

CM Omar reviews preparations for Kashmir Marathon

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 06

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reviewed the preparations for the third edition of the Kashmir Marathon and called for a stronger national and international outreach to attract runners from across India and abroad and establish the event as a major global sporting attraction.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the October 25 marathon, the Chief Minister directed the Tourism Department and other concerned agencies to intensify publicity for the event, including through leading running and fitness influencers.

He called for inviting prominent runners and fitness influencers to Kashmir ahead of the event to generate greater interest and build wider visibility around the marathon.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to leverage the event's substantial prize purse to attract competitive runners from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The Kashmir Marathon 2026 carries a total prize purse of ₹3.17 crore, including ₹2.11 crore for the Full Marathon and ₹1.06 crore for the Half Marathon. A dedicated J&K Local Category, with an additional prize component of ₹25 lakh, has also been introduced to encourage and recognise local talent.

To expand participation beyond competitive runners, the Chief Minister called for introducing an untimed 5K Fun Run, providing an opportunity for families, young people and amateur runners to participate in the event.

He also proposed a virtual participation of runners in Kashmir Marathon's next edition to enable runners from different parts of the country and the world to participate remotely and become part of the Kashmir Marathon experience.

Reviewing the race arrangements, Omar Abdullah directed the concerned agencies to ensure international-standard route management and clear distance marking along the Full and Half Marathon courses. He called for kilometre-wise markers throughout the routes and 100-metre markers during the final kilometre to assist runners and ensure a professionally managed race experience.

The third edition of the Kashmir Marathon, scheduled for October 25, has already attracted more than 1,400 registrations from Jammu and Kashmir, different parts of the country and international destinations. The event is recognised on the international calendar of the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS).

A three-day Marathon Expo will precede the race from October 22 to 24 at the Sports Council Ground, Poloview. Besides bib distribution and fitness-related activities, the expo will provide a platform to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's handicrafts, handlooms, horticulture and cultural heritage.

The Chief Minister directed all concerned departments and agencies to work in close coordination to ensure seamless arrangements for traffic management, route safety, medical support, public conveniences, power, water supply and other logistical requirements.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary PDD Ashwini Kumar, ACS to CM Dheeraj Gupta, ACS PWD Anil Kumar Singh, ACS Tourism Ashish Chandra Verma, Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, IGP Kashmir, Director Information, Commissioner SMC, Managing Director and CEO J&K Bank, Director Tourism Kashmir and other senior officers.

Online registration for the Kashmir Marathon 2026 is open and the participants can register through the official marathon portal.

SMC makes home composting mandatory for all its Gazetted Officers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 06

In a significant step towards strengthening source-level waste management, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has made home composting mandatory for all its Gazetted Officers, wherever practicable.

The order has been issued by Faz Lul Haseeb, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, directing all Gazetted Officers to ensure that biodegradable and wet waste generated at their residences is segregated and subjected to home composting through appropriate and scientifically suitable methods.

The initiative is aimed at reducing the quantity of wet waste requiring transportation to municipal waste-processing facilities and promoting environmentally responsible waste-management practices among the Corporation's own officers.

Under the order, officers have been directed to submit geotagged photographs of the home-composting activity as evidence of compliance within 10 days. The concerned Zonal Officers and Sectional Heads will maintain records and submit a consolidated compliance report to the Corporation.

The order also provides for verification of compliance before processing the salary of the concerned officer for the current month, subject to applicable service and financial rules.

The initiative forms part of SMC's broader efforts to promote source segregation, decentralised processing of biodegradable waste, reduction in waste transportation and sustainable waste management across Srinagar.

The move also seeks to encourage senior officers of the civic body to lead by example, demonstrating that responsible waste management must begin at the point where waste is generated.

Faz Lul Haseeb, said the initiative reflects the Corporation's commitment to making source-level waste management an integral part of everyday civic practice and to building a cleaner and more sustainable Srinagar.

Srinagar hosts workshop on RuTAGE Smart Village Centre to promote technology-enabled rural development

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 05

A workshop on "RuTAGE Smart Village Centre (RSVC)" was held today in Srinagar, with the objective of exploring technology-enabled, inclusive and sustainable solutions for rural development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop was chaired by Babila Rakwal, Administrative Secretary, Science & Technology Department.

Among others who participated included Sapna Poti, Director Strategic Alliance, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, GoI, Dr. P. R. Dhar, CEO JAKEDA and senior officers from the Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Health, Education, Tribal Affairs and others besides representatives from SKUAST-Kashmir, NABARD, J&K SRLM, universities, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), NGOs and other partner institutions.

The workshop focused on the concept of RuTAGE Smart Village Centres as platforms for convergence of technology, local resources, government programmes, institutions and community participation to address the specific needs of rural communities. The discussions highlighted the need for location-specific, need-based and technology-enabled solutions, keeping in view the diverse geographical and socio-economic conditions of Jammu & Kashmir, including remote mountainous, border and tribal areas.

Emphasis was laid on inter-departmental and institutional convergence, particularly in areas such as agriculture and horticulture, post-harvest management, food processing, storage, market linkages, rural livelihoods, women-led enterprises, skill development, renewable energy, digital connectivity, health and education. The RSVC model can provide a platform for identifying, demonstrating and taking appropriate technologies closer to rural communities.

The workshop also explored the potential of decentralized renewable and clean-energy solutions to improve the power availability in remote and underserved areas and the use of digital and technology-enabled interventions to enhance access to health and education. Discussions further highlighted how appropriate technologies can help overcome geographical barriers for tribal and remote communities while creating new livelihood opportunities.

The participants were encouraged to identify the existing schemes and programmes that could converge through RSVCs, suitable technologies and innovations, potential villages or clusters for interventions, implementation partners and measurable outcomes. Academic and technical institutions were urged to contribute through research, innovation, technology demonstration and technical handholding. The institutions such as NABARD, J&K NRLM, FPOs, PACS and NGOs can play an important role in linking technology with livelihoods and community-level implementation.

The workshop underlined that a Smart Village should not merely mean a village equipped with modern technology but one where technology improves quality of life, creates income and employment opportunities, enhances access to services, promotes local entrepreneurship, strengthens community resilience and ensures sustainable use of natural resources.

During the interactive sessions, the participants were invited to identify potential locations for RSVCs, priority thematic areas, existing schemes for convergence, suitable technologies and innovations, knowledge and implementation partners, as well as specific action points and responsibilities. These deliberations are expected to contribute towards developing a practical roadmap for establishing RuTAGE Smart Village Centres in Jammu & Kashmir.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening technology-driven rural development in Jammu and Kashmir by ensuring that innovation reaches the grassroots and technology becomes an enabler of livelihoods, essential services and sustainable community development.



Ensure timely service delivery, effective enforcement & road safety: Transport Commissioner at Rajouri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 06

Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan today chaired a joint meeting of the Motor Vehicle Department (MND) functionaries of Rajouri and Poonch here to review the functioning of the Department, including online service delivery and road safety measures in the twin border districts.

The Transport Commissioner reviewed the online services on the SARATHI and VAHAN portals and took stock of the pendency and disposal of applications.

He directed the concerned officers and officials to ensure transparency and accountability in the delivery of services. "Applications shall be processed and disposed of in a time bound manner so that the general public does not face any inconvenience," he added.

The Transport Commissioner also reviewed the causes and trends of road accidents and took stock of road safety awareness campaigns conducted in educational institutions. He emphasised the need for launching a sustained campaign to generate awareness among students and young drivers, to promote responsible road-user behaviour and reduce road accidents.

As part of the road safety review, the Transport Commissioner also inspected identified black spots along the National Highway and Mughal Road and reviewed the corrective measures.



DC inaugurates district-level workshop on VB-G RAM G Scheme at Ramban

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 06

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today inaugurated a district-level workshop on the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G), 2025 organised by the Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.

ACD Mohammad Imran Naik; Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing (REW); Block Development Officers, field functionaries were oriented by Master Trainers and Resource Persons.

They sensitised participating officials and field functionaries about the provisions, objectives and implementation framework of the newly introduced VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, and the J&K VB-G RAM G Scheme, 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner advised the stakeholders to develop a clear understanding of the new framework to ensure its effective and transparent implementation at the grassroots level. He called for coordinated efforts by the concerned departments and field functionaries to ensure that the intended benefits of the scheme reach eligible rural households and contribute towards sustainable livelihood generation and rural development.

The workshop also highlighted the transition from the earlier rural wage-employment framework towards an integrated approach aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, with enhanced focus on employment, livelihood generation and rural development.

The ACD urged the participants to utilize the opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of the provisions and implementation framework of the VB-GRAM-G Scheme. He encouraged the participants to actively participate in the sessions, seek clarifications and clear their doubts to avoid future difficulties in its effective implementation at the grassroots level.

Later, the Master Trainers and Resource Persons conducted detailed sessions on the provisions and operational aspects of the VB-G RAM G framework, besides sensitising the participants about their role and responsibilities for its effective implementation at the field level.



Karnah Admin advises residents of Dhoks, High-Altitude areas to return to villages

KUPWARA, OCTOBER 06:

In view of the adverse weather expected in the coming days, including heavy rainfall in the plains and snowfall in higher reaches, the administration of Sub-Division Karnah has advised residents still staying in Dhoks and other high-altitude areas to return to their native villages today.

People have also been advised to bring back their livestock and other domestic animals along with them, keeping in view the anticipated deterioration in weather.

Lambardars and Chowkidars of the concerned areas are coordinating the safe return of residents. The public has been requested to cooperate, and to inform the concerned Lambardar or the Office of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Karnah, about any family still staying in such areas, along with their location, so that timely assistance can be provided.

The public is urged to treat the advisory as urgent and act on it without delay in the interest of their safety.

