



4th KASHMIR CUP International Rafting Championship

16th - 22nd August 2015
River Sindh, Sonamarg J&K India

To all Rafting Teams, Managers.

We would like to inform you that the 4th KASHMIR CUP International Rafting Championship – 2015 which will be held on the waters of river Singh, Sonamarg, J&K India and the proposed dates are from 16th – 22nd August 2015.

This letter contains all the necessary information for teams to assist with their planning for the event.

RIVER SINDH, SONAMARG J&K

The Sindh is a river in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir state of India. It is a major tributary of the Jehlum River and is 108 kilometres long. The Sind River forms the Sind Valley. The source of the river lies in Machoi Glacier at an elevation of 4800 metres, east of Amarnath temple south of Zojila pass. It flows through Panjtarni (a camping site of Amarnath yatra) southwards up to Domail where it joins a tributary which doubles its flow from Kolahoi Glacier. It flows mostly westwards along with NH 1D and is fed by many glacial streams on its way to Ganderbal town. At Kichpora Preng it is fed by Wangath river which flows down from the Gangabal Lake. The major tributaries of the river are:

- Amarnath stream,
- Kolhoi Gar
- Shitkadi Nallah,
- Gund Nallah,
- Surfraw Nallah and
- Wangath Nallah.



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It is navigable from Ganderbal town onwards as the waterflow slows down. It joins the Jehlum River at Shadipora.17 kilometres northwest from Srinagar city. The Sind River passes through a famous alpine hill station known as Sonamarg where river rafting tournaments on the river are being organised almost every year by the Tourism Department of Jammu and Kashmir. It is the only river in Jammu and Kashmir on which three hydroelectric power plants are functional. The waters of the river are used for irrigation by way of different canals and for domestic use after going through water treatment plants.

SONAMARG J&K

Sonamarg, which means ‘meadow of gold’, has, as its backdrop, snowy mountains against a cerulean sky. The Sindh meanders along here and abounds with trout and mahseer, snow trout can be caught in the main river. In late April when Sonamarg is open for road transport, the visitors can have access to snow which is furnished all over like a white carpet. Ponies can be hired for the trip up to Thajiwas glacier a major attraction during the summer months. However, there is need for some stricter regulation to save the environment of the area from over tourism. Litters such as plastic bottles, etc., are strewn all over along the track.

The climate of Sonamarg is very bracing; but the rainfall is frequent though not heavy, except for two or three days at a time in July and August with fine spell in between. From Sonamarg, trekking routes lead to the Himalayan lakes of Vishansar Lake, Krishansar Lake, Gangabal Lake and Gadsar Lake, stocked with Snowtrout and Brown trout and Satsar, glacier-fed and surrounded by banks of alpine flowers.

A close by excursion is to Baltal, 15 km East of Sonamarg. This little valley lies at the foot of the Zojila, only a day's journey away from the sacred cave of Amarnath is a base camp for Amarnath yatra. Trekkers can also reach the starkly splendid roof-top of the world Leh, by crossing over the Zoji La pass.

At Sonamarg the Jammu and Kashmir tourism department is organising river rafting tournaments yearly, which has recently seen the participation of teams abroad. A large number of Hindi movies have been pictured in the serene beauties of Sonamarg.



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Invitation to the teams

We would like to invite all teams, international as well as domestic, States of India, Armed forces, Para military forces, Universities and Private Clubs to send their top teams to race on this event.

We would be having a total of 15 teams including 5 International teams.

Equipment

The identical NRS 14-ft rafts will be provided for racing. Teams are responsible for having their own paddles, life jackets and helmets (in accordance to IRF rules) and paddling gear. You can expect the weather with temperatures within 10°C - 25°C Remember that you will be in mountain area with sudden climatic changes (temperature can drop down to 03°C at night).

Lodging & Boarding:

All the lodging and boarding arrangements will be made to the participants during the entire championship by the event organizers and the transportation of rafts/ equipment & other logistics would also be taken care of.

Liaison:

The international teams from abroad would be assisted by the officials of Tourism Department at Delhi Airport and they would be assisted to fly into J&K and one Liaison officer would be deputed with them from arrival till departure from J&K.

Reimbursement:

The teams from abroad would be reimbursed by the Department of Tourism Kashmir for their travelling expenses to the extent of INR Rs 2.00 Lacs (\$3100 aprox) per team or the actual fares whichever is less.

Team sponsorship

Teams are allowed to secure team sponsorship from other organizations.

Team sponsors may brand on side of helmets (15 cm x 5 cm), paddles (20 cm x 20 cm), shirt-sleeves (12 cm x 6 cm on both shoulders / upper arm) and paddle shorts (no restrictions) on the river and on all clothing off-river.

Training

There are many stretches of technical whitewaters on river Sindh with rapids of grade 2-4.



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Authorisation: All Teams Participating in The International / National Rafting Championships will carry an authority letter from their Formation Headquarters, The total number of Team Members should be (6 + 1) and 1 Manager/Coach.

Competition: The 4th Kashmir Cup event is an open championship. The competition will be conducted strictly according to the rules of IRF and the Head of the Jury will be assisted by jury members, Start Judges, Finish Judges, Gate judges etc.

Since the National Championship has not been conducted in India, jeopardising the representation of India in World Cup, thus it has been decided that this event will also serve the purpose of IRF NATIONAL SELECTION for the domestic teams who would represent India in the World Cup in Indonesia

Team Banner/Flag: Each team must carry their own Flag / Banner. T Shirts, Caps and Track suits to be provided by their Institutions.

Hire of Raft for Training: If any team wants to hire rafts before the championships from the white water Rafting Association / J&K Tourism the cost would be Rs. 3000 per raft per day and any damage to the equipment would be borne by the team.

Registration: The Registration of the teams shall be done after arrival and the forms including the indemnity bond/ Undertaking shall have to be filled by the Individuals/Teams at the venue and an entry fee of Rs. 10000/- will be charged per team.

Travel insurance: It is recommended that all participants to opt for travel and Accident insurance, including medical cover, before leaving for the International Rafting Championships.



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Equipment: The organizers will provide 4.25M self-bailing rafts. Competitors should have their own paddles, life jackets, helmets, and knife, throw bag and personal clothing etc. The temperature of water is cold so you may require to wear wetsuits.

Inscription fee: Rs. 5000/- Includes rafts for competition.

Spectators + Team managers, TV Crews, Journalists, friends and lovers of adventure.

All are welcome to come with your team, having a special status during 4th Kashmir Cup international Rafting Championships 2015, getting the same treatment as team members.

PROGRAM

Sunday, 16th August, 2015

Arrival of Teams in Srinagar
Transfer to Sonamarg
Accommodation in camping
Registration of teams, Briefing about the Area etc.
18:30 Technical Meeting
20:00 Dinner

Monday, 17th August, 2015

07:00 : Breakfast
09:00: Briefing about the championship & river.
12:00 : Practice sessions
18:30 : Technical Meeting
20:00 Dinner

Tuesday, 18th August, 2015

07:00 : Breakfast
08:00 : Practice sessions
12:00 : Lunch
13:00 : OPENING CEREMONY
18:30 : Technical Meeting
20:00 Dinner



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Wednesday, 19th August, 2015

07:00 : Breakfast
08:00 : Time Trials SPRINT
12:00 : Lunch
13:00 : Head to Head
16:00 : Setting up of Slalom Course & Practice
18:30 : Technical Meeting

Thursday, 20th August, 2015

07:00 : Breakfast
08:00 : Slalom Round I
12:00 : Lunch
13:00 : Slalom Round II
16:00 : Identification of Down River Stretch to teams
18:30 : Technical Meeting
20:00 : Dinner

Friday, 21st August, 2015

07:00 : Breakfast
08:00 : Marathon Down River Race.
12:00 : Lunch
14:00 : Closing Ceremony, Awards, Prize Giving etc
18:30 : Free time

Saturday, 22nd August, 2015

07:00 : Breakfast
09:00 : Departure of teams



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The event is a unique chance to visit one of the best Whitewater River's in India. Please let us know if you have any further questions and we will be happy to assist you.

Looking forward to meeting you in Sonamarg, Kashmir and Happy Rafting!

With best wishes,

Shaukat Putoo

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Jammu & Kashmir

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