

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

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Congratulations to Dilip Mahadu Gavit on winning the Gold Medal and Mohammed Basil Morsinganakath on securing the Silver Medal in the Men's T47 100m para athletics event at the Commonwealth Games 2026.

Srinagar • Friday 31, July 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 182 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 2/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Centre Committed To Develop Unexplored Tourist Destinations: GoI



SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday said it is committed to the planned and sustainable development of unexplored tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district through eco, border, adventure and community-based tourism.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, said the development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, while the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under schemes such as Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) and PRASHAD.

He said the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department has undertaken and proposed tourism infrastructure projects in Kupwara district involving an estimated investment of over Rs 58 crore.

According to the Minister, the projects include the development and upgradation of Tourist Facilitation Centres, Tourist Reception Centres, tourist huts, guest houses, interpretation centres, cafeterias, public convenience facilities and other eco-tourism infrastructure.

The works are planned across destinations including Teetwal, Keran, Karnah, Machil, Lolab, Bangus, Zachealdara, Langate and Handwara, he added.

Shekhawat said the Union Territory administration has also launched

Amarnath Yatra

Over 5,200 Pilgrims Visit Cave Shrine, Total Crosses 4.46 Lakh



UMAISAR GULL

SRINAGAR: On the 28th day of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 5,211 pilgrims paid obeisance at holy cave shrine, nestled in Himalayas, taking the total number of devotees who have completed the pilgrimage to 4,46,788 (Four lakh forty six thousand seven hundred and eighty eight)

According to figures available, 3,766 men, 1,160 women, 126 children, 22 sadhus, 14 sadhvis, five transgender

devotees, two foreign women pilgrims and 116 security personnel had darshan on Thursday.

The pilgrimage is now on the verge of crossing the 4.5 lakh mark despite weather-related disruptions and temporary suspension on several occasions due to landslides and restoration works along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 1,795 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas

in Jammu for the Baltal base camp in the early hours of Thursday under stringent multi-layer security arrangements.

According to details, the 23rd batch departed at 2:44 am in a convoy of 83 vehicles, comprising 41 buses, 11 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 30 light motor vehicles (LMVs) and one two-wheeler.

The batch included 1,406 male pilgrims and 389 female pilgrims, while no

Lying Face-Down For 415 Days
UP Man Takes Up Extraordinary Journey To Amarnath Shrine

UMAISAR GULL

QAZIGUND: A devotee from Uttar Pradesh undertaking the annual Amarnath Yatra reached Qazigund on Thursday, marking the 415th day of his extraordinary pilgrimage while travelling face-down on a thermocol sheet instead of walking.

Sunil, a resident of Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh, has been on the pilgrimage for the past 13 months, performing a Dandavat Yatra to the holy Amarnath cave shrine. Instead of walking, he moves forward inch by inch while lying flat on a thermocol sheet, a unique act of devotion that has drawn the attention of thousands of pilgrims and commuters along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

After reaching

Met Predicts Wet Weather Across J&K Till Aug 7



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely to continue across Jammu and Kashmir till August 7, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warning of brief intense heavy showers, torrential rain, flash floods and landslides in vulnerable areas of the Jammu division over the next few days.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said that one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at most places on July 31, mainly during the afternoon/evening and early morning hours. The weather office said a few places in the Jammu division could witness brief intense heavy showers or torrential rain.

On August 1, scattered places across the Union Territory are likely to receive a spell of light rain or brief thundershowers, accompanied by isolated intense showers.

The Met office has forecast light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places from

J&K Gets 2 Cold Chain Projects Under PMKSY Worth ₹18.15 Crore

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir has received two approved and operational cold chain projects under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) during the last five years, with a total project cost

of Rs 18.15 crore and government grant-in-aid of Rs 7.46 crore, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

According to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, J&K has 11 completed/operational projects under the

THE PILGRIMAGE IS NOW ON THE VERGE OF CROSSING THE 4.5 LAKH MARK DESPITE weather-related disruptions and temporary suspension on several occasions due to landslides and restoration works along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

Commuters Advised To Avoid Travel
Jammu-Srinagar Highway To Remain Closed Today

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

UDHAMPUR: The administration has ordered a complete suspension of traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on July 31 (today) to facilitate slope stabilisation and restoration works on the vulnerable Udhampur-Chenani stretch near Ladha, Samrol.

The order, was issued by the Additional District Magistrate, Udhampur, following a request from the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI),

PIU Ramban.

The NHAI reported that continuous rainfall since July 18 has triggered repeated landslides, mudslides and falling debris along the affected hillside, posing a serious threat to commuters and restoration workers.

According to the order, although two-way traffic has been restored after widening the valley-side carriageway, permanent slope stabilisation and widening of the hill-side carriageway require the deployment of heavy machinery



603 Deaths This Year So Far

J&K Road Fatalities Rise From 774 In 2021 To 984 In 2025

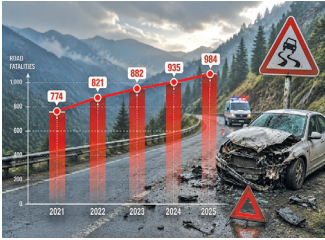
Pedestrian Deaths Surge From 101 To 477 In 4 Years

RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5,452 road accidents and 774 deaths in 2021, with fatalities rising to 984 in 2025, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways revealed in the Lok Sabha. Till July 27, 2026, the Union Territory witnessed 3,269 accidents, 603 fatalities, and 4,775 injuries.

The ministry furnished detailed data on road accidents, fatalities, and injuries in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in response to a question raised by Lok Sabha member Shyamkumar Daulat Barve.

According to the ministry's reply, Jammu and Kashmir



recorded 5,452 road accidents, 774 fatalities, and 6,972 injuries in 2021; 6,092 accidents, 805 fatalities, and 8,372 injuries in 2022; 6,298 accidents, 893 fatalities, and 8,469 injuries in 2023; 5,808 accidents, 831 fatalities, and 7,820 injuries in 2024; and 5,318 accidents, 984 fatalities, and 7,594 injuries in 2025. Till July 27, 2026, J&K had recorded 3,269 accidents, 603 fatalities, and

4,775 injuries.

For Ladakh, the ministry reported 236 road accidents, 56 fatalities, and 242 injuries in 2021; 374 accidents, 62 fatalities, and 346 injuries in 2022; 289 accidents, 59 fatalities, and 340 injuries in 2023; 264 accidents, 61 fatalities, and 323 injuries in 2024; and 287 accidents, 71 fatalities, and 503 injuries in 2025. Till July 27, 2026, Ladakh recorded 235 accidents, 39 fatalities, and 368 injuries.

On pedestrian casualties, J&K recorded 101 fatalities and 754 injuries in 2021, 131 fatalities and 1,108 injuries in 2022, 158 fatalities and 1,264 injuries in 2023, 144 fatalities and 1,245 injuries in 2024, 477 fatalities and 1,715 injuries in 2025, and

CS Takes Stock Of PMAY-U Housing Schemes For Urban Poor

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, took a comprehensive review meeting of the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to evaluate the implementation of housing schemes for the urban poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Managing Director, J&K Housing Board; Director General, Codes; Chief Town Planners of Jammu and Kashmir; representatives of J&K Bank and other senior officers.

While speaking the Chief Secretary observed that access to affordable housing



is one of the most fundamental aspirations and essential needs of every family, particularly those belonging to the urban poor. He noted that for economically weaker households, a significant share of their income is often consumed in meeting housing-related expenses, leaving limited resources for other basic necessities.

He said that the PMAY-Urban serves as a transformative social welfare initiative by providing secure and dignified housing

J&K Records 1,109 Highway Accidents, 206 Deaths In 2026: Centre

Ladakh Records 119 Road Accidents, 17 Fatalities, 177 Injuries On National Highways

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 1,109 road accidents on National Highways in 2026, in which 206 people lost their lives, and 1,658 others were injured, according to data tabled by the Centre in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The figures, released by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, are based on information available with the government for National Highways and expressways. The ministry said the 2026 data has been sourced through the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) portal and may be subject to further reporting.

The data, accessed, indicates a steady decline in the number of reported road accidents in the Union Territory over the past five years. While



2,378 accidents were recorded in 2022, the number came down to 2,342 in 2023, 2,120 in 2024 and 1,867 in 2025 before dropping to 1,109 this year.

Fatalities, however, showed a mixed trend. Road accident deaths stood at 259 in 2022, rose to 294 in 2023, dipped to 271 in 2024, increased sharply to 431 in 2025 and declined to 206 in 2026.

According to the ministry, 17 victims killed in National

Highway accidents this year were below 18 years of age. Another 25 were in the 18-25 age group, while 40 fatalities were reported among those aged between 25 and 35 years.

The data further showed that 29 people aged 35-45 years, 28 in the 45-60 age bracket and 12 above 60 years died in highway accidents during the year. The age of 55 victims could not be ascertained.

The ministry also shared

details of the implementation of the PM-RAHAT (Road Accident Victims' Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) scheme, under which 472 claims were initiated by hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir till July 28.

Of these, 51 claims have been approved by the State Health Authority, while 43 have been settled. The annexure placed before Parliament showed no disbursement amount against the settled claims in the Union Territory.

In neighbouring Ladakh, 119 road accidents on National Highways claimed 17 lives and left 177 people injured during 2026. Under the PM-RAHAT scheme, all 12 claims initiated in the Union Territory were approved and settled, although the amount paid was listed as nil.

At the national level, the ministry said

J&K Gets Rs 10,528 Cr For National Highways In 2023-24: Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir was allocated Rs 10,528 crore and the entire amount was utilised for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs) during 2023-24, while Ladakh received an allocation of Rs 658 crore, of which the entire amount was also spent, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Responding to an unstarred question on financial assistance for construction of inter-State bridges and roads of economic importance, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkari, said NH works, including inter-State bridges and economically important roads, are taken up based on traffic density, connectivity requirements, road condition and synergy with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

For J&K, the allocation for NH development stood at Rs 10,331 crore in 2024-25, against expenditure of Rs 10,204

'518 Lakes Disappeared Or Shrank In J&K'

Centre Says CAG Assessment Based On Satellite Imagery



RAJA SYED

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Thursday said the assessment cited in the CAG report that 518 out of 697 lakes in Jammu and Kashmir had disappeared or reduced in size was based on satellite imagery and was indicative in nature, and did not by itself constitute conclusive evidence of permanent disappearance, shrinkage, encroachment or unlawful conversion of wetlands.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, in its reply to a starred question in the Lok Sabha, said the assessment was based on an inventory of water bodies

prepared by the Department of Environment & Remote Sensing, Jammu & Kashmir, using LISS-III satellite imagery with an approximate spatial resolution of 23 metres. It said such datasets provide preliminary technical information for administrators and researchers and indicate changes in water spread or land cover, but cannot independently establish substantial changes.

The ministry, said conclusions regarding disappearance, shrinkage, encroachment or unlawful conversion require correlation with land records, cadastral maps, notified wetland

Acting CJ leads plantation drive at HC under “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” campaign



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Under the patronage and guidance of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Kumar, a vigorous plantation drive was organized Thursday at the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu Forest Division, Jammu under the campaign “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam”.

The event was attended by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Sanjay Parihar, who actively participated in the plantation drive by planting saplings of various medicinal and ecologically significant tree species, including Rudraksh, Putranjiva and Sita Ashok. The initiative was aimed at promoting a cleaner, greener and healthier environment while encouraging collective responsibility towards preserving nature for the

benefit of future generations.

M. K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Officers of the Registry of the High Court, Nirmal Kotwal, President, Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Pardeep Wahule, Conservator of Forest, East Circle, Members of the Executive Committee and the members of Bar Association also participated in the plantation drive.

On the occasion, Om Parkash Vidyarthi (Retd. IFS) delivered a tree talk highlighting the medicinal and religious significance of various tree saplings planted during the plantation drive. Drawing upon his vast experience in forestry and environmental conservation, he highlighted the unique characteristics and traditional importance of Rudraksh, Putranjiva and Sita Ashok.

Speaking on the occasion, Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar, emphasized the vital role of affor-

estation in mitigating the climate change, enhancing biodiversity and fostering ecological balance. He stressed upon the importance of community participation in environmental protection and the collective endeavour to build a sustainable future.

Following the plantation drive, the Acting Chief Justice, Judges of the High Court, accompanied by Dr. Devansh Yadav Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation and other officers of the High Court Registry, visited the public utility facility recently constructed by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) near the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu.

The Acting Chief Justice appreciated the initiative undertaken to enhance sanitation and public convenience. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the facility in a clean, hygienic and functional condition for the benefit of all stakeholders and visitors to the Court.

DC Kulgam reviews ULBs functioning, ongoing developmental projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Thursday reviewed the functioning of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the district, including Municipal Council Kulgam, Municipal Committees of Devsar, Yaripora and Frisal.

Detailed discussions were held on sanitation, solid waste management, revenue generation, civic amenities, and the progress of various ongoing developmental works of ULBs of the district.

The meeting assessed the status of major developmental projects under MC Kulgam, including the establishment of the vending zone at Kulgam, development civic works at Ziyarat Sharief at Kulgam, creation of on-street parking near District Hospital, and other infrastructure works.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to strengthen monitoring



mechanisms, improve service delivery, address operational issues on priority, and ensure timely completion of all developmental projects while maintaining quality standards.

A detailed review of the Solid Waste Management system was also undertaken, including the operationalization of trommel machines and corresponding substantial increases in user charges.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure optimum utilization of available infrastructure and uninterrupted operation of facilities for scientific processing, segregation and disposal of municipal solid waste.

He emphasized achieving 100 percent door-to-

door waste collection, strengthening source segregation, ensuring timely transportation of waste and proper waste disposal, and maintaining regular monitoring for improved sanitation and environmental sustainability.

The progress of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) project at Yaripora, which is nearing completion, was also reviewed. The Deputy Commissioner discussed the proposal for installation of a trommel machine at the Yaripora SWM facility and directed the concerned officers to expedite the necessary formalities for its establishment at the earliest to further strengthen the district's solid waste management infrastructure.

Drugs & Food Control Organisation J&K intensifies Market Surveillance

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major initiative to strengthen post-market surveillance of medicines, the Drugs & Food Control Organisation, J&K conducted a special sampling drive across the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara to ensure that only safe, efficacious and quality medicines are available to patients.

The special drive with more than 30 inspections in medical sale establishments was carried out by teams of Drugs Control Officers from the three districts, with a focused strategy of lifting statutory drug samples of medicines manufactured by various lesser-known pharmaceutical companies.

13 samples have been drawn for detailed quality testing and dispatched to notified Government Drug Testing Laboratories to ascertain their compliance with the prescribed quality standards under the Drugs

and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules.

During the drive, operation of one chemist M/s Aleena Medicate, near Jawaharilal Nehru Memorial Hospital, Rainawari, was suspended for one day, for absence of qualified person.

The drive forms part of the Department's intensified market surveillance programme aimed at proactively monitoring the quality of medicines available in the supply chain. By targeting products manufactured by lesser-known companies, the department seeks to strengthen regulatory oversight and ensure that medicines reaching the public conform to established standards of safety, efficacy and quality.

Khalid Jahangeer, Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, reiterated that the Department remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that every patient in the Union Territory has access to

safe, effective and quality medicines. He said that surveillance and enforcement activities will continue to be intensified across Jammu and Kashmir and warned that stringent action under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act will be taken against any manufacturer, distributor or retailer found dealing in drugs that fail to meet prescribed quality standards.

The special drive was conducted under the overall supervision of Rajesh Kumar, State Drugs Controller, J&K, who stated that the Department has adopted a robust risk-based surveillance mechanism to safeguard public health. He emphasized that regular statutory sampling, rigorous quality testing and continuous market monitoring are essential to maintain the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain and protect patients from substandard or non-compliant medicines.

DDC Baramulla chairs 3rd District Level Review Meeting

Calls for timely completion of Development Projects, strengthened Public Service Delivery

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid, Thursday chaired the 3rd District Level Review Meeting at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla to undertake a comprehensive review of the functioning of various departments, assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and evaluate the implementation of key government schemes and flagship programmes across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Uri, Pattan and Gulmarg, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Superintending Engineers of R&B, Power Development Department (PDD),



Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control Departments, besides other district and sectoral officers.

At the outset, the DDC reviewed the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken during the previous District Level Review Meeting. He directed all departments to ensure prompt compliance with the directions already issued and instructed officers to closely monitor the progress of pending issues so that targets are achieved within the prescribed timelines.

A detailed sector-wise review of departmental performance was conducted during the meeting.

The DDC reviewed the functioning of the Health, Education, Jal Shakti, Public Works (R&B), Power Development Department, Rural Development, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare, Revenue, Industries & Commerce, Employment, Skill Development and other line departments. Department-wise progress was assessed with regard to implementation of developmental projects, expenditure under various components, achievement of physical targets, service

delivery mechanisms and public grievance redressal.

During the review, Dr. S.F. Hamid directed all departments to intensify field monitoring, conduct regular inspections of ongoing works and ensure that developmental projects are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising quality. He stressed the importance of maintaining transparency, improving inter-departmental coordination and resolving bottlenecks promptly to avoid delays in execution. He also instructed officers to ensure optimum utilisation of available resources and focus on achieving tangible outcomes for the benefit of the public.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of District Capex, UT Capex and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) besides assessing the progress under RDSS, PM Surya Ghar, NABARD-funded projects, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Catch the Rain, Financial Inclusion initiatives, Mission YUVA, Holis-

tic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKICP, PMGSY, AMRUT, PMAY (Urban & Rural), Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban & Rural), MGNREGA, District Skill Development Programmes, District Mineral Fund and various Self Employment Schemes.

The DDC directed the concerned departments to expedite implementation, ensure effective utilisation of funds and extend the benefits of these schemes to all eligible beneficiaries in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Reviewing the progress under the AMRUT Scheme, the concerned engineers informed the meeting that suitable locations have been identified for the construction of Overhead Tanks (OHTs) at various places in Sopore. The DDC directed the executing agencies to complete all statutory and procedural formalities on priority and ensure that construction works are taken up at the earliest to strengthen drinking water infrastructure and improve water supply in the town.

AANITS Hails Appointment of Prof. Anurag Misra as Director NIT Srinagar

AZHAR HAJINI

SRINAGAR: The REC/NIT Srinagar Alumni Association (AANITS) has welcomed the appointment of Prof. Anurag Misra as the Full-Time Director of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, describing it as a landmark moment in the institute's journey towards academic excellence and institutional growth.

In a statement issued here, the Association extended its heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Misra and expressed confidence that his vast academic and administrative experience would usher NIT Srinagar into a new era of innovation, research, global collaboration and academic distinction. AANITS President Er. Malay Chatterjee said the alumni fraternity across the globe warmly welcomes Prof. Misra's appointment and looks forward to working closely with the institute under his visionary leadership.

“The appointment of a full-time Director brings renewed direction and stability to our alma mater. We are confident that



Prof. Misra will lead NIT Srinagar towards greater academic excellence, cutting-edge research, stronger industry partnerships and enhanced global visibility.

The alumni community stands firmly committed to supporting every initiative aimed at the growth of the institution,” he said. Vice President Er. Sayyed Parvez termed the appointment a positive development for the institute and hoped that the new leadership would further strengthen student welfare, infrastructure development and alumni engagement.

“A vibrant partnership between the institute and its alumni can significantly contribute to NIT

Srinagar's continued progress. We look forward to meaningful collaboration in advancing the institute's national and international standing,” he added. General Secretary Er. Irfan Bashir Ashai said the alumni association is optimistic that Prof. Misra's tenure will promote a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship and academic excellence while fostering stronger institutional connect with alumni spread across the world.

Additional Secretary, Publicity & Media Affairs, Er. Farhan Manzoor Shah, said the appointment has generated a renewed sense of optimism among the alumni fraternity. “The alumni of NIT Srinagar see this appointment as the beginning of a new chapter for our institution. We are confident that under Prof. Anurag Misra's dynamic leadership, NIT Srinagar will scale new heights in academics, research, innovation and global outreach. AANITS remains committed to working shoulder to shoulder with the institute in achieving its long-term vision and aspirations,” he said.

District-Level Sensitization Workshop on Tobacco Control held in B'pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: To strengthen tobacco control measures and promote a tobacco-free environment, a District-Level Sensitization Workshop for Heads of Institutions and key stakeholders under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 was held on Thursday at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The workshop was organised by the Tobacco Control Cell, Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, in collaboration with the Health Department Bandipora. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, Dr. Bhajan Kour, presided over the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhajan Kour highlighted the harmful effects of tobacco consumption on public health and stressed the importance of effective implementation of the provisions of COTPA, 2003. She called upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination to create greater awareness, ensure compliance with tobacco control laws, and protect the younger generation from the ill effects of tobacco use.

The workshop sensitized participants about the objectives of the National Tobacco Control Programme, the legal provisions of COTPA, 2003,



and the role of various departments in enforcing tobacco control measures.

Discussions also focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination for the effective implementation of the Act across the district. Heads of Institutions and representatives from the Revenue, Police, Health, Drug and Food Safety, Education, Municipal Council, Municipal Committees, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and the Media participated in the workshop.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to supporting tobacco control initiatives through sustained awareness, coordinated enforcement, and active community participation, with the aim of promoting a healthier and tobacco-free Bandipora.

DC Budgam chairs DLSCC meeting; clears SRO-43 cases

Instructs on speedy disposal for relief to affected families



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) to review and clear cases under SRO-43 for compassionate appointment in favour of the next of kin of terror victims in the district.

During the meeting, the committee recommended cases for compassionate appointment after a thorough scrutiny of the applicants' credentials and verification reports. The cases have been referred to the General Administration Department (GAD) for further necessary action.

The cases were cleared after detailed deliberations and discussion by the committee members.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner

stressed the need for the speedy disposal and clearance of such cases to ensure timely relief to the affected families. He observed that affected families have high expectations from the government and deserve prompt assistance and support.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed all concerned departments to ensure that all required formalities and verifications are completed within the stipulated timeframe for timely disposal of cases at the District level.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), senior officers from CRPF, District Information Officer (DIO), Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Deputy Superintendent of Police, CID (CIK), Tehsildar Beerwah, and Tehsildar Budgam.

DC Kulgam visits Ziyarat Sharief Mir Syed Hussain Simnani (RA)

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Thursday visited Ziyarat Sharief Mir Syed Hussain Simnani (RA) to review the arrangements and assess the proposed renovation and preservation works at the revered shrine.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the renovation/preservation and upgradation of the Ziyarat Sharief is under preparation. The DPR will be submitted expeditiously once all requirements and assessments are done by the stakeholders including the local shrine management committee.

The project aims to improve the shrine's infrastructure, enhance facilities for devotees while preserving its religious and heritage significance. The renovation will be in line with the preservation of the shrine heritage.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure submission of the project proposal while maintaining the sanctity and architectural heritage of the shrine after

taking into consideration all suggestions. He emphasized that all required works, encompassing shrine preservation and beautification works to building public amenities and essential services must be comprehensively incorporated adhering to the prescribed quality standards.

The officers accompanying the DC briefed him on the proposed components of the project. He interacted with the Shrine managing committee who put forth their suggestions for the shrine renovation and preservation.

On the occasion, the need for developing essential public facilities at the shrine was discussed and desired that the works benefiting devotees and enhancing the overall experience of visitors at the shrine may be taken up also.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam,

Viqar Ahmed Giri, Superintendent Engineer Er. Fayaz Ahmad, Executive Engineer Er. Javid Ahmad, Tehsildar Kulgam Nisar Ahmad Wani, Assistant Executive Engineer Er. Gowhar Hussain, Executive Officer, MC Kulgam, Mohd Irfan, and other officials.

NEWS

'J&K has 12.75 lakh ST population, Ladakh 2.18 lakh as per Census 2011'

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir has a Scheduled Tribe (ST) population of 12,75,106, while Ladakh has 2,18,193 ST population as per the Census 2011, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The information was provided by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey in response to an unstarred question by Lok Sabha MP Shri Rajkumar Roat regarding the Scheduled Tribe population

in Union Territories and benefits being provided to tribal communities.

The ministry, said the latest census-based figures of the ST population would be available after the release of the next population census. It added that the Government continues to support the welfare and socio-economic development of tribal communities through various schemes covering infrastructure, education, health, livelihoods and other basic services.

On reservation, the

Centre said political reservation for STs in Union Territories is provided in proportion to their population under applicable laws in UTs having notified ST populations. For administrative services, reservation in direct recruitment follows the DoPT policy, which provides 7.5% reservation for STs at the all-India level, while higher reservation may be provided in UT/ local cadre recruitment in areas having a substantial ST population, as notified by the concerned administration—(KNO)

CONNECTIVITY WOES

Bridgeless Bagandar: Tral residents seek permanent link

JAHANGEER GANAIE

FILE PIC

PULWAMA: Residents of Bagandar village in the Satoora area of Tral subdivision in South Kashmir's Pulwama district have appealed to the administration to construct a permanent bridge over a local nallah, saying the lack of a proper crossing has left the area cut off for years and continues to endanger lives.

Villagers said that although a road project has been sanctioned for the area, its purpose cannot be fulfilled unless a bridge is first constructed across the stream.

"A road without a bridge is of no use. The bridge is the missing link that will connect our village with the rest of the area," residents said, urging the authorities to prioritise the project.

According to locals, the absence of a permanent bridge has severely affected their daily lives, particularly during the summer months when the water level in the nallah rises. They said the temporary wooden structure currently being used is frequently washed away, leaving the village disconnected from nearby areas.

Tanveer Ahmad, a resident, said the situation becomes particularly alarming during medical emergencies. "Patients often have to be carried on



shoulders across the stream because vehicles cannot reach them. Students also suffer immensely as many are unable to attend school regularly due to the unsafe crossing," he said.

He added that several people have sustained injuries over the years while attempting to cross the nallah, but despite repeated appeals, no concrete action has been taken by the concerned authorities.

Residents said they have approached various government departments and officials on numerous occasions, requesting the construction of a permanent bridge, but their demand has remained unresolved.

"The bridge is not a luxury but a basic necessity. It will ensure safe movement for schoolchildren, patients, elderly people and farmers, besides improving access to essential services," they said.

The villagers also

expressed disappointment over what they described as years of official neglect despite their active participation in democratic processes and government programmes.

"We have always fulfilled our responsibilities as citizens by participating in elections and supporting government initiatives. In return, we only seek basic infrastructure that every village deserves," they said.

Residents have appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Tral MLA Rafiq Ahmad Naik and Deputy Commissioner Pulwama to personally intervene and expedite the construction of the bridge.

They said the proposed road project would only become meaningful once the bridge is completed, urging the administration to treat the issue as a priority in the interest of public safety and development—(KNO)

CM Omar reviews key development projects, public issues in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday undertook an extensive tour of Ganderbal district, holding a series of public engagements and chairing a review meeting to assess the progress of key developmental projects and obtain a first-hand account of issues affecting the district.

Beginning his visit, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the New Bus Adda Road, a vital infrastructure project expected to significantly ease traffic congestion in the area. Stressing the importance of timely completion, he directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work so that the road could be dedicated to the public at the earliest.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, Chief Engineer, Roads & Buildings Department, and other senior engineers and officials associated with the execution of the project.

Later, the Chief Minister chaired a review meeting to take stock of the progress of major development initiatives and deliberate on long-pending public issues in the district. The meeting focused on road connectivity, irrigation infrastructure, flood protection measures, sewerage facilities, solid waste management, land acquisition and other critical projects aimed at improving public service



delivery.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur, Managing Director, J&K State Power Development Corporation, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora, Director Tourism Kashmir, Chief Engineer R&B, Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control, Secretary J&K Sports Council, district officers and other senior officials. The outstation officers attended the meeting via video conferencing.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal presented a detailed overview of the district's priority development issues requiring urgent government intervention. He highlighted the need to expedite land acquisition for several road widening projects and the approach road to the Paribal-Takanwari bridge, to strengthen irrigation canals and power canal embankments, improving road connectivity to the Central University of Kashmir, development of tourism infrastructure

and a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Manasbal.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal also raised issues relating to the rehabilitation of shopkeepers displaced due to the widening of Ring Road Phase-II, construction of strategic link roads, establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plant, besides several other people-centric initiatives aimed at enhancing infrastructure and public services across the district.

After reviewing the projects in detail, the Chief Minister directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination to remove bottlenecks, expedite pending approvals and ensure the time-bound completion of all ongoing and proposed developmental works.

He emphasized that delays in execution should be minimized and directed the departments to maintain close inter-departmental coordination so that the benefits of development reach the people without unnecessary delay.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government remains committed to balanced and inclusive devel-

opment across Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on strengthening infrastructure, improving civic amenities and addressing genuine public concerns through efficient governance and coordinated action.

During his visit, the Chief Minister also met several public deputations and individuals at Dak Bungalow Ganderbal, and patiently heard their grievances and development-related demands.

The deputations represented various areas of the district, including Safapora, Nuner, Manigam, Lar, Sherpathri, Shallabugh, Waskura, Wakura, Manasbal, Gutlibagh, Beehama, Rangil, Saloora, Wayil, Batwina and other villages.

The deputations raised a wide range of issues concerning drinking water supply, irrigation facilities, desilting of canals, upgradation of educational and healthcare institutions, availability of adequate staff in health centres, development of playgrounds and new playgrounds, sports infrastructure, tourism-related facilities and other local development concerns.

Police attach properties of 5 Pak based terror handlers in Reasi

YOGESH

JAMMU: In a major blow to the terror ecosystem, Jammu and Kashmir Police have attached the immovable properties of five Pakistan-based terror handlers in Reasi district.

In a statement issued, an official spokesman said that the properties of five Pakistan-based terror handlers were attached during the investigation in a case registered under relevant sections at the Police Station in Mahore, district Reasi.

The attachment proceedings were carried out by a police team in the presence of the Executive Magistrate, Mahore and local witnesses, it said.

The statement stated that immovable properties belonging to Alaf Din alias Mir Baj Ghulam Mohd alias Gamma, Mohammad Asraf, Shabir Ahmad and Bihar Din, all residents of Mahore, Reasi were attached. "The identified persons intended to facilitate and finance terrorist activities through sale proceeds of these properties," it added.

The statement said, "During the investigation, credible evidence established that the accused persons had exfiltrated to Pakistan for terrorist training and are presently operating as terror handlers from across the border, actively promoting, facilitating and coordinating terrorist activities."

"The investigation further revealed that these properties were liable to be alienated, with the proceeds intended to finance and sustain terrorist operations. Based on the findings, Police, after obtaining the requisite approval from the Police HQ J&K, attached the properties under the relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, to prevent their misuse for terror financing," the statement said.—(KNO)

Bear mauls two in Bandipora's Aloosa

KNO CORRESPONDENT

BANDIPORA: Two persons were injured in a bear attack in the Ketson area of Aloosa in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday, officials said.

An official said that the incident took place in the Ketson area when a bear attacked the two individuals, leaving them injured.

He said the injured were immediately shifted to a nearby medical facility for treatment. Their identities and the nature of their injuries were not immediately known. Meanwhile, officials said further details are awaited and an investigation has been taken up—(KNO)

Man found dead at Srinagar's Baghat

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A 40-year-old man was found dead at his residence in the Rawthopora Baghat area of Srinagar on Thursday, officials said.

An official said that the man was found with injuries reportedly caused by a sharp-edged object inside his house. He said police rushed to the spot soon after the incident and took the body into custody.

The deceased was identified as Ajaz Ahmad Wani (40), son of Ghulam Mohammad Wani, a resident of Rawthopora Baghat. Meanwhile, police have initiated proceedings to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the death—(KNO)

Body recovered from Baba Demb canal in Srinagar, investigation launched

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: An unidentified body was recovered from a water canal in the Baba Demb area of Srinagar on Thursday morning, eyewitnesses said.

An eyewitness said that the body was found wrapped in a bathtub and floating in the canal, following which locals informed the police.

He said that soon after receiving the information, a police team rushed to the spot and is examining the body while awaiting the arrival of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team.

Police have launched an investigation to ascertain the identity of the deceased and the circumstances surrounding the incident. Further details are awaited—(KNO)

'Centre has not assessed climate change impact on Changpa Community in Ladakh'

RAJA SYED RATHER

LEH: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has not undertaken any study to assess the impact of climate change, shrinking grazing pastures, changing snowfall patterns and declining livestock productivity on the livelihood and traditional nomadic lifestyle of the Changpa tribal community in Ladakh, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The information was given by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey in response to a question by Lok Sabha member Mohammad Haneefa, who sought details on the impact of climate change on the Changpa community, welfare schemes, special interventions, funds released for Changthang and measures to protect the com-

munity's traditional livelihood and culture.

The ministry, said Changpa families are eligible beneficiaries under various welfare and livelihood schemes, including PM-JANMAN, Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), Eklavya Model Residential Schools, scholarships for ST students and the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission.

It said targeted interventions under DAJGUA include Mobile Medical Units, mobile network delivery, residential hostel facilities and pucca housing under PM-AWAS (Gramin). Livelihood and income enhancement support for Pashmina wool production, marketing linkages and value addition is also being provided through TRIFED.

On funding, the ministry said TRIFED has released ₹15 lakh under PMJVM for establishment of a Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) at Durbuk. Funds sanctioned and released for Eklavya Model Residential Schools to the UT of Ladakh over the last five years stood at ₹10 lakh in 2021-22, ₹450 lakh in 2022-23, ₹800 lakh in 2023-24, ₹17.41 lakh in 2024-25 and ₹400 lakh in 2025-26.

The ministry further said TRIFED procured Pashmina products worth ₹1.88 crore from Ladakh-based artisans during the last five years, while an empanelment camp is proposed in the Changthang region in August 2026 to identify eligible Changpa artisans and facilitate their participation in marketing and procurement programmes—(KNO)

Secy RDD asks DCs to fast-track cluster-based waste management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Muhammad Aijaz Asad, on Thursday directed all Deputy Commissioners to fast-track implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) by adopting cluster-based waste management systems, operationalising Door-to-Door (D2D) waste collection in every village, expediting sanitation infrastructure works and strengthening community participation to build clean, healthy and sustainable rural communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a comprehensive review meeting on the overall performance of SBM-G and implementation of District Sanitation Plans, the Secretary reviewed the physical and financial progress of sanitation projects across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Director General, Rural Sanitation, all District Development Commissioners, Director Finance, RDD, Superintending Engineers, REW (Jammu/Kashmir), Deputy Directors, Rural Sanitation, Assistant Commissioners Panchayats and



Executive Engineers of REW.

Appreciating the presentations made by Bandipora and Budgam, Aijaz Asad said the innovative sanitation models adopted by the two districts have the potential to serve as templates for replication across Jammu and Kashmir. He advocated a cluster-based approach to solid waste management, enabling adjoining blocks to pool financial resources, machinery and manpower for efficient and financially sustainable waste management systems.

The Secretary stressed the need to identify and map village-level waste collection points, establish secondary collection centres wherever required and prepare scientific transportation routes for waste collection vehicles. He also encouraged districts to explore Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) models while making optimum use of departmental machinery and resources.

He further instructed all districts to prepare Gram Panchayat-wise inventories of sanitation assets, clearly assign operation and maintenance responsibilities and draw up monthly maintenance schedules to ensure the sustained functionality of completed infrastructure.

Aijaz Asad directed all districts to operationalise Door-to-Door (D2D) waste collection in every village. He asked officials to finalise collection routes, map all households and commercial establishments, engage collection agencies and develop forward linkages with recycling industries, cement plants and other authorised agencies for scientific processing and disposal of waste.

To make sanitation systems financially sustainable, the Secretary instructed districts to generate own-source revenue through user charges and the sale of compost, recyclable material and e-waste.

DIRECTORATE OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES J&K, UT SRINAGAR/JAMMU

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Shri Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, (Sub Officer-M), S/o Mohd Sultan Mir, R/o Mir Mohalla Kupwara.

Subject: 3rd and Final Attendance Notice.

Whereas, Shri Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, Sub Officer (M), has remained unauthorizedly absent from duty on repeated occasions, and despite earlier opportunities extended by the Department, the matter relating to his unauthorized absence has remained under examination in accordance with the applicable service rules.

Whereas, after having been permitted to resume duties, it has been reported by the Joint Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Kashmir Range, Srinagar, vide Letter No. JDF&ES-K/Estt/F-21/2026/2268-69 dated 04.06.2026, that you again remained unauthorizedly absent from duty with effect from 25.04.2026 and have not resumed your duties thereafter.

Whereas, in order to afford you sufficient opportunity, Attendance Notice I and Attendance Notice II were issued vide Nos. JDF&ES-K/Estt/F-21/2026/2415-19 dated 12.06.2026 and JDF&ES-K/Estt/F-21/2026/2652-56 dated 30.06.2026, respectively. The said notices were served through the Assistant Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Command Kupwara, as well as through the Station House Officer, Police Station Kupwara. You were also repeatedly directed through local departmental functionaries and telephonic communications to report for duty. However, despite these opportunities, you have neither resumed your duties nor furnished any satisfactory explanation for your continued absence.

Whereas, the medical and disability related documents submitted by you have been taken on record and examined by the Department. However, the same do not dispense with the requirement of obtaining prior sanction of leave or reporting for duty in accordance with the applicable service rules.

Now, therefore, through the medium of this 3rd (Final) Attendance Notice, you are hereby directed to report for duty at your place of posting within 10 (ten) days from the date of issuance of this Notice.

In case you fail to report for duty within the stipulated period or fail to furnish any satisfactory explanation, it shall be construed that you are unwilling to continue in Government service, and the Department shall be constrained to initiate appropriate action under Article 128 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, Volume I, and such other provisions of the applicable service rules, including disciplinary proceedings, as may be warranted in the facts and circumstances of the case.

You are, therefore, advised to treat this as your final opportunity to resume your duties and explain your unauthorized absence, failing which further action shall be taken strictly in accordance with law without any further notice.

No: DFES-ESSTOPER/22/2024-02 (CC-7504027)
Dated: 30.07.2026
DIPK-3928-26
DT: 30/07/2026

Alok Kumar-IPS (ADGP)
Director,
Fire & Emergency Services, J&K,
Srinagar/Jammu.



Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

How J&K Can Weather the Storm

The India Meteorological Department's latest weather advisory isn't just a routine forecast—it's a wake-up call. With heavy rain, thunderstorms, and potential downpours heading our way, both the administration and everyday citizens need to pay close attention. We've seen this script play out too many times before. Flash floods, sudden cloudbursts, and mudslides are no longer rare, isolated incidents; they are becoming a seasonal reality, especially across the fragile hills of the Jammu division. Roads get cut off, homes suffer, and tragically, lives are lost. We can no longer afford to brush off these warnings as minor inconveniences.

Staying ahead of the storm requires immediate, coordinated action:

Keep Emergency Teams Ready: Disaster response crews and local emergency services should be on standby now, not after the rivers begin to rise.

Watch Critical Arteries: Unstable slopes along major transit routes—like the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway—need continuous monitoring. Cleared roads mean open lifelines.

Communicate Clearly: Early warnings must reach everyone—from remote villagers and local farmers to tourists and pilgrims—in plain, actionable language. Clear information prevents tragedy; silence breeds panic.

Safety, however, isn't just the government's job. As citizens, our choices matter. Avoiding non-essential travel during downpours, staying well clear of swelling streams, and taking official advisories seriously can literally save lives. A brief pause in our daily routines is a small price to pay for safety.

Looking past the next few days, we also have to address the bigger picture. Patching up roads after they wash away isn't a long-term strategy. Jammu and Kashmir needs smarter drainage, better urban planning, slope stabilization, and aggressive afforestation. As extreme weather events become more frequent, our infrastructure has to evolve to match them.

The next few days will certainly test us. But if local authorities act fast and the public stays cautious, we can weather this safely together. Preparedness and common sense—not panic—will always be our best defense.

Broken, But Not Forsaken

A Message Of Hope For Today's Youth



AMIR SHAFI RATHER

We are living in a time when many young people look happy on social media, but inside they are fighting battles that no one can see. Many are struggling with stress, anxiety, loneliness, broken relationships, unemployment, studies, family problems, and fear about the future. They smile in front of others but cry when they are alone. Looking for peace, some fall into the trap of drugs, addiction, and other harmful habits, thinking these things will help them forget their pain. But they never do. They only make life more difficult and take people further away from real peace.

To every young person who feels tired, broken, or hopeless today, remember one thing: you are never alone. Allah is with you. He knows every tear you have cried, every pain hidden in your heart, and every prayer you have made in silence. Even if people do not understand you, Allah understands you. Even if everyone leaves you, Allah never will.

Many of us ask, "Why is this happening to me?" We wonder why our prayers seem delayed, why our dreams do not come true, and why every door seems to close. But we often forget that Allah knows what we do not know. Sometimes He closes one door because He is preparing a better one. Sometimes He delays our wishes because the right time has not yet come. What we see as a problem today may become the biggest blessing of our lives tomorrow.

The worst thing is not to fail. The worst thing is to lose hope in Allah. When a person loses hope, they become weak inside. That is when many young people choose the wrong path. Drugs, bad company, smoking, alcohol, and other addictions may look like an escape, but they only destroy health, families, dreams, and faith. They never remove pain; they only increase it. True



peace is found only by remembering Allah. At such moments, the beautiful words of Allama Muhammad Iqbal give us hope:

"Nahin hai na-umeed Iqbal apni kisht-e-veeran se,

Zara nam ho to yeh mitti bahut zarkhez hai saqi."

Iqbal reminds us that no matter how empty or broken life may seem, we should never lose hope. Just as dry land becomes green after rain, a heart that turns towards Allah with faith can become full of peace and strength again.

Then comes the most powerful message of all: "Kun Fayakun" — "Be, and it is."

These words remind us that nothing is impossible for Allah. If He wants something to happen, He only says "Be," and it happens. He can change your sadness into happiness, your failure into success, your weakness

into strength, and your difficulties into ease. What looks impossible to us is always possible for Allah. Never think that Allah has forgotten your prayers. Every du'a you make is heard. Sometimes Allah answers immediately. Sometimes He asks us to wait. And sometimes He gives us something even better than what we asked for. His timing is always perfect, even when we do not understand it.

Dear youth of today, never let one bad day make you lose hope. Never let temporary problems make permanent decisions. If you fail, try again. If you fall, stand up again. If you make mistakes, ask Allah for forgiveness and begin again. Pray regularly, read the Qur'an, respect your parents, choose good friends, and keep your trust in Allah. Every step you take towards Him is never wasted.

Always remember that after every night

comes the morning. After every hardship comes ease. Your story is not over. Allah is still writing it. The world may say, "It is impossible," but Allah says: "Kun Fayakun" — "Be," and it is." So never give up on yourself because Allah has not given up on you. Keep hope in your heart, faith in your soul, and trust in your Creator. No matter how difficult life becomes, remember that Allah can change everything in a single moment.

May Allah protect our youth from hopelessness, depression, drugs, addiction, and every wrong path. May He fill their hearts with faith, give them strength during difficult times, guide them to the right path, and bless them with peace, success, and happiness in this life and the Hereafter.

Author is serving forest department, J&K Govt

USAID Closure Could Reshape Global Donor Influence



NAVEED QAZI

For more than six decades, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) occupied a central place in the global development architecture. More than an aid agency, it served as an instrument of American foreign policy, supporting humanitarian relief, public health, education, governance, economic development, and disaster response in more than one hundred countries. Its programmes reached communities affected by conflict, poverty, disease, and natural disasters while advancing broader US strategic interests.

Most of its contemporary funding took form of non-repayable grants rather than direct loans to foreign governments. Its closure represents far more than the withdrawal of a major donor. In fact, it may reshape global development financing, humanitarian assistance, and geopolitical influence in an increasingly multipolar world.

USAID's legacy is difficult to assess through a single lens because it combines significant achievements with enduring controversies. Its greatest successes were arguably in public health. Working with governments, international organisations, and local partners, the agency expanded childhood immunisation, reduced maternal and infant mortality, strengthened disease surveillance, and financed responses to HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, Ebola, and Covid-19. Through initiatives such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), supported by both Republican and Democratic administrations, millions gained access to life-

saving treatment. Agricultural programmes introduced improved farming techniques, irrigation systems, and climate-resilient practices that enhanced food security across Africa and Asia, while emergency operations delivered vital assistance during famines, conflicts, earthquakes, floods, and refugee crises.

Beyond humanitarian assistance, USAID invested heavily in institutional development through judicial reforms, election administration, anti-corruption initiatives, civil society organisations, and local governance projects designed to strengthen public administration and accountability. It also supported education, clean water, sanitation, electricity, women's economic participation, entrepreneurship, and vocational training, reflecting a broad approach to long-term development.

Yet USAID remained one of the most debated institutions in international development. Critics argued that development assistance was rarely politically neutral, with funding priorities often aligned with wider US foreign policy objectives. Governance and democracy-promotion programmes were frequently viewed by some recipient governments as attempts to influence domestic politics, generating diplomatic tensions in countries with strained relations with Washington.

Development economists likewise questioned aspects of the aid model. William Easterly argued that prolonged aid dependence could weaken domestic institutions and reduce government accountability. Dambisa Moyo contended that sustained aid in parts of Africa fostered dependency and discouraged economic self-reliance, while Angus Deaton warned that poorly designed assistance could unintentionally undermine local institutions. Independent evaluations have similarly identified uneven programme outcomes, administrative complexity, project duplication, and limited sustainability once external funding ended. Procurement



practices have also been criticised for favouring large international contractors over local organisations capable of maintaining projects after donor withdrawal. Within the United States, conservative policymakers increasingly questioned the scale, effectiveness, and political priorities of overseas development spending.

The consequences of USAID's closure are likely to be most visible in countries where essential public services relied heavily on external support. Healthcare systems in several low-income countries depended on USAID-funded supply chains, laboratories, disease surveillance, and community health programmes, while humanitarian operations assisting displaced populations also relied substantially on American funding. Unless alternative donors fill these gaps, disruptions could affect disease control, food security, and maternal and child health. In parts of Africa, the abrupt reduction in USAID funding has also coincided with growing social unrest. Researchers have reported increases in violent incidents, including armed clashes, protests, and riots in some aid-dependent regions, while humanitarian agencies warn that cuts to food assistance and basic services may exacerbate insecurity and criminal activity in already fragile states, although weak governance, conflict, poverty, and illicit trafficking remain the principal drivers of instability.

The international development landscape had already become increasingly competitive before USAID's closure. The European Union and its member states remain among the world's largest providers of development assistance, while Japan's International Cooperation Agency (JICA) continues to focus on infrastructure, technical cooperation, and disaster resilience. Despite reductions in its aid budget, the United Kingdom remains an important donor through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, regional development banks, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the Global Fund, and Gavi, have also become indispensable sources of development finance and humanitarian assistance.

Unlike USAID, which often linked development assistance with governance reforms, Chinese financing generally prioritises infrastructure and state-to-state cooperation while attaching fewer political conditions. Supporters argue that this approach provides greater policy autonomy, whereas critics raise concerns about debt sustainability, procurement transparency, and environmental standards.

Other regional powers are also expanding their development footprint. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, India, Turkey, South Korea, and Brazil have increased

investments in humanitarian assistance, renewable energy, healthcare, education, and infrastructure, reflecting a broader shift towards a more diversified global aid system.

No single institution is likely to replace USAID legacy completely. Instead, its former influence is expected to be shared among bilateral donors, multilateral organisations, regional development banks, philanthropic foundations, and private-sector initiatives. Europe is likely to remain influential in humanitarian assistance and governance, China in infrastructure financing, Japan in technical cooperation, Gulf states in strategic investment, and multilateral institutions in health and poverty reduction.

Historically, political support for USAID crossed party lines in the United States. Republican administrations, including those of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, expanded major global health programmes, while Democratic administrations placed greater emphasis on climate resilience, governance, poverty reduction, and gender equality. Since its closure, however, no coordinated international effort has emerged to recreate USAID in its previous form. Instead, policymakers increasingly favour a mix of targeted aid, trade, private investment, blended finance, and stronger domestic capacity-building, reflecting changing views on how development should be delivered.

USAID leaves behind a complex legacy. Its closure is therefore likely to accelerate an ongoing redistribution of development finance among bilateral donors, regional powers, multilateral institutions, philanthropic organisations, and private investors. Rather than one institution replacing USAID, the global aid architecture is poised to become more diffuse, and competitive, and shaped by a wider strategic and development priorities.

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Good Morning Kashmir

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R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

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Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

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Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

■ Agristack And Digitised Jamabandies

Why Accuracy Must Take Precedence Over Speed In J&K

Building India's Digital Agriculture On Foundation Of Reliable Land Records

MOHD AMIN MIR

India is witnessing one of the most ambitious digital governance reforms in its agricultural history. Just as Aadhaar transformed identity verification and the Digital India initiative revolutionised public service delivery, the Government of India is now working towards creating a comprehensive digital ecosystem for agriculture through AgriStack. The initiative aims to integrate farmers, agricultural land records, crop details and government services into a unified digital platform. It promises to make agricultural governance more transparent, efficient and farmer-centric.

However, every digital platform is only as reliable as the data it contains. In agriculture, the most important data is land ownership. If the ownership records are inaccurate, outdated or incomplete, the entire digital ecosystem will suffer. This is where the Revenue Department assumes a pivotal role. In Jammu & Kashmir, where digitisation of Jamabandies has made remarkable progress, the success of AgriStack will ultimately depend upon the accuracy, completeness and legal sanctity of these digitised land records.

The concept of AgriStack was not invented by a single individual. Rather, it evolved through years of policy discussions, technological advancements and administrative reforms undertaken by the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, with support from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), digital governance experts and various State and Union Territory administrations. It is a natural extension of the Digital India programme, combining modern information technology with agricultural administration.

The vision behind AgriStack is simple yet transformative. Every farmer will have a unique digital identity linked with authentic land records, enabling seamless access to government schemes, crop insurance, institutional credit, soil health information, subsidies, weather advisories and market intelligence. Instead of repeatedly producing multiple documents before different government offices, authenticated digital records can simplify procedures while ensuring greater transparency.

For Jammu & Kashmir, this initiative comes at a time when digitised Jamabandies are becoming the backbone of land administration. The Record of Rights has traditionally served as the primary document establishing ownership, possession and cultivation. Today, its digital counterpart is expected to perform an even more significant role by supporting various e-governance initiatives beyond the Revenue Depart-

ment.

Yet, the transition from paper records to digital records is not merely a matter of scanning documents or entering data into computers. It requires painstaking verification, reconciliation of historical entries, incorporation of mutations, correction of ownership shares and resolution of discrepancies that may have accumulated over decades. Every entry in a digitised Jamabandi carries legal consequences. A minor error in ownership percentage or survey details may create disputes affecting families for generations.

This reality makes the role of the Patwari more important than ever before. The Patwari has always been the first custodian of land records at the grassroots. Whether conducting field inspections, attesting mutations, maintaining crop records or assisting citizens with revenue matters, the Patwari serves as the vital link between government policy and rural society.

With digitisation, the responsibilities of Patwaris have expanded considerably. They are now expected not only to maintain conventional records but also to verify digital data, reconcile historical mutations, examine inheritance cases, ensure proper mapping of survey numbers and validate ownership details before records become part of the permanent digital database.

The success of AgriStack therefore rests substantially upon the quality of work performed by Patwaris during this transition.

Unfortunately, there is often an understandable desire to complete digitisation within strict timelines. While administrative efficiency is essential, excessive emphasis on speed can unintentionally compromise accuracy. Land records are unlike ordinary administrative files. Once errors enter digital databases, they are replicated across multiple platforms and become increasingly difficult to rectify.

This is particularly relevant in Jammu & Kashmir where land ownership patterns are often complex. Joint ownership, inheritance over several generations, fragmented holdings, historical mutations, tenancy issues and multiple shareholders require meticulous examination. Many villages contain land parcels inherited by dozens of legal heirs, each entitled to a specific fractional share. Ensuring that every shareholder's proportion is mathematically and legally correct is not a routine clerical exercise but a specialised revenue function requiring knowledge, patience and careful verification.

Every digitised Jamabandi should therefore reflect one fundamental principle: the shares of all shareholders must be one hundred per cent accurate. This objective cannot be achieved



merely through software. It requires human expertise supported by legal procedure. Every mutation must be examined carefully. Every inheritance entry must be verified. Every partition, sale, gift or exchange reflected in revenue records must correspond accurately with the existing ownership pattern.

Wherever ambiguity exists, proper verification under the provisions of the revenue law should precede digital finalisation. Public participation can also play an important role. Reading digitised Jamabandies before villagers, inviting objections and correcting genuine mistakes before records are frozen can significantly improve the credibility of the entire exercise.

Such an approach will not only reduce future litigation but also strengthen public confidence in digital governance.

AgriStack itself offers enormous opportunities for farmers. Once reliable land records become available, numerous public services can be delivered more efficiently. Farmers may receive quicker benefits under welfare schemes, easier access to institutional credit, improved crop insurance settlements and better agricultural advisories based on authentic land information. Policymakers can also formulate more effective programmes by relying upon accurate village-level agricultural data. Banks, insurance companies and government agencies will likewise benefit from authentic records, reducing delays in verification and minimising disputes arising from conflicting ownership claims.

However, these advantages will materialise only if the foundational database is trustworthy. The Revenue Department has already demonstrated commendable dedication in advancing digitisation across Jammu & Kashmir. Officers and officials at every level have worked under demanding circumstances to modernise records that were maintained manually for generations. Their efforts deserve appreciation.

At the same time, it is equally important to recognise the practical challenges encountered by field functionaries. Patwaris often handle numerous responsibilities simultaneously, including mutation work, crop inspections, disaster-related duties, elections, census operations, public grievance redressal and implementation of various government programmes. Assigning extensive digitisation responsibilities without providing adequate time may affect the precision expected from such an important exercise. Providing reasonable time for verification should not be viewed as a delay. Rather, it should be considered an investment in administrative accuracy. A carefully verified database created today will save countless hours, financial resources and litigation costs in the future.

Technology is intended to strengthen governance, not to replace legal safeguards. Digital platforms should faithfully represent the legal reality recorded in revenue documents. Therefore, the established procedures under the revenue laws governing mutations, inheritance, corrections and ownership verification must continue to guide every stage of digitisation.

In the context of AgriStack, accuracy is not merely desirable; it is indispensable. Incorrect ownership data can affect subsidy eligibility, crop insurance claims, agricultural credit, land transactions and numerous future digital services. Such errors may also create avoidable hardship for genuine landowners and increase the burden upon revenue authorities through repeated correction requests.

As Jammu & Kashmir moves towards integrating digitised Jamabandies with future agricultural databases, quality assurance should receive the highest priority. Independent verification, periodic audits, cross-checking of ownership shares and proper training of revenue officials can significantly enhance the reliability of the system. The Government may also consider strengthening technical support at the

field level, providing dedicated data verification teams and ensuring continuous coordination between revenue officials, survey staff and information technology professionals. Such collaborative efforts will help create a robust digital land information system capable of supporting AgriStack for decades to come. The vision of Digital India is not merely about computers and software. It is about improving governance through authentic information. In agriculture, authentic information begins with authentic land records.

Therefore, a humble and respectful appeal is made to the Financial Commissioner (Revenue), the Commissioner Secretary Revenue and all senior officers of the Revenue Department to continue supporting the digitisation mission while ensuring that Patwaris are provided adequate time and institutional assistance to complete this historic assignment with the highest standards of legal and technical accuracy.

The objective should not simply be to complete digitisation quickly, but to complete it correctly. Once digitised Jamabandies become the permanent foundation of AgriStack, every incorrect entry may have far-reaching consequences, while every correctly verified record will strengthen the confidence of farmers in digital governance. History reminds us that enduring reforms are built upon careful preparation rather than hurried implementation. AgriStack has the potential to transform Indian agriculture, empower farmers and modernise public administration. Jammu & Kashmir, with its rich agricultural heritage and ongoing land record reforms, has an opportunity to become a model for integrating digital agriculture with transparent revenue administration.

The true success of AgriStack will not be measured merely by the number of digital records created, but by the confidence that farmers place in those records. That confidence can only be earned through legally sound procedures, meticulous verification and the dedicated work of Patwaris who remain the custodians of one of the nation's most valuable public assets—its land records.

In the end, technology may provide the platform, but it is accuracy that will determine its success. For AgriStack to realise its promise, digitised Jamabandies must be more than digital—they must be correct, complete and legally dependable. Only then will this landmark initiative truly fulfil its objective of creating a transparent, efficient and farmer-centric agricultural governance system for generations to come.

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■ BHARAT PASHUDHAN APP

A Promising Initiative Needing Practical Reforms

PARWAZE GANIE

India's livestock sector is undergoing a significant digital transformation through the Bharat Pashudhan App, developed under the National Digital Livestock Mission. The application aims to create a comprehensive digital database of the country's livestock by assigning every tagged animal a unique identification number. Field veterinarians and paraveterinary staff use the app to register animals and record services such as artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, calving, vaccination, disease treatment, deworming, ownership transfer, and mortality. This information is uploaded to a centralized database, enabling governments to monitor animal health, breeding performance, productivity, and disease surveillance while supporting evidence-based policymaking. The vision behind the platform is progressive and deserves appreciation. However, as with any large-scale digital initiative, its long-term success depends on whether it addresses the practical realities faced by those who use it in the field every day.

The greatest challenge lies in the gap between policy expectations and field conditions. Livestock service providers frequently work in remote villages where internet connectivity is weak or unavailable. In such situations, real-time data entry becomes nearly impossible. Staff are often compelled to revisit locations or travel considerable distances merely to upload data, consuming valuable time that could otherwise be devoted to animal healthcare.

The absence of a robust offline mode further compounds this problem. Field



staff should be able to record data without internet access and synchronize it automatically once connectivity is restored. Without this feature, the digital system often becomes a source of delay rather than efficiency.

Another concern is the technical reliability of the application. Users frequently report login failures, synchronization errors, project assignment issues, server downtime, duplicate records, delayed updates, and occasional loss of entered data. These technical glitches can interrupt service delivery and undermine confidence in the platform, especially when frontline workers are held accountable for issues beyond their control.

The application also requires extensive data entry. Every service involves multiple screens and numerous mandatory fields. During mass vaccination campaigns, disease outbreaks, artificial insemination drives, or livestock census operations, the cumulative

burden of documentation can become overwhelming. The veterinarian or paravet may spend more time looking at a mobile screen than examining the animal in front of them.

Another significant limitation is the application's fragmented workflow. Even for a single animal transaction, the user is often required to navigate through multiple interfaces and modules instead of completing the entire process from one unified screen. A field worker may have to search for the same animal repeatedly, switch between different menus, and open separate modules to record services that are part of the same visit. This not only consumes valuable time but also interrupts the continuity of field work, increasing the chances of errors and incomplete records. A single-window, integrated interface that allows all services related to an animal to be recorded in one place would make the application significantly more efficient

and user-friendly.

Another practical difficulty is duplicate reporting. In many places, field staff continue to maintain manual registers and submit physical reports while simultaneously updating the digital platform. Instead of reducing paperwork, digitalization sometimes results in two parallel systems of record-keeping. Until manual reporting is phased out or fully integrated with digital systems, the anticipated gains in efficiency will remain limited.

The increasing emphasis on numerical targets also deserves attention. While performance monitoring is necessary, excessive focus on the number of registrations, uploads, or completed transactions can inadvertently shift priorities from the quality of veterinary care to the quantity of digital entries. Veterinary services should remain centred on animal welfare and scientific decision-making rather than being driven solely by dashboard statistics.

Training and technical support remain equally important. Although many field functionaries have embraced digital technology, software updates and changing workflows require continuous capacity building. A responsive technical support mechanism is essential to resolve issues promptly and prevent disruptions in field operations.

Infrastructure is another overlooked aspect. Many field personnel rely on their own smartphones, purchase mobile data at personal expense, and work in areas where electricity and charging facilities are unreliable. A digital programme of national importance should be supported by adequate institutional investment in devices, connectivity, tech-

nical resources, and timely maintenance.

Perhaps the most valuable resource for improving the application is the experience of its users. Veterinarians and paraveterinary professionals interact with livestock owners every day and understand the practical challenges that cannot always be anticipated during software development. Their feedback should be systematically incorporated into future updates so that the application evolves in line with field realities rather than administrative assumptions.

Digital transformation is undoubtedly the future of livestock management, and the Bharat Pashudhan App has immense potential to improve traceability, disease surveillance, breeding programmes, and service delivery. Yet technology should simplify work—not add unnecessary complexity. A successful digital platform is not judged merely by the volume of data it collects but by the confidence it inspires among its users and the improvements it brings to field services.

The true measure of success will be achieved when veterinarians and paraveterinary staff can devote more time to caring for animals and less time overcoming technical barriers. Digital innovation succeeds not when it demands more from its users, but when it empowers them to serve more effectively. A truly successful digital livestock ecosystem will be one in which technology serves as an aid to veterinary professionals—not as an obstacle to the timely delivery of animal healthcare.

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'Cap 278 signing off': Rahane announces retirement from all forms of cricket

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Senior India batter Ajinkya Rahane has announced his retirement from international cricket, drawing a curtain on a career that saw him featured in 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is for India while also turning out in 212 IPL games for six teams.

Rahane, who famously led the side to a spectacular Border Gavaskar Trophy series win in Australia in 2020-21, last played for India in the 2023 away Test series against the West Indies.

He announced his retirement by sharing a video on social media with a caption, "Cap 278 signing off. Thank you for all the love and support over the years. Forever grateful."

"The reality of life is that everything has a beginning and everything has an end. When the time comes, you simply have to respect it and move forward. I have always relied on timing in my batting and have always understood its importance. Today, I feel the timing is right for me to move on and announce my retirement from international cricket and all formats. From those early days, travelling from Dombivli as a young boy just to practise, I gave this game everything I had," Rahane, active on the domestic circuit and led Mumbai until the 2024-25 season, said in a video.

Rahane made his India debut in 2011 during the tour of England and has 2962 ODI



runs as well. He made his Test debut in 2013 and went on to score 5077 runs in 144 innings, including 12 centuries and 26 fifties.

"Every single day, every innings, every opportunity I got to bat, the dream was always to wear the India cap. I lived by one simple rule – always put my country and my team ahead of myself. I played this game with complete honesty, and I have always believed that if your intent is right, the game will always take care of you.

"Since the time I made my debut as a first-class cricketer, Indian cricket has grown tremendously, and I feel so proud to have been a part of it over the last 20 years," he added.

He continued, "While my chapter as an Indian cricketer comes to an end, my journey with the game doesn't. I look forward to helping the next generation, sharing the values this sport has taught me and giving back to the game that has given me everything. From starting out as a young player in Mumbai

to playing for India, it has been an absolute honour. There have been many wins and losses along the way, but the sheer joy of playing cricket, being part of different teams and creating lifelong memories – that has been the greatest satisfaction of my career."

Rahane has been part of the IPL since the first season in 2008. From 2011 to 2015, Rahane was with Rajasthan Royals. In 2016 and 2017, Rahane represented the Rising Pune Supergiants while RR were banned.

He was traded to Delhi Capitals ahead of IPL 2020 before joining Kolkata Knight Riders in 2022. Rahane got a boost to his IPL career in IPL 2023 when Chennai Super Kings (his sixth IPL franchise) lifted the trophy. It was also Rahane's first IPL title.

He was bought by KKR again for Rs 1.5 crore for a second stint ahead of IPL 2025 and was made the captain following the departure of Shreyas Iyer, who was retained as KKR captain for IPL 2026.

District Pulwama Lawn Tennis Championship Concludes at Rajpora

GMK SPORTS DESK

PULWAMA: The District Pulwama Lawn Tennis Championship concluded Thursday at the Indoor Sports Hall, Rajpora, after two days of competitive action held on 29 and 30 July 2026.

The championship was organised by the District Pulwama Lawn Tennis Association under the banner of the Jammu & Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association, in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Shafat Sahib, graced the closing ceremony as Chief

Guest. The Guests of Honour included Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Sajad Yahya Naqash, Tehsildar Rajpora, Munee Hussain Khan, Principal, Government Degree College Rajpora, Gulam Mohideen, and Incharge Indoor Hall Rajpora, Mohd. Iqbal Sheikh. The dignitaries congratulated all participating players for their discipline, sportsmanship, and performances across the two days.

They appreciated the efforts of the organisers in taking lawn tennis to the grassroots and encouraged young athletes to keep pursuing excellence in sport.

Secretary, District Pulwama Lawn Tennis Association, Faizan Ahmad Shah, along with other members of the Association, thanked the distinguished guests, participating players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and supporters for making the championship a success.

The championship closed with the distribution of trophies, medals, and certificates to winners and runners-up, applauded by players, officials, and spectators. The event reaffirmed the commitment of all stakeholders to nurturing talent and promoting lawn tennis in District Pulwama.

It's world-class performance in Glasgow': IOA Prez Usha lauds India's medal winners after stellar CWG campaign



IAN S

GLASGOW: Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha heaped praise on India's medal-winning athletes at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, saying their performances reflected world-class standards and highlighted the country's growing strength across multiple disciplines.

With India enjoying a successful campaign in athletics, para athletics, boxing, weightlifting and other events, Usha credited the athletes' achievements while urging the nation to build on the momentum ahead of the 2030 Commonwealth Games

in Ahmedabad.

Reflecting on India's performances, Usha said the medals won in athletics and para athletics were particularly significant because success in those events demands elite-level performances.

"I'm so happy to see players winning medals, especially from athletics; we're getting medals. It's almost like world-class performance here; only then will we get a Commonwealth Games medal in athletics. We've one in Long Jump, we've one in High Jump, and one in 10,000m, gold and bronze in para 100m and in para shot put also. It's good to see everybody

running together and getting medals, One Team, One Team India," the IOA President told IANS.

She also acknowledged the contributions from several other disciplines, noting that India's success was not confined to a handful of events.

"And not only organise the 2030 Commonwealth Games, but we should have a lot of medals also. So happy that we have a lot of medals. And eight players, eight boxers, they have come in the semifinals, and the weightlifting team has done very good. And most of the team, even swimmers, though they have not won a medal, but the relay finished fifth or sixth, I think. That is also a good achievement here," she added.

Usha attributed India's improved performances to the enhanced support system available to athletes, saying the coordinated efforts of the Government of India and the IOA have helped competitors prepare at the highest level.

SPORTS

135th Durand Cup: FC Raengdai mark debut with an impressive win over Indian Navy

IAN S

IMPHAL: FC Raengdai marked their maiden Durand Cup appearance in memorable fashion with an impressive 1-0 victory over last year's quarterfinalists, Indian Navy Football Team, in a Group D fixture of the 135th Durand Cup at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium in Imphal on Thursday.

Substitute Khaidem Amarjit Singh scored the decisive goal in the 58th minute, handing the Manipuri outfit a historic first-ever Durand Cup goal and a deserved victory.

Indian Navy head coach Akash Kamble named an experienced starting XI featuring several players with Indian Super League (ISL) and Indian Football League experience, including Bhaskar Roy, Novin Gurung, Adersh Mattummal, Sreyas V.G., Vijay J., Brijesh Giri, Maibam Deny Singh and Vijay Marandi. In contrast, FC Raengdai head coach Kshetrimayum Birbal Singh opted for a youthful all-Indian lineup as the club made its maiden appearance in the Durand Cup.

Raengdai created the first chance of the match as early as the third minute. Mridul Doley made a clever run in behind the Indian Navy defence before driving into the penalty area. With only Bhaskar Roy to beat, the winger failed to make clean contact



with his left-footed effort, allowing the experienced goalkeeper to make a comfortable save.

Indian Navy matched the early intensity and looked particularly threatening from set-piece situations. A long throw into the penalty area confused the FC Raengdai defence before the defence managed to clear the danger. Moments later, Wangkheimayum Sadananda Singh came close from a free-kick, won after an excellent run by Roshan Panna, as his effort took a slight deflection off the defensive wall and drifted narrowly wide of the post.

The Navy men registered their first shot on target just before the hydration break. Vijay Marandi and Roshan Panna combined neatly on the edge of the penalty area, with Panna rolling a perfectly weighted pass into the path of Sreyas V.G., who found himself unmarked inside the box. However, the forward failed to generate enough power on his effort, allow-

ing FC Raengdai goalkeeper Kamei Pantiga to make a comfortable save.

The remainder of the first half saw both sides searching for an opening, but neither could find the cutting edge in the final third. With both teams registering six attempts on goal, the contest remained evenly poised as they headed into the interval with the scores locked at 0-0.

FC Raengdai made a double substitution at the break, introducing Laishram Bikramjit Singh and Khaidem Amarjit Singh, and the debutants emerged with renewed intent after the restart. They created the first opportunity of the second half when P.M. Rakeveiche whipped in a dangerous cross from the right flank. Mridul Doley found space between the two Indian Navy centre-backs but failed to make contact with his attempted header, letting a promising chance go begging.

Mridul squandered another opportunity

to break the deadlock moments later when a loose ball fell kindly for him inside the penalty area. Opting for power over placement, the striker blazed his effort high over the crossbar, much to the relief of the Indian Navy defence who were unable to clear the ball in the first instance.

FC Raengdai eventually made their bright start to the second half count by taking the lead in the 58th minute. Novin Gurung, the last man in defence for Navy, was dispossessed by Mridul Doley, who drove into the penalty area.

Although the advancing goalkeeper brought Doley down, the loose ball rolled kindly into the path of substitute Amarjit Singh, who had the simplest of tasks of tapping into an empty net to score FC Raengdai's first-ever goal in the Durand Cup.

As Indian Navy pushed numbers forward in search of an equaliser, defensive lapses began to creep into their game.

One such mistake nearly proved costly when Navjot Singh failed to control a long ball, allowing Mridul Doley to race through on goal. The striker looked destined to double FC Raengdai's lead, but Bhaskar Roy produced an excellent save with his outstretched leg to keep his side in the contest.

Indian Navy threw everything forward in search of an equaliser, repeatedly delivering crosses into the penalty area from both flanks. However, FC Raengdai defended resolutely, with the backline standing firm to repel the aerial threat and protect their goalkeeper.

FC Raengdai had a golden opportunity to put the result beyond doubt in the fourth minute of stoppage time. Substitute Tingkaochun Gangmei was presented with an open goal from just six yards after being picked out unselfishly by Khaidem Amarjit Singh, but somehow failed to hit the target.

With five minutes of added time signalled, the debutants displayed tremendous discipline to withstand the late pressure, ensuring they held on for a famous victory in front of a loud and passionate home support.

Friday's matches
Shillong Lajong FC vs Nongkseh SS&CC (Group E), 5:00 PM, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Shillong
East Bengal FC vs CISF Protectors (Group A), 7:30 PM, Kishore Bharati Kriangan, Kolkata



CWG 2026: Neeraj, Rohit, Yash Vir storm into men's javelin final

IAN S

GLASGOW: Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, Rohit Yadav and Yash Vir Singh, all three Indians, qualified for the men's javelin final at the 2026 Commonwealth Games here on Thursday. Competing in windy conditions, no athlete cleared the automatic qualifying mark of 84.00 m; the Indian trio advanced as the 12 best performers for Friday's final.

Neeraj, who returned to the Games after missing the Birmingham edition due to injury, opted against taking his final attempt after securing qualification in fifth place with a best throw of 79.61m on his second attempt. Rohit also chose not to take his final throw and finished

ninth with 78.37m, while Yash Vir Singh was 10th with 78.36m.

A lower back injury has been troubling Neeraj since September 2025. The Olympic and world championships gold medallist sustained a lower back problem shortly before the World Athletics Championships in September last year, where he finished eighth. He made a delayed start to the season and had competed only once in the 2026 season, when he featured in the Doha Diamond League in June, finishing fourth with a throw of 85.69m.

Sri Lanka's Rumesch Pathirage, who holds the world lead of 92.62m this season, topped the qualification standings with a superb throw of 82.84m, adapting best to the challenging weather conditions.

Two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada finished second with 81.29m, while South Africa's Douw Smit was third after registering 80.64m.

England's Ben East (80.38m) claimed fourth place ahead of Neeraj, while Australia's Cameron McEntyre (78.91m) was sixth, reigning Olympic champion Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem registered his season best with 78.63m, which he could not better, and qualified for the final with a seventh-place finish in the qualification.

The Bahamas' Keyshawn Strachan (78.60m), Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott (78.26m) and Nigeria's Chinecherem Nnamdi (75.27m) also progressed.

CWG 2026: PM Modi congratulates Gavit, Basil and Sreeshankar on medal wins

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated para sprinters Dilip Mahadu Gavit and Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath, along with long jumper Murali Sreeshankar, after the trio delivered medal-winning performances for India at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

While Gavit claimed a Games record gold in the men's 100m T47 event, Basil secured the silver in the same race to complete a historic Indian one-two, and Sreeshankar added another silver medal with his best jump of the season. The Prime Minister hailed Gavit's record-breaking sprint, praising the para athlete for producing one of India's standout performances at the Games.

"A phenomenal performance by Dilip Mahadu Gavit! Congratulations to him on winning the Gold Medal in the Men's 100m T47 event with a remarkable timing, setting a new Games Record and achieving his Season Best. His speed, determination and dedication have made our nation proud. Best wishes for his future endeavours!" PM Modi wrote on X.

INOX

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FRIDAY • 31ST JULY

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY (HINDI) (U/A 13+)

03:50 PM

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY (3D ENGLISH ATMOS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 13+)

02:25 PM
05:20 PM
08:15 PM

SPIDERMAN BRAND NEW DAY (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (U/A 13+)

06:45 PM

THE ODYSSEY (ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES) (A)

02:45 PM
06:20 PM

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