

## Rehabilitation programme at Pancheshwar by ranching fish seed of mahseer and snow trout

ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand organized a rehabilitation programme for the greatest game fish mahseer (*Tor putitora*) and indigenous fish snow trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*) by releasing 1000 numbers of their young ones at the confluence of rivers Saryu and Mahakali at Pancheshwar, Champawat district of Uttarakhand on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 under the ICAR-Agri CRP National Network of Germplasm Conservation Programme. The programme was scheduled on the occasion of an International Angling Event, based on 'catch and release technique' held during 24-26<sup>th</sup> October 2016, and jointly organized by Uttarakhand Tourism and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd., at Pancheshwar, the place with a reputation of being a popular destination for avid anglers in search of mahseer. The rehabilitation of fish seeds of golden mahseer and snow trout was witnessed by the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary cum MLA, Champawat Assembly Constituency Sri Hemesh Kharkwal ji, alongwith dignitaries Admiral (Retd.) Sri D.K. Joshi, General Manager, KMVN Ltd., Mr. T.S. Martuliya, eminent journalists from BBC, Etv, Aaj Tak, Dainik Jagaran and anglers and stakeholders from various regions of the country and abroad. ICAR-DCFR, Bhimtal initiated to undertake the seed ranching activity at Pancheshwar with an objective to increase the population of these fishes in its natural habitat and also to conserve the germplasm from extinction, which was successfully carried out by Dr. R.S. Patiyal and Dr. Deepjyoti Baruah, Sr. Scientists of the institute. The seeds of the fishes were procured from the stock produced at the institute's hatchery complex for release at this world known place of the country viz., Pancheshwar-a home of these native fishes.



**Fig.1:** A discussion with Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary Sri Hemesh Kharkwal ji on the importance of seed ranching programmes of native fishes mahseer and snow trout by ICAR-DCFR scientist



**Fig.2:** A batch of seed of mahseer and snow trout released by Hon'ble Parliamentary Secretary Sri Hemesh Kharkwal ji at the confluence of river Saryu and Mahakali at Pancheshwar.



**Fig.3:** Another batch of seed release of mahseer and snow trout by Admiral (Retd) D.K. Joshi and avid anglers at Pancheshwar.



**Fig.4:** A 30 lb size of mahseer caught and released in river Mahakali at Pancheshwar by an avid angler during the International Angling Event.