

# Lakhpati Didi, Namu Drone Didi contribute to women empowerment: MP Sat Sharma

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**NEW DELHI:** Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), raised an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha regarding the implementation and impact of the 'Lakhpati Didi' and 'Namu Drone Didi' initiatives in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, underscoring the transformative role of these schemes in empowering women at the grassroots level.



Replying to the question, Savitri Thakur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development, provided detailed information on the progress achieved under both schemes.

As per the reply, the 'Lakhpati Didi' initiative, being implemented under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission, has led to remarkable financial empowerment of women

across Jammu & Kashmir. Data up to December 31, 2025, shows a strong and encouraging rise in the number of women attaining 'Lakhpati Didi' status across districts, with Baramulla (19,030), Kupwara (17,978), Jammu (17,125), and Anantnag (16,761) emerging as leading contributors.

On the 'Namu Drone Didi' scheme, the Minister informed that it is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with an outlay of ₹1,261 crore from 2023-24

to 2025-26. The scheme enables Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to provide drone-based agricultural services, thereby opening new avenues of income and technical empowerment.

The Minister further highlighted that over 1,094 drones have been distributed nationwide, with SHG members receiving training through DGCA-authorized Remote Pilot Training Organizations. Studies have shown that the initiative has enhanced agricultural productivity, diversified income sources, and strengthened rural economies.

Speaking on the reply, Sat Sharma said that these figures are a clear testimony to the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi and the unwavering commitment of the Modi Government towards women-led development. He stated that the nation has witnessed a paradigm shift from women's development to women-led

development.

Sat Sharma remarked that the introduction of cutting-edge drone technology among rural women, from traditional livelihoods to modern technology-driven opportunities, the Modi Government is ensuring that our women are not left behind but are leading from the front. He said that the initiatives like 'Lakhpati Didi' and 'Namu Drone Didi' are not just schemes but powerful instruments of socio-economic transformation that are changing lives at the grassroots level, especially in regions like Jammu & Kashmir.

Sat Sharma, emphasizing the holistic approach of the Modi Government, also pointed out that under DAY-NRLM, several initiatives such as the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEEP) and enterprise development models are being implemented to promote non-farm livelihoods among women.

# No action on defaulter deptts for power outage: Bali slams NC Govt

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**JAMMU:** Senior BJP leader and former Health Minister Bali Bhagat on Friday launched a scathing attack on the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Power portfolio, over mounting electricity dues and what he termed as a "blatantly discriminatory and anti-people recovery regime."

In a statement issued here, Bhagat said that while common citizens across Jammu and Kashmir are being subjected to harsh penalties, repeated notices, and even disconnections for minor delays in bill payments, the government's own departments have accumulated electricity dues running into thousands of crores, reportedly in the range of ₹3000-₹4000 crore, without any visible enforcement or accountability.

He pointed out that as per disclosures and concerns raised in the J&K Assembly, major government entities including Jal Shakti (PHE), Irrigation & Flood Control,



Urban Local Bodies, among the top defaulters. He said these departments consume large volumes of electricity for public utilities, pumping stations, infrastructure, and security establishments, yet fail to clear dues in a time-bound manner, placing an enormous financial burden on the power sector.

"It is highly unfortunate that the aam aadmi is being penalised, whereas the government's own departments continue to enjoy impunity despite massive pending liabilities. This is nothing but institutional bias and a complete betrayal of public trust," Bhagat said.

He alleged that the present dispensation has adopted a policy of "selective enforcement," where the Power Department acts swiftly against small domestic consumers, shopkeepers, and rural households, but turns a blind eye when it comes to high-value defaulters within the government system. "The irony is glaring - those who are responsible for governance have themselves become the biggest violators of financial discipline," he remarked.

Taking a direct dig at Omar Abdullah, Bhagat said that holding the Power portfolio demands strict oversight and impartial decision-making, but what is being witnessed instead is a complete collapse of accountability and administrative will. He questioned why no stringent recovery drives, budgetary adjustments, or inter-departmental settlements have been enforced to clear these dues.

Bhagat further said that such unchecked defaults are not only weakening the financial health of the power util-

# Panchayat electoral roll revision progress assessed

**KISHTWAR:** Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ERO) M. Idrees Lone on Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the ongoing Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision 2026 in Kishtwar, Palmar and Trigam blocks.

The meeting was attended by the Block Development Officer Kishtwar Ravi Kumar and BDO Trigam Roopesh Sharma designated as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), along with Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBOs) and other staff.

The ERO conducted a detailed review of the revision process in the three blocks, focusing on verification of electoral data, inclusion of eligible voters and removal of ineligible entries. Emphasis was laid on maintaining accuracy and ensuring adherence to the prescribed timelines.

He issued necessary instructions to the concerned officers for expediting the process and ensuring error-free electoral rolls.

# National Painters' Camp inaugurated at Mansar

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**UDHAMPUR:** National Painters' Camp being organized by Indian Academy of Fine Arts (IAFA), Amritsar was inaugurated at JKTDTC Tourist Complex, Mansar Lake (Udhampur, J&K) on Wednesday by Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina, President Indian Academy of Fine Arts (IAFA) as the chief guest. Dr. P S Grover, Hon. Gen. Secretary IAFA was the guest of honour on this occasion. The three days camp is being organized to commemorate the contribution of Late (Dr.) Baldev Gambhir, a Life Member of IAFA & recipient of multiple times the National Award by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi; Punab Lalit Kala Akademi Awards, and other awards.



Eleven well known prominent and senior artists from different parts of

the country, including members of executive committee of IAFA and special invitees who are participating in this camp, include Jang S. Verma (Jammu) as Special Invitee; Gagan Gambhir

(Jalandhar), Varinder Pal Singh, Dharminder Sharma, Sukhpal Singh, Ms. Ravinder Dhillon, Narinder Singh and K S Gill (Amritsar); Atul Mehra (Chandigarh), Ajit Singh Jabbar (Hoshiarpur),

and O P Sharma (Jammu), a renowned artist and Director JKCCA is nominated as the Coordinator of the camp.

A special tribute paying ceremony was organized

on this occasion where rich tributes were paid to Late Dr. Baldev Gambhir, a Life Member of IAFA. Speaking on this occasion, Sh. Rajinder Mohan Singh Chhina, President IAFA recalled the eminence and role of Dr. Baldev Gambhir in the field of art and working of the Academy. Dr. P S Grover, Hon. Gen. Secretary IAFA, Sukhpal Singh, General Secretary (Visual Arts), IAFA, Sh. K S Gill, and O P Sharma also shared their experiences and memories with Dr. Baldev Gambhir as a renowned artist and a noble human being.

The participating artists were felicitated during the inaugural ceremony by the dignitaries from the IAFA, Amritsar. The artists would create one work each as a piece of token in the memory of Late Dr. Baldev Gambhir.

# DPEO flags off awareness vehicle to mobilize public

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**KISHTWAR:** District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO) Kishtwar Panjaj Kumar Sharma, on Friday, flagged off an awareness vehicle to mobilize the public for the Summary Revision of the Panchayat Electoral Roll. The initiative forms part of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

The vehicle, equipped with banners, PAS and material explaining the process, eligibility criteria and the importance of voter registration, shall travel across different parts of the district.

Addressing the gathering at the flag-off ceremony, the DPEO emphasized the significance of SVEEP in the electoral roll revision, stating,



"The campaign is crucial for ensuring that no eligible voter is left behind. With April 1, 2026 as the qualifying date, I urge all eligible citizens to verify their details and register if not already done."

Public participation in this initiative is being encouraged with special focus on first-time voters and peo-

ple from marginalized communities to ensure that no eligible elector is left behind.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by ADC (Roll Observer) Pawan Kotwal; ACR (ERO) Idrees Lone; Dy. DEO Shahzada Noor Ul Ain, besides other officers and concerned staff of the Election Cell.

# Admin hosts capacity building prog for Gyan Bharatam Survey

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**UDHAMPUR:** District Administration Udhampur on Friday organized a capacity building and training programme for the effective implementation of the Gyan Bharatam Survey in the district.

The session was conducted in virtual mode under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa.

The training programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore along with other concerned officers and officials.

The technical session

was led by Dr. Jahangir Iqbal, who delivered a detailed presentation outlining the objectives, scope, methodology and field-level execution of the survey. He elaborated on the importance of systematic data collection and adherence to survey protocols to ensure reliable outcomes.

The ADDC emphasized the need for dedication, sincerity and a strong sense of responsibility while conducting the survey. He directed the field functionaries to strictly adhere to the prescribed guidelines and ensure comprehensive household coverage without any omission.

# Directions given for 100% saturation of CSS

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**KATHUA:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma on Friday dedicated a meeting in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to review the Village Action Plans for six identified border villages under the Vibrant Village Programme-II.

Border villages- Bobiya, Kadyala, Gajnal, Karol Krishna, Rathua and Gujjar Chack have been identified for the implementation of Vibrant Village Programme of the Government of India to ensure 100% saturation of welfare schemes and bridge the infrastructural gap in these villages.

At the outset, the meeting was apprised of the department-wise progress and draft action plans prepared

for ensuring saturation of beneficiary-oriented and infrastructure schemes in the identified villages.

The Deputy Commissioner issued clear directions to all line departments to ensure 100% saturation of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes falling under their respective domains so that no eligible beneficiary is left uncovered. He emphasized convergence among departments for optimal utilization of resources and avoiding duplication of efforts.

Stressing the need for effective implementation, the DC directed the officers to revisit and refine the draft Village Action Plans, making the same more practical, outcome-oriented and aligned with the ground realities of the six border villages. "The plans should

be need-based, time-bound and result-driven with a focus on tangible improvements in infrastructure, livelihoods and basic services," he added.

The DC further asked the departments to conduct field-level verification, identify gaps and ensure last-mile delivery of all flagship schemes.

He also highlighted the importance of regular monitoring and inter-departmental coordination to achieve the desired objectives under the programme.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from various departments including GM DIC, PO ICDS, CPO Ranjeet Thakur, SDM Hiranagar Phulail Singh, ACD Akhil Sadotra and other concerned officers of line departments.

# Aspirational block Khawas gets first ATM

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**RAJOURI:** Marking a significant step towards strengthening financial inclusion in remote areas, the first ATM was on Friday installed in Aspirational Block Khawas under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

The newly installed ATM of Jammu and Kashmir Bank was inaugurated by Deputy Advisor, NITI Aayog Dr. Muni Raju SB.

Speaking on the occasion, the DA appreciated the efforts of the District Administration Rajouri for extending essential banking facilities to far-flung areas, stating that such initiatives play a crucial role in promoting financial accessibility and inclusive development.

# Admin tightens noose around hoarders: 130 LPGs seized

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**RAJOURI:** Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma on Friday said that the district has adequate stocks of LPG, petrol, diesel, food grains, fertilizers and other related items.

Addressing a press conference today, the Deputy Commissioner informed that the district has sufficient stock and the supplies are being maintained as per the guidelines of the Government of India and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. He reassured the public that there is no shortage of any essential commodity in the district. The DC made

it clear that hoarding, black marketing and illegal stocking will not be tolerated under any circumstances. "The distribution mechanism has been streamlined and is being closely monitored. The opening and closing stock positions of petrol pumps, LPG outlets and other supply points are being monitored closely," he added.

To ensure prompt grievances redressal, a dedicated Control Room has been established at the DC Office, the Deputy Commissioner said and added that the administration is actively addressing public concerns and ensuring smooth supply across all areas.

# New entrants join Cong

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**JAMMU:** In a significant political development, firebrand women leader Satveer Kour from Chatha Kulliyian, along with her supporters, on Friday joined the Congress party under the leadership of Taranjit Singh Tony at his office.

Welcoming the new entrants into the party fold, Tony praised the rich legacy and inclusive ideology of the Indian National Congress, stating that Congress has always stood for secularism, social justice, and grassroots empowerment. He said the party's strength lies in its deep connection with the people at the ground level and its commitment to addressing public issues with sincerity.

"The Congress party has a glorious legacy of serving the nation and empowering every section of society. It is a platform that believes in unity, development, and justice for all. We are committed to strengthening the party at the grassroots and taking people along in this journey," Tony said.

He further added that the joining of Satveer Kour and her supporters reflects the growing trust of people in Congress and its leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, Satveer Kour said she was highly impressed by the dedication, accessibility, and tireless efforts of Tony in addressing public grievances at the grassroots level.

"I have closely observed the work of



Taranjit Singh Tony and his commitment towards the people. His dedication and connect with the masses inspired me to join Congress along with my supporters," she said.

She further announced that in the coming days, she will organise another meeting to mobilise more people and facilitate a major joining programme in favour of Congress.

"In the coming days, I will hold a meeting in the area and bring a large number of people into the Congress party. This is just the beginning," she added.

She expressed confidence that under Tony's leadership, she would be able to work more effectively for the welfare of the people and contribute to strengthening the party in the region.

# Preparations of work reviewed for upcoming DISHA meet

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**DODA:** A preparatory meeting in connection with the upcoming District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting, scheduled to be held on 7th April 2026 was convened on Friday under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner Krishan Lal.

The meeting reviewed the preparedness of departments, including formulation of plans, status of ongoing works and preparation of detailed Power-Point Presentations (PPTs). The district officers were directed to come fully prepared with updated Action Taken Reports (ATRs) and comprehensive presentations for the forthcoming meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed department-wise review of the government-sponsored schemes and developmental works being executed across the district.

Emphasis was laid on effective coordination



with the MLAs for proper planning and execution of works. The DC reviewed key sectors including Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), progress under PMAY with special focus on benefits to tribal communities. He also took stock of road safety initiatives and works being executed under NHIDCL. Directions were issued to ensure installation of crash barriers on vulnerable road stretches and to expedite the development of the

playground near Khellani Tunnel.

The meeting also held deliberations on restoration of roads damaged due to recent floods, with instructions issued to the PWD department to complete maintenance works within stipulated timelines. The DC reviewed the upgradation of KV School Jodhpur, progress of Chattergalla Tunnel project being executed by BRO and ongoing works under Sansad

Khel Pratiyogita. He also stressed on ensuring virtual inauguration of the link roads by the DISHA chairman. The issue of shortage of doctors in GMC Doda was discussed, with the matter taken up with the Chief Medical Officer for early resolution.

Furthermore, the progress of major developmental projects including multi-car parking, GMC building and beautification of the Chenab riverfront

near Ganpat Bridge was also reviewed in detail.

The DC directed the officers to ensure timely preparation of PPTs ahead of the DISHA meeting. He also emphasized coordinated efforts for successful implementation of flagship initiatives such as Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and TB-Free District campaign, while urging officers to actively utilize the Samadhan Portal.

## NOTICE

I Dharam Paul S/o Jug Lal, R/o Ward No 06, House No 14, Vijaypur Tehsil - Vijaypur & District Samba, JKUT, that my name has been wrongly written as Dharam Pal instead of Dharam Paul in my Driving License bearing number JK-2120130032857. Now I am applying for correction of the same. objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authorities.