



CM Omar assures full government support to safeguard Kashmir's cricket bat industry

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 27

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting and strengthening Kashmir's iconic cricket bat industry, asserting that it is the government's responsibility to ensure the traditional sector not only survives but flourishes for generations to come.

Interacting with members of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association at the Hallamulla Sangam Industrial Estate here, the Chief Minister said the government would take all necessary steps to address the concerns of manufacturers, particularly regarding the sustainable availability of willow wood, uninterrupted power supply, infrastructure support and ease of doing business.

Responding to the concerns raised by the association, the Chief Minister said that immediate steps were necessary to safeguard the cricket bat industry, adding that preserving traditional industries was as important as attracting new ones.

Describing the cricket bat industry as one of Jammu and Kashmir's unique strengths, Omar Abdullah said it is backed by locally available raw material, skilled craftsmen and a well-established market across the country and abroad.

The Chief Minister said that the industry possessed all the strengths needed to succeed, including locally available raw material, skilled workers and a ready market, and that the government was committed to ensuring its continued growth.

Addressing the key concern of shrinking willow resources, the Chief Minister observed that the demand for scientific



willow plantation was reasonable and that continuous harvesting without replantation posed a serious threat to the industry's future.

Drawing examples from international best practices, he said the government would promote systematic replantation of willow trees to ensure a continuous and sustainable supply of raw material.

He added that the government would ensure systematic replantation of willow trees and examine improved varieties to secure a sustainable supply of raw material.

The Chief Minister also assured the manufacturers that the government would take effective measures to curb illegal movement of willow clefts by strengthening monitoring mechanisms and checkpoints.

Responding to demands for better infrastructure, Omar Abdullah said a proposal for improving electricity supply to the industrial estate would be prepared and taken up with the Power Development Department for approval.

He further assured that workers employed in the industrial estate would be provided better medical support in case of accidents and that

the demand for a fire and emergency unit would also be addressed.

On the proposal for revival of Common Treatment Facility Centre in the vicinity, the Chief Minister asked the Industries Department and the local MLA to jointly examine the requirement and identify a suitable location for the facility.

He also directed the Industries Department to simplify procedural requirements and remove unnecessary bottlenecks to facilitate the smooth functioning and expansion of the cricket bat industry.

He said that the government's objective was to ensure the sustained growth of the cricket bat industry and reaffirmed its full support for the sector.

Later, the Chief Minister visited a cricket bat manufacturing unit in the industrial estate, where he observed the intricate process of cricket bat production from willow clefts to finished bats. He interacted with workers and artisans engaged in various stages of manufacturing, appreciating their craftsmanship and contribution to preserving Kashmir's globally acclaimed cricket bat industry. The Chief Minister also enquired about

their working conditions and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening the sector through sustained policy support and improved infrastructure.

Earlier, members of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association highlighted several issues before the Chief Minister, including sustainable willow plantation and availability of raw material, allocation of compartments for willow harvesting, uninterrupted 24x7 power supply with an essential feeder to the industrial estate, establishment of a permanent Fire and Emergency Services unit, medical facilities for workers in case of accidents and measures to check illegal movement of willow clefts.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment Javed Ahmed Rana, MLA Bijbehara-Srigufwara Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Director Industries Kashmir, Chief Executive Officer JKBCWWB, Director Rakhs and Farms, Director Handloom and Handicrafts, representatives of the Cricket Bat Manufacturers Association and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav wins silver after record-breaking duel with Nigerian at CWG

GLASGOW, JULY 27:

Weightlifter Gyaneshwari Yadav continued India's medal rush, clinching a silver as records were broken left, right and centre in a riveting women's 53kg competition at the Commonwealth Games here on Monday.

The 23-year-old from Bhondiya village in Chhattisgarh totalled 199kg (88kg snatch + 111kg clean and jerk) but Nigeria's Onome Omolola Didih stole the show with a stunning 206kg (93kg + 113kg), rewriting both the Commonwealth and Commonwealth Games records to take the gold.

What unfolded on the weightlifting platform was an absorbing duel between two young lifters refusing to blink. Almost every successful attempt forced officials to scramble for a new Games record as Gyaneshwari and Didih traded blows in a contest that kept the packed arena on its feet.

Gyaneshwari was elegance personified in the snatch. All three of her lifts were clean, composed and almost effortless, the bar travelling overhead in one smooth motion as she stayed firmly in touch with the Nigerian.

The clean and jerk, how-



ever, turned into a spectacular game of one-upmanship.

The Indian ignited the contest by lifting 107kg, setting a new Commonwealth Games record. The applause had barely subsided before Didih marched onto the platform and erased it with

110kg.

Gyaneshwari refused to surrender. Egged on by Indian supporters, she dug deep to hoist 111kg, reclaiming the Games record. WorldNews Section

The lead, though, lasted barely a minute.

Didih coolly called for 113kg, completed the lift and once again sent the record books into revision, sealing the gold in the process.

It is the fourth weightlifting medal for India at the CWG and fifth medal overall.

India's Aditya wins his first international race at Sepang International Circuit

SEPANG

(MALAYSIA), JULY 27:

Indian racer Aditya Patnaik emphatically won the Sporting Class at Round 3 of the Gold Vios Championship Malaysia at the iconic Sepang International Circuit late on Sunday night. Aditya collected an impressive 15,000 MYR as prize money.

The Mumbai-based youngster came third in Race 1 and then followed that up with a win in Race 2, to seal the top spot on the podium for Round 3. This is his maiden international car racing victory in his first year of International Car Racing, after graduating from the Polo Cup India as the Vice-National Champion, 2 years in a row, according to a press release.

Aditya from Rayo Racing, driving for former F1 Racer - Alex Young's Team Axle Sports, could only manage fourth in qualifying. Rain and changing weather conditions made qualifying a real tricky affair for the 21-car grid in the Sporting Class.

Race 1 saw Aditya lose some positions in the opening laps as the front bunch of cars ran up to 4 cars wide in the first few corners. The former Indian National Karting Champion then had an intense wheel-to-wheel battle with Malaysia's Taj Aiman. However, it was Lew Xuan Yan who won ahead of



Aiman and Aditya.

The Top 8 finishers of Race 1 get reversed for the start of Race 2. Aditya's third place finish meant he had to start sixth. A good start by Aditya saw him gain some positions and by Lap 3 he was in third place.

A brief safety car period ensued and once racing resumed, Aditya gained once more to move into second. A mighty battle followed with Adam Mikail and Aditya eventually got the better of him to gain the race lead. Aditya then pulled away and opened a lead, but the safety car was deployed once again. Aditya held on to bag his maiden international win,

ahead of Mikail and Ariff Azmi.

"Race 1 was entirely a wheel-to-wheel battle, and Race 2 turned into my best race of the year -- fighting and earning the lead for the win was a great feeling," conceded Aditya Patnaik, according to the release.

"Aditya has proved himself in all categories he has raced. From Karting to Formula Cars and now the Vios Challenge, in his very first season of International Racing," said Saurav Bandyopadhyay, CEO of Rayo Racing who was accompanying and coaching Aditya in Malaysia.

Former Malaysian F1

racer, Alex Young added, "Despite racing in Malaysia for the first time, Aditya adapted very quickly. It has been a pleasure to work with him. His win today was well deserved and a result of all the hard work he puts in."

Aditya, Champion of the FMSCI National Karting Championship in 2023, had a horrific high-speed accident during a single seater race last year. He broke his arm and required surgery, which kept him out of racing for 2 months. He has bounced back with a strong international season. With one round left in the Championship, Aditya lies third with 88 points. (ANI)

J&K player to lead in Mixed Disability Cricket Series against England

NEW DELHI, JULY

27: The Differently Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI) has announced a 16-member Indian squad for the upcoming Mixed Disability Cricket Series against England, scheduled to be played from August 5 to August 19 across England.

Majid Ah Magray has been named captain, while Sai Akash Saivamani will serve as the vice-captain, according to a press release.

India will begin the seven-match IT20 series with the opening two matches at OurCoop County Ground, Derby, on August 5 and August 7, followed by the third IT20 at Uptonsteel Grace Road, Leicester, on August 9. The fourth match will be played at the County Ground, Hove, on August 12, before the action shifts to Arundel for the fifth and sixth IT20s on August 15



and August 16, respectively.

The series will conclude with the seventh and final IT20 at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground on August 19. All matches are scheduled to begin at 2:30 PM local time. DCCI Secretary Ravi Kant Chauhan said, "Majid Magray's appointment as captain is a proud moment not only for Jammu & Kashmir but for the entire differently abled

cricket fraternity. His leadership will inspire many aspiring cricketers from the region to pursue the sport with greater confidence and determination."

DCCI Vice President Sumit Jain said, "I wish the entire team and support staff a successful tour and hope they inspire many more aspiring differently abled cricketers through their performances."

The Indian Mixed Disability Cricket Team is currently undergoing a preparatory training camp at Chhawla, near Dwarka, New Delhi, as part of its preparations for the upcoming Mixed Disability Cricket Series against England.

The support staff for India's Mixed Disability Cricket Series against England will be led by former Rajasthan Ranji captain Rohit Jhalani, who has been appointed as the Head Coach. He will be assisted by Dev Dutt as Coach, while Rohit Sharma will serve as the Fielding Coach. Ramswaroop Saini has been named the Strength & Conditioning Coach, and Mayank Pushkar will accompany the team as the Physiotherapist, ensuring the players are in peak physical condition throughout the tour.

CWG 2026: Weightlifter Bindyarani Devi clinches Bronze in Glasgow, takes India's medal tally to 6

GLASGOW [SCOTLAND],

JULY 27: Indian weightlifter Bindyarani Devi added another Commonwealth Games medal to her collection after securing bronze in the women's 58kg category at the 2026 edition in Glasgow on Monday.

The 27-year-old from Manipur produced a determined performance in a fiercely contested final, finishing behind Nigeria's Rafiatu Folashade Lawal, who claimed gold with a record-breaking total, and Canada's Ann Sophie Taschereau, who won silver, according to ESPN.

Bindyarani began her campaign strongly in the snatch section after the

coaching staff reduced her opening attempt from 85kg to 83kg. She completed the lift comfortably before successfully clearing 85kg on her second attempt. She then lifted 87kg in her final snatch attempt, finishing level with England's Eliza Pratt but staying ahead on countback.

Entering the clean and jerk section, Bindyarani faced a tough challenge from her rivals. She initially attempted 110kg but the lift was ruled a no-lift after a review due to an elbow buckle during the jerk. Refusing to be affected, the Indian returned for her second attempt and successfully lifted 112kg, taking her total to 199kg and moving



into the silver medal position at that stage. TrendingVideos

Bindyarani later attempted 116kg in search of a personal best and a higher finish but could not complete the lift. Her total of 199kg was enough to secure bronze as Nigeria's Lawal dominated the competition with a Games record total of 229kg, while Taschereau finished second with 215kg.

The Glasgow medal marked Bindyarani's second Commonwealth Games podium finish after she won silver in Birmingham in 2022. Her achievement was even more significant after she battled a knee injury in

2023 and navigated changes between weight categories, moving between 55kg and 58kg divisions.

Bindyarani Devi's bronze has taken India's tally to five medals, alongside one medal in para powerlifting. India has now secured six medals at Glasgow 2026 -- one gold, three silver and two bronze. The medallists are Jhandu Kumar (bronze, para powerlifting), Rishikanta Singh (silver, weightlifting), Mirabai Chanu (gold, weightlifting), Muthupandi Raja (silver, weightlifting), Gyaneshwari Yadav (silver, weightlifting) and Bindyarani Devi (bronze, weightlifting).