

## **Snow Leopard Cultural Expo 2025 Successfully Organized by Indian Army assisted by Nyoma Youth Association at Nyoma, Changthang**

Nyoma, 16th September 2025 – In a remarkable celebration of local heritage, the Indian Army organized the Snow Leopard Cultural Expo 2025 at Nyoma, the heart of the majestic Changthang region. The one-day event was held on 16th September 2025 and aimed to promote and preserve the rich and unique cultural identity of the Changthang region, while also fostering a stronger connection between the local community and the Indian Army.

The Officiating Commander of 254 Snow Leopard Brigade, Brigadier Amish Rastogi, graced the event as the Chief Guest. The cultural expo provided a vibrant platform to showcase the traditions, handicrafts, cuisines, and lifestyle of the Changthang nomadic communities, which are deeply rooted in history but are at risk of gradual fading due to modernization and environmental challenges.

An impressive exhibition was set up at the venue, displaying an array of local products such as handwoven woollen carpets, traditional dresses, handcrafted jewelry, and other artisan-made items unique to the region. In addition, local foods, which reflect the flavors and simplicity of high-altitude life, were available, offering visitors an authentic taste of Changthang's culinary heritage.

The Snow Leopard Cultural Expo 2025 holds deep significance, especially in the context of preserving and promoting the culture of one of India's most remote and ecologically sensitive regions. Changthang, located in the eastern part of Ladakh, is not only known for its breathtaking landscapes and wildlife—like the elusive snow leopard—but also for its nomadic pastoral communities whose way of life has remained largely unchanged for centuries.

This event served multiple important purposes. First and foremost, it strengthened the bond between the Indian Army and the local population by showcasing the army's role in supporting and uplifting local traditions while contributing to sustainable development in this harsh and challenging terrain. The interaction created an atmosphere of mutual respect, where the Army's efforts to protect the region's biodiversity and ensure the safety of border areas were complemented by active cultural preservation.

Secondly, the expo offered an opportunity for local artisans and producers to present their work to a larger audience, potentially opening doors for new markets and sustainable income sources. Such initiatives are critical for the socio-economic development of the region, empowering local communities while ensuring that their cultural practices are not lost.

Moreover, the event raised awareness about the importance of conserving the snow leopard and its fragile ecosystem. The snow leopard, a symbol of the region's pristine wilderness, is currently listed as vulnerable due to habitat loss and climate change. By naming the brigade after the majestic animal and organizing such cultural programs, the Indian Army emphasizes its commitment to ecological conservation alongside national security.

The event concluded with a cultural performance, where local artists enthralled the audience with traditional dances, songs, and storytelling that reflected the life and aspirations of Changthang's people.

In summary, the Snow Leopard Cultural Expo 2025 was not just an exhibition but a beautiful confluence of tradition, culture, and modern responsibility. It stood as a testimony to how efforts in preserving cultural heritage can go hand in hand with national service, sustainable development, and ecological conservation.



