

2019 GAAMONATI REPORT



The annual Gaamonati meeting was held on
Sunday 7th July 2019 in Leicester.

The main purpose of the meeting was to make the members aware of and share the issues affecting the various villages in the Navsari District area.

Inputs were received from UK representatives of Matwad, Amalsad/Billimora, Bodali, Chijgaam, Dandi, Karadi, Kothamadi, Nani Pethan and Veraval.

The major issues reported are summarized below. Full details for individual gamas are available in the minutes of the meeting issued to all participants.

SUMMARY OF GAAM ISSUES

A. Gam Sarpanch and Talati.

- It was clear from the discussions that the Gam Sarpanch and Talati were key in affecting any developments in the gamas.
- It is also essential that the Gam Sarpanches/panchayat members liaise regularly with the local government authorities in respect of availability of grants for local development and have the full understanding of the grant application procedures and process.
- It is important for overseas representatives to maintain good and close relations, regular links with the local Gaam Mandals and particularly the Gaam Sarpanch.
- Surpanch needs to be non-political and active in the betterment of their Gaams.

B. Education & Schools.

- Overall student numbers were dwindling in Gaam schools with parents tending to send their children to English medium schools in Navsari. As a result a result number of Primary schools face closure.
- Kothamadi High school has introduced nursery and junior classes.
- Chijgaam school, originally funded from the UK is now under government ownership and is badly in need of repairs.

C. Local Government schemes and Aids.

Gam representatives reported of the various government schemes and grants available e.g. Introduction of toilets in every household, Block paving in the falias, Mahacard and Free medication for the poor, Walking aids for the disabled, and CCTV.

D. Water Supply.

There was concern over water shortages in the future as bore wells around the Navsari area are drying up. Uptake on filtration plants by gaams is on the increase. Nani Pethan has successfully installed one with very positive feedback. Other gaams to follow suit.

E. Social Issues.

Meeting with Local Gaam Sarpanches was held at Avda Falia Mandir by the visiting AMSUK representatives on 29th February 2019 to discuss and obtain update on development of amenities and facilities in gaams. The Sarpanches informed that, while infrastructure developments were progressing well with the aid of Government schemes and support of the local MP, there was a greater need to address the social welfare of the Navsari District community as a whole.

Issues which need to be addressed are:

Welfare of Widows, Educational, Financial and Health Care support for the poor, Create opportunities for the youth and Review of Wedding ceremonies/rituals and Death rites rituals.

H.S Patel

Hasmukh S Patel

Gaamonati Sub-Committee Convener.

July 2019