

Greater Kashmir

Cross-LoC traders demand banking facilities, SOP implementation

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Srinagar, July 11: The cross-LoC traders today unanimously passed a resolution pitching for immediate introduction of banking facilities, enhancement in number of items tradable across LoC and implementation of SOPs signed by both India and Pakistan.

On the second day of the three-day conference, “Cross LoC Trade, Regional Development: Opportunities and Challenges”, today, at SKICC here, the traders resolved to urge the governments of India and Pakistan “to initially focus on these points for the improving cross-LoC trade.”

The traders resolved that the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce (JKJCCI) will vigorously work for introduction of necessary banking and other facilities.

“We have also decided to stress on both the governments to introduce negative list to replace the present small positive list of 21 items,” they said.

“We also feel that there is dire need of implementing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on which governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to follow but so far they have not wholly implemented them.”

“In 2008 when the trade was commenced, both the governments resolved to hold quarterly meetings between the officials of two countries. But no such meeting has ever taken place,” they said.

Pertinently, about 60 participants representing various trade and business organizations of J&K and PaK are participating in the conference.

The conference being organized by the Centre of Dialogue and Reconciliation (CDR) has 12 delegates from PaK.