



Kashmir Hosts its First-Ever International Marathon

Why in News?

Recently, Kashmir added another achievement by hosting its **first-ever international marathon in Srinagar**, attracting over 1,700 runners from **across India and 12 foreign countries**.

- The total registrations included 469 runners for the 42-km full marathon and 666 for the half marathon, with **participants from nations such as Kenya, Denmark, Norway, and the UAE**.

Key Points

- The marathon served as a platform not only for showcasing sporting prowess but also for **promoting the region's rich cultural heritage, handicrafts, and famous cuisine on a global scale**.
- The restoration of peace and harmony has played a key role in enabling the area to host major international events such as [G20 meetings](#), **Formula-4 races**, and [International Yoga Day](#), highlighting the region's growing capability to attract global attention and participation.
 - To showcase the potential of J&K as a destination for tourism and investment, the **government hosted the [G20 Tourism Working Group](#)** meeting in Srinagar.
 - This was the **first significant international event in J&K** to integrate the region with the rest of the country and the world.
 - The city **hosted its first-ever Formula-4 racing event**, with the aim of promoting tourism and providing diverse career opportunities for local youth.
 - Prime Minister **celebrated the 10th International Day of Yoga in Srinagar**, emphasising yoga's global impact on health and societal harmony.
- The government **has also hosted other business meetings in J&K** to attract investment and promote industrial development.
 - In June 2022, the government also held a [Global Investors Summit in J&K](#), which witnessed participation from more than 200 domestic and foreign companies.
 - The summit **showcased various sectors and opportunities** for investment in J&K, such as agriculture, [horticulture](#), handicrafts, tourism, IT, [renewable energy](#), etc.
- These events have **demonstrated the government's commitment to boost the economy and livelihood of J&K**. They have also helped to change the global perception of J&K as a conflict-ridden region and highlight its potential as a peaceful and prosperous destination.