

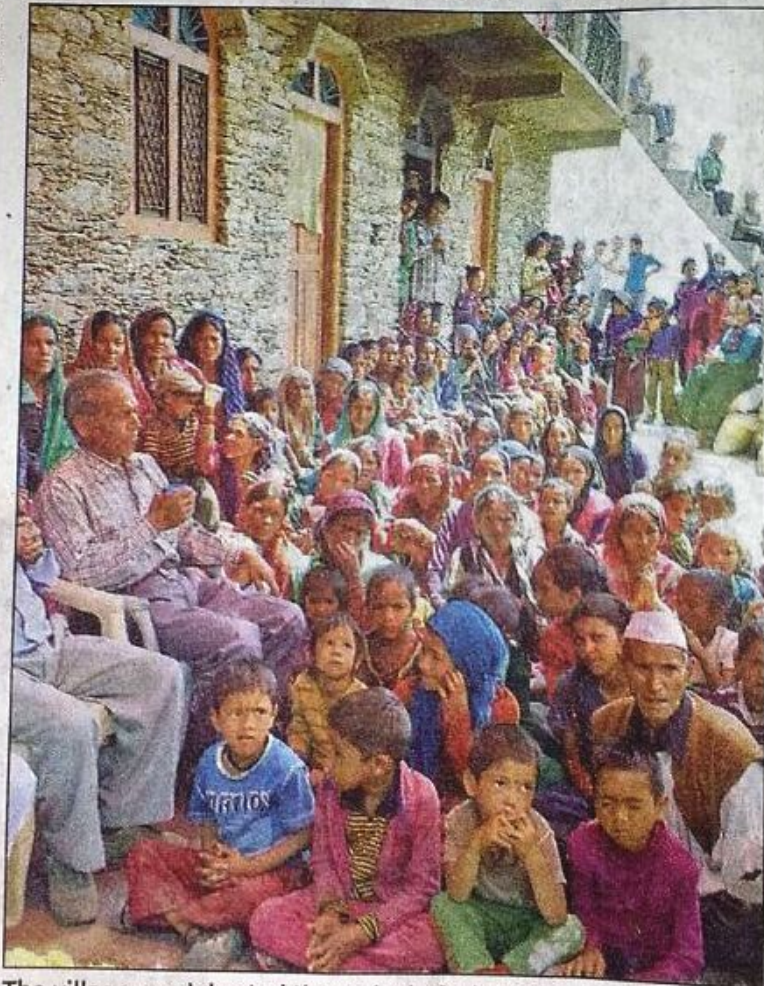
'We had to resort to repeated strikes and protests before our project was taken up'

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Kalam Singh Bisht, an old resident of the village, "We had been hoping that a road would be built to our village ever since the

ties that we had to endure."

The villagers celebrated the arrival of a bus operated by the Uttarakhand Transport Corporation by holding a welcome ceremony in which the village women performed traditional



The villagers celebrated the arrival of a bus operated by the UTC by holding a welcome ceremony in which the village women performed traditional dances

dances. They also thanked local Congress MLA from Karanprayag, Anusuya Prasad Maikhuri for making the road possible. Some villagers however said that the road could have become a reality two years ago if the project had not been unnecessarily delayed. "Most of the remote villages in our area had been linked with motorable roads two years back, but we kept waiting for a road for several years. We had to resort to repeated hunger strikes and protest marches before our project was taken up on priority," said a villager.

BS Rawat, the executive engineer who undertook the project denied that

country became independent. But somehow, it never happened. I am happy that it has at least happened in our lifetimes. Now, future generations will not have to face the difficul-

ties that we had to endure." "It was difficult to build the road in this terrain but we still managed to complete it within eighteen months," he claimed.