

CM Omar chairs high-level meeting to review Ramadan arrangements

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 17

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to re-view arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan across Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasizing the importance of ensuring smooth public services during the sacred month, the Chief Minister directed all concerned departments to take proactive measures for the convenience and welfare of the people.

The Chief Minister stressed the need for intensified sanitation drives across J&K, particularly around major places of worship, shrines, mosques and other congregation points. He instructed authorities to increase the frequency of garbage collection and ensure cleanliness throughout Ramadan.

He directed all departments to ensure seamless public service delivery, effective grievance redressal, and necessary arrangements at major places of worship to ensure a peaceful and comfortable Ramadan for the people.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to ensure power and water supply, availability of essential commodities, market regulation, healthcare preparedness and security measures across J&K.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra; ACS to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; ACS Public Works (R&B) Anil Kumar Singh; Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Commis-



sioner Secretary General Administration Department/Information; Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu; Inspectors General of Police of Kashmir and Jammu zones; Secretaries of Health & Medical Education and Transport; IG Traffic J&K; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation; Director Information; and heads of several key departments. All Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other concerned officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Commissioner Secretary GAD/Information, M. Raju, gave a detailed presentation on the preparations and arrangements put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the holy month of Ramadan.

Highlighting the significance of uninterrupted power supply, especially during Sehri and Iftar hours, the Chief Minister directed the Power Development Department to ensure proper planning of curtailments, if unavoidable, and undertake timely maintenance of transformer banks. He also instructed the designation of nodal officers to monitor supply.

Adequate drinking water availability was also reviewed during the meeting.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah directed the Jal Shakti Department to ensure seamless supply, including special tanker services during peak hours. He instructed that water tankers be deployed well before Iftar timings in water-distressed areas so that people can break their fast on time without any disturbance.

The Chief Minister also laid emphasis on ensuring availability of essential commodities such as rice, atta, sugar, LPG, poultry, vegetables, fish and other daily necessities. He ordered strict market checking to curb hoarding, black marketing and profiteering, ensuring fair pricing and proper display of rate lists.

For public safety, the meeting was told about the strengthening security arrangements through round-the-clock patrolling, anti-sabotage checks and effective crowd control, particularly during Friday prayers.

Fire tenders will be stationed at prominent locations, while traffic management measures will be enhanced around mosques and major religious places to avoid congestion, the meeting was told.

The meeting was informed that health services will remain on high alert during Ramadan, with

emergency medical arrangements and ambulance deployment at congregation sites. Regular stakeholder meetings will also be held for prompt grievance redressal.

The Chief Minister instructed the Health & Medical Education Department to ensure deployment of doctors, paramedics and other staff during Iftar timings, noting that it has been observed that staff shortages during these hours leave patients unattended.

He further directed priority distribution of aid to underprivileged families, widows and orphans, and called for strict monitoring of donation collections to prevent fraud and ensure genuine welfare support.

Regarding transport facilities, especially RTC services and e-buses, the Chief Minister directed preparation of proper rosters, noting that most transport goes off the roads during Iftar timings. He emphasized ensuring adequate availability of public transport for commuters.

The Chief Minister reiterated that all departments must work in close coordination to ensure smooth Ramadan arrangements, focusing on sanitation, essential supplies, uninterrupted utilities, healthcare readiness, security and traffic management across Jammu and Kashmir.

Regional Director Land Records Baramulla reviews Digitization Progress in Kupwara

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 17

Regional Director, Land Records, Baramulla, Riyaz Ahmad Sofi, today conducted a detailed review of the progress under the ongoing digitization programme in District Kupwara.

During the meeting, the Regional Director assessed the status of digitization of land records, scanning of revenue documents, data verification, and updating of cadastral maps under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP). He emphasized accuracy, transparency, and timely completion of the process to strengthen public service delivery.

The Regional Director stressed maintaining data integrity and directed field



functionaries to expedite pending entries strictly as per guidelines. He further instructed officers to enhance coordination among revenue officials to resolve discrepancies and ensure smooth implementation.

Highlighting the benefits

of digitization, he stated that the initiative will improve transparency, reduce litigation, prevent tampering of records, and enable citizens to conveniently access land-related documents online.

The meeting was at-

tended by ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ADC Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi; ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; SDM Lolab, Dr. Mudassir Ahmad; Tehsildar Kupwara, Niyaz Ahmad, and other concerned officials.

CEO Anantnag organizes awareness program on 'Road Safety Measures'

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 17

In a landmark initiative aimed at reinforcing student safety and promoting holistic development, the Chief Education Office (CEO), Anantnag successfully organized a comprehensive One-Day Awareness cum Sensitization Program on "Road Safety Measures" along with an intensive Training Session on "Safeguarding of Mental Well-being of Students" at the Auditorium of Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School Bijbehara.

The programme was conducted by Teacher Counsellors, HOIs, and key educational stakeholders from across District Anantnag.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Education Officer, Anantnag delivered a comprehensive and inspiring address, highlighting the dual responsibility of schools in ensuring both physical safety and psychological well-being of students. He urged all HOIs and Teacher Counsellors to strictly enforce road safety norms within and outside school premises, conduct sustained awareness drives,



promote student-led safety campaigns, and institutionalize structured counselling frameworks.

He further stressed that safeguarding the mental well-being of students, particularly adolescents navigating complex social and emotional transitions, is not merely desirable but an educational imperative in today's rapidly evolving environment.

The District Education Planning Officer, Anantnag underscored the alarming rise in road accidents involving youth and the

growing mental health challenges among adolescents. He emphasized that educational institutions must serve as catalysts in shaping responsible road users while fostering emotionally resilient learners.

The technical session was conducted by experts from Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police (Unit Anantnag), and the ARTO Office Anantnag. Detailed presentations were delivered on critical road safety measures including compliance with traffic rules, mandatory helmet and seatbelt

usage, prevention of under-age driving, pedestrian safety practices, road signage awareness, and the proactive role of educational institutions in minimizing road mishaps.

On the occasion, topper students of the online essay writing and painting competitions on Road Safety Measures were felicitated, recognizing their creativity and commitment towards promoting a culture of responsible road use.

Real-life case studies and district-level statistical insights were shared to sensitize participants about the gravity of traffic violations and the urgent need for collective vigilance.

The another session focused on mental health and student well-being. Experts from Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences Kashmir and Sub-District Hospital Bijbehara, conducted comprehensive and interactive deliberations. The sessions covered adolescent development, emotional vulnerabilities, stress management, behavioural concerns, early identification of anxiety and depression, crisis response mechanisms, and the importance of empathetic and confidential counselling practices within schools.

NIT Srinagar promotes Innovation, Entrepreneurship at MSME Design Scheme Workshop

SRINAGAR, FEB 17:

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, in collaboration with Greenovator Incubation Foundation (GIF)–NIT Srinagar, organized a One-Day Workshop on the MSME Design Scheme at the Common Hall of the institute.

The workshop was sponsored by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and witnessed active participation from entrepreneurs, startups, faculty members, and students.

The programme commenced with the inauguration of the MSME Project Stall at Indus Park, marking the beginning of a day-long engagement focused on strengthening the MSME and startup ecosystem in the region.

The event was presided over by Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof Atikur Rehman, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Srinagar, Mr Saheel Allaqband was the Guest of Honor on the occasion.

Dean, Alumni and International Affairs, Prof MA Shah, Prof. Nazir Ahmed Sheikh, among other faculty members, also attended the event. Dr Dinesh Kumar Rajendran is the Nodal Officer & Con-venor of the event.

In his address, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Director, NIT Srinagar, underscored the institute's commitment to promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and nation-building.

He remarked that empowering MSMEs through structured support mechanisms like the Design Scheme aligns with the broader vision of self-reliance and economic re-



silience.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Saheel Allaqband, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Srinagar, elaborated on various flagship schemes of the Ministry of MSME and encouraged entrepreneurs to avail themselves of financial and technical assistance available under the Design Scheme.

He highlighted the importance of formal registration, digital compliance, quality certification, and participation in government procurement platforms to ensure long-term growth and sustainability.

Dr. M. Hanief, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, reaffirmed the department's commitment to supporting MSMEs through technical expertise, laboratory facilities, prototyping support, and consultancy services.

He stated that academic institutions must play a proactive role in addressing real-world industrial challenges and promoting innovation at the grassroots level.

Prof. Atikur Rehman, Registrar, NIT Srinagar, highlighted the pivotal role of MSMEs in employment generation and economic development.

He appreciated the initiative and stated that continuous engagement be-

tween policymakers, academia, and industry stakeholders is essential to accelerate regional growth and create sustainable enterprises.

Prof Rehman emphasized the importance of research, consultancy, and technology transfer in strengthening the MSME ecosystem.

He encouraged entrepreneurs to collaborate with NIT Srinagar for research-driven product development and the commercialization of innovative ideas.

Earlier in his welcome address, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Nodal Officer, MSME Design Scheme at NIT Srinagar, outlined the objectives of the workshop and highlighted the significance of the MSME Design Scheme in enhancing product competitiveness through expert design intervention and financial assistance.

He emphasized that such initiatives provide a crucial bridge between innovators and government support mechanisms.

Dr. Saad Parvez, Principal Investigator of Greenovator Incubation Foundation, spoke about the growing importance of incubation support in nurturing innovative ideas into viable enterprises.

He stressed that startups

must actively leverage institutional mentorship, research facilities, and government-backed schemes to scale sustainably and compete in broader markets. He also underlined the need for stronger industry-academia collaboration to foster innovation-driven entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. H. S. Pali, Coordinator of the MSME Workshop. The technical sessions that followed covered funding opportunities in MSMEs, facilitation support through MSME PPDC, the MSME/startup ecosystem, application procedures for the MSME Design Scheme, and the GeM purchase process for MSMEs.

The workshop concluded with a valedictory session and certificate distribution ceremony.

Following the inaugural session, a series of focused technical deliberations were held to provide participants with comprehensive insights into the MSME framework.

The first session on Funding Opportunities in MSME was delivered by Mr. Saheel Allaqband, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Srinagar, who elaborated on various financial assistance schemes and support mechanisms available under the Ministry of MSME.

This was followed by a session on Facilitation in MSME PPDC by Ajaz Husain, who explained the role of Process and Product Development Centres in offering technical support, testing facilities, and technology upgradation services to MSMEs.

DC Reasi inaugurates three-day Mobile Passport Van Service Camp

REASI, FEBRUARY

17: To strengthen last-mile service delivery and enhance citizen convenience, the Regional Passport Office Jammu, under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, today launched a three-day Mobile Passport Van Service Camp at the DC Office Complex, Reasi.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik inaugurated the camp and emphasised the administration's commitment to ensuring accessible and efficient public services.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner stated that residents of Reasi district can utilise the facility and encouraged eligible applicants to take advantage of the opportunity to complete their passport-related formalities locally, without traveling to distant passport offices. She highlighted that such outreach initiatives are particularly beneficial for people residing in hilly and mountainous regions, where accessing passport offices often involves long travel hours and additional expenses. Organising the camp at the district head-



quarters will significantly reduce travel time, minimise financial burden and promote a more convenient service delivery mechanism.

The Section Officer/OSD, Regional Passport Office Jammu informed that applicants must book their appointments through the official website (www.passportindia.gov.in). On the day of the appointment, applicants are required to report

to the specified location on time and contact the Mobile Passport Van team present at the venue. All necessary formalities, including document verification, photograph capture and biometric processing, will be completed within the van. There will be 40 appointment slots per day during the three-day camp, which is being held from 17th February to 19th February 2026.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner assured that the district administration will extend full logistical and administrative support to ensure the smooth conduct of the camp and facilitate maximum public participation. She reiterated that such citizen-centric initiatives strengthen public trust in governance by delivering services in a timely, accountable and people-focused manner, especially benefiting residents of far-flung areas of the district.