

3rd Edition of Kashmir Marathon: Div Com reviews Preparations

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 10

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the 3rd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon, taking stock of the arrangements being made by the nodal Tourism Department and other stakeholder departments for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Tourism, and officers from the departments of Information, PHE, KPDCL, R&B, SMC, YSS, Health, JKTDC, Hospitality and Protocol, SSCL, SRTC, Agriculture, Sports Council, LCMA, SDRF, Police, Fire and Emergency Services, and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, it was informed that the Kashmir Marathon will be held on October 25, with a three-day Marathon Expo scheduled to be organised at Polo Ground. The event has attracted significant international participation, with 67 foreign nationals from 12 countries having registered so far.

Both the full marathon, covering 42.19 kilometres, and the half marathon, spanning 21.09 kilometres, will be conducted on the same day in the morning. To ensure the safety and well-being of participants, 17 aid stations will be established along the marathon route to provide necessary assistance.

Addressing the meeting, the Div Com directed all concerned departments to nominate nodal officers to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination



and timely execution of assigned responsibilities.

Emphasising the need to enhance the visual appeal of the marathon route, he called for beautification through the placement of potted flowers. He also directed the Roads and Buildings Department to conduct a thorough inspection of the route and ensure that all potholes are filled to provide a smooth and safe running surface. The concerned authorities were further instructed to undertake the pruning of trees along the marathon loop.

Highlighting the importance of maintaining the scenic beauty of Srinagar, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need to ensure cleanliness around Dal Lake. He also directed the deployment of volunteers at appropriate locations and the establishment of medical camps with adequate staff to address any health-related emergencies during the event.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Police was directed to publicise designated parking locations well in advance to facilitate participants and ensure the smooth regulation of vehicular movement on the day of the marathon. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited were directed to ensure the proper

functioning of streetlights along the marathon route. The Sports Council was instructed to make lighting arrangements at Polo Ground for the smooth conduct of the event.

The SMC was further directed to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation along the marathon route and at the inaugural venue.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasised that close coordination among all stakeholder departments and timely completion of preparatory measures would be essential for the successful organisation of the 3rd Edition of the Kashmir Marathon.

Bhalla, Ravinder visit Mogla accident injured in GMC hospital

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Former Minister and JKPC Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Former MLC & Chief Spokesperson JKPC Mr Ravinder Sharma today visited the seriously injured persons of road accident at Mogla - Kalakote yesterday, presently undergoing treatment in Govt Medical College hospital in Jammu.

Senior Congress leaders interacted with the injured and their attendants and enquired about their response to the treatment with the concerned doctors. All four injured presently in GMC hospital Jammu are responding to the treatment and out of danger, as per doctors treating them.

They asked the hospital administration to ensure



best medical treatment to the injured.

State seva Dal Chief Vijay Sharma, Latish Sharma, Amit Mehra and Atul Sharma accompanied the senior leaders to enquire about the condition of the injured. Two persons had died while several others

were seriously injured in a road accident at Mogla-Kalakote in Rajouri district last evening. The seriously injured were referred to GMC hospital Jammu besides in other hospitals last night. Senior Congress leaders have expressed deep sympathies with the be-

reaved families of the two killed ,whose cremation took place today at Mogla .They prayed for early recovery of the injured.

They demanded that administration should immediately release adequate Ex gratia relief to the victim their families .

District Admin Budgam bids farewell to outgoing DC, ADDC, ACR

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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A farewell function was today organised at District Budgam to bid farewell to Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Vivek Agarwal, and Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Afroza Bano, on their transfer to new assignments.

The function was attended by SSP Budgam Hariprasad KK, ADC Budgam Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, and senior officers and officials of the district administration, who appreciated the dedicated services and contributions of the outgoing officers during their tenure in the district.

SSP Budgam, in his remarks, appreciated the close coordination and co-operation extended by the outgoing officers to the po-



lice administration. He said their leadership and collaborative approach contributed significantly towards strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring effective delivery of public services.

ADC Budgam appreciated the guidance and support extended by the outgo-

ing Deputy Commissioner and other officers. He said their commitment to public service, accessibility and focus on timely resolution of public issues had left a positive impact on the district administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Budgam expressed gratitude to all officers and offi-

cials for their cooperation and teamwork during his tenure. Appreciating their dedication and commitment towards official duties, he described the district administration as “one of the finest teams” he had the opportunity to work with.

“The achievements made during my tenure are a result of the collective efforts, hard work and professional commitment of the entire team. I sincerely appreciate every officer and official for their dedication, teamwork and willingness to go the extra mile in the interest of public service,” he said.

The Deputy Commissioner also lauded the contributions of ADDC Vivek Agarwal and ACR Afroza Bano, describing their support, coordination and professional commitment as valuable in carrying forward the developmental and administrative priorities of the district.

IICT offers Indigenous Design Software ‘DesignNweave’ for benefit of Stakeholders

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 10

In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening digital design capabilities in the handicraft and handloom sector, the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, under the aegis of the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has developed an indigenous design software named “DesignNweave.”

The software has been developed after more than four years of dedicated research and development by IICT, in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Sri-

nagar. While elaborating on the details of the initiative, the Director, IICT, stated that DesignNweave has been designed to be compatible with a wide range of software and hardware platforms and incorporates additional tools, commands and options aimed at enhancing the efficiency and productivity of designers and users.

He further stated that the software has been specifically developed to facilitate the creation, development and refinement of designs for carpets, Kani shawls and other handicraft and handloom products of Jammu & Kashmir. Importantly, the software also generates computerized design scripts (Talim), an indige-

nous system of Kashmir, for the execution of designs by the concerned artisans and weavers.

The initiative marks an important step towards promoting the adoption of modern digital design technologies while simultaneously supporting the preservation, development and commercial advancement of the rich traditional handicraft and handloom heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

In view of the demand from stakeholders, and with the approval of the Competent Authority of IICT, Srinagar, the Institute has fixed the cost of a Single-User Licensed Copy of “DesignNweave” at ₹20,000. The pricing has been kept affordable with

the objective of making the indigenous design software accessible to artisans, manufacturers, designers, stakeholders and Government organisations.

The Director, IICT, Srinagar, urged concerned stakeholders to avail the Single-User Licensed Copy of DesignNweave from the Institute at the nominal approved cost and utilise the software for improving design development, productivity and overall efficiency.

The initiative is expected to provide stakeholders with a modern, indigenous and sector-specific digital design solution while contributing to the continued growth and competitiveness of Jammu & Kashmir’s traditional handicraft and handloom sector.

SEHW Mission Shakti Budgam Celebrates World Mental Health Day with focus on Women’s Mental Health

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The Social Welfare Department, through the SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (SEHW), Mission Shakti, Budgam, organised an awareness programme to commemorate World Mental Health Day at the Meeting Hall of the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Budgam.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about mental health, particularly the emotional well-being of women, and to encourage a supportive and empathetic approach towards mental health challenges.

The programme was organised around the theme “Mental Health of Women: Hear Her, Help Her, Heal Together,” highlighting the importance of listening to women’s concerns, recognising their emo-

tional needs, and ensuring timely support and care.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Masroofa Majeed, who emphasised the significance of creating awareness about mental health and promoting an environment where individuals, especially women, feel comfortable discussing their emotional and psychological concerns without fear of stigma or discrimination.

Afroza Ahad, District Mission Coordinator, SEHW, Mission Shakti, Budgam, reiterated the commitment of Mission Shakti, Budgam, towards continued awareness initiatives for women’s empowerment, emotional well-being, and access to support services.

Officials from the Social Welfare Department, also addressed the gathering and

highlighted the importance of collective efforts in promoting mental well-being, strengthening support systems, and ensuring that women facing emotional distress receive appropriate guidance and assistance.

Dr. Tauseef Amin from the Health Department delivered an informative session on “Mental Health of Women: Hear Her, Help Her, Heal Together.” He highlighted the various factors affecting women’s mental health, including family responsibilities, social pressures, work-related stress, and other challenges encountered at different stages of life. He emphasised the importance of early identification of mental health concerns, emotional support, professional counselling, and timely medical intervention wherever required. He also encouraged participants to

break the stigma surrounding mental health and to foster a culture of empathy, understanding, and compassion.

The programme underscored that mental health is an integral part of overall well-being and that women’s concerns must be heard, acknowledged, and addressed with sensitivity. It also reinforced the need for families, communities, and institutions to work together to create a safe and supportive environment for women to seek help without hesitation.

The observance served as a meaningful reminder that mental health deserves the same attention as physical health and that listening to women, supporting them in times of distress, and working together towards their well-being are essential steps towards building a healthier and more inclusive society.

Zila Sainik Welfare Office Kupwara organises Udyam Jagriti Programme to promote entrepreneurship

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Zila Sainik Welfare Office, Kupwara, in co-ordination with District Administration, organised an Udyam Jagriti Programme at the Townhall, Kupwara to create awareness among ex-servicemen and their dependents about Mission YUVA, PMEGP and other government initiatives aimed at promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship.

The programme was presided by Gulzar Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Kupwara and witnessed the participation of the District Employment Officer and his team, representatives from Mission YUVA and the District Industrial Promotional

Officer who interacted with the participants and provided valuable guidance on various avenues and self-employment.

Col SS Raja, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer highlighted that ex-servicemen possess immense potential to contribute to economic development owing to their leadership qualities, discipline and commitment. Their transition from military to civilian life presents an opportunity not only to secure their own future but also to create employment opportunities for others.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC emphasized the importance of promoting entrepreneurship and self-reliance among ESM and their dependents.

The participants were encouraged to explore the valuable opportunities, and

take advantage of government schemes like Mission YUVA to establish sustainable livelihood ventures.

During the programme, the Mission YUVA team disseminated information regarding opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs while the District Employment Officer and his team highlighted avenues for employment generation and the support available to eligible beneficiaries.

The participants were encouraged to adopt the vision of “Job Providers rather than Job Seekers” and utilize government schemes to establish small businesses, service enterprises and other income generating activities.

Such initiatives can help veterans and their dependents stand on their own feet, achieve financial sta-

bility and contribute to the socio-economic upliftment of the district.

The Zila Sainik Welfare Office urged ex-servicemen and their dependents to actively explore the opportunities available under Mission YUVA, PMEGP and other self-employment schemes and transform their aspirations into sustainable enterprises, thereby contributing to self-reliant community and a prosperous society.

The programme concluded with the shared commitment of the Zila Sainik Welfare Office and the District Administration towards empowering Ex-servicemen and their dependents through entrepreneurship, self-employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities.