

# CM inaugurates Girls Hostel at KU main campus, lays foundation of Boys Hostel at Zakura campus

**Srinagar, June 02:** Chief Minister of J&K Omar Abdullah who is also Pro-Chancellor of the Kashmir University has said that the balance between expansion and consolidation is of prime importance for meaningful growth and development of various sectors adding that education and health-care fields demand all the more focused attention in this regard.

He said this while interacting with the students of Kashmir University here after inaugurating Qurat-ul-Ain Girls Hostel at KU main campus and laying foundation for Shaikh-ul-Alam Boys Hostel at KU Zakura campus.

The Chief Minister said "Our focus is on providing clean classrooms, proper desks, protected drinking water and sanitation facilities to the educational institutions. How can you imagine a girls school without proper sanitation facility."

He said that his government has underlined this aspect as an important one in the process of establishment of the schools.

The Chief Minister said that while his government is actively expanding government job ambit for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir yet addressing unemployment problem does not lie exclusively in providing government employment to young educated persons.

"We have opened many windows for the purpose including introduction of SKEWPY, Skills Development Mission, encouragement of MSME sector, enhancement of employability of educated youth under Udaan and Himayat besides roping in corporate sector for making campus recruitments.

Omar Abdullah said that courses of marketability and modern relevance are being introduced at the higher education level in the State. He said various universities and their satellite campuses functioning across the State are offering new subjects and concentrating on imparting modern studies of science and technology to the students so that they are easily absorbed in the open market.

The Chief Minister said youth of Jammu and Kashmir are second to none in talent, intelligence and resilience. "On providing opportunity you are certain to prove your caliber at all levels", he said and referred to the success of a good number of students from Jammu and Kashmir in All India Civil Service Examinations during last a few years securing distinction.

Responding to a question posed by one of the students of the University, Omar Abdullah said that he would discuss the issue of introducing modern science subjects in the newly opened degree colleges in the State at various places and added that there is urgent need of starting such courses so that students choose subjects of their choice to study further.

During their interaction with the Pro-Chancellor the students appreciated the role played by the University administration and the teachers in upgrading the infrastructure and improving the quality of education in the campus.

Vice Chancellor Kashmir University, Talat Ahmad in his address said that by participating in the interaction session with the Chief Minister the students have had an opportunity to get direct answers of their questions from the Head of the State and Pro-Chancellor of the University face to face.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to interact with not only the Chief Minister of the state but also with their Pro-Chancellor and raise issues of concern with him. The establishment of Zakura campus will provide a suitable environment to the students and this campus will come up in two phases," said Prof Talat.

He added "We are trying to upgrade the infrastructure so as to provide best facilities to our students and at the same time we have to keep ourselves ready to cope-up with the pressure of increase in the number of enrollments in future as new courses are being introduced. Therefore this expansion in terms of opening new hostels and campuses is an endeavor in that direction so that our students do not face nay problem in terms of space in future."

Earlier, Omar Abdullah inaugurated Qurat-ul-Ayn Haider Girls Hostel at the main Campus of University of Kashmir, Hazratbal. The 296 bedded girls hostel with adequate facilities has been constructed at a cost of over Rs. 5.40 crores. The main highlights of the five storied hostel building include 57 rooms to accommodate 296 female students and research scholars, reading hall, browsing centre, dining hall, kitchen, lobby, recreation room, wash room blocks, etc.

The Chief Minister also laid foundation of Sheikh-ul-Aalam (RA) Boys Hostel block at Zakura to accommodate 400 boys. The construction involves an expenditure of Rs. 20.70 crores.

Dean Academic Affairs Prof A M Shah, Registrar Kashmir University Prof Syed Fayaz, Dean College Development Prof M A Kaw, Provost Prof Naseem Ahmad Shah, Dean Students Welfare Prof Neelofar Khan, Chief Proctor Prof Mohd Afzal Zargar, besides other team of faculties heads of the departments and senior functionaries of Kashmir University were present on the occasion.

