

Palli village of J&K becomes the first carbon-free solar panchayat ahead of PM Modi's visit

April 23, 2022



India is striving to become a carbon-neutral state with the targets set at the COP26 climate crises summit. How will it be achieved? The targets will be achieved when concerted efforts drive individual districts and states of the country to build on the existing model for sustainability. Aligning with this, the Palli village of Samba district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is all set to become the first carbon-free solar panchayat. From solar chulhas to electric bus rides, the work towards a carbon-neutral

state is underway on a war footing. It is important to mention that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to visit Palli village on National Panchayat Day on the 24th of April.

A major transformation:

From the macadamized roads to the recently launched electric bus service, the Palli village has witnessed a significant transformation. A 500KV solar plant is gearing to be installed in a record time of just three weeks and covers an extensive area of 6,408 sq metres. The plant will be responsible to provide clean electricity for more than 340 houses under the central government's programme – 'Gram Urja Swraj.' The electricity generated from the solar project would fulfil the daily need of 2,000 units of the residents of Palli village.

Other significant developments:

Ahead of the visit of PM Modi, the village is getting a facelift with various developments in varied sectors. For example, to ensure zero wastage of wastewater, soak pits are being constructed, and these pits are connected with drains leading to agricultural fields. Soak pits will aid in increasing groundwater levels, the wastewater will go to fields through the drains. The 2-km road to Palli from Palli Morh on the Bari Brahmana-Bishnah road has not only been widened and blacktopped but saplings have also been planted on either of its sides. Every department is holding camps in the village to apprise people of the welfare schemes meant for them, villagers said. Special camps were held to issue domicile certificates and Ayushman Bharat cards to all besides old age and widow pensions to eligible villagers, they added. In addition to the above-mentioned developments, the authorities and officials have worked together to restore the village's only pond – that was dried up long ago. Along with this, a borewell has also been dug nearby to ensure that it gets filled with water even during summer.

