

Darjeeling's First-Ever 'Doko Trail Run' Scheduled



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Rajahatta, Darjeeling: The quiet hamlet of Rajahatta Khasmahal in the Darjeeling hills is preparing to host its inaugural 'Doko Trail Run' on Sunday, November 2, 2025, an event that promises to unite sport, tradition, and regional camaraderie.

Organized by the Rajahatta Explore Group, the event draws participants from across India and South Asia, with registrations now open both online and offline. The registration fee is Rs. 1700. Interested runners may register online via the Explore Group's Facebook page, or offline at Anand Chettri's shop in 8th Mile Bazaar or through RJ Samir, Program Coordinator at Radio Salesian.

At the heart of this initiative is Radio Salesian 90.8 FM, Darjeeling's pioneering community radio station, whose involvement has brought new momentum and visibility to the event. From broadcasting runner stories and youth reflections to sharing logistical updates across hard-to-reach hill communities, the station serves as a key enabler of regional participation and pride.

"As a community radio, we believe in amplifying grassroots voices. The Doko Trail Run reflects the resilience of our people, and Radio Salesian is honored to walk—and run—with them," says RJ Samir.

The race takes its name from the 'doko'—a handwoven bamboo basket carried on the back with the support of a namlo. Long used in the hills for transporting goods, the doko is a symbol of the endurance and spirit of ethnic communities including the Gorkha, Lepcha, and others. The event's title aims to honor this cultural heritage.

According to Mr. Pratap Rai, General Secretary of the Explore Group, "The Doko Trail Run is not just a sporting event, but a message—a call to our youth to uphold the values of perseverance, community, and cultural pride."

To boost cross-border participation, runners from Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Siliguri, and the Terai-Dooars belt will receive a 50% discount on food and accommodation.

For more information and regular updates, well-wishers are encouraged to follow the Explore Group's and Radio Salesian's social media platforms.

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