



PICTURED: Launch of 25 selected Small Business Support units in Srinagar. Details in the next page.



Health camp held in Handwara

As part of an ongoing series of health camps for beneficiaries enrolled in Child Development, CHINAR International organised the final camp in Wadipora, Handwara, in collaboration with Block Medical Officer Zachaldara. The medical team consisted of a diverse group of professionals, including general physicians, a dental surgeon, female health workers, a community health officer, a junior health inspector and a pharmacist. The team meticulously conducted thorough examinations for 137 beneficiaries from 17 villages. Through the camp, the beneficiaries also received supplementary medicines and referrals for further medical intervention.

Empowering CLC facilitators

A comprehensive two-day capacity-building workshop was organised for 15 CLC facilitators affiliated with Wipro foundation. The workshop aimed to empower facilitators and equip them with essential skills to enhance the teaching learning process within their respective communities. Throughout the workshop, facilitators actively participated in a range of activities, including group discussions, hands-on exercises, and role-playing scenarios. These interactive sessions enabled them to apply the knowledge and strategies they acquired, fostering a deeper understanding of the topics covered.



Livelihood given to Pulwama family

Bilal Ahmad Chopan, hailing from Drubgam, Pulwama has faced multiple health challenges and financial hardships owing to his family conditions which were further exacerbated due to his medically diagnosed depression. In order to support him to achieve some financial stability, CHINAR International provided him necessary resources to start his street food venture, specialising in egg rolls and malasa roti, both of which are cherished street foods in Kashmir. With CHINAR's assistance, Bilal is gearing up to launch his business in the main market, where he anticipates earning a profitable income. Furthermore, his children are enrolled under the Child Development program since 2022.



OUR MISSION

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



25 youth selected for Business Support

CHINAR International kicked off the phase 4 of Business incubation* project in a 3-day event with TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences) as knowledge partners at Srinagar. The goal of the project is to support business ideas of marginalized youth, enabling them to achieve financial independence.

A total of 600 applicants had applied for the program from all the districts of Kashmir division. After a rigorous four-tier selection process, 50 candidates got shortlisted for the final round and presented their ideas before the panel of experts. The panelists included Prof. Satyajit Majumdar and Mr. Sujay Dixit from TISS, Prof. Saad Parvez – NIT Srinagar, Dr. Shazia Manzoor from Kashmir University and Abdul Rouf Khan (JKEDI) and Mr. Mohd Rafiq from SIDBI.



During the first two days, the applicants presented their ideas along with inspirational and motivational speeches from successful young entrepreneurs. Furthermore, unit holders from previous cohorts shared their remarkable journeys of success, adding depth and motivation to the event.

The day 3 marked the felicitation ceremony of 25 selected candidates in presence of board members –Dr. Khalid Ashai, Dr. Mushtaq Margoob and Dr. Zahida Shah and CHINAR patron Mrs. Ismet Shahmiri. Post felicitation, a training and capacity-building program was conducted by TISS faculty for selected candidates and CHINAR team.

*The Business Incubation Project is categorized into two segments: Small Business Support, providing interest-free loans of up to 1.5 lakhs, and Large Business Support, offering up to 3.5 lakhs in interest-free loans to selected candidates, empowering them to kickstart their ventures. CHINAR supported 40 youth in the first three cohorts running successfully today.



Two new communities enrolled under Parvaaz

Parvaaz program, designed to empower local communities, was successfully launched in two communities –Gundipora Devsar in Kulgam and Mundyari in Baramulla. In Kulgam, the program saw the enrollment of 17 children from nine families within the Gundipora community. The event witnessed the participation of key community stakeholders, including the Head of Institution (HOI), Deputy Sarpanch, youth leader, ICDS workers, and the head of the Auqaf committee. The Auqaf Head appreciated CHINAR's commitment to the holistic development of children, youth, and the community at large. Following the launch, two skill development centers were started in Halnool and Devsar villages of Kulgam which will train 40 young women in tailoring and crewel embroidery.

In Baramulla, 48 children from 25 deserving families were enrolled in the program. The event was attended by over 100 people including community members, youth, CLC teachers, school principals and CHINAR enrolled children and families. Throughout the event, community members expressed their heartfelt appreciation for CHINAR's efforts and promised full support to our interventions.

With the addition of two communities, we are now engaged with nine communities embraced by the wings of Parvaaz. We hope that the Parvaaz will continue to flourish, making a positive and lasting impact on the communities.



LCM with TWCf

This month, two virtual Learning Circle Meetings (LCMs) were organized, bringing together a group of eight TWCf (Teach with CHINAR fellows). The primary objective of the first LCM was to introduce an exciting library project aimed at establishing libraries in various schools. During this session, an informative presentation was delivered, providing the fellows with a comprehensive overview of the project's mission and objectives. In the second LCM, the focus shifted towards the utilization of data to enhance teaching and learning practices. Participants were equipped with valuable tools and strategies to efficiently collect, analyze, and leverage data to improve their teaching methodologies. Their insights, suggestions, and feedback were actively sought and welcomed in both LCMs.

Quarterly Message from CEO

In the last quarter, we've seen remarkable progress and have thoroughly enjoyed our relentless efforts to expand across all our programs. One of the standout moments of this period was the launch of 25 new business ventures by Kashmiri youth, which truly shone as a highlight. It's inspiring to witness 60 marginalized youth steadily advancing towards self-reliance, and what's even more heartening is that this project consistently yields results within just 6-12 months.

Our commitment to enhancing our training capabilities remains unwavering, exemplified by our training sessions for CLC facilitators and TWC fellows. Additionally, our collaborations with various departments continue to flourish, as demonstrated by our successful health camps conducted in partnership with Block Medical Officers at all our intervention sites.

In response to our escalating workload, we have significantly expanded our workforce by adding 25% more staff members, following a rigorous interview process. This strategic move will undoubtedly bolster our capacity to meet the growing demands of our initiatives.

Irfan Shahmiri

Founder/Global Executive Director