

## Launch of Shakti Kendra in Badagaon, Jhansi



A glimpse of the launch of Shakti Kendra- A Manufacturing Unit

**D**evelopment Alternatives has recently inaugurated its first **Shakti Kendra** on this Republic Day in Badagaon, Jhansi, marking a significant stride towards sustainability and women empowerment. This Shakti Kendra, functioning as an Oil Expeller Unit, is operated, and managed by the **Shri Rajaram Sarkar Sankul Samiti (CLF)**, a collective of women determined to bring positive change to their community. This initiative is part of the Equality4Progress project, supported by the Bank of America National Association, emphasising not only entrepreneurship but also community building, sustainability, and women's empowerment. Equality4Progress is dedicated to empowering women by amplifying their voices, assisting them in gaining financial independence and broadening their choices in non-traditional enterprises through access to critical enabling resources, one of them being renewable energy.

The operational phase of the Oil Expeller Unit has been set in motion by a team of three women- **Parvati, Kalpana, and Munni**- who not only serve as leaders but are the driving force behind this sustainable enterprise. One of the aspects of this project is the installation of solar panels, showing a commitment to use cleaner and greener energy. Through this enterprise, the women involved are not only crushing seeds for oil extraction but are also breaking societal norms and making a lasting impact on their community. The emphasis on women's leadership and collective action underlines the transformative potential of such initiatives.



The Shakti Kendra stands as a symbol of change, showcasing that sustainable development and women's empowerment can go hand in hand. By providing a platform for women to lead and actively participate in economic activities, this Oil Expeller Unit becomes a catalyst for positive change in the lives of the women involved and the broader community. Its inauguration on Republic Day adds symbolic significance, aligning with the nation's principles of equality and sustainability. As the Shakti Kendra initiates production, it inspires hope and sets a precedent for the future of Shakti Mart and equitable, sustainable progress.