

Div Com appreciates Directorate of Tourism Jammu for Successful National Rafting Championship at Doda



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 22

The four-day 6th National Rafting Championship, titled "The Ultimate River Battle," concluded today with a grand ceremony at Shibnote (Premnagar), Doda.

The ceremony was attended by the Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, DDC Chairperson Doda Dhananter Singh Kotwal, Municipal Commissioner Jammu Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, SSP Doda Sandeep Kumar, ADC Doda Roshan Lal, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, CO, ACR Doda, SDM Thathri, CEO BDA, Joint Director Tourism along with officers from various departments, representatives of the Rafting Federation J&K, Team SDRF J&K, Chenab Rescue teams, Municipality officials, locals and visiting tourists.

Addressing the gathering, the Divisional Commissioner congratulated all participating teams and appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders for making the event a grand success. He lauded the Directorate of Tourism for promoting adventure tourism in the

Chenab Valley and highlighted the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's commitment to strengthening tourism across the Jammu Division.

He emphasized that destinations such as Guldanda, Bhaderwah and Jai Valley possess natural beauty comparable to the Kashmir Valley and noted that ongoing infrastructure development, including new roads and tunnels, will significantly improve connectivity and reduce travel time to these picturesque locations. He further informed that 75 tourist destinations have been identified by the Directorate of Tourism, including several in Doda and Bhaderwah, where new events and tourism initiatives will be promoted.

The Divisional Commissioner Jammu also encouraged the promotion of local culture, folk dances and traditional music to provide the youth with platforms to showcase their talent and generate employment opportunities. He congratulated the BSF men's and women's teams for winning top honours in the championship and appreciated the role of the Police and security agencies in ensuring smooth and secure conduct of the event.

DDC Chairperson, Dhananter Singh Kotwal, in his address, acknowl-

edged the efforts of Deputy Commissioner Doda for encouraging both officials and locals to successfully host such large-scale events across the district. He also appreciated the Directorate of Tourism and District Administration Doda for identifying new adventure tourism sites and promoting youth participation. Highlighting developmental achievements, he stated that 31 new roads were inaugurated in recent months, improving rural connectivity and benefiting local communities. He noted that such events generate livelihood opportunities for unemployed youth and requested the Directorate of Tourism to organize more events during the summer season as well. He also expressed gratitude to the security forces for their support and protection.

Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta expressed gratitude towards District Administration Doda, and all stakeholders for ensuring the smooth conduct of the championship. He informed that while five previous rafting championships were organized in Reasi, hosting the sixth edition in Doda marked a significant step in expanding adventure tourism across the Chenab region. He encouraged local youth interested in rafting to connect with the Directorate

of Tourism, assuring necessary permissions and institutional support to promote adventure activities.

He further announced that events like Sarthal Winter Festival and the Shibnote Rafting Championship would be incorporated into the official tourism calendar.

Upcoming tourism projects for Guldanda and Padri along with a proposed Winter Carnival in Guldanda, were also highlighted as key initiatives aimed at boosting regional tourism.

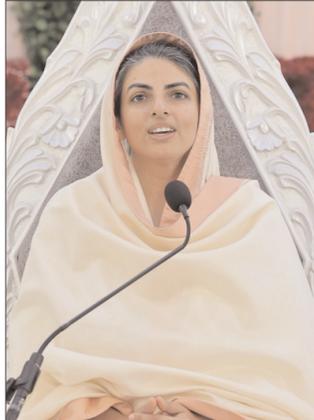
During the ceremony, dignitaries distributed mementos and cash prizes to winners of the rafting championship, including marathon and sprint events, securing first, second and third positions.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, DDC Chairperson, Municipal Commissioner Jammu Dr. Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioners of Doda and Reasi, Director Tourism, SSP Doda, CO and other dignitaries undertook a rafting expedition from the scenic rafting site of Shibnote (Premnagar) to Karara, covering an approximate distance of 15 kilometres, showcasing the immense adventure tourism potential of the Chenab River stretch.

The championship was held from February 19 to February 22, 2026 and was organized by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with the District Administration Doda, attracting participants, tourists and adventure enthusiasts from across Jammu & Kashmir and various parts of the country.

A vibrant musical programme was also organised yesterday at Bhaderwah by the Directorate of Tourism in collaboration with the District Administration Doda, which was attended by all dignitaries, officers, participants, locals and tourists, adding a cultural highlight to the celebrations.

'Devotion should not remain confined to words; it must be reflected in actions'



A view of Sant Nirankari Sewa Dal launching cleanliness drive at Jammu.

NEW DELHI, FEB 22: Water is a priceless gift of nature - the foundation of life and the lifeline of human civilization. When water remains clean and protected, it strengthens not only the environment but also the collective health and balance of society. With this vision, a large-scale campaign for the selfless cleaning and conservation of natural water sources - rivers, ponds, lakes, and seashores - has become a source of inspiration for people across the nation. This initiative is not limited to cleanliness alone; it conveys a powerful message of awareness, responsibility, and collective participation. The fourth phase of the 'Clean Water, Clean Mind' campaign was successfully conducted under the guidance of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji across more than 1,600 locations in 930 cities spanning 25 states and Union Territories of India. Nearly 1.2 million volunteers participated in this initiative. Organized under the aegis of

Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation, the social wing of the Sant Nirankari Mission, and inspired by the teachings of Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj, this "Project Amrit" reflects a collective commitment toward water conservation, cleanliness, and environmental balance. The project encourages humanity to become more sensitive toward nature and reinforces the importance of protecting natural resources.

At a special Satsang held at Burari Chowk, Ground No. 8, Delhi, Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, in her divine discourse, said that Baba Ji's teachings are not merely to be remembered but to be practiced in daily life. She emphasized that true tribute is paid not through words, but through actions. If we consider ourselves his followers, we must introspect whether we are truly embodying values such as love, service, compassion, and equality in our lives. Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj dedicated his entire life to the welfare of

humanity. He taught that service (Seva), remembrance (Sumiran), and spiritual congregation (Satsang) form the foundation of life. Devotion should not remain limited to speech, but must be visible in conduct - this was his clear message.

In Jammu the campaign was held at Shri Radha KRISHNA Mandir Channi Dilli early in morning and commenced with a prayer hymn by the Sevadal, filling the entire atmosphere with spiritual energy.

Across the country, strict adherence to safety, discipline, and cleanliness guidelines was ensured, reflecting the Mission's organized and value-driven approach. Undoubtedly, the message of 'Clean Water, Clean Mind' is not merely a campaign, but a philosophy of life - one that seeks to purify not only the flow of water but also the depths of human consciousness. This spirit will lay the foundation for a balanced, secure, and sustainable future for generations to come.

Keshav Chopra organises Duggar de Rattan Awards



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The Samvedna Society, under the leadership of its Chairman Keshav Chopra, organized the prestigious Duggar De Rattan Awards 2026 at Jammu to celebrate excellence and dedication across diverse spheres of society. The event recognized the invaluable contributions of individuals from various fields, including senior Dogri artists, singers, choreographers, dancers, outstanding sportspersons, social activists, Jagran

committees, influencers, vloggers, and self-help groups of women.

Deepak Dubey (JKAS), Joint Director Information, and Brijesh Sharma (JKPS), Superintendent of Police Jammu Rural (promoted to SSP), jointly presented the awards to the achievers, appreciating their tireless efforts in promoting culture, art, and social development.

In his remarks, Deepak Dubey commended the initiative of the Samvedna Society and said that such platforms inspire individuals to continue serving society with passion and

commitment. He emphasized that honoring grassroots contributors strengthens the cultural fabric of the region and motivates the youth to follow the path of positivity and purpose.

Speaking on the occasion, Brijesh Sharma lauded the event's spirit of inclusivity, stating that recognizing people from varied walks of life showcases the unity and diversity of Duggar culture. He also praised the organizers for their consistent role in uplifting local talent and spreading awareness on social issues. Chairman Ke-

shav Chopra expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, especially Director tourism Jammu, guests, and participants for their support. He emphasized the importance of cultural preservation and social responsibility, calling the awardees the true gems of our region. He urged everyone to work collectively to combat drug abuse and promote a healthier, value-driven society.

Gagan Sharma Social Activist (Special Guest), Vinay Muni (Special Guest), Rajat Sharma Social Activist (Special Guest), Deepak Kumar Singer (Kishore Kumar of Jammu), Janashree Anju Chopra, Rahul Nargotra, Sourav Gupta, Manoj Tandon, Vikas Kumar, Geeta Sodhi, Abhishek Sharma and several others were also present.

Senior Anchor Kusum Tikoo managed the proceedings of the programme. The event concluded with a cultural presentation highlighting the rich Dogra heritage, leaving the audience inspired by the spirit of unity, talent, and service.

CCF Jammu tours Nowshera Forest Division

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A tour programme was conducted today by the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department in Nowshera Forest Division under the leadership of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Dr. V. S. Senthil Kumar.

He was accompanied by the Conservator of Forests, West Circle, Rajouri, Sat Paul.

The visit was undertaken in connection with the Khair Awareness and assessment Programme for formulation of the next ten-year Khair Management Plan with the proposed felling cycle from 2027-28 to 2036-37.

In Nowshera Forest Division, the Chief Conservator of Forests visited Sunderbani Range along with the Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera, Shweta Deonia, DCF accompanied with field functionaries and staff of the department.

An interactive session was held with local farmers of 35 Villages and other stakeholders like Ex-PRI Members, prominent villagers regarding the forthcoming ten-year Khair Management Plan wherein farmers are at the centre stage for Khair trees assessment in their private land holdings and the data proposed by them will be used for formulation of Khair



Management Plan to be implemented from 2027-28 to 2036-37.

ADC Sunderbani, Ramkesh Sharma along with other revenue officers/officials was also present on the occasion. The field staff distributed Khair Assessment Forms among the farmers to facilitate systematic data collection and ensure participatory plan-

ning.

On the occasion, Dr. V. S. Senthil planted a sapling in Nagar Van Charnote, symbolizing the department's commitment towards environmental conservation and promotion of indigenous species.

The Chief Conservator of Forests emphasized the importance of scientific assessment, transparency in

management practices and active community participation to ensure sustainable management of Khair resources and long-term ecological balance.

The programme concluded with directions to the field functionaries for timely completion of the assessment process and effective coordination with local stakeholders.

Rwanda IT Minister calls on Dr Jitendra, discusses next-generation sectors

NEW DELHI, FEB 22:

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today said India is ready to deepen its engagement with Rwanda in emerging technologies, innovation ecosystems and next-generation sectors including AI, biotechnology, and nuclear energy, as the two countries explored a structured framework for bilateral cooperation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh held a bilateral meeting with Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT and Innovation, Government of Rwanda at Seva Teerth in New Delhi. The Rwandan delegation included Jacqueline Mukan-



gira, High Commissioner of Rwanda to India; Esther Kunda, Director General for Innovation & Emerging Technologies, Ministry of ICT & Innovation; Olivier Twagirayezu, Director, AI Scaling Hub, Rwanda Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR); and Emile Mwepesi, Second Counsellor, Rwanda High Commission, New Delhi.

Recalling the long-stand-

ing and cordial ties between the two countries, Dr. Jitendra Singh said India's engagement with African nations in science and technology has steadily expanded under the India-Africa Forum Summit framework. He appreciated Rwanda's selection as the first country to implement the Technology Transfer Programme for Africa and referred to the successful India-Rwanda Innovation

Growth Programme (IRIGP), which has served as a model for similar collaborations across the continent.

The Minister shared that India today hosts the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, which has become a major driver of economic growth and employment generation. Over the past decade, India's performance in innovation and emerging technologies has accelerated significantly, with rapid advances in artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, space applications, and deep-tech research.

He said India now follows an open and collaborative approach, bringing together government institutions, private industry, startups, academia, and international partners.