, the village has received numerous awards, including Smart Village Taluka-level Award (2023–24), Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhta Abhiyan District-level Second Prize, State-level Ideal Sarpanch Award by Lokmat Media Group (2024–25), Ideal Sarpanch Award by State-level Sarpanch Association (2024–25), Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay State-level Award (2018–19) and multiple Taluka, District, and Divisional-level awards under the Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhta Abhiyan (2016–18).

These accolades reflect not just administrative excellence but a deep-rooted culture of community participation. Monthly Gram Panchayat meetings and Gram Sabhas have been instrumental in raising awareness. SHGs have led the way in waste segregation and menstrual hygiene education, while student rallies, public beautification drives, and creative outreach through banners, wall paintings, and loudspeakers have reinforced the message of cleanliness and sustainability.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to rural development, Shri Prakash Kawalu Kharabe has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.



Sarpanch Name  
**Smt Deepali Uttam  
Chougule**

Age: **41**

Gram Panchayat  
**Nigve Dumala**

Village  
**Nigve Dumala**

Block  
**Karveer**

District  
**Kolhapur**

State/UT  
**Maharashtra**

## Smt Deepali Uttam Chougule Leads From the Front in Nigve Dumala Village

Just a few kilometers from Kolhapur city in Maharashtra, Nigve Dumala has emerged as a shining example of rural sanitation and solid waste management. With a population of 6,898 across 1,475 households, the village proudly holds Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and is now recognized for its scientific and community-driven approach to waste management. At the forefront of this transformation is Mrs. Deepali Uttam Chougule, the 41-year-old Sarpanch whose leadership has turned vision into reality.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II and the 15th Finance Commission, Nigve Dumala launched a comprehensive Solid Waste Management initiative. A dedicated waste segregation shed was constructed and daily waste collection is carried out using tipper rickshaws, with four loads processed each day. Waste is scientifically segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories. Organic waste is composted using the NADEP method, and the resulting compost is distributed free of cost to local farmers, boosting soil fertility and agricultural productivity.

Non-biodegradable waste is recycled in collaboration with an NGO, ensuring minimal environmental impact. To promote household-level participation, dustbins were distributed to every home, and awareness campaigns were conducted through loudspeakers, jingles, and door-to-door visits. These efforts have resulted in a clean and litter-free village, with no open dumping, reduced foul odors, fewer disease outbreaks, and a noticeable decline in stray animals.

The village's commitment to cleanliness and sustainability has earned it the R. R. Patil (Aba) Clean and Beautiful Village Award, securing first rank at both the Taluka and District levels. This recognition reflects the success of Nigve Dumala's integrated planning, grassroots engagement, and scientific waste management practices.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to rural development and sanitation, Smt. Deepali Uttam Chougule has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national honor celebrates her leadership and the collective efforts of the people of Nigve Dumala.

Under Smt. Chougule's guidance, the Gram Panchayat has also prioritized menstrual hygiene, closed drainage systems and rainwater harvesting. All public institutions, including schools and Anganwadis, are ISO certified, and solar energy powers public infrastructure, reinforcing the village's commitment to green governance.

Nigve Dumala's journey is a testament to the power of community-driven action, strategic leadership, and sustainable development. It stands today as a replicable model for villages across India striving for environmental stewardship and public health.



**Meghalaya**



Sarpanch Name  
**Krin Dkhar**

Age: **56**

Gram Panchayat  
**Lumshken**

Village  
**Lumshken**

Block  
**Wapung C&RD Block**

District  
**East Jaintia Hills**

State/UT  
**Meghalaya**

## Lumshken's Journey to Cleanliness Under Shri Krin Dkhar's Leadership

In the quiet village of Lumshken, nestled within the Wapung C&RD Block of East Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya, a story of transformation is unfolding — led by the unwavering commitment of Shri Krin Dkhar, the 56-year-old Sarpanch of Lumshken Gram Panchayat. Through consistent awareness campaigns and proactive governance, the village has made significant strides in sanitation and community development.

Under Shri Dkhar's leadership, Lumshken has embraced a culture of cleanliness and civic responsibility. Regular awareness programs are conducted to educate villagers on the importance of sanitation, hygiene and environmental care. These efforts have helped the village successfully eliminate open defecation and sustain its status as an ODF Plus Model Village.

What sets Shri Dkhar apart is his hands-on approach. He frequently visits the offices of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen and Jal Jeevan Mission in East Jaintia Hills to follow up on schemes and ensure that Lumshken benefits from available government programs. His dedication has helped the village maintain momentum in its development journey, particularly in sanitation and water supply.

The village's achievements are a reflection of strong grassroots leadership and community participation. Shri Dkhar regularly organizes cleaning drives and monitors progress, ensuring that zero littering, especially of plastic waste, is strictly enforced. His efforts have fostered a sense of pride and ownership among villagers, making cleanliness a shared responsibility.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to rural development and sanitation, Shri Krin Dkhar has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national honor is a proud moment for Lumshken and a testament to the impact of dedicated local leadership.

Lumshken's journey under Shri Dkhar's guidance stands as a model for other villages across Meghalaya and India—demonstrating how consistent awareness, active follow-up, and community engagement can lead to lasting change.



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Leverius Dkhar**

Age: **42**

Gram Panchayat  
**Laitmynsaw**

Village  
**Laitmynsaw**

Block  
**Mylliem Block**

District  
**East Khasi Hills**

State/UT  
**Meghalaya**

## Shri Leverius Dkhar: A Grassroots Leader Transforming Laitmynsaw Village

In the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, the village of Laitmynsaw has emerged as a model of rural progress and sanitation, thanks to the leadership of Shri Leverius Dkhar, the 42-year-old headman of the village. Under his guidance, Laitmynsaw became the first village in the district to achieve ODF Plus Model status, a milestone that reflects the village's commitment to cleanliness and sustainable development.

Shri Dkhar's leadership has also been instrumental in the successful implementation of the 'Har Ghar Jal' initiative, ensuring that every household in the village has access to a reliable water connection. His proactive approach, dedication to community welfare, and hands-on involvement in village affairs have made him a respected figure not only in Laitmynsaw but across the East Khasi Hills district.

Through regular community meetings, Shri Dkhar has sustained momentum around sanitation and hygiene, promoted the avoidance of plastic waste, and ensured that the village remains clean through organized cleaning drives. His efforts have helped foster a strong sense of ownership and participation among the villagers.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to rural development and sanitation, Shri Leverius Dkhar has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national honor is a proud moment for the people of Laitmynsaw and a testament to the impact of committed grassroots leadership.

Shri Dkhar's journey continues to inspire other village heads across the region, proving that with vision, dedication, and community support, even the smallest villages can achieve remarkable progress.



Sarpanch Name  
**Smt. Cacino Marak**

Age: **38**

Gram Panchayat  
**Aminda Rangsa**

Village  
**Aminda Rangsa**

Block  
**Gambegre**

District  
**West Garo Hills**

State/UT  
**Meghalaya**

## Smt. Cacino Marak's Vision Transforms Aminda Rangsa Village in Meghalaya

In the lush landscapes of West Garo Hills, Meghalaya, the village of Aminda Rangsa has become a symbol of community-driven development and sustainable rural transformation. At the heart of this progress is Smt. Cacino Marak, the 38-year-old Sarpanch whose leadership has empowered her village to achieve remarkable milestones in sanitation, water supply, and civic engagement.

Under her guidance, Aminda Rangsa has successfully eliminated open defecation and progressed to become an ODF Plus Model Village. This achievement was made possible through regular cleanliness drives, strict enforcement of zero-littering policies—especially against plastic waste—and the active participation of villagers in maintaining hygiene standards. Biodegradable waste is composted to support organic farming, reinforcing the village's commitment to sustainability.

The village has also made significant strides under the Jal Jeevan Mission, ensuring Har Ghar Jal through collective ownership of water supply infrastructure. Every household now has access to safe drinking water, and community assets are well-maintained with a strong sense of local responsibility.

Smt. Marak's leadership goes beyond implementation—she regularly conducts community meetings to sustain ODF Plus Model status, promotes plastic-free living, and monitors government projects to ensure transparency and effectiveness. Her participation in capacity-building trainings under both the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Jal Jeevan Mission has further strengthened her ability to lead with knowledge and purpose.

Aminda Rangsa's achievements have earned it several prestigious recognitions, including the Nirmal Gram Puraskar Award, Clean & Green Village Award, Wood Carving Village Award, Tuberculosis-Free Village Bronze Award, Best Performing Gram Panchayat Award under SSG 2023 and the Best Performing Gram Panchayat Award under MGNREGA.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to rural development and sanitation, Smt. Cacino Marak has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national honor is a proud moment for the people of Aminda Rangsa and a testament to the transformative power of grassroots leadership.

Her journey reflects how inclusive governance, community participation, and a clear vision can turn a village into a model for others to follow. Aminda Rangsa stands today not just as a clean and green village but as a beacon of hope and inspiration for rural India.



Sarpanch Name  
**Almen D Shira**

Age: **61**

Gram Panchayat  
**Chachatgre**

Village  
**Chachatgre**

Block  
**Samanda**

District  
**East Garo Hills**

State/UT  
**Meghalaya**

## Shri Almen D Shira's Vision for Clean, Green & Empowered Chachatgre

In the serene hills of East Garo Hills district, Meghalaya, the village of Chachatgre has quietly emerged as a model of rural cleanliness, sanitation, and water security. Under the dedicated leadership of Shri Almen D Shira, the 61-year-old Sarpanch, Chachatgre has achieved remarkable milestones that reflect the power of community-driven development.

Through consistent efforts and public engagement, Chachatgre has been declared an ODF Plus Model Village, having successfully eliminated open defecation and implemented solid and liquid waste management systems. Shri Shira personally leads regular cleaning drives and enforces a strict zero-littering policy, especially targeting plastic waste, which has helped maintain a clean and green village environment.

The village's commitment to sanitation is matched by its achievements in water supply. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Chachatgre has ensured Har Ghar Jal, with every household receiving safe and reliable drinking water. What sets the village apart is its active ownership of water infrastructure, with the community playing a central role in maintaining and managing the system.

These efforts have earned Chachatgre several prestigious recognitions, including:

- KVC Award
- Nirmal Gram Puruskar

In honor of his exemplary leadership and the village's outstanding contributions to sanitation and water management, Shri Almen D Shira has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This national recognition is a proud moment for the people of Chachatgre and a testament to the transformative power of grassroots governance.

Chachatgre's journey under Shri Shira's guidance is a shining example of how committed leadership, community participation, and sustainable practices can create lasting change. It stands today as a replicable model for villages across India striving for cleanliness, dignity, and development.



**Mizoram**



Sarpanch Name  
**Goldena**

Age: **50**

Gram Panchayat  
**Lianpui**

Village  
**Bungzung**

Block  
**Khawbung**

District  
**Champhai**

State/UT  
**Mizoram**

## Goldena Leading Bungzung's Journey to ODF Plus Model

**B**ungzung village in Champhai district, Mizoram, once struggled with water scarcity and poor sanitation. Today, it stands as a model of rural transformation, thanks to the vision and persistence of its Village Council President, Mr. Goldena. His leadership has turned everyday challenges into opportunities for community-driven change.

From the outset, Mr. Goldena focused on organisation and sustainability. In 2013, local NGOs formed the Clean Bungzung Committee to address waste collection, but rising costs made the system unviable. By 2021, under his leadership, the WATSAN Committee purchased a dedicated garbage vehicle, ensuring reliable, door-to-door collection.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the village was declared ODF in 2020 and achieved ODF Plus Model status in 2024. Bungzung introduced waste segregation at source, built a plastic waste collection centre, and divided the village into five sanitation zones with monthly inspections. The Naupang Fai Duh Pawl (Children Sanitation Club) now leads Saturday cleaning drives, nurturing hygiene habits from a young age.

Water security has improved through better infrastructure and maintenance, complementing sanitation gains and supporting healthier living conditions.

Mr. Goldena's initiatives earned Bungzung the Clean Village Award in 2024. His leadership style—empowering local committees, rewarding good practices, and involving children—ensures that progress is sustained.

On this Independence Day, Bungzung's story under Mr. Goldena is proof that structured, community-led action can make ODF Plus Model a reality even in the most challenging environments.



Sarpanch Name  
**Vanlalsiamthara**

Age: **35**

Gram Panchayat  
**Mampui**

Village  
**Mampui**

Block  
**Lawngtlai**

District  
**Lawngtlai**

State/UT  
**Mizoram**

## Vanlalsiamthara, Inspiring Daily Cleanliness in Mampui

In the quiet village of Mampui, Lawngtlai district, cleanliness is more than a campaign—it is a way of life, shaped by the steady leadership of Mr. Vanlalsiamthara, a dedicated Village Council President and by heart, a Swachhagrahi. His personal involvement in sanitation activities has made him a role model for the entire community.

Mr. Vanlalsiamthara leads by example, from emptying community dustbins himself to checking their condition daily. His efforts ensure that public spaces are consistently maintained, not just before inspections or events.

Under SBM-G, Mampui has embraced routine cleanliness through regular drives and school-based awareness. The Naupang Fai Duh Pawl (Children Sanitation Club) plays a key role, with children cleaning streets every Saturday and learning discipline and civic responsibility from an early age.

Mampui's water supply improvements have been commendable and awareness on hygiene and water conservation has spread through every available platform—local bodies, youth fellowships, and community associations.

Recognised by Nehru Yuva Kendra and the District Water & Sanitation Mission, Mr. Vanlalsiamthara has shown that sustained, small-scale actions build the foundation for lasting ODF Plus Model success.

On this Independence Day, Mampui's journey reflects the power of consistent grassroots leadership in creating a culture of cleanliness.



Sarpanch Name  
**C. Lalngaihsaki**

Age: **40**

Gram Panchayat  
**Thaizawl**

Village  
**Thaizawl**

Block  
**Lunglei**

District  
**Lunglei**

State/UT  
**Mizoram**

## C. Lalngaihsaki – Water Warrior of Thaizawl

**T**haizawl village in Lunglei district faced water scarcity and environmental degradation until Mrs. C. Lalngaihsaki stepped forward and led the village to be Har Ghar Jal certified under Jal Jeevan Mission. Her resolve transformed the village's approach to both sanitation and natural resource management.

Faced with depleted springs due to deforestation, she began reforesting the surrounding hills with her young daughter, supported by the PHED. Over time, the revived greenery replenished water sources, expanding the village's supply system and ensuring long-term resilience.

Under SBM-G, she addressed the problem of unused sanitation facilities by encouraging households to adopt them, coupled with awareness drives on hygiene. The Environment Protection Children's Club, now part of the Naupang Fai Duh Pawl, mobilises children to clean streets, dig trenches, and educate others on sanitation, wildlife, and drug prevention.

Water access has significantly improved, supported by her advocacy in Gram Sabha meetings for better waste management and regular cleaning drives.

In 2024, she was honoured with the Water Warrior Award by PHED during World Water Day, recognising her dual contribution to water conservation and sanitation.

On this Independence Day, Thaizawl's transformation under Mrs. Lalngaihsaki stands as an inspiring example of how determined local leadership can safeguard both the environment and public health.



**Nagaland**



Sarpanch Name  
**Rukungoyi Shijoh**

Age: **54**

Gram Panchayat  
**Chozu Basa**

Village  
**Chozu Basa**

Block  
**Sekruzu**

District  
**Phek**

State/UT  
**Nagaland**

## Rukungoyi Shijoh Leading Chozu Basa's Journey to Har Ghar Jal and ODF Plus Model

**C**hozu Basa, a village in Phek district's Sekruzu block, has demonstrated community spirit and willingness to embrace change. The village has steadily progressed under the leadership of Sarpanch Shri Rukungoyi Shijoh, whose dedication has ensured that national flagship schemes bring lasting benefits to every household.

Shri Shijoh leads by example, encouraging villagers to actively participate in all centrally sponsored schemes. His approach has been marked by selfless service, a willingness to volunteer, and the ability to inspire unity among residents. This spirit of cooperation has been central to Chozu Basa's achievements in sanitation and water supply.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the village maintained a high level of cleanliness and worked closely with engineers to follow all technical advice during project implementation. This collaborative effort ensured that sanitation facilities were built to standard and embraced by the community.

Through the Jal Jeevan Mission, Chozu Basa achieved universal Functional Household Tap Connections - Har Ghar Jal, eliminating the hardship of fetching water from distant sources. The project was implemented smoothly thanks to the Panchayat's coordination with the Public Health Engineering Department.

Shri Shijoh continues to advocate for water conservation and responsible usage, urging the community to value the benefits brought by Har Ghar Jal. His leadership ensures that infrastructure is maintained and that awareness on sanitation remains high.

On this Independence Day, Chozu Basa's journey under Shri Rukungoyi Shijoh reflects how mutual trust between government agencies and local leadership can deliver sustainable, life-changing improvements in rural India.



**Odisha**



Sarpanch Name  
**Barendra Patra**

Age: **46**

Gram Panchayat  
**Maheshpur**

Village  
**Maheshpur**

Block  
**Bhograi**

District  
**Balasore**

State/UT  
**Odisha**

## Barendra Patra's March to ODF Plus Model Excellence

**M**aheshpur Gram Panchayat, under the stewardship of Shri Barendra Patra, has made remarkable progress in advancing the ODF Plus Model under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

Through strong community engagement, Shri Patra has ensured comprehensive sanitation coverage, effective waste management, and sustainable water supply for all households.

Under SBM-G, Maheshpur GP has achieved 100% functional household toilets, complemented by regular cleanliness drives. Door-to-door waste collection has been institutionalised, and waste segregation at source is strictly followed. Solid waste is channeled for processing through composting and resource recovery, while liquid waste is managed via household and community soak pits, drainage systems, and safe reuse practices.

Aligned with Jal Jeevan Mission, the Panchayat has achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), ensuring clean and safe drinking water for all residents. Regular water quality testing, community awareness sessions, and the establishment of village water committees have strengthened operations and maintenance.

Shri Patra's leadership reflects a deep commitment to sustaining ODF Plus Model status through behavioural change, infrastructure upkeep, and environmental stewardship. Maheshpur GP stands as an example of how integrated sanitation and water initiatives can transform rural life.

On this Independence Day, his work reaffirms that empowered Panchayats are the bedrock of a clean and self-reliant India.



Sarpanch Name  
**Bhaduram Hansdah**

Age: **54**

Gram Panchayat  
**Bhatachatra**

Village  
**Bobeijoda**

Block  
**Bisoi**

District  
**Mayurbhanj**

State/UT  
**Odisha**

## Bhaduram Hansdah, Driving Sustainable Sanitation in Bhatachatra

**B**hatachatra Gram Panchayat, in Odisha's rural landscape, has undergone a steady transformation under the leadership of its sarpanch, Shri Bhaduram Hansdah. His tenure has been marked by an unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for his constituents, predominantly people of Santhal and Ho tribes, through sanitation and water initiatives.

Shri Hansdah leads with an inclusive vision, ensuring that all sections of society are part of the decision-making process. He has successfully motivated villagers to embrace change and work collectively towards common goals.

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Bhatachatra has achieved 100% household toilet coverage, supported by regular awareness campaigns. Door-to-door waste collection and waste segregation at source are now routine, with composting facilities handling organic waste efficiently. Liquid waste management through soak pits and safe drainage has reduced environmental hazards. For visual cleanliness, each family painted their houses, community places, and institutions with natural colors like rice water and tree bark. With the efforts of the people, particularly women, the village looks clean and green, with vibrant colors.

Jal Jeevan Mission implementation has given every household access to safe drinking water through tap connections. This has improved hygiene, and ensured better health outcomes. Regular water quality checks and capacity building of villagers have strengthened service delivery.

Shri Hansdah's ability to mobilise SHGs, youth, women, and schools in keeping the Panchayat clean and conserving water has ensured that these gains are not only achieved but also sustained.

On this Independence Day, Bhatachatra's story under his guidance exemplifies how committed local governance can translate national goals into daily realities for rural citizens.



Sarpanch Name  
**Santosh Kumar Basoyi**

Age: **39**

Gram Panchayat  
**Podamari**

Village  
**Podamari**

Block  
**Sanakhemundi**

District  
**Ganjam**

State/UT  
**Odisha**

## Santosh Kumar Bisoyi, Championing Cleanliness and Water Security in Podamari

**P**odamari Gram Panchayat, in Ganjam district's Sanakhemundi Block, has emerged as ODF Plus Model Panchayat under the leadership of Shri Santosh Kumar Bisoyi. His governance has prioritised cleanliness, waste management, and sustainable water supply systems.

Under SBM-G, Podamari has operationalised a robust door-to-door garbage collection mechanism. Collected waste is transported to a processing yard, where Self-Help Groups convert it into useful resources, embodying the “wealth from waste” ethos. Household toilets are universal, ensuring open defecation-free status, while soak pits at each household recharge groundwater and manage greywater effectively.

In JJM, Shri Bisoyi has overseen the provision of safe drinking water to every household through individual connections and public purified water units. A dedicated Water and Sanitation Committee manages user-fee collection, which is utilised for the maintenance, management and further improvements of both water supply and sanitation facilities.

The Panchayat's achievements have been nationally recognised, winning the National Panchayat Award (2020) and Best Panchayat in nine thematic areas at the district level (2022). Shri Bisoyi's leadership demonstrates that with community ownership and consistent effort, rural areas can achieve and sustain ODF Plus standards.

On Independence Day, Podamari GP's story is a testament to grassroots governance excellence.



Sarpanch Name  
**Geeta Bagh**

Age: **39**

Gram Panchayat  
**Sarda**

Village  
**Sarda**

Block  
**Jamankira**

District  
**Sambalpur**

State/UT  
**Odisha**

## Geeta Bagh, Making Sarda a Clean, Green Panchayat

**S**arda Gram Panchayat, located in Sambalpur district within the Badrama Elephant Wildlife Sanctuary, is home to diverse tribal communities including Kissan, Oraon, Khodia, and Gouda tribes. Once challenged by isolation and limited facilities, the Panchayat is now recognised and certified as Har Ghar Jal and ODF Plus Model, thanks to the leadership of Smt. Geeta Bagh.

Her leadership combines vision and practicality, ensuring that development initiatives reach every household. She actively involves Self-Help Groups, community elders, and youth to create a shared sense of responsibility for sanitation and water.

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Sarda has achieved 100% functional household toilets and institutional sanitation facilities. Door-to-door waste collection is in place, with waste segregated and greywater managed through household, community, and institutional soak pits. Regular cleanliness drives keep the villages hygienic and environmentally sound.

Through Jal Jeevan Mission, Smt. Bagh has transitioned the Panchayat from dependence on shared standposts to universal household tap connections. This has brought safe drinking water to every doorstep, supported by regular awareness meetings to promote water conservation and system maintenance.

By blending infrastructure upgrades with behavioural change, she has turned Sarda into a clean, green, and environmentally conscious Panchayat, respected for its collective efforts.

On this Independence Day, Sarda's journey reflects the transformative power of strong local leadership in achieving national goals and uplifting rural life.



**Punjab**



Sarpanch Name  
**Amandeep Kaur**

Age: **35**

Gram Panchayat  
**Bahadarpur**

Village  
**Bahadarpur**

Block  
**Rupnagar**

District  
**Rupnagar**

State/UT  
**Punjab**

## Amandeep Kaur Leading Bahadarpur to 24x7 Water and ODF Plus Model Status

**B**ahadarpur, a village in Rupnagar district, once struggled with irregular drinking water supply and poor sanitation facilities. Until 2013, residents depended on hand pumps and submersibles, with water available for only a few hours each day. Under the leadership of Sarpanch Mrs. Amandeep Kaur, the village embarked on a journey of transformation that changed daily life for every resident.

Her leadership brought the construction of a water supply scheme under NRDWP SWAP. Reluctance to take water connections was overcome as the system delivered reliable service. Today, Bahadarpur enjoys 24-hour water supply, 100% household tap connections, and Har Ghar Jal certification. Bills are paid through the mGram app, with ₹3.5 lakh in the GPWSC O&M account.

Under SBM-G, the village is 100% ODF Plus Model, with fully paved streets and a sewerage system. Funding for Solid and Liquid Waste Management has been secured, and work is underway on a Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System (DEWATS).

Her leadership has also encouraged innovation—one villager with 150 cattle supplies free cooking gas from his personal biogas plant to all households, promoting clean energy use.

Bahadarpur's work in sanitation and water supply was nationally recognised in 2015, when it received the Cleanest Village Award from the Hon'ble President of India.

On this Independence Day, Bahadarpur's progress under Mrs. Amandeep Kaur reflects the power of determined leadership and community participation in achieving ODF Plus Model excellence.



Sarpanch Name  
**Gagandeep Kaur**

Age: **42**

Gram Panchayat  
**Bir Kheri Gujran**

Village  
**Bir Kheri Gujran**

Block  
**Patiala**

District  
**Patiala**

State/UT  
**Punjab**

## Gagandeep Kaur Building a Model Waste Management System in Bir Kheri Gujran

**B**ir Kheri Gujran village, in Patiala district, has emerged as a model in solid and liquid waste management under the leadership of Sarpanch Mrs. Gagandeep Kaur. Her vision has turned sanitation from a challenge into a well-organised, community-supported system.

With 238 households, the village now has a dedicated waste collection vehicle visiting regularly to collect household waste and transport it to the nearest Material Recovery Facility. A monthly service charge of ₹70 per household ensures the financial sustainability of the system.

Under SBM-G, dustbins have been placed at key locations, and residents have adopted waste segregation at source, using separate bins for wet and dry waste. This habit has become part of the village's routine, maintaining cleanliness throughout.

Liquid waste management is supported by improved drainage and disposal practices, ensuring environmental protection.

Mrs. Gagandeep Kaur's focus on community participation has ensured that residents feel ownership over the system, which they maintain diligently.

On this Independence Day, Bir Kheri Gujran's waste management success shows how local leadership can create lasting systems that keep villages clean and healthy.



Sarpanch Name  
**Gurdhian Singh**

Age: **39**

Gram Panchayat  
**Kalsana**

Village  
**Kalsana**

Block  
**Nabha**

District  
**Patiala**

State/UT  
**Punjab**

## Gurdhian Singh Bringing Water and Sanitation Transformation to Kalsana

**K**alsana village in Patiala district faced drinking water shortages before 2010, relying on two submersible pumps that provided inadequate, non-potable water. Women walked long distances to fetch water, and health issues were common. Under Sarpanch Mr. Gurdhian Singh, this reality changed.

A water supply scheme was commissioned in 2010 under NRDWP SWAP, providing 10 hours of continuous, potable water supply daily. Villagers pay a nominal connection fee, and the GPWSC O&M account remains healthy, ensuring sustainability.

Under SBM-G Phase I, toilets were constructed for households without sanitation facilities, and by 2017, the village was declared ODF. In Phase II, Kalsana developed Solid Waste Management units, Liquid Waste Management systems, and Community Sanitary Complexes, creating a cleaner environment.

His leadership has inspired nearby villages—Raisal, Sirinagar, and Mallewal Patti—to adopt similar zero-waste approaches, including segregation, composting, and resource recovery.

The village also runs health and hygiene camps, Swachhata Hi Seva campaigns, and school awareness drives, making cleanliness a shared responsibility.

On this Independence Day, Kalsana's journey under Mr. Gurdhian Singh shows how water security and organised sanitation can inspire entire regions toward sustainable development.

The image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag's saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. These stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy bands that curve around the central text, creating a sense of movement and depth. The background is a solid, light beige color.

# Rajasthan



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Kusum Singh**

Age: **38**

Gram Panchayat  
**Rarah**

Village  
**Rarah**

Block  
**Kumher**

District  
**Deeg (Bharatpur)**

State/UT  
**Rajasthan**

## Sarpanch Kusum Singh Transforms Rarah Village In Rajasthan

**M**rs. Kusum Singh, aged 38, the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Rarah in Kumher Block, Deeg district, Rajasthan, has emerged as a trailblazer in rural governance and development. With an M.Sc. in Nursing and a visionary approach to leadership, she has led Rarah to become the first ODF and ODF Plus Gram Panchayat in the district, and the first model digital village in the division. Her remarkable contributions earned her the honour of being invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Under her leadership, Rarah has seen the establishment of a gram mini secretariat, a panchayat learning center, and an air-conditioned e-library, where 29 students have been selected for various government departments. The Panchayat also boasts an Astro Lab, an e-lobby, and a cultural hall cum marriage home. CCTV surveillance ensures village security, while open gyms and sports facilities promote health and fitness.

Education and child development have been prioritized through model school upgrades and Anganwadi centers. Heritage conservation was undertaken with the restoration of the historic Rani Kund. Sustainability initiatives include rooftop solar systems, water harvesting structures, and the development of Amrit Sarovar. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, water tanks and pipelines were installed across all revenue villages, ensuring tap water in every household.

To eliminate single-use plastic, a utensil bank was established, and a Resource Recovery Center was developed. Public sanitation was improved through the construction of sanitary complexes, soak pits, and NADEP composting units. Streets were beautified with model Gaurav Paths, LED lighting, and repaired drains. Public squares, community spaces, and a model rural market were also built.

Healthcare infrastructure was strengthened with new buildings for a model community health center and a veterinary hospital. Dense tree plantations were carried out at public sites, and a model Moksh Dham was constructed.

Mrs. Kusum Singh's governance style emphasizes transparency, innovation, and community participation. As a symbol of women's empowerment and progressive rural leadership, she has received numerous accolades at the district, divisional, state, and national levels.

Her journey reflects the power of educated, empathetic leadership in driving sustainable and inclusive development, making Rarah a beacon of progress and a true model for other Panchayats across India.



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Geeta Devi  
Mohanram Patel**

Age: **32**

Gram Panchayat  
**Sevala Chali**

Village  
**Chali**

Block  
**Dhawa**

District  
**Jodhpur**

State/UT  
**Rajasthan**

## Sarpanch Geeta Devi Patel Leads Sevala Chali to Development

**M**rs. Geeta Devi Mohanram Patel, aged 32, the Sarpanch of the newly formed Gram Panchayat Sevala Chali in Dhawa Block, Jodhpur district, Rajasthan, has emerged as a dynamic force in rural transformation. With a B.Sc. in Fashion Design and a deep commitment to public service, she has led her Panchayat to remarkable achievements in sanitation, infrastructure, digital governance and community empowerment. Her leadership has earned her the prestigious honour of being invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Under her guidance, Sevala Chali has tackled long-standing sanitation challenges by laying a 3-kilometre sewer line based on GPS survey data, constructing soak pits and public toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, and establishing a plastic disposal center. The Panchayat was declared ODF Plus, with solid and liquid waste management systems in place. Every household received cloth bags to eliminate single-use plastic, and sanitation workers were assigned regular duties to maintain cleanliness.

To ensure access to clean drinking water, booster pumps were installed to supply water from the GLR to every home. CCTV cameras were placed at key locations to enhance village security. Infrastructure development included the construction of a mini secretariat building, an air-conditioned digital library and an open gym to promote health and wellness. For small and marginal farmers, a grain storage facility was built, and LED streetlights were installed throughout the village.

Children's welfare was prioritized through the development of a Kho-Kho playground and a children's garden. The Panchayat also focused on education and digital inclusion. Roads were constructed in alignment with the master drainage plan, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Mrs. Geeta Devi's leadership style is rooted in dedication, transparency, and community participation. As the first woman Sarpanch of Sevala Chali, she has championed women's empowerment and set a powerful example of inclusive governance. Her efforts have been recognized with multiple awards, including the Dainik Bhaskar Sirmaur Panchayat Award (2024), the Swachh Bharat Mission – Rural District Sanitation Award (2024), and the District Sanitation Award on National Panchayati Raj Day (2025).

Her journey reflects the transformative power of grassroots leadership and the impact of visionary governance in building resilient, empowered communities.



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Rekha Bai**

Age: **39**

Gram Panchayat  
**Gadepan**

Village  
**Gadepan**

Block  
**Sultanpur**

District  
**Kota???**

State/UT  
**Rajasthan**

## Rekha Bai Champions Cleanliness and Water Conservation in Gadepan

**M**rs. Rekha Bai, aged 39, the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Gadepan in Sultanpur Block, Kota district, Rajasthan, has emerged as a committed and visionary leader in rural development. Her efforts have led to significant improvements in sanitation, water access and community infrastructure, earning her widespread recognition, including a Certificate of Appreciation from the District Council Office, Kota under the Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyan in 2024. Her leadership also earned her the honour of being invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Under her guidance, Gadepan has implemented a daily door-to-door waste collection and segregation system. Weekly neighborhood meetings are held to educate villagers on separating wet and dry waste. Wet waste is composted, and dry waste is properly disposed of, fostering a culture of cleanliness and environmental responsibility.

Every household in the village now has access to tap water, and awareness campaigns — conducted through community meetings and school prayer assemblies — emphasize the importance of water conservation. Rainwater harvesting initiatives have been actively promoted to ensure sustainable water use.

Mrs. Rekha Bai's leadership has also extended to leveraging PPP (Public-Private Partnership) models and CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funding to enhance village infrastructure. These efforts have led to the development of schools, Anganwadi centers, health facilities, roads, playgrounds, and welcoming village entry gates, paving the way for holistic and inclusive growth.

Her work reflects a deep commitment to empowering rural communities through practical solutions, public engagement, and sustainable development. Gadepan, under her leadership, stands as a shining example of how grassroots governance can drive meaningful change.



**Sikkim**



Sarpanch Name  
**Sasay Hang Limboo**

Age: **36**

Gram Panchayat  
**27 Hee**

Village  
**Hee Sapung**

Block  
**Dentam**

District  
**Gyalshing**

State/UT  
**Sikkim**

## Sasay Hang Limboo – Leading Hee Sapung Towards a Cleaner, Healthier Future

**N**estled in the serene hills of Gyalshing district, Hee Sapung village forms part of the 27-Hee Gram Panchayat, home to a vibrant rural community bound by tradition and a shared respect for the environment. The Panchayat is surrounded by terraced fields, small water streams, and forested slopes that have sustained generations. In recent years, it has also become known for its exceptional cleanliness and commitment to public health, a transformation led by Panchayat President Sasay Hang Limboo.

Known for his approachable style and hands-on involvement, Sasay has united the Panchayat and the people under a common vision — to make Hee Sapung an ODF Plus Model GPU. Regular cleanliness drives, often involving school children, youth clubs, SHGs, and officials, have become a norm. These drives are supported by robust Solid and Liquid Waste Management measures, including 407 household soak pits, multiple community compost pits, and the conversion of single pits to twin pits for safe sanitation.

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Sasay has also championed gender-inclusive sanitation facilities. Sanitary pad vending machines have been installed in schools and key public locations, ensuring access to menstrual hygiene products and reducing stigma around menstruation. This initiative has been paired with awareness programmes to promote menstrual health education among adolescent girls and women.

Through the Jal Jeevan Mission, every household now enjoys Har Ghar Jal, with water quality regularly monitored to ensure safety. Sasay has championed awareness programmes on water conservation, handwashing, and waste segregation, ensuring that infrastructure is matched with behavioural change.

His leadership combines planning with personal example — he is known to join in cleaning public spaces, planting trees alongside villagers, and speaking directly with households to address concerns. This visible commitment has built trust and inspired active participation from all age groups.

As India celebrates Independence Day, Hee Sapung's journey under Sasay Hang Limboo stands as proof that when grassroots leadership is guided by dedication, inclusion, and unity, rural communities can achieve sustainable transformation that benefits both people and the environment.



Sarpanch Name  
**Bhaskar Bhattarai**

Age: **39**

Gram Panchayat  
**Samlik Marchak**

Village  
**Namin**

Block  
**Martam**

District  
**Gangtok**

State/UT  
**Sikkim**

## Bhaskar Bhattarai Reviving Namin's Spirit with Cleanliness and Community Spaces

**N**amin village, under the Samlik Marchak Gram Panchayat in Gangtok district, is a shining example of how a focused leader can transform not only the physical landscape but also the community's sense of pride. Blessed with natural beauty and a close-knit population, Namin has earned state-level recognition as one of Sikkim's cleanest Gram Panchayats under the guidance of Panchayat Vice President Bhaskar Bhattarai.

Bhaskar's leadership began with tackling neglected spaces that had become informal dumping grounds. Mobilising villagers, he led clean-up drives to restore these areas, replacing waste heaps with green zones, resting sheds, and a statue of Sahid Captain Ram Singh Thakuri — a gesture that linked cleanliness with cultural remembrance. He also oversaw the creation of a Wellness Park, giving children and senior citizens a safe, open space for recreation and exercise.

The Panchayat's ODF Plus Model status reflects strong Solid and Liquid Waste Management systems, waste segregation at source, and community composting. SHGs and youth groups have been trained and actively participate in managing these systems, ensuring long-term sustainability. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, households have been connected to safe, piped water, with awareness drives to promote water conservation and hygiene.

By integrating sanitation improvements with cultural and recreational projects, Bhaskar has ensured that development feels personal to residents, creating a deeper connection to the village's upkeep. His work has transformed Namin into a model that other Panchayats aspire to follow.

This Independence Day, the story of Namin under Bhaskar Bhattarai is a reminder that rural progress thrives when environmental care, heritage, and community well-being are pursued together under visionary leadership.



Sarpanch Name  
**Ambika Bhattarai**

Age: **53**

Gram Panchayat  
**12 Namli GPU**

Village  
**Namli**

Block  
**Martam**

District  
**East Sikkim**

State/UT  
**Sikkim**

## Ambika Bhattarai Transforming Namli Into a Model of Cleanliness and Health

**N**amli village in East Sikkim is a testament to how determination and collective spirit can shape a cleaner, healthier future. Surrounded by rolling green slopes and known for its hospitable people, the village has become an example of ODF Plus Model achievement under the leadership of Panchayat President Ambika Bhattarai.

Ambika has spearheaded multiple initiatives that blend cleanliness, environmental care, and public health. Regular cleanliness drives engage self-help groups, youth, school students, and villagers in sweeping roads, cleaning drains, and managing waste. Under SBM-G, Namli has implemented solid and liquid waste management measures, ensuring every household has functional sanitation and access to clean surroundings. These efforts have been complemented by extensive plantation drives, floral beautification of public areas, and maintenance of community spaces, giving the village a distinct aesthetic charm.

Her leadership also ensured that Jal Jeevan Mission goals were met in full — every home now enjoys safe, piped drinking water. Water quality monitoring and awareness campaigns help the community protect this resource. Ambika's approach integrates hygiene with overall well-being, which has contributed to Namli being declared tuberculosis-free — a recognition that links sanitation to health outcomes.

Namli's work was honoured nationally with the Best Community Sanitary Complex Award on World Toilet Day, affirming the village's place as a role model. Ambika's ability to mobilise people, foster ownership, and keep long-term goals in focus has made sustainable cleanliness a way of life in Namli.

This Independence Day, Namli's achievements under Ambika Bhattarai highlight how committed leadership can inspire communities to take pride in their environment and safeguard public health for generations to come.

The image features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag's saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. These stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy bands that curve from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement. The background is a solid, light orange color. Centered in the middle of the image is the text "Tamil Nadu" in a bold, orange, serif font.

# Tamil Nadu



Sarpanch Name  
**E. Vedhachalam**

Age: **54**

Gram Panchayat  
**Vedanthangal**

Village  
**Vedanthangal**

Block  
**Acharapakkam**

District  
**Chengalpattu**

State/UT  
**Tamil Nadu**

## Sarpanch E. Vedhachalam's Leadership Transforms Vedanthangal Village

**E**. Vedhachalam, aged 54, the Panchayat Leader of Vedanthangal village in Acharapakkam Block, Chengalpattu district, Tamil Nadu, has been honored for his outstanding contributions to rural development and community welfare. His visionary leadership has turned Vedanthangal into a model Panchayat, earning him recognition as a special guest at the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Under his guidance, the Panchayat has implemented a robust waste management system that separates biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, with composted material being supplied to farmers. Public spaces are maintained with exceptional cleanliness, and through the Swachh Bharat Mission, every household now has access to individual toilets, making Vedanthangal an open defecation free Panchayat.

Water conservation has been another key focus, with extensive rainwater harvesting systems and the rejuvenation of old ponds and lakes significantly improving groundwater levels. Farmers have been encouraged to adopt modern irrigation techniques like drip and sprinkler systems, leading to efficient water use and sustainable agriculture.

In the field of education, Panchayat schools have been upgraded with new classrooms, libraries, and computer labs, helping reduce dropout rates and ensuring quality education for all children. Rural development initiatives have included support for self-help groups through training and financial aid, improved roads, electricity, and solar lighting—especially in tribal areas—enhancing the overall quality of life.

Between 2021 and 2025, several landmark projects were completed, including the construction of the AGAMT II works, a new segregation shed with compost pits, additional school buildings, a new bus stand, and playgrounds for tennis, cricket, and kabaddi. The Panchayat also saw the development of community sanitation complexes, the opening of a Madhi Angadi, and the launch of an Unavu Kudam at the Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary. Regular Grama Sabha meetings—six per year—have ensured participatory governance, while annual medical camps and restored water reservoirs have further strengthened public health and resource management.

In recognition of these achievements, Sarpanch Vedhachalam received the Madha Nallinakkam Award from the District Collector, along with a cash prize. Reflecting on his journey, he shares, “True leadership is about serving people with purpose. Our village’s transformation is the result of collective effort, and I am proud to be part of this journey.” His story stands as a powerful example of how committed local governance can drive sustainable development and uplift entire communities.



Sarpanch Name  
**V. Ponnurangam**

Age: **55**

Gram Panchayat  
**Vadanemmeli**

Village  
**Vadanemmeli**

Block  
**Thiruporur**

District  
**Chengalpet**

State/UT  
**Tamil Nadu**

## V. Ponnurangam Leads Vadanemmeli to New Heights of Development

**V**. Ponnurangam, aged 55, the Panchayat Leader of Vadanemmeli village in Thiruporur Block, Chengalpet district, Tamil Nadu, has through his dedicated leadership made transformative contributions to rural development. His efforts have not only improved the quality of life in the village but also earned him the honour of being invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort.

Under his leadership, Vadanemmeli has seen significant progress in basic infrastructure and public services. Every household in the Panchayat now has access to piped water, and the Overhead Tank (OHT) is regularly cleaned and sanitized to ensure safe water supply.

Sanitation has been a major focus, especially given the village's proximity to the tourist hub of Mamallapuram. The East Coast Road (ECR), which runs through the village, is cleaned daily, and awareness drives have ensured that every household uses its toilet facilities, contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment. The Panchayat also ensures zero school dropouts up to college level, reflecting its commitment to education.

Between 2022 and 2025, several key initiatives were undertaken. These include the installation of a high mast light at the burial ground, development of new streets, construction of a new Panchayat office, and the creation of a Mini Community Sanitary Complex. A new 30,000-litre Overhead Tank was built using Panchayat funds, and a new Kariya Mandapam was constructed with support from the District Councilor Fund. In 2025, 40 solar streetlights were installed, enhancing safety and sustainability.

The Panchayat also focused on women's empowerment by conducting a three-month tailoring course in 2023, and undertook AGAMT works such as pond development, construction of a new Anganwadi centre, and laying of paver block roads. Regular Grama Sabha meetings and community engagement have ensured transparency and inclusivity in governance.

Sarpanch Ponnurangam's leadership has not only brought visible improvements to Vadanemmeli but has also set a benchmark for rural governance.



Sarpanch Name  
**Smt. S Sasirekha**

Gram Panchayat  
**Eraiyr**

Village  
**Eraiyr**

Block  
**Sriperumbudur**

District  
**Kancheepuram**

State/UT  
**Tamil Nadu**

## Sarpanch S Sasirekha Shines As A Beacon of Inclusive Development in Eraiyr

In Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram district, the village of Eraiyr stands as a shining example of grassroots transformation, thanks to the leadership of its Panchayat Leader, Smt. S Sasirekha. Serving under the Eraiyr Gram Panchayat in the Sriperumbudur Block, Sarpanch Sasirekha has redefined village governance through a blend of empathy, innovation and dedication to public welfare.

Under her stewardship, the MGNREGS Scheme has been implemented with remarkable efficiency, ensuring timely wage payments and dignified employment for rural workers. Infrastructure development has been a cornerstone of her agenda, with the successful repair of village roads and renovation of the local school.

A major highlight of her tenure has been the restoration of the village pond, a project that not only supports water conservation but also strengthens the ecological balance of the region. Her commitment to clean drinking water access and regular health camps has significantly uplifted public health standards in Eraiyr.

Sarpanch Sasirekha's efforts toward environmental sustainability are evident in the successful tree plantation drives, while her focus on child welfare led to the development of a well-equipped playground, offering recreational opportunities for the village's youngest residents. Additionally, she has ensured continuous medical support, reinforcing her commitment to holistic well-being.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Sarpanch Sasirekha was invited as a Special Guest for the 76th Republic Day celebration in New Delhi by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, for her exemplary work under the Jal Jeevan Mission. She was also honoured with an appreciation award for outstanding social work by Kanchipuram District Collector Mrs. Kalaiselvi Mohan during the 77th Independence Day celebration.

Her leadership has earned her numerous accolades from schools, colleges, and local Panchayat bodies across the district, further cementing her reputation as a dedicated and transformative leader. Sarpanch Sasirekha is widely admired for her deep-rooted patriotism, empathetic leadership, and transparent governance. Guided by the principle, "If service is not for the needy, it holds no value," she continues to inspire countless others through her tireless efforts and inclusive approach to village development.

Her invitation to the Red Fort as a Special Guest for Independence Day celebrations stands as a testament to her impactful work and the respect she commands at both local and national levels.



Sarpanch Name  
**K. Karthikeyan**

Age: **52**

Gram Panchayat  
**Porpandal**

Village  
**Porpandal**

Block  
**Uthiramerur**

District  
**Kancheepuram**

State/UT  
**Tamil Nadu**

## Sarpanch K. Karthikeyan Drives Holistic Development in Porpandal Village

**K**. Karthikeyan, aged 52, the Panchayat Leader of Porpandal village in Uthiramerur Block, Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu, has been widely recognized for his transformative leadership and unwavering dedication to community welfare. His efforts have led to remarkable progress across multiple sectors, making Porpandal a model of inclusive and sustainable rural development.

Between 2022 and 2025, Sarpanch Karthikeyan spearheaded several impactful initiatives. In 2022, the village saw the inauguration of the Samudhaya Kudam by Member of Parliament K. Sundar, B.Sc., followed by the launch of the Unavu Kudam in the Primary Government School in 2023. That same year, a new RO water purifier plant was installed to ensure clean drinking water for residents. In 2024, free pattas were distributed to 16 villagers, and 24 families received new homes under the KKVT government scheme. The year 2025 marked the construction of a new Panchayat office, courtyard shelter, and a bus stand, along with the development of a playground for tennis, cricket, and kabaddi.

Sarpanch Karthikeyan also prioritized sanitation, ensuring every household had access to toilets, and led regular Gram Sabha meetings—24 in total over four years. His commitment to health was evident through the organization of three annual medical camps and the restoration of village roads and water reservoirs for better conservation. His support for women's empowerment through self-help groups and vocational training, and his engagement with youth through education and sports, have further strengthened the social fabric of the village. He also championed digital services to promote transparency in governance.

In recognition of his loyalty and dedication—especially for the New Samudhaya Kudam—he received appreciation and greetings from the Member of Parliament. His contributions earned him the honour of being invited as a Special Guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, a moment of pride for the entire Porpandal community.

Sarpanch Karthikeyan's story is a testament to the power of visionary leadership, mentorship, and the impact of dedicated public service.



**Tripura**



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Apurba Poddar**

Age: **58**

Gram Panchayat  
**Salema**

Village  
**Salema**

Block  
**Salema**

District  
**Dhalai**

State/UT  
**Tripura**

## Shri Apurba Poddar Leads Salema's Sanitation Success Story

In the Salema Block of Dhalai district, Tripura, the village of Salema has undergone a remarkable transformation under the leadership of Shri Apurba Poddar, the 58-year-old Sarpanch of Salema Gram Panchayat. Once burdened by poor sanitation and limited access to clean water, the Panchayat now stands as a model of sustainable development and proactive governance.

Tripura declared itself Open Defecation Free (ODF) in March 2019, but Salema Gram Panchayat went further — building a comprehensive sanitation ecosystem that addresses not just toilets, but also solid and liquid waste management and hygiene education. With strategic use of Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G) assets, the Panchayat constructed a segregation shed, the cornerstone of its solid waste management framework.

To promote plastic discipline, 25 Plastic Banks were installed across the Panchayat and market areas. For greywater management, eight soak pits were developed at institutional and community levels, preventing stagnation and improving public health. The Panchayat also built two compost pits, converting biodegradable waste into organic fertilizer for local farmers.

At the household level, every family received dustbins, encouraging waste segregation at source. Additionally, six drainage systems were constructed to prevent waterlogging, especially during the monsoon season.

Water access, once a major challenge for Salema's residents, has been revolutionized through the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Today, all 805 households receive purified piped water, eliminating the need for long-distance water collection. Public institutions, including two schools, four Anganwadi centres, and government offices such as the Panchayat office, forest office and police station, are also covered under JJM.

These efforts have not only improved sanitation and water access but have also elevated the quality of life for every resident of Salema Gram Panchayat.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and the Panchayat's achievements in sanitation and water management, Shri Apurba Poddar has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This prestigious honor reflects national appreciation for his role in transforming Salema into a beacon of rural progress.

Salema's story is a testament to how focused leadership, community participation, and strategic planning can turn challenges into opportunities—and a village into a model for others to follow.



Sarpanch Name  
**Smt. Usha Das**

Age: **31**

Gram Panchayat  
**Debbari**

Village  
**Debbari**

Block  
**Amarpur RD Block**

District  
**Gomati Tripura**

State/UT  
**Tripura**

## Smt. Usha Das Leads a Model Panchayat in Debbari

In the Amarpur RD Block of Gomati district, Tripura, the village of Debbari has emerged as an example of grassroots transformation. At the center of this progress is Smt. Usha Das, the 31-year-old Gram Pradhan of Debbari Gram Panchayat, whose leadership has redefined what rural governance can achieve.

Home to 280 families and a population of 1,037, Debbari is largely agro-dependent. Under Smt. Das's dynamic leadership, the Panchayat has achieved 100% coverage of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), ensuring safe and reliable drinking water for every household. Public institutions, including four Anganwadi Centres, two schools, and all government offices, also receive potable water, reflecting the Panchayat's commitment to inclusive service delivery.

Debbari's sanitation infrastructure is equally robust. The Panchayat has constructed 79 household compost pits, 3 community compost pits, 3 soak pits, a segregation shed, and introduced a tricycle for waste collection, ensuring sustainability under the ODF Plus framework. The Panchayat has also taken the rare initiative of pursuing ISO certification, demonstrating its commitment to quality and accountability.

In 2024, Debbari Gram Panchayat earned national recognition by securing the 3rd position under the Deendayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar for being a Water Sufficient Village. It was also certified as a Model Village under both the ODF Plus framework and the Chief Minister's Model Village Scheme, further validating its achievements in sanitation, water sufficiency, and institutional governance.

The Panchayat's success is rooted in teamwork. A cohesive unit comprising the Pradhan, GRS, in-charge, and members has driven progress across sanitation, health, water management, and women empowerment. Training and awareness programs have helped embed a culture of sustainability and participation among villagers.

In recognition of her outstanding leadership and the Panchayat's exemplary achievements, Smt. Usha Das has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This prestigious honor reflects national appreciation for her role in transforming Debbari into a beacon of proactive and award-winning governance.

Debbari Gram Panchayat does not wait for change—it drives it. Through strategic planning, community participation, and visionary leadership, it stands as a testament to what is possible when development is treated not as a checklist, but as a continuous, lived process.



Sarpanch Name  
**Goutam Das**

Age: **46**

Gram Panchayat  
**Tuichindrai**

Village  
**Tuichindrai**

Block  
**Tuichindrai**

District  
**Khowai**

State/UT  
**Tripura**

## Shri Goutam Das Drives Transformation in Tuichindrai

In the Teliamura Block of Khowai district, Tripura, the village of Tuichindrai has emerged as a shining example of participatory rural development. At the forefront of this transformation is Shri Goutam Das, the 46-year-old Sarpanch of Tuichindrai Gram Panchayat, whose leadership has helped turn vision into reality through focused planning and community engagement.

Teliamura Block has become a laboratory for grassroots innovation, and Tuichindrai Gram Panchayat has played a key role in this journey. The Panchayat has implemented a wide range of development initiatives—from water conservation projects like check dams and tube wells to the promotion of organic farming, which has improved farmer incomes while reducing chemical dependency.

Infrastructure development has also been a priority. Roads and drainage systems have been upgraded, improving both mobility and hygiene. The Panchayat has placed special emphasis on women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), empowering them through training and livelihood activities that foster financial independence.

In the education sector, primary and secondary schools have been renovated, creating joyful learning environments supported by new materials. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM-G), individual household toilets were constructed for all, and solid and liquid waste management systems were reinforced to ensure long-term sanitation sustainability.

One of the most significant achievements of Tuichindrai Gram Panchayat has been in the area of drinking water access. Through the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Panchayat has achieved 100% potable water coverage, not only for all households but also for four schools, eight Anganwadi Centres, and various government offices, including the Panchayat office.

In recognition of these outstanding efforts, Tuichindrai Gram Panchayat was awarded the Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar in 2021 for becoming a Water Sufficient Village. This national-level recognition highlights the Panchayat's commitment to sustainable development and inclusive service delivery.

Adding to this honor, Shri Goutam Das has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This prestigious invitation reflects national appreciation for his leadership and the Panchayat's exemplary achievements in rural development.

The background features a stylized, 3D-rendered representation of the Indian national flag's saffron, white, and green horizontal stripes. These stripes are depicted as flowing, wavy ribbons that curve around the central text, creating a sense of movement and depth. The saffron and green stripes are vibrant, while the white stripe is a clean, bright white. The overall composition is set against a soft, light orange gradient background.

# Uttar Pradesh



Sarpanch Name  
**Shri Jai Narayan Singh**

Age: **56**

Gram Panchayat  
**Bhadras**

Village  
**Bhadras**

Block  
**Ghatampur**

District  
**Kanpur Nagar**

State/UT  
**Uttar Pradesh**

## Shri Jai Narayan Singh's Vision Brings National Recognition To Bhadras

In the Ghatampur Block of Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur Nagar district, lies the village of Bhadras—a beacon of transformation and resilience. Under the leadership of Shri Jai Narayan Singh, the 56-year-old Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Bhadras, the village has undergone a transformation, setting an inspiring example for rural development.

Over the past few years, Gram Panchayat Bhadras has implemented a series of improvements in education, health, sanitation, drinking water, and governance, driven by active community participation. These efforts have not only elevated the quality of life for its residents but have also earned the village national recognition.

As part of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), the Panchayat initiated door-to-door waste collection for solid waste management, generating over ₹40,000 in user fees. Today, every household in Bhadras uses a toilet, reflecting a significant shift in public health and hygiene.

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Panchayat ensured safe drinking water for every home since 2020, fulfilling the promise of Har Ghar Jal. In the financial year 2024–25, two new Anganwadi centers were constructed and handed over to Anganwadi workers, providing children with access to quality nutrition and early childhood care.

Infrastructure improvements, including the construction of modern drains and strengthened roads, have enhanced both sanitation and mobility within the village.

A fully functional Panchayat Secretariat now ensures timely delivery of services, reinforcing transparency and accountability in local governance. These achievements have positioned Bhadras as a self-reliant, child-friendly, and clean village, admired not only within the district but across the state.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and the village's exemplary progress, Shri Jai Narayan Singh has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This honor reflects the spirit of grassroots governance and the power of collective action in shaping a better future.

As the tricolor unfurls over the historic Red Fort, the story of Bhadras will stand tall—an enduring testament to what visionary leadership and community-driven development can achieve.



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Anita Devi**

Age: **37**

Gram Panchayat  
**Firozpur Sani**

Village  
**Firozpur Sani**

Block  
**Amanpur**

District  
**Kasganj**

State/UT  
**Uttar Pradesh**

## Mrs. Anita Devi's Leadership Drives Firozpur Sani's Journey to Excellence

In Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj district, the village of Firozpur Sani has emerged as a model of rural transformation, thanks to the dynamic leadership of Mrs. Anita Devi, the 37-year-old Gram Pradhan. Her tireless efforts in sanitation, governance, and community development have not only uplifted the lives of villagers but also earned her a place of honor on the national stage.

Through regular Panchayat meetings and community engagement, Mrs. Devi inspired residents to abandon open defecation, leading to the village being declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). Her commitment to cleanliness and public health is evident in the construction of an RRC (Resource Recovery Centre) and the launch of an e-rickshaw service for door-to-door waste collection. Each household contributes ₹1 per day, generating ₹3,750 in the Panchayat account — a sustainable model of community-driven sanitation.

To manage liquid waste, the Panchayat has built leach pits, soak pits, and filter chambers. A community toilet complex with separate facilities for men and women has been constructed and is actively used by villagers. The establishment of a Panchayat Secretariat has streamlined administrative functions, ensuring efficient delivery of services.

Kitchen gardens have been developed using household wastewater, where fruits, vegetables and flowers are cultivated—turning waste into wellness. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, a water tank was constructed, saturating the village with safe drinking water and fulfilling the promise of Har Ghar Jal.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Mrs. Anita Devi was honored with the Chief Minister's Panchayat Incentive Award in 2023. Her work has set a benchmark for rural governance and sustainable development.

This year, her achievements have received national recognition, as Mrs. Anita Devi has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This prestigious honor reflects the impact of her leadership and the transformative journey of Firozpur Sani.

As the nation celebrates its freedom, the story of Firozpur Sani and its visionary Gram Pradhan stands as a powerful testament to the strength of grassroots governance and the spirit of collective progress.



Sarpanch Name  
**Mrs. Rajkumari Singh**

Gram Panchayat  
**Jaugarh**

Village  
**Jaugarh**

Block  
**Rajgarh**

District  
**Mirzapur**

State/UT  
**Uttar Pradesh**

## Mrs. Rajkumari Singh Leads Jaugarh's Clean Revolution

In the Rajgarh Block of Mirzapur district, Uttar Pradesh, the village of Jaugarh has emerged as a symbol of sustainable rural development and community-driven governance. At the helm of this transformation is Mrs. Rajkumari Singh, the Gram Pradhan, whose visionary leadership has turned the Panchayat into a model of cleanliness, innovation, and inclusivity.

With a population of 2,547 and 509 households, Gram Panchayat Jaugarh has successfully achieved ODF Plus status, meeting all required standards for solid and liquid waste management. A Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) has been established, where an appointed manager collects household waste using e-rickshaws. After segregation, the waste is sold to vendors, generating ₹2,450 in revenue — demonstrating a sustainable and economically viable sanitation model.

To ensure the continued functionality of the community toilet complex, an additional facility named Vindhya Swachhata Pratishthan has been constructed. This space supports the caretaker with a dedicated area and also serves as a point for selling sanitation-related materials, helping them become financially self-reliant.

The Panchayat has also implemented advanced liquid waste management systems, including underground drains, leach pits, soak pits, and magic pits. Under the Har Ghar Jal initiative, every household now enjoys access to safe drinking water.

To ensure that government schemes reach every resident efficiently and affordably, a Panchayat Assistant has been appointed at the Gram Secretariat, enhancing service delivery and administrative outreach.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to rural development and sanitation, Mrs. Rajkumari Singh has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This prestigious honor highlights the national appreciation for her leadership and the transformative journey of Jaugarh.

As the nation commemorates its freedom, the story of Jaugarh stands as a powerful example of how grassroots governance, when driven by dedication and innovation, can lead to lasting change. Mrs. Singh's work continues to inspire Panchayats across India to pursue sustainable, inclusive, and community-led development.



Sarpanch Name  
**Abhishek Kumar**

Age: **36**

Gram Panchayat  
**Pashu Pura**

Village  
**Pashu Pura**

Block  
**Milak**

District  
**Rampur**

State/UT  
**Uttar Pradesh**

## Shri Abhishek Kumar's Leadership Leads Pashu Pura to Progress

In the Milak Block of Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh, the village of Pashu Pura has become a shining example of rural innovation and sustainable development. At the forefront of this transformation is Abhishek Kumar, the 36-year-old Gram Pradhan, whose proactive leadership has brought significant improvements in sanitation, water management, and public awareness.

Under his guidance, Gram Panchayat Pashu Pura has implemented a comprehensive strategy for solid and liquid waste management. A Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) has been established, along with compost pits, e-rickshaws, and waste bins. Regular door-to-door waste collection has not only improved cleanliness but also generated ₹17,000 in revenue—a testament to the Panchayat's self-sustaining model.

For liquid waste disposal, the Panchayat has constructed soak pits, leach pits, filter chambers, and undertaken the cleaning and reconstruction of village drains, ensuring a healthier and more hygienic environment.

Under the Swachh Sujal Yojana, the Panchayat has ensured tap water availability in every household, repaired handpumps, secured drinking water sources, and built water conservation structures. To deepen community engagement, training programs have been organized to raise awareness about sanitation and water conservation.

These initiatives have led to a marked improvement in public health and hygiene, making Pashu Pura a model for other villages in the region.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to rural development and sanitation, Abhishek Kumar has been invited as a special guest to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. This prestigious honor reflects the national appreciation for his leadership and the transformative journey of Pashu Pura.

As the nation celebrates its freedom, the story of Pashu Pura stands as a powerful example of how grassroots leadership, backed by community participation and innovation, can drive meaningful change. Abhishek Kumar's work continues to inspire Panchayats across India to pursue sustainable and inclusive development.

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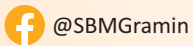


पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग  
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI



**Government of India  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
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