



Shahid Ali's smile on launch day of his business unit

BOD Field Visit Highlights Community Progress

Our Board of Directors conducted an extensive field visit across Baramulla to review the progress of CHINAR's ongoing programs and community-led initiatives. The visit began with the launch of the new Skill Development Center, followed by interactions with doctors and beneficiaries at a medical camp. The team also met enrolled families during home visits, engaged with members of the Functional Literacy Center, and assessed progress at Primary School Arampora and the Community Learning Center(CLC) in Shalbuni. They further held discussions with Small Business Support unit holders and the newly launched adolescent Poshwaer Group in Mundayari. The Board expressed satisfaction and shared valuable feedback to strengthen future programming.



Learning Circles Boost Teaching Quality

Our Quality Education team successfully conducted Learning Circle Meetings in both Shopian, and Baramulla, creating valuable spaces for facilitator training and collaboration. In shopian, 17 participants attended a structured session focused on enhancing classroom delivery, lesson planning, documentation systems and Social and Emotional Learning. Similarly, in Baramulla, over 20 facilitators participated in an interactive Learning Circle Meet that emphasized 5E lesson planning, effective documentation at Community Learning Centers and improved resource management. These Learning Circles continue to equip facilitators with the skills and tools needed to provide high-quality learning experiences across CHINAR's education programs.



Building Skills and Business Opportunities



In November, CHINAR International launched nine Small Business Support (SBS) units and four Skill Development Centres (SDCs) across five districts - Srinagar, Bandipora, Baramulla, Kulgam and Shopian, empowering communities with livelihood opportunities and vocational skills.

In Bandipora, five SBS units were set up in handicrafts, dairy farming, high-density apple cultivation, waste management, and digital services, led respectively by Shahid Ali, Neelofar Nazir, Ghulam Mohammad Dar, Irshad Hussain Malla, and Gulam Mohammad Nath. In Kulgam, two sheep-rearing units were initiated by Idrees Ahmad Teli and Zubair Ahmad Qasana, while Shopian saw a new pesticide and agri-input store by Saleem Maqbool Sheikh, and a hardware shop opened in Baramulla by Mohammad Yaseen Mir.

Alongside business support, four Skill Development Centres were inaugurated, enrolling 74 trainees across various vocational courses. A Digital Learning Centre in Palpora enrolled 13 trainees, Rakh Arath hosted 18 trainees in its vocational batch, a Cutting and Tailoring Centre in Rakh Arath enrolled 25 trainees, and an SDC for tilla embroidery opened in Arampora, Baramulla, enrolling 18 trainees.

These initiatives equip communities with practical skills, strengthen livelihoods, and promote sustainable growth.

This month, 8 new students joined the Higher Education Scholarship Program (HESP), surpassing this year's targets. Hailing from Kupwara, Srinagar, and Bandipora, they are pursuing Medical Sciences, Sports, Psychology, and Arts, reflecting HESP's commitment to supporting diverse talent and empowering youth through higher education.

OUR MISSION

EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN, MARGINALIZED YOUTH AND DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES
THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMS USING SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

Wellness Lessons For Girls



Reproductive Health and Hygiene sessions were held for female beneficiaries in Kupwara and Shopian, facilitated by Ms. Sania, a trained counsellor from the National AIDS Control Agency. In Shopian, 39 adolescent girls and 14 mothers attended, while Kupwara (Handwara) hosted 37 adolescent girls and 23 mothers. The sessions included group discussions, demonstrations, and activities, covering personal hygiene, physical and emotional changes during adolescence, and reproductive health. These sessions empower girls and mothers with knowledge for better health and well-being.

Livelihood Boost For Families

In November, three livelihood support units were launched for beneficiaries in Budgam and Kupwara districts. In Budgam, Mohammad Rafiq Khan, a daily wage laborer facing financial challenges due to health issues, was provided with a sheep unit to support his household income. In Kupwara, Mohammad Shafi Bajard received a sheep unit to help meet the needs of his large family, while Javaid Ahmad Bhat was provided with a goat unit. These interventions aim to enhance income-generating opportunities and strengthen family livelihoods in the region.



Cosco Cup Kicks Off In Sedow

The Cosco Ball Cricket Tournament kicked off in Sedow, Shopian. A total of 8 teams will compete in 7 matches. Each match will consist of 10 overs and will be played at the local community ground. The first match was played between Sedow Masters XI and Sedow Loyal Streak XI, with Sedow Masters XI winning by just one run. The event aims to revive sports culture and promote community unity.



Collaborative Awareness Drive



CHINAR International, in collaboration with government departments and CBOs*, conducted awareness sessions across three districts, reaching over 250 people. In Arampora, Baramulla, CHINAR partnered with the Agriculture, Handicrafts, Veterinary, Irrigation, and Social Welfare Departments to educate communities about social welfare schemes. In Gatipora, Shopian, CHINAR worked with the Child Welfare Committee and Juvenile Justice Board to raise awareness on child protection, adoption, and the Juvenile Justice Act 2015. Additionally, the Poshewaer adolescent group delivered a Cyber Safety session for 68 students in Grade 10 at a private school in Srinagar.

100 School Leadership Training

CHINAR International conducted on-site training on Instructional and Leadership Coaching across Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora and Baramulla, bringing together HOIs* and teachers from the DESK*-CHINAR 100 School Fellowship Program along with additional nominated teachers. The sessions focused on developing educators as effective coaches through key skills such as active listening, questioning, feedback and reflection. Interactive activities like Mirror Walk, role plays and self-reflection helped participants strengthen leadership practices, build relational trust and improve school culture, management and collaboration.



Secure Home for Budgam Family

Mohammad Maqbool Khan, a laborer from Zugoo, Budgam, lived with his wife and three children in a fragile tin shed covered with polythene sheets, lacking doors, windows, and basic furnishings. The family was exposed to harsh winters, making daily life extremely difficult.

After a thorough assessment, the family received tin sheets, proper windows, basic furnishings, and bedding, transforming their unsafe shelter into a secure and livable home. This intervention has provided stability and comfort, allowing the children to attend school and focus on their education without worrying about their living conditions.



Health Camps In Baramulla

CHINAR International, in collaboration with BMO* Pattan, conducted three medical camps in Mundayari, Harinara and Arampora, serving 580 beneficiaries. In Mundayari, 170 people received check-ups and medicines for cough, fever and nutritional deficiencies. Harinara served 150 beneficiaries and reported cases of anemia, vitamin and calcium deficiencies, malnourishment and seasonal illness. In Arampora, 260 participants received examinations, medicines and winter health advice.



Winter Kits For Children

CHINAR International distributed winter kits to 918 children in the districts of Shopian, Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Anantnag. The distribution was carried to provide essential warm clothing to children during the cold season. Each child received a winter kit containing track suits, cord sets, thermals, shoes, sweaters, winter caps, stoles, and socks to ensure health and comfort during winter months.



Internship Program Wrap Up

In November, we concluded a three-and-a-half-month in-house internship program for two CLC facilitators, Afreen Nazir and Aliya Yousuf, both Master's in Social Work students from IGNOU, who contributed meaningfully to our initiatives. We also celebrated the completion of a one-month internship by Zaimah Ali, a graduate from the University of Nottingham, Malaysia, and Noorian Khaki, a Psychology student at Delhi University. Both actively participated in events, activities, and camps, and supported research and documentation.

