



Chinar Boat Race | Jammu & Kashmir | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the famous **Chinar boat race 2024** was organised in Jammu and Kashmir's [Dal Lake](#) by the Indian Army.

Key Points

- **About the Race:**
 - The [Indian Army](#), in collaboration with **White Globe NGO** and the [Lake Conservation and Management Authority \(LCMA\)](#), successfully organised the **Chinar Boat Race 2024**.
 - A total of **60 boats competed enthusiastically**, reflecting the vibrant cultural traditions of Kashmir.
- **Winners and Awards:**
 - **First Prize:** Cash prize of Rs 10,000 and a trophy.
 - **Second Prize:** Rs 7,500.
 - **Third Prize:** Rs 5,000.
 - **Consolation Prizes:** Distributed to the top 20 participants to recognise their efforts.
- **Purpose and Message:**
 - The event celebrated the **rich culture and tradition of Kashmir**.
 - It highlighted the **importance of protecting Kashmir's water bodies**, especially **Dal Lake**.
 - Fostered a **sense of community through traditional sports**, promoting ecological health.
- **Army's Role in J&K:**
 - The Indian Army continues to organise sports and cultural events to **strengthen ties with the local population**.
 - These efforts **enable the Army to serve the community effectively** during [natural disasters](#) like [earthquakes](#) and [floods](#).
 - Such events **inspire local youth to pursue honourable professions**, including joining the Army.

Dal Lake

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- It is a lake in **Srinagar, the capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).**
- It is one of the **world's largest natural lakes and the second largest lake in J&K.**
- It is integral **to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel”.**
- It is also **an important source for commercial operations in fishing and water plant harvesting.**
- It covers an **area of 18 square kilometres and is part of a natural wetland including its floating gardens.**
 - The **floating gardens**, known as **“Raad”** in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers during July and August.

Chinar Tree

- **About:**
 - The Chinar, also known as the **Oriental plane**, is a **large, deciduous tree** that is native to the **Western Himalayas and is a symbol of Kashmir.**
 - It is an important part of **Kashmiri culture and tradition.** There is a Chinar tree in almost every village in Kashmir, and the **oldest Chinar in Kashmir is over 600 years old.**
- **Appearance:**
 - The Chinar tree has **maple-like leaves** that are **deep green in the summer and change to red, amber, and yellow in the fall.** It has a spreading crown and flaking bark.
- **Uses:**
 - The leaves and bark of Chinar are used for **medicinal purposes.**
 - The wood, also known as lacewood, is used to make **fine furniture.**
 - Twigs and roots are used to make **fabric dye.**

Public Durbar in Kathua | Jammu & Kashmir | 25 Nov 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Union Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions](#) conducted a "Public Durbar" in block Marheen, **district Kathua of Jammu and Kashmir**.

- It is part of his outreach initiative, in which he **directly engaged with the public to address their issues and concerns**.

Key Points

- **Outcomes of the Public Durbar:**
 - Several **issues raised by individual citizens and delegations** were **resolved on the spot**.
 - Instructions for immediate action in several other cases were issued.
 - **This marked the third Public Durbar held in different parts of Kathua district** in recent months, showcasing sustained public engagement.
- **Commitment to Public Service:**
 - It was emphasized that **elected leaders must address genuine public needs** while reassuring citizens that their concerns are valued and heard.
 - Such events **bridge the gap between the public and administration**, fulfilling the government's promise to serve citizens effectively.
- **Focus of the Government:**
 - **Serving** common citizens.
 - Reducing public inconvenience.
 - **Delivering services at citizens' doorsteps** to enhance their ease of living.
 - **Rising above narrow considerations** of politics, caste, creed, and region.
- Guided by the motto of **Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**, Public Durbars are used as a **platform to connect with citizens**, ensuring their issues are addressed comprehensively.

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