

Jammu Tourism organises 6th National Rafting Championship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Doda, on Saturday kick-started the Chenab Challenge - 6th National Rafting Championship at Shibnot in Doda.

The inaugural event was flagged off by Harvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Doda, in the presence of Sandeep Mehta, SSP Doda; Aijaz Qaiser, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu; Pankaj Sasan, Deputy Director Tourism (Administration), Jammu; Arif Lone Seth, Assistant Director Tourism, NHW-Batote; and Rajesh Raina, Assistant Director Tourism, Katra, along with senior officers of the Tourism Department and District Administration.

The championship commenced with the Marathon category, covering the stretch from Shibnot to Karara, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from 13 rafting teams representing different parts of the country. The event drew significant attention from adventure sports enthusiasts and local spectators alike, underlining the vast potential of the Chenab River stretch for hosting national-level rafting competitions. The national level event is organised on the directions of Additional chief secretary Tourism Ashish Chander Verma, and supervised by Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu.



DC Doda, Harvinder Singh flagging off 6th National Rafting Championship at Shibnot.

Speaking on the occasion, Harvinder Singh, lauded the Tourism Department for conceptualising and organising a high-value adventure tourism event in the Chenab Valley. He emphasised the importance of sustainable tourism practices, ensuring minimal environmental impact while promoting adventure sports, and highlighted the responsible utilisation of natural river resources.

Aijaz Qaiser, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, thanked the District Administration Doda for its unwavering support and stated that active community participation in Doda remains central to the Department's vision of long-term, eco-friendly tourism development in the region. He also expressed gratitude to the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K, Jammu Adventure Sports Association, and the Indian Rafting Federation for their support in successfully organising the event.

A special mention was made of the three women teams participating in the championship, whose enthusiastic involvement reflects growing inclusivity and the increasing presence of women in competitive rafting at the national level. The Chenab Challenge - 6th National Rafting Championship will conclude on February 22, 2026, with the Sprint category followed by the Valedictory Function.

KCIS shines at Annual Sports Meet 2025-26: A triumph of spirit, strength, sportsmanship

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: KC International School (KCIS) proudly hosted its much-awaited Annual Sports Meet 2026 with immense zeal and grandeur on the school premises.

This vibrant event celebrated the strength, stamina, sportsmanship, and indomitable spirit of our young athletes, fostering unity and healthy competition.

The occasion was graced by Chief Guest Mandeep Singh, Professor, Directorate of Physical Education, University of Jammu, Guests of Honour included Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, Technical Director, Asian Kabaddi Federation and General Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Kabaddi Association, and Rajesh Dhar, Member of JKCA.

Special Guest Deepak Khajuria, a renowned journalist, added prestige to the gathering. The distinguished attendees also featured Mr. Chaitanya Chowdhary, President, KCIS; Aryaman Chowdhary, Member of Management; Anupama Sinha, Principal. The programme kicked off



Winner team posing with faculty.

with a warm welcome address by Ms. Roma Gupta. It began auspiciously with the ceremonial Lighting of the Torch by Vice Sports Captain, Adhrit Raj Baru, followed by a melodious Welcome Song and an energetic Welcome Dance performed by enthusiastic students. A major highlight was the impressive March Past by the four houses-Ruby, Emerald, Topaz, and Sapphire-alongside NCC Cadets and Bloomings, showcasing impeccable discipline and unity. Sapphire House clinched the Best March Past House Trophy, while the NCC Boys Cadet earned top honours

in the NCC contingent. Synchronized PT Display and Yoga Presentation further demonstrated coordination, flexibility, and poise. The sports arena buzzed with excitement through a diverse lineup of races and events for students from Pre-Primary to Senior Secondary, including 100m, 200m, 400m, relay races, slow cycle race, and hurdle race. Fun-filled Parents' Race and Teachers' Race injected joy and strengthened school-family bonds. A nail-biting Tug of War between teachers and parents sparked roaring cheers from the crowd. In the Overall

Championship, Ruby House emerged as proud Champions, with Sapphire House securing the Runner-Up Trophy. The Chief Guest lauded the students' spirited performances and commended the school's commitment to physical fitness and holistic development. Anupama Sinha, Principal, extended heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries, parents, staff, and students for making the event a resounding success. The day concluded on a patriotic high with the National Anthem, capping off a dynamic celebration of sportsmanship, unity, and youthful energy.

J&K Handball Association felicitates Anuj Langer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir's talented handball player Anuj Langer has once again made the region proud with his outstanding performance at the Handball Pro League, Nagpur.

Earlier, Anuj was selected to participate in the prestigious Handball Pro League (HPL).

2026 South Asia's biggest and India's first professional handball league where he represented the Bhilai Battalion team. His selection was based on performance, trials, and official auction, marking a significant milestone in his sporting career.

Continuing his excellent form, Anuj recently participated in the Handball Pro League, Nagpur, where players from different states and regions came together, forming teams and competing at a professional level. Representing Bhilai Battalion, Anuj played a crucial role as the team secured Second Position, proudly winning the Silver Medal.

This achievement highlights not only Anuj's dedication and hard work but also the growing presence of Jammu & Kashmir athletes on national platforms. The Jammu & Kashmir Handball Association (JKHA) felicitated Anuj Langer for his remarkable achievement and for bringing pride to the Union Territory. His success serves as an inspiration to young sportspersons across the region.

Army commander inaugurates 'Banwat Ekta Sthal' near LoC in Poonch



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Saturday inaugurated the 'Banwat Ekta Sthal' -- a public monument symbolising national pride and sovereignty -- near the Line of Control in Poonch district.

The project was completed in a record 45 days and features a towering 105 feet National Flag, the tallest in Poonch district, a defence spokesman said.

Located barely two km from the LoC and set against the scenic backdrop of Pir Panjal ranges, the site is expected to attract tourists from within the country and outside, thereby boosting local employment and encouraging small businesses in the Bandi Cheehiyani village and surrounding areas, the spokesman said.

Apart from the national flag, the facility includes a children's park for recreation, and an 'Ekta Mandap' to promote peace and mental well-being.

The spokesman said the initiative underscores the Army's commitment to nation-building, community development and strengthening unity in border areas.

Through such efforts, the Army seeks not only to safeguard the nation's frontiers but also to bring border communities closer to the national mainstream, he said.

The inauguration coincided with the unfurling of the Tricolour, along with the organisation of a medical and blood donation camp, the spokesman said.

Educational kits were distributed among children, blankets were provided to the needy, and sanitary pads were given to women as part of an outreach programme, he said.

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Prime Minister

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

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Delhi-Meerut

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along with the inauguration of Namo Bharat section from Sarai Kale Khan to New Ashok Nagar in Delhi (5 km) and Namo Bharat section from Meerut South to Modipuram (21 km) and

Inauguration of Meerut Metro

Meerut South to Modipuram (21 km)

— By —

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

— In the august presence of —

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Brajesh Pathak
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Jayant Chaudhary
Minister of State (Independent Charge), Skill Development & Entrepreneurship; MoS Education, Govt. of India

Pankaj Chaudhary
Minister of State, Finance, Govt. of India

Dharmpal Singh
Minister, Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development and Political Pension, Uttar Pradesh

Dinesh Khatic
Minister of State, Jal Shakti, Uttar Pradesh

Somendra Tomar
Minister of State, Energy & Additional Sources of Energy, Uttar Pradesh

Harikant Ahluwalia
Mayor, Meerut

Gaurav Chaudhary
Chairman, District Panchayat, Meerut

Arun Govil
MP, Meerut

Chandan Chauhan
MP, Bijoor

Dr. Rajkumar Sangwan
MP, Baghpat

Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai
Member, Rajya Sabha

Amit Agarwal
MLA, Meerut Cantt.

Ghulam Mohammad
MLA, Siwalkhas

Dinesh Kumar Goel
MLC

Shrichand Sharma
MLC

Ashwini Tyagi
MLC

Dharmendra Kumar Bhardwaj
MLC

and other dignitaries

Date: 22nd February, 2026
Time: 1:00 PM

For the first time in the country, Integrated infrastructure development
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Venue: Rally Ground,
Mohiuddinpur, Meerut

Namo Bharat

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