

Srinagar

Friday

November 21 | 2025

29 Jumada al-Awwal 1447 AH

Issue No: 274

Volume: 15

Pages: 12

Price: Rs 02/-

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LG Sinha Unveils Vision for Jammu as Emerging Trade & Logistics Powerhouse

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 20: Jammu is fast positioning itself as a central trade and logistics gateway for Ladakh, the Kashmir Valley and national commercial corridors, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday, asserting that the Union Territory is undergoing a structural transformation driven by unprecedented improvements in connectivity.

Speaking at the Jammu Trade &

Logistics Conclave-2025, organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, the LG said the last five years have brought "a remarkable expansion" in road and rail networks, enabling Jammu to tap into new economic possibilities and strengthening its role as a regional hub.

Sinha credited the national push under the National Logistics Policy, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for reshaping the logistics landscape through digital integration,

infrastructure planning and workforce skilling. "Storage, multimodal transport and last-mile connectivity have ensured that even the remotest pockets remain linked to development," he noted, adding that the boom in e-commerce and retail is driving demand for modern warehousing across the UT.

Calling for a smarter logistics ecosystem to sustain Jammu & Kashmir's developmental aspirations, the LG said a strengthened storage and ware-

housing chain is essential for connecting producers directly to markets. "A robust logistics framework will support traders, industrialists, farmers, artisans and MSMEs, and accelerate our journey toward self-reliance," he said.

In a major announcement, Sinha revealed that the Jammu & Kashmir Logistics Policy 2025 will be rolled out shortly. The policy, he said, will establish a comprehensive roadmap

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Red Fort Blast Probe Expands : NIA Takes Custody of Four More Accused

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, NOV 20: The investigation into the November 10 car blast outside the Red Fort intensified on Thursday after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took custody of three Kashmiri doctors and a religious preacher who had been arrested earlier by Jammu & Kashmir Police. The explosion, triggered by an explosives-packed Hyundai i20, killed 15 people and injured

several others, prompting a nationwide probe into what authorities now describe as a highly organised terror network.

Those handed over to the NIA include Muzammil Ganaie, Adeel Rather, Shaheena Saeed and Maulvi Irfan Ahmed Wagay. According to an agency spokesperson, all four had "played a key role" in the execution of the attack. Their transfer brings to six the number of people now in NIA custody.

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Nowgam Blast: J&K Police terms SM claims 'misleading'

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday issued a formal response amid various social media posts circulating about the accidental explosion at Police Station Nowgam, stating that the reports are "conjectures" aimed at misleading the public.

Police said that the explosion took place on 14 November 2025 during the process of sample collection from a large cache of recovered explosives.

The procedure was being carried out by experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) when the accidental detonation occurred.

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CM Omar meets FM Sitharaman

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 20: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah Thursday held a detailed meeting with Union Finance



Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to discuss major developmental priorities for the Union Territory.

In a post on X, Office of J&K CM, wrote, "Chief Minister

● Turn on Page 2

Arms Recovered in SIA Raid Put Spotlight on Kashmir Times Headquarters

Searches at Jammu Office and Owner's Residence Widen Probe into Alleged Anti-National Conspiracy

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 25: A State Investigation Agency (SIA) raid on the Jammu head office of Kashmir Times has led to the recovery of arms, ammunition and what officials termed "incriminating material," intensifying an ongoing investigation into allegations that the publi-

cation was involved in promoting anti-national narratives.

The searches, conducted Thursday at the newspaper's Residency Road office and at the Gandhi Nagar home of its owner, Prabodh Jamwal, were supervised by an Executive Magistrate and carried out under an FIR accusing the media platform of conspiring with seces-

sionist networks inside and outside Jammu & Kashmir.

Investigators alleged that the publication had been disseminating content crafted to amplify terrorist and separatist ideology, spark disaffection, and disturb public order.

During the raid, officials said they seized a revolver, AK-series empty car-

tridge cases, live rounds, fired bullets, grenade safety levers and suspected pistol ammunition. All recovered items were taken into custody after completing legal formalities.

According to the SIA, the material will undergo forensic and technical examination to trace its origin and

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Mutton Dealers Warn of Fresh Price Hike as Punjab 'Extortion' Row Deepens

Association Sets Nov 27 Deadline, Seeks Urgent Govt Intervention

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: The Kashmir Wholesale Mutton Dealers Association has once again raised serious concerns over alleged extortion and harassment faced by livestock transporters in Punjab, cautioning that mutton rates in the Valley may witness a sharp spike if the government

fails to intervene before November 27.

Speaking to Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Association's General Secretary, Mehraj-ud-Din Ganai, said that trucks ferrying livestock continue to be charged exorbitant sums—often more than 10,000 per vehicle at checkpoints in Shambhu and Madhopur. Truckers, he said, are routinely forced to pay between 10,000 and

15,000, despite repeated complaints and assurances from authorities.

The problem, according to the Association, is not new. Earlier this year, dealers halted the import of live animals from outside states after a series of alleged harassment incidents. In one episode, delays caused by prolonged stoppages

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REVOKE CANCELLATION OF PAID LEAVE FOR FEMALE DOCS: FAIMA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: The Federation of All India Medical Association, led by Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, has appealed to Health Minister Sakina Itoo to intervene and revoke the recent cancellation of Leave

With Pay for female doctors across Jammu & Kashmir.

In a detailed representation submitted to the minister, the association conveyed deep concern and disappointment over the government decision, terming it a setback for women working in the medical field. The

association said the order disproportionately affects female doctors who are pregnant, post-partum or managing both patient care and household responsibilities.

FAIMA described women doctors as the backbone of the

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Major rejig in Admin; 58 officers transferred

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered a major reshuffle in the administration, transferring and posting fifty eight officers across multiple departments with immediate effect, according to a detailed

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Centre Prioritising Development of Ladakh's Border Communities: LG Kavinder Gupta

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KARGIL, NOV 11: The Union Government is placing renewed emphasis on the development of Ladakh's border regions, preservation of local heritage and enhancement of national security infrastructure,

Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta said on Tuesday while inaugurating the Darchik Cultural Centre in Kargil.

The landmark centre, established under the Indian Army's Operation Sadbhavana initiative, was opened in the presence of senior Army offi-

cers, civil administration representatives and community leaders. Calling the project "a powerful symbol of India's commitment to protecting and promoting the unique heritage of the Dard Aryan community," the LG said the

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DGP Prabhat reviews security preparedness in Poonch

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 20: Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Nalin Prabhat, on Thursday visited Poonch to assess the security situation in the border district.

During the visit, as per news agency Kashmir Indipeth News Service (KINS) DGP chaired a high-level joint security review meeting attended by senior officers from the Jammu & Kashmir Police, and other security agencies.

The meeting focused on the prevailing security scenario, anti-terror operations, and measures to strengthen coordination among all security agencies operating in the region.

Officials briefed the DGP on recent developments, deployment patterns, and ongoing efforts to enhance surveillance along vulnerable areas.

DGP Prabhat stressed the importance of seamless inter-agency cooperation and directed officers to maintain heightened vigilance to ensure peace and stability in the district. He also emphasized the need for

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CS Dulloo Reviews J&K Highways, Tunnel Progress

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 20: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review the status of major highway and road development projects being executed across Jammu & Kashmir by Project Beacon, Project Sampark, NHAI, NHIDCL, and the Public Works (R&B) Department.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary Transport; Engineer-in-Chief (Works); Regional Officer,



NHAI; Chief Engineers of Project Beacon and Project Sampark and other senior officers. All Deputy Commissioners participated



through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary took a project-wise and package-wise assessment of progress on all major

highways under execution across the UT. He sought detailed timelines for completion and enquired about bottlenecks faced by the

executing agencies.

He directed that permissions for extraction of construction material must be strictly ensured and used only for the designated projects. Deputy Commissioners were instructed to expedite compensation cases and ensure timely disbursement to facilitate immediate handover of land to executing agencies for simultaneous work on all project packages. He also called for prompt grant of forest clearances wherever required.

Both Divisional

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Speaker JKLA receives Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Award

Releases book on Rasa Javedani

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, NOV 20: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Abdul Rahim Rather, today received Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Award 2025 at a function organised at Jammu University by Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Society Jammu.

The Speaker also released a book titled "RASA FAHMI" which was authored by Dr Shahnaz Qadri, Assistant Professor GDC, Sidhra Jammu. The award consisted of a turban, a shawl, a memento and a citation.

The function was presided over by Professor Mohammad Zaman, former HoD Urdu, University of Kashmir while the

Speaker, JKLA was the chief guest and Canadian scholar, Dr Taqi Abedi was the guest of honour.

The Book release function was organized by the Department of Urdu, University of Jammu in collaboration with Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Society.

While speaking on the occasion, Rather critically analysed the personality and poetry of Rasa Javedani and described him as one of the towering literary figures of India who is still being remembered even after 47 years of his death. He extended his gratitude to the organisers for giving him a prestigious Literary Award 2025.

The Speaker congratulated the author for compiling the



book on the life and works of legendary poet of J&K late Rasa Javedani. He described Rasa Javedani not only a popular poet of Urdu but also among the top Kashmiri poets who projected the realities of life in his poetry.

Dr Taqi Abedi, Canadian Scholar, quoted various verses of Rasa Javedani's urdu poetry which depict his love for mutual understanding and communal harmony.

Professor, in his presidential address described, Rasa Javedani as one of the most popular Urdu and Kashmiri poets of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Professor Shohab Inayat Malik, HOD Urdu and President Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Society, Jammu presented the welcome address while Wali Mohammad Aseer Kishtwari, General Secretary Rasa Javedani Memorial Literary Society Jammu read out the text of the Award citation.

Dr Mohd Asif Malik Alimee Assistant Professor Baba Ghulam Shah Budshah University, Rajouri and Dr Shahnawaz, Cultural Officer, Culture Academy Jammu presented their papers and appreciated the Book of Dr Shahnaz Qadri released on the function.

The program was attended by a large number of poets, writers, artists, teachers, students and prominent citizens.

The program was conducted by Dr Chaman Lal, Assistant Professor Urdu Department, University of Jammu.

Kulgam Police Tighten Vigil on LPG and Commercial Cylinder Dealers to Ensure Public Safety

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, NOV 20: To enhance public safety and prevent any misuse of LPG and commercial cylinders, Kulgam Police on Thursday carried out extensive checking and verification drives at various LPG agencies and commercial cylinder outlets across the district.

During the inspections, police teams thoroughly examined records pertaining to distribution, storage, transportation, and stock registers. Dealers were instructed to maintain accurate documentation, strictly adhere to safety protocols, and ensure that no domestic or commercial cylinder is issued without proper consumer verification.

All agencies were given firm directions to comply with regulatory guidelines, curb black marketing, and prevent the diversion of cylinders for unlawful activities. Officials warned that any violation of the prescribed norms would invite immediate legal action. Kulgam Police reiterated its commitment to safeguarding public safety and maintaining strict oversight of all establishments dealing with sensitive commodities.



SKUAST-K students shine at ISPP National Symposium

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: Four SKUAST-K students were honoured at National Symposium on Frontiers of plant health management organized by Indian Society of Plant Pathologists in collaboration with Indian phyto-pathological society (North Zone) held at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (Punjab) from 18-20, Nov. 2025.

Students from Division of Plant Pathology, honoured for their contribution in the field of plant pathology include Dr. Aasiya Nabi who bagged Dr SS Kang Best Thesis and Mr D. Megnath who was awarded APS Travel grant award to USA. Additionally Ms Sehla Khursheed was nominated from North Zone



Five-Day 'Jashn-e-Tiflaan' Theatre Festival Enters Its Final Phase

Kashmiri play "Bu Chus Na Gunahgar" receives overwhelming appreciation on Day Four

GULFAM BARJI

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: The five-day Jashn-e-Tiflaan Theatre Festival, organized jointly by the Cultural Academy, Kashmir Kala Manch, Re-Root Foundation of India, and Help Foundation, has entered its concluding phase. On the fourth day of the festival, students of New Career Convent School, Fateh Kadal Srinagar, staged the Kashmiri play "Bu Chus Na Gunahgar", written by Majeed Majazi and directed by Arif Bhat. The performance received enthusiastic applause from the audience present at Tagore Hall.

Renowned writer, scholar, and educationist Prof. Farooq Fayaz attended the event as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he said that theatre is a powerful medium that enables children to express their innate talents. He expressed hope that such theatre festivals would continue to be organised in the future as well.

The event was also attended by the Additional Secretary of the Cultural Academy, Adeel Saleem, several prominent theatre personalities, theatre artistes, drama enthusiasts, and the Chairperson of the Help Foundation, Nighat Shafi.

It is noteworthy that the five-day



Handwara Police Bust Major Narco-Terror Network; Father-Son Duo Held With 890g Heroin, Arms

DR. AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, NOV 20: In a major crackdown on the nexus between narcotics and terrorism, Handwara Police along with CRPF 162 Battalion on Wednesday busted a narco-terror module operating in the Qalamabad area of the district. Acting on specific intelligence inputs regarding the presence of commercial-quantity contraband and illegal arms, Police Station Qalamabad registered FIR No. 38/2025 under Section 8/21 NDPS Act, Sections 13, 18, 23 & 39 of the UA(P) Act, and Section 7/25 Arms Act. During the subsequent operation, a father-son duo identified as Shahnawaz Khan (23) and Abdul Lateef (53), both residents of Puthwari, Nowgam, Handwara, were arrested. According to police, the duo was actively involved in running a narco-terror network in the area. Recoveries made from their possession



include: One pistol with 7 live rounds, Heroin-like substance weighing approximately 890 grams. Officials said the seizure of a large quantity of contraband and weaponry indicates the module's deeper links with terror outfits. Further investigation is underway, and more arrests are expected as the probe expands. Police have reiterated their commitment to intensifying actions against narco-terror networks to ensure peace and stability in the area.

KU's annual youth festival Sonzal-2025 begins

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: The University of Kashmir (KU) on Thursday inaugurated its annual youth festival Sonzal 2025 at the Main Campus.

The week-long festival is being organised by the varsity's Division of Youth Affairs under the aegis of Department of Students Welfare (DSW).

The intra-university festival scheduled from November 20-27, brings students from various affiliated colleges and departments of the University to participate in a series of literary, cultural and fine-arts competitions. It features events including quiz, debate, elocution, collage-making, poster-making, painting, rangoli competition, cartoon-making, clay-modelling, Indian and Western vocals and other activities to be held over the next seven days.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said "Sonzal represents the creative and intellectual aspirations of our students. The University is committed to strengthening platforms that enable young people to express themselves, learn from one another and take pride in their abilities."

She added that the festival encourages participation, teamwork and confidence-building among students from diverse academic backgrounds, stating "such events supplement academic learning and help students develop broader life skills."

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada; Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat, Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, and Controller of Examinations KU, Prof. Majid Zaman Baba, in their remarks, said that Sonzal provides a space for



students to engage with new ideas and explore their talents beyond the classroom.

They said that the University continues to expand student-centric platforms and that Sonzal remains one of its most anticipated annual events.

Earlier, Dean DSW KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, welcomed the participants and highlighted the aims and objectives of the festival.

Div Com Kashmir Inaugurates 3-Day 'Know Your Artisan' Craft Carnival

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: Riding high on the resounding success of the first three 'Know Your Artisan' (KYA) events in October, which captivated crowds at iconic venues like Polo View Market, Jhelum Riverfront, and Ghanta Ghar with live demonstrations and direct artisan engagements; the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir (DOHHK) today unveiled the 'Know Your Artisan' Craft Carnival.

The 3-day extravaganza commenced at the picturesque Sher-e-Kashmir Park on Residency Road, under the aggressive branding campaign 'Soulful Kashmir'.

The event was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, who lauded the department's endeavors in spotlighting the Valley's timeless crafts.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com highlighted the transformative potential of such exhibitions. He commended the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir for organizing

this carnival.

He said Initiatives like 'Know Your Artisan' are essential to bring our master artisans to the forefront, providing them a deserving platform to showcase Kashmir's rich craft and heritage to both locals and global audiences. "These programs not only revive our traditions but also empower our artisans economically, ensuring their skills endure for generations", he added.

He stated that exports of Handicrafts & Handlooms has doubled since last four years which has increased the income of artisans.

This carnival arrives in the triumphant aftermath of Srinagar's dual global accolades including its designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art in 2021 and as the 63rd World Craft City under the World Crafts Council (WCC) network in 2024.

These honors underscore the city's unparalleled heritage in handicrafts from intricate Pashmina weaving and hand-knotted carpets to papier-mache and walnut wood carvings,



positioning Srinagar as a beacon for cultural preservation and innovation on the world stage. The event witnessed a huge

gathering of top-level officers, alongside key Department officials, all witnessing the unveiling of 36 meticulously

curated stalls. These feature an exhaustive array of GI-registered crafts, such as authentic Pashmina, Kani shawls, and

Kashmiri carpets, alongside products notified under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme and the District Export Hub (DEH) initiative.

Complementing the displays are immersive live demonstration sections, where artisans unveil the labor-intensive secrets of their trades, and interactive 'Try Your Hand' zones inviting the public to engage hands-on with techniques like chain-stitch embroidery, Pashmina weaving and walnut wood carving.

Enthusiastic visitors, locals, tourists, families, and craft enthusiasts, flocked to the venue, infusing the autumnal canopy of Chinar trees with palpable energy.

The carnival aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visionary initiatives of Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat, fostering self-reliance by promoting indigenous crafts as engines of economic growth, sustainable tourism, and global exports.

By bridging artisans directly with consumers through fair-priced stalls, it champions 'Vocal for Local,' creating viable market

linkages and countering counterfeit threats while celebrating the human stories behind each creation.

Mussarat Islam, Director of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir on the occasion said, "This carnival is a pivotal chapter in our aggressive push to revive and commercialize Kashmir's handicrafts, empowering over 3.80 lakh artisans through GI enforcement, skill training, and branding workshops. In the wake of Srinagar's UNESCO and WCC recognitions, we are not just showcasing crafts but weaving a narrative of harmony, innovation, and cultural co-existence that resonates with the 'Vocal for Local' spirit."

The Department urged the public to visit the venue over the next two days, immerse in the artistry, and make purchases that directly uplift our artisans.

As the event unfolds, it promises a soul-stirring display of diverse crafts, traditional Kashmiri folk music, storytelling sessions sharing generational lore, and workshops blending heritage with contemporary design.

DC Kupwara holds extensive tour of Tehsil Zachaldara, inspects key infrastructure projects

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today held an extensive tour of Tehsil Zachaldara to review the ongoing developmental works and functioning of different departments.

During the tour, The DC was accompanied by ADC Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi and concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner visited Community Health Centre (CHC) Zachaldara and inspected different sections of the hospital including OPD, X-Ray, Laboratory, Pharmacy etc. He also took feedback from patients and attendants regarding services provided at CHC. He also interacted with general public in a Medical Camp organised at the CHC.

During the tour, the DC inspected ongoing construction of Bakihaker bridge on Talri nallah. He was informed that the bridge is being constructed at a cost of Rs.9.13 crore by R&B department and shall be completed by the end of next year. He also visited the Bakihaker Playground, the upgradation of which was recently approved by the Youth Services & Sports department. Besides, the DC also inspected ongoing construction of buildings of Tehsil Office Zachaldara and Rural Development Department.



On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the officers and executing agencies to ensure completion of all these infrastructural projects within the stipulated timeframe with adherence to quality standards.

During the tour, the DC visited Government Middle School Zachaldara and took stock of the ongoing enrollment drive in the school.

At BHSS Zachaldara, the DC chaired a grievance redressal camp during which he met various public deputations from different areas of Tehsil Zachaldara and heard their grievances.

GMC Srinagar Hosts Awareness Programme on NABL Accreditation for Medical Laboratories

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: The Department of Biochemistry, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, and its associated SMHS Hospital, in collaboration with the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and the Quality Council of India (QCI), organised a day-long Awareness Programme on "NABL Accreditation for Medical Laboratories" today.

This significant event marked a crucial step toward strengthening quality healthcare in Jammu & Kashmir.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by guests, including Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar, Prof. Iffat Hassan; Deputy Director, Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Nighat; Administrator, GMC & Associated Hospitals Mohammad Ashraf Hakak and other officers.

Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar, emphasized the importance of accreditation in ensuring quality healthcare. He stated,

"Accreditation is a hallmark of excellence in healthcare, and I commend the Department of Biochemistry for taking the lead in pursuing NABL accreditation. This initiative will not only enhance the credibility of our laboratory services but also foster a culture of quality and excellence in our institution."

Director NABL, Mallika Gope, delivered the keynote address, outlining the national vision for strengthening laboratory quality systems. She stated, "NABL accreditation is a mark of excellence that ensures laboratories adhere to international standards of quality and competence. I am confident that this initiative will have a ripple effect in promoting quality laboratory services across the region."

Joint Director NABL, led detailed technical sessions on ISO 15189:2022 requirements, documentation, M(EL)T Lab processes, and the online accreditation workflow. These sessions provided valuable insights to the participants on the



accreditation process and the importance of adhering to international standards.

Head of the Department of Biochemistry, GMC Srinagar, emphasized the significance of NABL accreditation, stating, "NABL accreditation is not just a certificate; it is a commitment to excellence". She highlighted the need for continuous quality improvement, structured training, and professional accountability to motivate more laboratories across J&K to adopt accreditation standards.

The event aimed to accelerate the adoption of accreditation practices across healthcare institutions, paving the way for more standardized, accurate, and patient-centric laboratory services in the years ahead.

By organizing this awareness programme, GMC Srinagar and its partners sought to promote a culture of quality and excellence in laboratory services, ultimately benefiting patients and the broader healthcare community in Jammu & Kashmir.

DLSA Shopian organises awareness programme on prohibition of manual scavenging, sewer cleaning

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, NOVEMBER 20: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Municipal Council Shopian today organized an awareness programme at Town Hall Shopian to educate the sanitation workers on the prohibition of manual scavenging and unsafe sewer cleaning practices in light of Implementation of Supreme Court Directives.

Chief LADC Shopian, Rafi Ahmad Ganie shared insights on the legal, human rights and social justice imperatives behind the legal ban on manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning methods.

He emphasized the Supreme Court's directives and relevant legislation that criminalize these practices and highlighted the duty of all stakeholders to enforce safe, dignified and mechanized alternatives.

CEO, Municipal Council Shopian, Suhail Ahmad Malik, also addressed the gathering and reaffirmed the municipal body's commitment to eradicating manual scavenging and ensuring worker safety by adopting mechanized and safe sewer cleaning technologies.

Assistant LADC briefed participants on legal rights of persons engaged in manual scavenging. He covered the definition of the practice, duties of local bodies, rehabilitation support, compensation rules, and punishment for violation of the Act. He stressed the need for safe sewer cleaning using machines and protective equipment.

The programme was also attended by Assistant LADCs, PLVs, Supervisors, Sanitation workers and a large number of Municipal Council employees.

CBC organizes outreach program on Viksit Bharat in Anantnag

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG NOVEMBER 20: The Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on Thursday organized an Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) at the Army Goodwill School, Khanabal in Anantnag.

The day-long outreach programme was aimed at mass awareness about Viksit Bharat-2047 and related public welfare initiatives undertaken by the government.

Deliberations about key initiatives driving the journey of Viksit Bharat were held. Experts and resource persons from nodal departments and agencies delivered lectures on themes like Mission LiFE and Swachhata Hi Seva underscoring the importance of these programs in achieving a developed India.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali presided over the program as Chief Guest. In his address, ADC highlighted the impact of various public welfare schemes in social upliftment and development. He urged the youth to register under Mission Yuva and avail opportunities in skill development and entrepreneurship.

Field Publicity Officer (FPO), CBC, Anantnag, in his address gave a detailed overview of the mandate and functioning of the Central Bureau of Communication. He briefed the participants about the purpose of the outreach programme and urged the young participants to be part of the



development journey of India. He added that participation at the grassroots level is key for achieving the goals under Viksit Bharat.

Addressing a gathering of students, teachers and local community members, FPO, Srinagar detailed out key themes of Viksit Bharat. He impressed upon the participants to ensure that their community reaps the benefits of a multitude of public welfare programmes.

As part of an integrated communication strategy, multiple channels of communication were employed for the outreach during the program, which included expert lectures, informative standees, printed IEC material and use of folk and traditional media.

For engaging the students, special theme based Quiz, elocution and painting competitions were organized by CBC during the program. A local empanelled cultural troupe presented theme based skits promoting cleanliness, environment protection, communal harmony and national integration.

The programme concluded with participants taking the Swachhata Pledge.

CSIR-IIIM Begins Annual Tulip Plantation at Field Station Pulwama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, NOV 20: CSIR Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, today commenced its annual tulip plantation at the Institute's Field Station at Bonera, Pulwama.

Inaugurating the plantation, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, said that the Institute is implementing the pan India CSIR Floriculture Mission to enhance India's capabilities in commercial floriculture. He noted that the programme aims to position Jammu & Kashmir as a future hub for tulip bulb production, helping India transition from an import dependent consumer to a self-sufficient producer. He added that since 2021, the Mission has achieved significant milestones in strengthening the floriculture sector and empowering farmers through high-value ornamental crop production.

As part of the event,

CSIR-IIIM organized a workshop on integrated apiculture, commercial floriculture and ornamental crop production systems at the Field Station. The programme was designed to disseminate advanced scientific knowledge and enhance agri-entrepreneurial skills among students, farmers and aspiring agri-entrepreneurs.

A total of 120 students from various academic institutions and 40 apiculture farmers from South Kashmir participated in the workshop. They received intensive training on evidence-based apiculture covering honey bee colony dynamics, nutritional supplementation, integrated pest and pathogen management, and winter management strategies in apiary systems.

Dr. Shahid Rasool, Principal Scientist and incharge of the Field Station, informed that the training modules covered the full spectrum of modern ornamental floriculture from propagation physiology, phenological

modelling, and controlled environment cultivation to post harvest management, supply chain optimization and market driven varietal selection.

Subject experts delivered lectures on ornamental crop improvement, conservation of wild MAPs and germplasm, adaptive cultivation under climate variability, and biological interventions for quality enhancement and stress tolerance.

The workshop reaffirmed CSIR IIIM's commitment to translational research, rural livelihood enhancement, and strengthening India's presence in the global floriculture and apiculture sectors.

CSIR IIIM initiated tulip cultivation at the station in 2022 with the objectives of indigenizing tulip bulb production, developing agro technological protocols, and expanding domestic tulip cultivation. The initiative aligns with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Satish Sharma lays foundation stones for Indoor Stadium, TSO Office Building at Uri

Reiterates commitment to holistic development in border areas

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

URI, NOVEMBER 20: In a major push to infrastructure development in the border region of Uri, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings Departments, Satish Sharma, today laid the foundation stones for two pivotal public development projects "Indoor Stadium and TSO Office Building" at Uri.

Present on the occasion were MLA Uri, Dr. Sajad Shafi, senior district officials, officers of PWD (R&B), Division Uri, representatives of local bodies and locals.

The Minister highlighted the government's commitment towards strengthening the sports infrastructure in far-flung and border regions of the Union Territory. "The Indoor Stadium will include modern facilities such as multi-purpose indoor courts, seating galleries, changing rooms and rest areas besides facilities for indoor training and coaching for the youth and aspiring sportspersons", he maintained.



The Minister stated that the project marks a significant milestone for the youth of Uri, who have consistently shown talent and enthusiasm in various sports disciplines. He emphasized that the government is taking concrete steps to ensure that sports infrastructure in remote areas is at par with the urban centres. "Our

youth deserve the best opportunities, irrespective of geography. This Indoor Stadium will not only boost the sports activities but will also nurture discipline, teamwork and fitness among the young people," he said.

Later, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for Tehsil Supply Office (TSO) Building, a long-

pending requirement that will streamline the functioning of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department.

The Minister asserted that creation of a dedicated TSO Office will significantly ease the public access to essential services and enhance transparency and efficiency in departmental

operations.

While interacting with the people, the Minister emphasized that border areas like Uri are receiving focused attention from the government both in terms of infrastructure development and social empowerment. He emphasised the need for exploring possibilities of developing Uri as an all weather sports destination on account of its climatic advantage. He assured the public that both projects would be executed within the stipulated time frame.

"Quality standards will be strictly monitored and the departments will work in close coordination to avoid delays in project execution and completion as well. Besides, additional developmental works for Uri are under active consideration," maintained the Minister.

MLA Uri, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, appreciated the Minister for his continued focus on Uri's development. He said, "These projects will address the critical gaps in sports infrastructure and administrative facilities. Uri's youth and citizens will benefit immensely from these developments."

Gulmarg hosts 72nd Divisional-Level Cooperative Week Celebrations

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GULMARG, NOVEMBER 20: The Cooperative Department, J&K, today organised a Divisional-Level event in Gulmarg as part of the 72nd All India Cooperative Week celebrations.

The programme was presided over by the Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Babila Rakwal, as the Chief Guest. The event witnessed the participation of cooperative representatives, officers, and stakeholders from across Jammu &



Kashmir.

Celebrated under the theme "Cooperatives as Vehicles for Atmanirbhar Bharat," the event was attended by the Registrar, Cooperative Societies J&K, Mohammad Shafi Chak; Special Secretary, Cooperative Department; Joint Registrar Audit Kashmir; Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority; Deputy Registrars from all districts of Kashmir Division; and other senior officers.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner Secretary reiterated the government's focus on strengthening the cooperative sector through reforms, digital initiatives, and capacity-building efforts. She highlighted progress in areas such as Food Processing Units (FPU), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and the revival of Super Bazaars. She also noted the expanding role of District Level Federations in improving institutional support and service delivery.

Emphasising the need for diversification, she encouraged Cooperative Societies to explore emerging sectors including food processing, agri-value chains, and rural enterprise development. She further stressed the importance of greater participation from youth and women to enhance the sector's resilience and future growth.

The Joint Registrar Audit Kashmir underlined the role of cooperatives in strengthening livelihoods and supporting community-based development across the region.

On the occasion, an exhibition of stalls by various Cooperative Societies highlighted the sector's growing contribution.

DC Srinagar reviews status of Mandatory Biometric Updates for Aadhaar, implementation of CRS for seamless birth-death registration

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR NOVEMBER 29: In order to review the status of Mandatory Biometric Updates (BMU), implementation Civil Registration System (CRS) and establishment of Centre of Excellence in district, a meeting of all stakeholder departments was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here today.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Programme Officer ICDS, Bureeda Majeed; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohidin; District Social Welfare Officer, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Medical Superintendent Lal Ded Hospital, District health Officer, all Tehsildars, All BDOs, District Informatics Officer, State Project Manager, Srinagar from UIDAI, District Lead Bank Manager, Health Officer, SMC, District Coordinator CSC E-Governance and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the progress on Mandatory Biometric Updates for Aadhaar and need for time-bound disposal of pendency in Aadhaar enrolment. He also reviewed the implementation status of the CRS focusing on the Birth Registration-Based Aadhaar Enrolment (BRBAE) initiative for new born to be enrolled for Aadhaar in hospitals, aligning with the goal of transforming the CRS for real-time digital registration of births and deaths.

Underlining the need for a targeted approach to achieve full Aadhaar saturation, particularly among children aged 0-5 years, the DC emphasised time bound disposal of Aadhaar enrolment pendency. He asked the Chief Education Officer to expedite the process of the Aadhaar based initiative by the end of November. He also directed Tehsildars to regularly monitor and clear Aadhaar-related cases in their respective jurisdictions.

The DC further stressed the importance of proper coordination between line departments and UIDAI to ensure seamless functioning of Aadhaar enrolment gadgets and their effective handling so that the process can be expedited.

Reviewing progress on the establishment of the Centre of Excellence (CSC), the Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned departments to complete all requirements within the stipulated timeline to ensure that the centre becomes operational at the earliest.

DC Kupwara chairs DLSCC meeting to review SRO-43 Relief Cases of Terror Victims

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, NOVEMBER 20: In continuation of ongoing efforts to swiftly process SRO-43 applications submitted by the next of kins (NoKs) of terror-affected victims, a meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse at DC office.

The Committee conducted a



comprehensive review of the cases submitted under SRO-43 by the next of kins (NoKs) of terror-affected victims in the district.

After thorough discussions, eligible cases were recommended by committee for further action.

SSP Kupwara, Syed Al-Tahir Gilani; SSP Handwara, Sahil Sarangal; ADC Kupwara Gulzar Ahmad, ACR Kupwara, officers of Army, CID, CRPF were present in the meeting.

DC Budgam reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar Scheme in District

Stresses timely subsidy Disbursement, Mass Awareness for achieving targets

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the status of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The scheme, aimed at promoting rooftop solar installations for households, is being implemented across all five subdivisions of Budgam.

It was informed that the district has a yearly target of 1198 rooftop solar installations, out of which 596 have already been installed.

Among subdivisions, Chadoora has 246 installations, Charar-i-Sharief has 165, Budgam has 77, Narbal with 77 and Beerwah with 31.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the progress achieved in Chadoora and Charar-i-Sharief



subdivisions is commendable. He instructed the officers and field agencies to intensify efforts so that the benefits of the scheme

reach every eligible household.

The DC stressed that rooftop solar is not only a step towards clean and renewable energy but

also a direct relief to households by ensuring free electricity of up to 300 units per month. He said the scheme has the potential

to reduce dependency on conventional power supply and provide long-term savings for families.

He directed the concerned departments to closely monitor vendor performance, speed up the inspection process, and clear pending subsidy cases without unnecessary delays. He also emphasised the need to conduct widespread awareness campaigns at the grassroots level, making people aware of the scheme's financial and environmental benefits.

The DC reiterated that Budgam district must strive to achieve its annual target of rooftop installations well in time and called for greater coordination among officers, field staff, and vendors.

Besides, CPO budgam, ACD budgam, Executive engineer KPDCI, all AEEs were present in the meeting.

DC Budgam reviews progress of PMAY-Urban 1.0 & 2.0 in District

Hands-over Sanction letters among beneficiaries of MC chadoora, Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 20: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a review meeting on the progress and implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-Urban) 1.0 and 2.0 for all 6 Municipalities of District Budgam here at the New Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

Besides, CPO budgam Chief Executive Officer MC Budgam, Deputy General Manager Housing Board Unit-II Srinagar, Executive Officers of MC Magam,

Khansahib, Chadoora, Charar-i-Sharief and Beerwah, Project Coordinator PMAY-Urban 2.0 Budgam, CLTC Planning Area staff were present in the meeting.

The DC reviewed in detail the status of under-construction houses under PMAY-Urban 1.0. He stressed that all pending construction works must be completed within the fixed timelines.

The DC said that beneficiaries who have already received installments should be facilitated and motivated to finish the construction at the earliest.



Reviewing PMAY-Urban 2.0, he stressed on the immediate grounding of all newly approved houses. The DC directed that Urban Local Bodies must ensure timely issuance of permissions and provide handholding support to beneficiaries so that work begins without delay.

A detailed assessment of Verification and Geo-Tagging under PMAY-Urban 2.0 was also carried out.

He directed the concerned officers to complete all pending geo-tagging and verification so that eligible cases can be forwarded swiftly through the Unified Web Portal for DLC-level

approvals.

The DC directed that immediate Action needs to be taken to the cases where Advance Mobilization amounts were disbursed but construction was not initiated. He emphasised that strict recovery shall be made from such beneficiaries as per guidelines. He instructed all officers to identify such cases and ensure necessary action.

The DC further directed EOs of MCs to expedite ULB-level approvals of all eligible PMAY-U 2.0 cases. He said that coordinated efforts are essential to achieve the goal of providing

housing to all eligible urban households.

The DC called for intensified field monitoring, regular updating of progress on the portal, and weekly reporting to the District Administration.

He stressed that PMAY-Urban is a crucial housing initiative, and its timely implementation will significantly benefit deserving families across the district.

On the occasion the DC handed over the sanction letters under PMAY-Urban to 16 beneficiaries of MC chadoora and 14 beneficiaries of MC budgam of the District.

HT EDITORIAL

Classification of no e-rickshaw zones in Srinagar a welcome step

On Thursday the Regional Transport Office (RTO) Kashmir issued a notification declaring two major stretches in Srinagar city as “No e-Rickshaw Zones” to ensure smooth traffic movement. According to the notification the decision was taken following the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) meeting held on November 13. The restricted stretches include Maulana Azad Road — from Jehangir Chowk to J&K Bank headquarters and Residency Road — from Hari Singh High Street to J&K Bank headquarters.

The order has come into effect immediately and will remain in force until further instructions. The RTO has cautioned that any violation of this directive will invite action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the rules framed there under. The order is likely to ease the traffic woes on the busy roads of the Srinagar city. One can witness a number of e-rickshaws parked on the main road in the Lal Chowk, Jehangir Chowk, Hari Singh High Street, Dalgate and other areas in the city centre.

Since the whole stretch of the road from Batalmaloo to Dalgate is a wide one the flow of the traffic needs to be streamlined and as such there is little scope for the operation of e-rickshaws on the busy roads in the Srinagar city. Since the vehicles run at a fast speed on the busy roads there are chances that there might be accidents involving the e-rickshaws with some other vehicles. Given this scenario, making the roads as no ply zones for e-rickshaws is a good step and should be hailed by one and all.

The owners of e-rickshaws should understand that this mode of transport should operate on nearer routes where the flow of other forms of traffic is not huge. Ideally these e-rickshaws should operate in the colonies spread across the length and breadth of Srinagar and other towns of the valley. There is no need to ply these e-rickshaws on the main roads since multiple options of transport are available to the people.

The office of RTO Kashmir should decide about the routes for the e-rickshaws and it should be ensured that the uncovered areas are connected with this mode of transport. This would come as a huge relief for the people living in colonies and areas where no mode of public transport is available. At the same time the rates need to be fixed so that there is no confusion which at times leads to an altercation between a commuter and e-rickshaw driver.

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When Parents Become Lonely — The Collapse of Relationships in the Age of Progress



In our culture caring for parents is not a choice. It is an act of worship. It is a gift from God. We teach our children many things. We teach them how to succeed. We teach them how to earn. But we forget to teach them the most important lesson of all. Respect your elders. Listen to them. Value them. We share posts on social media on special days. We buy flowers and gifts. But the truth is simple. Parents do not want grand steps. They want time. They want the company of people they love

We call this the age of progress. We say we are moving forward. Yet a painful question rises again and again. Why has loneliness settled in the eyes of our parents? Why do their hearts feel abandoned in a world filled with comfort?

The Age of Advancement
Humanity has reached great heights. We travel across the world. We build tall buildings. We use machines that think faster than us. We fill our homes with comfort and modern tools. Life seems easier on the outside.

But inside our hearts something has changed. The warmth that once filled our homes is slowly fading away. The light of love is weaker than before. Our parents sit quietly and watch us run behind work and success. They stay silent because silence is the only space left for them.

A Changing Time
We tell ourselves that we are too busy. We talk about jobs, deadlines and responsibilities. But in this rush we forget the people who once forgot their own needs for us. They gave up sleep to care for us. They gave up their dreams so we could chase ours.

Now they sit alone. Our calls come late. Our visits become very rare. We think that sending money is enough. But our parents do not need money. They need our time and our gentle words. A simple question like Ammi Abbu how are you today carries more love than any gift.

A Life Without Soul
Technology was supposed to bring us closer. We can talk across seas. We can see each other through screens. But these screens have not filled the space in our hearts. Our words travel fast but our feelings travel slow.

Parents cannot feel love through a device. They need real presence. They need someone to sit beside them. They need hands they can hold. They need slow evenings where silence becomes a kind of love. This is something machines can never give us.

The Loss of Respect
There was a time when parents guided every important decision. Their wisdom shaped families. Today that wisdom is often called old thinking. When we ignore their voice they feel their worth slip away. They feel

like guests in their own house.

A small look of disappointment from them tells a story that we often fail to hear. Their hearts break softly when their words lose value. That quiet withdrawal is the first sign of a much deeper pain. It is the moment when loneliness settles inside them like a slow snowfall.

The Pain of Loneliness
Growing old is not the real burden. Illness is not the real fear. The real suffering is loneliness. Long days pass without company. Long nights pass without a warm voice. They wait for calls that never come. They wait for footsteps that never reach the door.

They look at old photographs and remember days when their house was full of laughter. Now they only hear the ticking clock. Time seems slow. The world feels distant. Their hearts carry memories and hope at the same time. But hope grows weaker when children remain far away.

Loneliness for them is not just the lack of people. It is the feeling that they no longer matter.

Have We Forgotten Our Duty?
In our culture caring for parents is not a choice. It is an act of worship. It is a gift from God. We teach our children many things. We teach them how to succeed. We teach them how to earn. But we forget to teach them the most important lesson of all. Respect your elders. Listen to them. Value them.

We share posts on social media on special days. We buy flowers and gifts. But the truth is simple. Parents do not want grand steps. They want time. They want the company of people they love.

A False Picture of Progress
We proudly speak of development. We show our advanced machines. We boast of smart cities and fast internet. But what kind of progress is this if our parents sit alone and forgotten?

A society that leaves its seniors in sadness is not strong. It is absolutely weak. True progress shines inside the home. True progress is seen in the way we treat the people who raised us. If their hearts carry sorrow because of us then our success means nothing.

The Unseen Gap

Many young people say they are busy building a future. But they forget that the foundation of this future was laid by their parents. Those tired hands once held us when we were weak. Now they wait for the same support from us. We have grown but our hearts have not grown with the same speed.

Love is not a message or a quick call. Love needs time. Love grows only when we show up and when we stay. Our parents need our presence more than anything else.

Healing the Wound
The solution is simple. Go home. Sit with your parents. Let your mother speak. Listen even if it is the same story you have heard many times. She repeats it because it brings her joy. Hold your father's hand. Ask him about his days of youth. Drink tea with them. Watch the evening sky with them.

These moments may seem small but they carry great healing. They fill the heart with peace. They rebuild trust and love. They end the pain that silence creates.

A Lesson for the Next Generation

Let us teach our children that love grows through presence. Let us show them that parents are treasures not burdens. They are roots that keep us strong. A family cannot stand without its roots. If we neglect them the whole tree of life will fall apart.

We must remind ourselves and the world that the highest place in life belongs to parents. Their prayers protect us. Their blessings open paths for us.

Final Reflection
Our progress is empty if it hides the tears of our elders. The real measure of success is the smile on the face of our mother and father. Before life moves too far away from us let us return to them. Not through screens. Through our presence. Through our hearts.

Parents are like trees that give shade so their children can grow. If that tree stands alone in the sun the whole garden begins to fade. Let us protect that tree. Let us hold it with love. Let us give our parents the peace they gave us for a lifetime.

The author from Trichal Pulwama

WORLD FISHERIES DAY-2025

■ BY PROF. RONIKA YOUSUF
■ TAMANA LATIEF

World Fisheries Day, observed annually on the 21st of November, serves as a critical juncture for the global community to evaluate the state of marine and freshwater ecosystems and the socio-economic framework of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. It acknowledges the sea as a paramount source of nutrition and livelihood for millions, while highlighting the complex challenges confronting those engaged in its harvest. The fisheries and aquaculture sector constitutes a cornerstone of the global food system and economy. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2020), an estimated 58.5 million individuals were employed in the primary sector of capture fisheries and aquaculture. A substantial majority of this workforce is comprised of small-scale, artisanal fishers and aquaculture workers in developing nations, for whom this sector provides a primary source of income and livelihood security. As the most significant single source of high-quality animal protein, fish is indispensable to global food security and nutrition. Small-scale operations are particularly crucial, contributing approximately 40% of the global catch, thereby underpinning the dietary health and economic resilience of communities worldwide (FAO, 2022).

Despite its critical importance, the sector is beleaguered by a confluence of endemic and emerging threats. Global environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and ocean acidification, pose existential risks to marine productivity and ecosystem stability (IPCC, 2022). These are compounded by localized, anthropogenic pressures such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, unsustainable extraction methods, habitat degradation, and pollution. Furthermore, the sector is characterized by significant socio-economic vulnerabilities. Reports from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and human rights agencies document instances of labor rights infringements, unsafe working conditions, and a lack of social protection for a considerable portion of the



workforce (ILO, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic functioned as a stark stress test, exacerbating these pre-existing vulnerabilities. Disruptions in logistics, market closures, and the collapse of demand—particularly from the hospitality sector—precipitated severe income losses, especially among small-scale operators and women, who represent a high proportion of the post-harvest workforce and often operate in informal, precarious employment contexts.

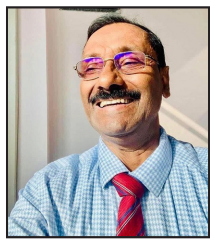
Addressing this socio-ecological crisis necessitates robust, multi-scalar governance and international cooperation grounded in the principles of equity, justice, and subsidiarity. The ocean and its resources must be managed as a common heritage of humankind, requiring collaborative frameworks to mitigate environmental threats and enforce regulations against IUU fishing and labor abuses. The pandemic has underscored the urgent need for more resilient institutions and proactive policies that extend social safety nets and support sustainable livelihoods across the value chain. The theme for World Fisheries Day 2025, “We have caught nothing, but at your word I will let down the nets,”

encapsulates a pivotal moment of reflection and potential transition. It signifies a recognition of the limitations of current practices and a call for evidence-based, precautionary, and transformative action. This day is marked globally through academic workshops, policy dialogues, and community-led demonstrations—such as those in India that highlight issues of overfishing and equitable access—which collectively explore pathways toward sustainable and just ocean governance.

In conclusion, World Fisheries Day 2025 provides a platform to affirm that the future of fisheries and the well-being of dependent communities are inextricably linked. Ensuring their sustainability demands collective and concerted action from policymakers, industry stakeholders, the scientific community, and civil society. Honoring the labor of fishers and aquaculturists must be coupled with a renewed commitment to scientific management, ethical practices, and international solidarity to preserve these vital resources for posterity.

The author is a PhD scholar

Italian Medievalist and Cultural Critic Umberto Eco: He Lived For Books



DR RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Eco continued this exploration of intellectual adventure with *The Island of the Day Before*, a richly layered narrative set in the 17th century. The protagonist, Roberto della Griva, finds himself shipwrecked on a vessel anchored near the international date line, forever separated by a thin strip of water from "the day before."

Eco turns this strange predicament into an elaborate meditation on time, longing, scientific discovery, and the fragility of human perception. Unlike *The Name of the Rose*, which relies on the forward thrust of a mystery, or *Foucault's Pendulum*, which builds its momentum through conspiracy and intellectual satire, this novel unfolds like a philosophical dream. It draws on the history of navigation, the search for longitudes, and the Renaissance obsession with knowledge, but its emotional core is the idea of yearning—yearning for an unattainable past, for a place one can observe but never reach. Eco creates a floating world where imagination becomes both salvation and imprisonment, and where the boundary between reality and fantasy grows steadily porous.

"We live for books" – said Umberto Eco and to speak of Umberto is to enter a vast labyrinth of words, ideas, histories, secrets, and intellectual delights that resist simplification. When readers invoke the name Umberto in the world of literature, they almost always mean the Italian polymath Umberto Eco, the man whose fiction redefined what a novel could be and how knowledge could be woven into narrative. Eco was not simply a novelist; he was a semiotician, a philosopher, a scholar of medieval aesthetics, a cultural theorist, and a storyteller who insisted that the mind of a reader must be an active collaborator. His works stand on the glowing crossroads of erudition and imagination, and to read him is to experience the intoxicating sense that literature is an infinite archive where signs reveal themselves only to those who learn how to see. The fiction he created remains among the most intellectually ambitious and widely celebrated achievements in modern world literature, shaping how readers approach the interplay between history and narrative, truth and fabrication, desire and deception. Umberto Eco's contemporaries included his literary influences like Jorge Luis Borges and Italo Calvino as well as fellow postmodern and historical fiction authors such as Carlos Ruiz Zafon, Jose Saramago and Arturo Perez-Reverte. He was also contemporaries with the philosophers and pragmatists he engaged with, including W.V.O. Quine, Richard Rorty and others in the field of semiotics.

I was fascinated by him when I heard him saying, "To survive, you must tell stories." The unifying force across all of Eco's novels is his belief that reading is a collaborative act. He often spoke of the "model reader," an imagined ideal reader capable of engaging with the text's layers. But Eco was not elitist; he simply trusted readers. He believed that novels could be intellectually demanding and still reach a wide audience. That belief shaped his style—rich, playful, deeply allusive, filled with historical references yet grounded in the pleasures of narrative. For Eco, fiction functioned as a laboratory of ideas, a space where theories could be dramatized through characters, conflicts, and mysteries. His academic expertise allowed him to explore topics as diverse as monastic scholarship, Renaissance science, medieval theology, structuralist theory, conspiracy psychology, and print culture, but he filtered these through human stories that resonate across time.

Umberto entered the fictional world relatively late in life, after establishing himself as a respected academic. Yet when he did, the impact was seismic. His first novel, *The Name of the Rose*, published in 1980, startled readers and critics alike with its confident fusion of detective fiction, medieval history, theology, and semiotics. It was a novel that demanded attentiveness but rewarded that attentiveness with a rare kind of pleasure: the pleasure of decoding. This historical mystery novel was set in a 14th-century Italian monastery, where Franciscan friar William of Baskerville and his young scribe Adso of Melk investigate a series of mysterious deaths. The investigation is overshadowed by the looming theological debate and culminates in the destruction of the monastery's library by a fire. The novel explores themes of reason versus faith, the suppression of knowledge, and the interpretation of signs. In Eco's world, books are not passive vessels; they are engines of power, objects of desire, and repositories of great danger. Every page of the novel carries the tension between rational inquiry and dogmatic rigidity, embodied in the famous Franciscan detective William of Baskerville, whose Holmesian logic illuminates the monastery's most shadowy corners. Eco used this story not simply to entertain but to ask questions about interpretation itself—how meaning is constructed, how truth is shaped, and how easily authority collapses when confronted by curiosity. The result was a novel that became both a bestseller and a scholarly object of fascination, its success illustrating that the reading public was more than capable of embracing complexity when it was delivered through narrative enchantment.

But Eco's fiction does not rest on the strength of a single masterpiece. His second novel, *Foucault's Pendulum*, published in 1988, dives even deeper into the interplay between reality and imagination, conspiracy and knowledge. Often described as the "thinking person's Da Vinci Code," though it predates Brown's novel by more than a decade, this work satirizes the human tendency to find patterns everywhere—even when none exist. The protagonists, three editors at a vanity publishing house, amuse themselves by inventing a grand conspiracy that ties together Templars, Rosicrucians, cabalists, alchemists, and every other thread



of esoteric lore they can find. Umberto wrote in this novel, "I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom." But in Eco's world, fantasies have consequences, and stories have the terrifying ability to shape reality. What begins as intellectual play gradually becomes a dangerous trap as real-world believers in occult theories assume the fabricated conspiracy to be authentic. Eco constructs a narrative that is both thrilling and self-reflective, a metafictional inquiry into the very nature of interpretation. He warns that when the desire for meaning becomes excessive, the result is not enlightenment but delusion. In doing so, he anticipates the contemporary age of misinformation, conspiracy theories, and epistemic instability, making the novel more relevant now than at the time of its publication.

Eco continued this exploration of intellectual adventure with *The Island of the Day Before*, a richly layered narrative set in the 17th century. The protagonist, Roberto della Griva, finds himself shipwrecked on a vessel anchored near the international date line, forever separated by a thin strip of water from "the day before." Eco turns this strange predicament into an elaborate meditation on time, longing, scientific discovery, and the fragility of human perception. Unlike *The Name of the Rose*, which relies on the forward thrust of a mystery, or *Foucault's Pendulum*, which builds its momentum through conspiracy and intellectual satire, this novel unfolds like a philosophical dream. It draws on the history of navigation, the search for longitudes, and the Renaissance obsession with knowledge, but its emotional core is the idea of yearning—yearning for an unattainable past, for a lost love, for a place one can observe but never reach. Eco creates a floating world where imagination becomes both salvation and imprisonment, and where the boundary between reality and fantasy grows steadily porous.

In *Baudolino*, Eco shifts into a playful, exuberant mode, revisiting the medieval world through the eyes of the fantastical storyteller Baudolino, whose irrepressible creativity shapes the course of empires. Set partly during the Fourth Crusade, the novel explores how stories become history. Baudolino is a liar—and yet, in Eco's hands, lying becomes a creative, sometimes necessary act. Through the picaresque adventures of his protagonist, Eco examines the medieval hunger for marvels, from unicorns to hyperborean creatures, and the human impulse to invent meaning when the world refuses to explain itself. The novel highlights Eco's

wit, his love of linguistic games, and his capacity to treat historical events with both reverence and irony. In the figure of Baudolino, Eco seems to be speaking about the nature of fiction itself: a beautiful lie that illuminates deeper truths.

Another of Eco's significant fictional work is *The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana*, a novel that borrows from memory studies, autobiography, and cultural history. The protagonist, Yambo, loses his personal memory but retains his encyclopedic knowledge of literature, culture, and public history. The novel becomes a moving journey through the landscapes of childhood objects, popular magazines, wartime slogans, and forgotten music—an exploration of how collective memory shapes the individual. Eco uses experimental techniques, integrating images, comic strips, and visual artifacts into the narrative, reminding readers that memory is a collage rather than a continuous story. This novel stands apart from his others in its emotional vulnerability. Behind the intellectual framing lies a profoundly human portrait of a man trying to recover not facts, but the feelings tied to those facts. Eco subtly reveals that fiction is also a mechanism of memory—an imaginative reconstruction that gives shape to the chaos of lived experience.

Eco's last novel, *Numero Zero*, published in 2015, returns to themes of conspiracy, media manipulation, and political intrigue. Set in the early 1990s, the novel revolves around a newspaper that is never meant to be published; instead, it exists to blackmail, distort, and fabricate stories that can be weaponized for power. Eco's sharp satirical eye dissects journalism, sensationalism, and the corrosive influence of propaganda. With characteristic prescience, he anticipates the coming storm of post-truth politics and media ecosystems driven by spectacle rather than accuracy. The novel may be shorter and more direct than his earlier works, but it reiterates a lifelong theme: narratives shape reality, for better or worse. Eco reminds readers that fiction does not merely entertain; it conditions the imagination of societies, influencing what people believe and how they act. In this sense, his fiction is never separate from his philosophical concerns as a semiotician.

Eco's fiction reveals his fascination with falsehood. This does not mean deception in a moral sense, but rather the idea that humans survive by creating interpretive frameworks—stories that may or may not correspond to objective truth. In *Foucault's Pendulum*, this leads to paranoia; in *Baudolino*, it leads to adventure; in *Queen Loana*, it leads to nostalgia. Eco understands that

stories, even untrue ones, possess immense power. This insight is rooted in his training as a semiotician, for he spent his scholarly life studying signs, symbols, and the mechanisms by which meaning is constructed. His fiction becomes the imaginative counterpart to his academic theories, demonstrating how semiotics functions not in theoretical texts but in human lives. What distinguishes Eco from many contemporary writers is the breadth of his intellectual horizon. He was equally at home discussing medieval heresies, James Joyce, comic strips, Schopenhauer, or the aesthetics of beauty. This intellectual omnivorousness finds its fullest expression in his fiction, as his novels become encyclopedic in the classical sense. They gather knowledge from all corners and weave it into stories that ask readers to think about the world more deeply. Yet Eco's works are never mere compendiums of learning; they pulse with humor, irony, and narrative tension. He respected the novel as an artistic form capable of accommodating vast intellectual architectures without losing emotional resonance or narrative drive.

In many ways, Eco's novels form a grand philosophical cycle about the search for truth. In *The Name of the Rose*, the search is empirical and theological. In *Foucault's Pendulum*, it becomes distorted by paranoia. In *The Island of the Day Before*, it takes the form of a dreamlike longing. In *Baudolino*, truth is inseparable from invention. In *Queen Loana*, truth lies hidden in memory's labyrinth. And in *Numero Zero*, truth is threatened by the machinery of power. Across these diverse settings and structures, Eco insists that truth is not a fixed destination but an ongoing interpretive process. The reader, like Eco's characters, must learn to navigate signs with humility and curiosity. Eco's influence on global literature cannot be overstated. He demonstrated that intellectually sophisticated novels could achieve popular success, opening the door for later writers who similarly combined scholarship with storytelling. He also influenced the ways scholars think about narrative theory, historical fiction, and the responsibilities of the reader. His novels engage with questions that remain urgent: How do we know what we know? How do stories shape our perceptions of reality? What happens when interpretation becomes obsession? Why do human beings seek hidden patterns in the world? Eco's fiction does not offer simple answers, but it provides the imaginative tools to explore these questions.

Eco's fiction continues to attract readers because it satisfies both the heart and the mind. The emotional power of his narratives—fear, longing, nostalgia, wonder, intellectual exhilaration—coexists seamlessly with the density of his ideas. Few writers have blended storytelling and scholarship so effortlessly. Eco proved that fiction can be a powerful intellectual tool, capable of performing the work that philosophy sometimes cannot: reaching people not only through argument but through imagination. Ultimately, Umberto and his fiction remain inseparable. His novels are extensions of his intellectual identity, yet they stand independently as vibrant works of art. They challenge, provoke, entertain, and enlighten. They draw readers into an infinite play of signs and meanings while reminding them of the fragile beauty of human curiosity. In Eco's fictional universe, the world is always a book waiting to be read, and the act of reading becomes a way of living more deeply. Umberto's contribution to literature is not only the creation of unforgettable stories but also the reaffirmation of the novel as an instrument of knowledge, mystery, and wonder. His fiction endures because it calls on readers to think—to question, to decode, to interpret, and to discover themselves in the process. Through his novels, the literary world gained not merely an author but a guide to the inexhaustible labyrinth of human meaning. Since 2008 to the time of his death at the age of 84, he was a professor emeritus at the University of Bologna, where he had taught since 1971. In 2014 he was awarded the Gutenberg Prize of the International Gutenberg Society and the City of Mainz. Eco died at his Milanese home of pancreatic cancer on 19 February 2016. Today when every morning his readers wake up, they cannot but recall his saying, "I love the smell of book ink in the morning."

About the Author
International Tagore Awardee
Professor Ratan Bhattacharjee, the author of *Six Feet Distance* (USA 2023 winner of the Book of the Year Award 2025) is known as 'Oleander Poet' for his poetic best seller 'Oleander Blooms'. Email prafatanbhattacharjee@gmail.com



Banana Magic



■ SHAHNAZ HUSSAIN

Bananas are the most consumed fruit in India, and have been one of the most widely consumed exotic fruits by humans for thousands of years. Bananas are a cheap and widely accessible fruit worldwide. Bananas are more than just a tasty snack. A fruit available at any time of year, bananas contain around 75% water, which means they're great for hydrating skin and preventing it from drying out or peeling.

Bananas contain nutrients that are essential for a healthy epidermis, including high levels of vitamins A, C, E and B6, which help to delay visible ageing signs. Whether you're eating it or applying it to your skin or hair, bananas can work wonders to give you a radiant complexion and hydrating, healthy locks.

Bananas can be made into a pulp and applied to the face. Rubbing a banana peel on your face to brighten skin and reduce wrinkles

They can also be added to fruit packs. Bananas have a tightening effect on the skin and also help to nourish it. They revitalise dry and rough skin, making it softer and smoother. Egg yolk or curd may be added to mashed bananas and applied as a face pack. For normal to dry skin, add one teaspoon of pure glycerin or honey to the banana pack. Almond oil may also be added to the banana hair pack.

Banana helps to treat puffiness in the eyes. Peel a banana, place the skin on your eye contours and leave for 15-20 minutes. The potassium in bananas absorbs excess fluid accumulated under the skin and immediately reduces swelling.

Bananas can be made into a pulp and applied to the hair like a pack. Leave it on for 20 to 30 minutes and then wash it off.

Banana and honey face masks combat dryness and restore moisture to the skin. Mash half a ripe banana. Add 1 tablespoon of honey and mix to

make a smooth paste. Apply evenly on your face and leave for 15 minutes. Rinse off with lukewarm water..

Egg yolk or curd may be added to mashed bananas and applied to the face or hair. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes.

If the hair is very dry, add one teaspoon of pure glycerin or honey to the banana pack. Almond oil may also be added to the banana hair pack.

Bananas can also be mixed with other fruits and made into a hair pack. For example, you can add grated apple, ripe papaya pulp and oranges. Papaya contains enzymes that help to cleanse the scalp and remove dandruff flakes. Oranges restore the normal acid-alkaline balance, while apples contain pectin and have a cleansing and toning effect.

It's a good idea to give the hair a massage with warm oil and then apply the pack. You can use pure almond oil or olive oil. After applying the pack, put on a shower cap to allow the scalp and hair to absorb the ingredients. Keep it on for half an hour and then wash off with lukewarm water.

Bananas are quite beneficial for oily skin. If you are facing an oily skin issue, then Grate 1/4 of a papaya, 1/4 of a cucumber, and 1/2 of a banana to make a smooth paste. After applying the paste to your face and neck, wait 15 minutes. After that, thoroughly wash it with warm water.

Bananas can offer remedies for acne and pimples.

Mash half a banana in a jar together with 1 tsp of turmeric or 1 tbsp of neem powder or paste. Make a smooth paste by thoroughly mixing all the ingredients.

Apply the paste to the face and neck, and wash with clean and fresh water after 20 minutes.

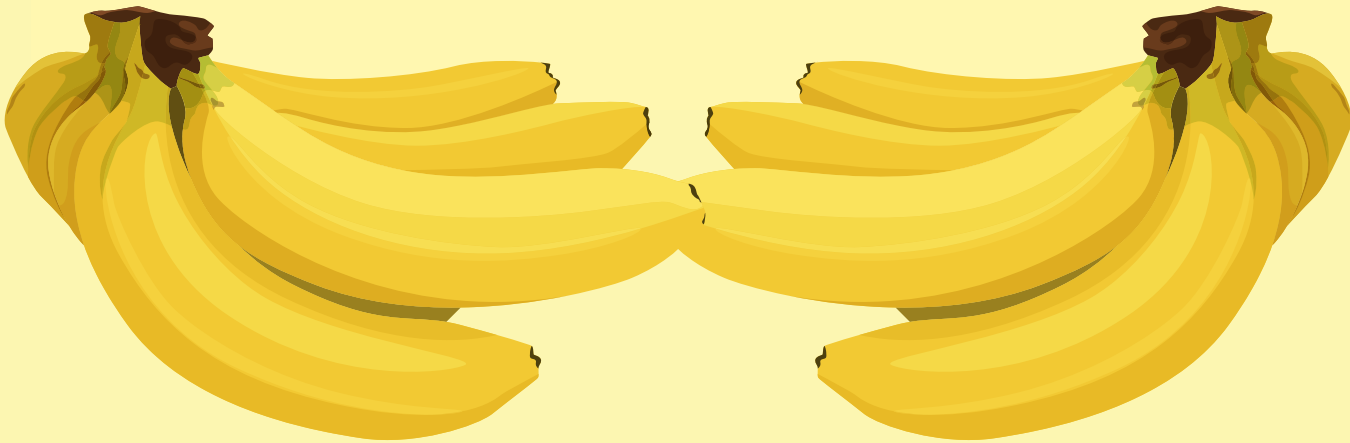
Use it under the eyes

Some keep the peel in the refrigerator for a few minutes and then place the inner side under the eyes to cool and relax the skin.

Add it to homemade scrubs

People may dry the peel, grind it into powder, and mix it with oatmeal or yoghurt to make a natural scrub.

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India



Health is wealth

Walking means a healthy life and a happy future

■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Sensible people keep health always at a priority and never ignore health-related issues. Today we have serious issues regarding health, like fatty liver, which is one of the concerns among young people, and there are other issues like obesity, joint pain, gut health, stomach issues and many more.

We can get rid of all the health-related issues as we have a great opportunity to go for a morning or evening walk, or we can cover more distance by walking at any time. We should avoid motor vehicles and bikes and should use a bicycle, which requires more energy to ride.

Bodybuilding: one of the addictive sports activities

As per biological science, our life cycle undergoes various stages and processes. Adolescence is one of the stages where different biological changes take place naturally. Hormonal changes take place, due to which the whole body structure gets a new shape in both females and males. This stage is considered a very crucial period for teenagers. Adolescent periods start from 9 years of age among females and from 11 among males. Hormonal changes are very important and crucial. During this crucial period, most of the teenagers were involved in different kinds of evil. Like being involved in drugs, engaged in wayward tasks, getting arrogant, stubborn, rude behaviour, lacking patience, etc.

Teenagers need proper counselling, motivation for their upliftment during this crucial period. Our society is filled

with great and renowned personalities who have done miracles for the nation and are still doing their best. For the time being, we have to utilize each and every facility for the upliftment of our young buds and teach them what is suitable and beneficial for them. Government administration from lower to higher levels left no stone unturned to minimize the crimes, drug addiction among the teenagers, youths, but very unfortunately, we are still miles away from making it possible.

One thing is quite clear that with the passage of time, we have to experience all the happenings within our society, which include negative as well as positive events. This world is full of mysterious stories. Every event has its own story. Today, in this article, let's try to motivate our friends of all age groups towards bodybuilding sports. Today, bodybuilding is trending throughout the country. India has been among the top countries that have good sports infrastructure and has participated at the international level for centuries.

As I have experienced, bodybuilding is one of the best and addictive activities one must engage in. Bodybuilding endowed with an attractive shape to your body, keeps you fit and fine. There are great and interesting facts about bodybuilding, as mentioned. (1) Bodybuilding keeps you disease-free and boosts your immunity in different ways. (2) Bodybuilding keeps you warm during winters and makes you feel relaxed during summers. (3) Bodybuilding reduces the risks among obese patients and burns their extra fat up to an optimum level. (4) Bodybuilding

reduces your belly fat, makes you good and enhances your diet capacity. (6) Bodybuilding keeps you happy and reduces your depression, so when you are depressed, do certain exercises.

All the points I have mentioned are based on my own experience. First of all, try to make yourself understand that "I want to look good, disease-free, and will not get involved in any drug addiction. Will motivate my friends toward sports activities and will be ready, fit and healthy all the time. These days, gym centres are available everywhere, laced with advanced equipment. There are trained and experienced trainers there. So we have a great chance to burn our extra fat during these winter days. After spending a couple of days in the gym, we have to follow a balanced and balanced diet. Diet plays a vital role for those who are involved in bodybuilding activities.

Gym centres facilitate music, advanced equipment, a hygienic environment, and experienced trainers. Always follow the trainer and avoid muscle cramps, bone injury, etc. I suggest you all join gym centres. I hope you will feel good and relaxed. Government administration at the district level should provide gym centres at the Panchayat level so that everyone can get engaged in and keep themselves fit and fine. One more thing: do machine exercise for almost 6 months that will get your body cuttings and an attractive shape, believe in a natural diet and avoid supplements.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

THE HIDDEN NUISANCE OF MOUTH FRESHENERS



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

In today's fast-paced, image-driven world, mouth fresheners have evolved far beyond simple breath enhancers. From mint sprays and flavoured pellets to coated seeds and complex chewing mixtures, they have become everyday accessories symbolising hygiene, confidence and social etiquette. Yet behind this glossy façade lies a growing public-health concern—one that is frequently overlooked because these products appear harmless.

Medical and Scientific Concerns
Chemical Irritants and Oral Health

Many commercial mouth fresheners contain synthetic flavours, preservatives and artificial colours. Prolonged exposure to these substances can cause significant harm:

Mouth Dryness: Alcohol-based sprays and menthol-rich compounds reduce salivary flow, disrupting the mouth's natural cleansing process.

Oral Ulceration: Frequent chemical irritation may trigger painful ulcers, burning sensations and inflammation.

Enamel Erosion: Acidic flavouring agents gradually weaken tooth enamel, increasing the risk of decay.

Metabolic and Systemic Effects

Sweetened mouth fresheners, particularly when consumed several times a day, add unnecessary calories and can contribute to insulin resistance in at-risk individuals. Artificial sweeteners, though safe in moderation, may cause digestive discomfort if overused.

In South Asia, a more dangerous trend persists—mouth fresheners containing areca nut (supari) or hidden tobacco derivatives. These additives are medically linked to:

Oral Submucous Fibrosis
Increased Risk of Oral Cancer
Addiction and Dependency
Cardiovascular Strain

Despite their serious health implications, these products are often sweetened or flavoured to mask the danger.

Psychological Dimensions

Habit Formation and Behavioural Conditioning

Many people unconsciously reach for mouth fresheners:
after meals
before social interactions
during stress
out of boredom

Over time, this behaviour becomes habitual—similar to gum-chewing or nail-biting.

Emotional Dependence

The brief cooling sensation or burst of flavour acts like a reward, creating a subtle psychological dependency. Some users feel uneasy or incomplete without having a mouth freshener constantly available.

Identity and Image Construction

For many young people, mouth fresheners symbolize modernity, confidence and attractiveness. This creates a powerful psychological push toward excessive, often unnecessary consumption.

Media and Marketing Influence

Aggressive advertising amplifies the problem. Commercials portray mouth fresheners as gateways to charm, success, freshness and social approval.

Many campaigns normalize the idea that breath freshness needs continuous maintenance—an unrealistic and unhealthy expectation.

Products containing areca nut or tobacco are often deceptively labelled as "herbal", "natural" or "refreshing", misleading consumers and masking real dangers.

Long-Term Health Risks

Chronic use, especially of chemically enriched or sweetened mouth fresheners, can lead to:

dental caries
altered taste perception
throat and esophageal irritation
dependency on stimulant-based variants
precancerous oral conditions
Public-health systems are gradually recognizing these products as contributors to the growing burden of oral diseases.

Pathways to De-Addiction and Healthier Behaviour

Behavioural Strategies

Identify Triggers: Recognizing the moments that provoke usage helps break the cycle.

Gradual Reduction: Cutting down slowly prevents discomfort and promotes consistency.

Healthy Substitutes: Sugar-free gum, fennel (saunf), or simple mouth rinsing can satisfy the need without harm.

The author is a Faculty, Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib, Punjab





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15TH PUBLICATION
HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless

Srinagar, Friday
21-November-2025



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9

Craft Demonstration cum Awareness Program commenced at Govt BHS Anderwan Ganderbal

■ HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, NOV 20: Under the aegis of Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India, a three days Craft Demonstration cum Awareness Program was launched at Govt Boys High School Anderwan. Assistant Director district Ganderbal Mr Pawan after formally launching the workshop, briefed about varied schemes and programs, the local artisans should take benefits from. The three key handicrafts which were demonstrated before the students of the school include Sozni Works, Willow Works and Tila works embroidery. In Sozni works sector, Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat a national awardee from Beerwah highlighted the importance of Sozni craft and it's scope in providing livelihood to hundreds of the registered artisans.



He is a globally recognized master craftsman, who has toured BRICS nations and recieved state award in 2011 and national award in 2012. Bashir Ahmad Dar from Peerpora Ganderbal a Willow Works master craftsman, emphasised the need for ecofriendly and economical tools produced by local artisans through handicrafts. He is associated with this craft from last 36 years, earning

national award in 2013. In Tila embroidery works Nazir Ahmad Malik from Wakoora Ganderbal displayed his skill of making and designing Tila works on Kashmiri robes Ferans. Refreshment for the students was also arranged by the concerned department and enthusiasm among students was evident as the master craftsman remained busy in teaching them.

Srinagar Police bust cheating, stolen-gold racket; woman, 2 held

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, NOV 20: Srinagar Police has achieved a major breakthrough by cracking a multi-district cheating and stolen-gold racket operating across the Kashmir Valley.

Police Station Lal Bazar arrested Asmat Jan @ Taboo, a woman wanted in multiple cases of cheating and fraud registered in Lal Bazar, Safakadal, Chadoora, Sopore, and Khrew (Awantipora). The accused had been evading arrest for a long time, frequently shifting locations between West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, and Jammu to avoid law enforcement.

Acting on specific intelligence, five dedicated teams of PS Lal Bazar—under the supervision of the SDPO and Zonal SP—tracked and apprehended her from Hotel White House, Jalandhar (Punjab) after sustained efforts.

The Gold Association of Kashmir Valley had earlier expressed serious concern over her repeated involvement in cheating gold shopkeepers across



the region. In this regard, FIR No. 42/2025 stands registered at PS Lal Bazar under Sections 303(2) and 318(4) of the BNS.

During further investigation, credible evidence surfaced establishing the involvement of a goldsmith and his associate who were knowingly engaged in receiving, transporting, and disposing of stolen gold supplied by the main accused. The arrested associates are:

1. Shameem Ahmad Sheikh, S/o Sonallah Sheikh, R/o Iqbal Colony, Indra Nagar — a goldsmith at Bohri Kadal, arrested for knowingly purchasing stolen gold ornaments at undervalued rates and facilitating their concealment and circulation.

2. Basir Ahmad Dar, S/o Abdul Aziz Dar, R/o Nawakadal — arrested for his role in transporting and clandestinely disposing of stolen gold, thereby aiding the illegal trade.

All three accused have been taken into custody. Further investigation is underway, and more arrests and recoveries are expected as the case progresses.

72nd Cooperative Week MLA Banihal inaugurates smart classroom and food processing unit

■ HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, NOV 20: As part of the ongoing 72nd Cooperative Week celebrations, Banihal two major facilities were inaugurated by MLA Banihal Sajad Shaheen, aimed at strengthening the educational and cooperative sectors in the region.

The MLA inaugurated a smart classroom at Shah-e-Asrar Cooperative Educational Institute, Kaskoot Banihal, bringing modern learning facilities to students. He also inaugurated a food processing unit of Banihal Trout FPO Cooperative Ltd, a step towards enhancing local entrepreneurship, trout value addition and livelihood generation for fisher communities.

The events were attended by the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Ramban, Tehsildar Banihal, Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies, Chairman and Principal of the institute, staff members and students.

Welcoming the dignitaries, the Principal highlighted the institution's history and its academic and co-curricular achievements. He paid tribute to the founding members and assured support for the early approval of the proposed school building through the Building Screening Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Ramban briefed the gathering on the importance of Cooperative Week and the growing contribution of cooperative institutions in the district.

The MLA congratulated the school management and Cooperative Department for establishing smart classroom. He announced ₹2 lakh CDF grant for construction of a boundary wall at the proposed school site and assured support in pursuing building permission with higher authorities.

Reviewing the Trout FPO unit, the MLA was briefed on its objectives and future expansion plans related to processing, packaging and marketing. He appreciated the efforts of the Cooperative Department and FPO members, emphasising the need to strengthen cooperative-led enterprises for rural economic upliftment.

The celebrations concluded with enthusiastic participation, marking a successful observance of the 72nd Cooperative Week in Ramban district.

Public Notice

I have lost my airport entry pass while traveling from Humhama to Airport. Now I want to make my pass once again in this case if any one have any question or doubt he can come Airport authorities in 7 days.

Mohd Uzair Bhat
S/o mohd Hussain Bhat
R/o Hillaal Abad Qammarwari Sector 2

Public Notice

I am applying for Renew of my fertilizers licence under licence number CAOB/FL/2014-15/1157 if anybody have a y objection in this regard He/She may contact Chief Agriculture officer Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

MOHD ASHRAF LONE S/O WALI MOHAMMAD
LONE R/O TILGAM PATTAN

Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS



Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of IQBAL HUSSAN KATARI S/O MOHD SHARIEF KATARI for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal)in favour of self

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and Gojer community, having annual income is 729888 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

1....IQBAL HUSSAIN KATARI SELF 35 years Govt Employee
2.... KHALIDA BEGUM wife 36 years house wife
3....KAFIYAT IQBAL KATARI son 05 years Student
The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Public Notice

I MOHD SHAFI MIR F/O IFFAT SHAFI R/O MANAGAM my daughters date of Birth has been wrongly written as 18/11/2012 in her school regard while her correct Date of Birth is 18/06/2012 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office GOVT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL MANAGAM Wagoora within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MOHD SHAFI MIR
F/O ...IFFAT SHAFI
R/O ...MANAGAM
ZONEWAGOORA

Public Notice

1,T.No.7023 Tradesman Mate Mushtaq Ahmad Gujri of 2 FOD hereby inform that I have lost my Y card bearing machine No D788951 and biometric card bearing Aadhar No 436408208490 on 19 May 2025 when leaving from home duty for BB cantt, 2 FoD.

9469486549

Public Notice

I have changed my name from HAJIRA to HAJRA. In future I will be known as HAJRA.

If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Hajra

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION KUPWARA – 193222

No: IFCDK/DB/2641-42 | Dated: 20/11/2025.

Corrigendum

Subject: Cancellation notice.

Reference: This office e-Nit No. IFCDK/ 08 of 2025-26 Dated: 14.11.2025 issued vide endstt. No. IFCDK/CS/2583-94 Dated:14.11.2025. The Tender ID No. 2025_IFC_295201_1 of above referred eNIT is hereby cancelled with immediate effect due to technical reasons. The fresh e-NIT for the same shall be retendered shortly.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Irrigation and FC Division Kupwara

DIPK: 8302/25 | Dated: 20-11-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar

HQ: Kothibagh Srinagar

Phone No.: 0194-2477207, email:- xen-wwdsg@jk.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short Term E-NIT. No. 34/WWD/Sgr/Civil of 2025-26 | Dated: 19.11.2025

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation e-tenders are invited from Registered/Approved and valid Civil Class of Contractors/Agencies/Firms registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed fo3r current financial year for the following works on 'Percentage Basis in Two Cover System':

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Tender Doc. Fee (inRs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor	Tender Call
1	Improvement of water supply to Jawahar Nagar	1.34	2680/-	100/-	Internal Resources	20 Days	D	1 st

Position of AAA: Accorded

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktendersgov.in As per schedule of dates given below

Table (II)	
01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents
03	Bid Submission Start Date
04	Bid submission End Date
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)

No: WW/Sgr/CC/
Dated: 19.11.2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Water Works Division Srinagar

DIPK: 8293/25 | Dated: 20-11-2025



CMYK

20 innovators present Final Pitches as JKEDI advances Startup Mission in J&K

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 20: Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Thursday held the Final Pitch of the 20 ideators shortlisted under J&K Startup Idea Challenge-2025 for the Kashmir division at its Main campus, Sempora.

The event was chaired by Director JKEDI and Secretary in Industries and Commerce Department, Khalid Jahangir. Earlier this month, the JKEDI, in collaboration with T-Hub Hyderabad, conducted a comprehensive two-day mentorship programme for shortlisted ideators. Following these capacity-building sessions, 20 ideators were invited to present their refined startup concepts before an expert jury for the final selection of awards under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

The jury panel included experts from leading innovation and academic institutions including Dr. Saad Parvez, Associate Professor, NIT Srinagar, Dr. Naveed Hamid, CEO, SKIIE, SKUAST-Kashmir. Prof. Sudhakar Dwivedi, SKUAST-J, Sh.



Akash Sharma, Incubation Manager, I3C- IIT Jammu and Raghuveer Kovuru, Chief Innovation Officer, T-Hub Hyderabad were virtually connected during the event.

The ideators showcased

innovative solutions across diverse sectors, including agri-technology, sustainability, healthcare, AI-driven services, food processing, and grassroots enterprise development. The jury appreciated the originality,

potential impact, and scalability of the proposed ideas.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Khalid Jahangir (JKAS), Secretary Industries and Commerce Department and Director JKEDI congratulated the participants and reiterated the institute's commitment to strengthen the startup ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that initiatives like the J&K Startup Idea Challenge supported by structured mentorship and expert evaluation - serve as robust platforms for aspiring entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into impactful ventures. A similar Final Pitch event for the Jammu Division will soon be held at JKEDI's Regional Office, Bari Brahmana, ensuring equitable support and opportunities for innovators from both divisions of the Union Territory.

The J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 continues to mark a significant step in building an innovation-driven economy in the Union Territory by extending financial incentives, incubation support, mentorship, and market linkages to the budding entrepreneurs.

J&K Archives Department organises Women's Bike Rally on Day 2

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, NOVEMBER 20: The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K, under the leadership of Director K.K. Sidha, continued its celebrations of World Heritage Week 2025 by organising an empowering All-Women's Bike Rally in Jammu on Day 2. The event aimed at spreading awareness on heritage preservation while engaging young men and women as ambassadors of cultural conservation.

Themed "Women Riding to Preserve Heritage," the rally began from Kala Kendra, where participants were served tea before the ceremony. The event was flagged off at 10:00 AM by Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma in the presence of officials, heritage enthusiasts and media representatives.

Director K.K. Sidha, in his address, called it "an empowering experience to witness women bikers leading the movement for heritage awareness." He briefed participants about the department's ongoing work in conservation, preservation, and restoration of around 281 heritage sites and monuments across J&K—including Bhimgarh Fort, Reasi and the Bamuchak Temple, Samba. He emphasized the importance of "going back to our roots" and expressed his willingness to collaborate further with individuals and organisations passionate about heritage.



Around 20 women bikers from Shakti Udghosh accompanied by a few male riders from Bikers Brotherhood rode from Kala Kendra to Bamuchak Temple, Samba. Midway, the riders were greeted and joined by ADDC, Samba Champa Devi, who extended her support to the cause.

The rally reached Bamuchak at around 11:30 AM, where restoration work is currently underway. At the site, participants were addressed by Jyotika Rasial (XEN), followed by Senior Journalist and heritage enthusiast Sunny Dua, ADDC, Samba Champa Devi and Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, Assistant Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums. Dr. Sharma also shared historical insights about the temple, tracing its roots back to the era of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

Participants were later served an authentic Dogri lunch featuring Dal, Ambal, Rajmah and Meethe Chawal.

The event concluded with a visit to the iconic Baba Chamliyal Shrine, located on the India-Pakistan border, commonly known as the Zero Line.

MD Jal Jeevan Mission J&K reviews Water supply scenario in district Udhampur

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, NOVEMBER 20: Mission Director (MD) Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah today reviewed the progress of water supply schemes in district Udhampur while chairing a meeting of the stakeholder government functionaries, here today.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer Udhampur circle, Executive Engineer, PHE Division Udhampur, officers of Mission Directorate, AEEs and JEs.

The meeting was apprised of the status of the ongoing schemes in the district through a detailed PowerPoint presentation.

It was informed there are 161 JJM Water Supply schemes under

execution in the district.

The components involved in execution of these schemes include Dug wells, Bore wells, Rapid Sand Filtration Plants (RSFP), Over Head Tanks (OHT), Slow Sand Filtration Plants (SSFP) and Pipe Networks. "Of 430 allotted works pertaining to PHE Division Udhampur, 199 have been completed so far and work is in progress on remaining projects," the meeting was told.

The chair was informed that out of 99,928 households, 79,081 households have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC).

The Mission Director enjoined upon officers to give a renewed push to the process to provide Functional Tap Connections (FHTCs)



to remaining Households in the district. He stressed upon officers to certify the remaining Har Ghar Jal reported villages as per the protocol set by National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM).

The MD was also informed that

out of 7987 KM pipeline laid, 6168 KM stand mapped on PM Gati Shakti portal. Similarly 304 Sources and 381 water supply assets stand Geo tagged.

The MD directed the concerned officers to complete the mapping

and geotagging of remaining Sources and assets, so that information related to creation of infrastructure and schemes is put in public domain. "This will ensure works are being executed in a transparent manner with community participation in planning, execution and monitoring of water supply assets, which is the core motive of Jal Jeevan Mission," he said.

Later, a delegation of contractors involved in the implementation of JJM in the district met the Mission Director and apprised him about the mounting liabilities. The MD assured them full support in conveying their genuine demands to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), GOI.

District Cooperative Societies conclude activities at Doda with a grand event

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 20: The District Cooperative Societies Doda today concluded the series of commemorative events being organised to mark the 72nd All India Cooperative Week.

The week-long celebration commenced on 14th November under the national theme "Cooperatives as Vehicles for Atmanirbhar Bharat" and concluded today. The event witnessed active participation from officials of the Cooperative Department, representatives of cooperative societies, farmers, youth and other local stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, speakers highlighted the significant contribution of cooperative institutions in promoting self-reliance, generating livelihood opportunities and ensuring inclusive and equitable development at the grassroots level. They also underscored the government's continued efforts to strengthen the cooperative sector through digital reforms, transparency initiatives and capacity-building programmes.

Officers of the District Cooperative Societies encouraged greater community participation, especially of youth and farmers, in cooperative activities. They emphasized that cooperatives provide improved access to financial services, better market linkages and sustainable economic opportunities—key pillars in driving the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The event concluded with a collective commitment to further advancing the cooperative movement in Doda and enhancing its role in regional socio-economic development.

CEO inspects Class 10 Annual Examination Centres in Bhagwah Zone

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 20: Chief Education Officer Mohammad Iqbal Hussain today carried out a surprise inspection of the Class 10 Annual Regular Examination centres in the Bhagwah Zone to review the arrangements and ensure the smooth conduct of examinations under JKBOSE guidelines.

The CEO visited GHSS Bhagwah, GHSS Kastigarh and PM SHRI Government High School Sooli, where he assessed the



provision of seating arrangements, security protocols, heating facilities and overall preparedness of the centres. He interacted with the supervisory staff and emphasized strict adherence to examination norms, vigilance against malpractices and maintenance of a disciplined and student-friendly environment.

The CEO expressed satisfaction over the arrangements at the centres and appreciated the efforts of the school administrations and staff for ensuring a fair and well-organized examination process.

Inter-Zonal District level Residential Trekking Expedition begins at Bhaderwah

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

DODA, NOVEMBER 20: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS) today organised the Inter-Zonal District Level Residential Trekking Expedition at Bhaderwah. The expedition was formally flagged off from the DC Office Complex Doda by ADC, Anil Kumar Thakur.

A total of 50 female students from 10 zones of the district are participating in this trek along with their teachers. Throughout

the expedition, a team of trained officials and trekking experts from YSS Doda will guide the students, ensuring safety, technical support and basic mountaineering training. The initiative is part of YSS Doda's ongoing efforts to promote adventure sports and foster physical fitness among school students. The residential trekking programme is scheduled from November 20, 2025, to December 1, 2025, offering students from various zones of District Doda an enriching opportunity to experience



high-altitude trekking. The expedition aims to instil teamwork, discipline, confidence and an appreciation for nature among the students in a secure and professionally supervised environment.

The District Youth Services & Sports Office reaffirmed department's commitment to further strengthening adventure-based learning opportunities for children and youth, making such initiatives an essential component of their holistic development.

District Administration Kishtwar mourns sad demise of Sudhir Sharma AEE, JPDCL

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, NOVEMBER 20: District Administration Kishtwar has expressed deep sorrow on the sudden demise of Sudhir Sharma, AEE (Technical Officer), JPDCL, who breathed his last yesterday in New Delhi after suffering a brain haemorrhage a few days ago.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj

Kumar Sharma, senior officers and staff members assembled in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, New DC Office and observed two minutes silence to pay homage to the departed soul.

The Deputy Commissioner conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and described the demise of Sudhir Sharma as an irreparable loss, both professionally and



personally.

He said, "Sudhir Sharma stood out as one of the most humble, dedicated, sincere, and honest officers of the Kishtwar Administration.

Always ready to lend a helping hand, quick in response, and known for his ever-warm smile, he set an inspiring example for all of us. His untimely departure has created a void that will be difficult to

fill."

DC Kishtwar further added that the entire district has lost a sincere and dependable officer who always upheld the highest values of service and commitment to duty.

"The District Administration stands in solidarity with the bereaved family during this hour of grief and prays for them to find strength and peace," the DC said.



Putin's visit to India to unveil "substantial package of ambitious decisions": Russian Envoy

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 : Ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's expected visit to New Delhi later this year, Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov said that trade and economic cooperation between the two countries continues to strengthen, reaffirming that bilateral engagement remains resilient despite global geopolitical headwinds.

Alipov revealed that a "substantial package of ambitious decisions" is being prepared for President Putin's visit in December for the annual bilateral summit, which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Russia-India strategic partnership and the 15th anniversary of its elevation to a "special and privileged" status.

The new agreements are expected to cover defence cooperation, nuclear energy, energy security, science, education, and emerging areas of collaboration.

In an interview with Sputnik, the envoy outlined the expanding scope of Russia-India engagement, noting that trade and economic



ties are "steadily developing," driven by unprecedented mutual business interest.

Bilateral trade touched a record USD 70.6 billion in 2024, with Russia

now among India's four largest trading partners. Moscow remains New Delhi's biggest supplier of crude oil—accounting for more than one-third of India's imports—

as well as sunflower oil (51% market share), petroleum products, fertilizers, newsprint, pulses, coal, and diamonds.

In the energy sector, Alipov

said Russia is committed to supplying India with crude oil on the "most favorable terms," and Moscow is looking to expand mutual investments in oil and gas. Rosneft, he noted, is broadening its presence in India through participation in the development programme of the Vadinar refinery operated by Nayara Energy.

On nuclear cooperation, the ambassador confirmed ongoing discussions on the potential serial construction of high-capacity nuclear power units in India using proven VVER reactor technology—an area he described as a cornerstone of the long-term strategic partnership.

Alipov also highlighted advances in the Indo-Russian BrahMos missile system, revealing that a modernized variant is under development for deployment on Indian Air Force light fighter aircraft. Calling BrahMos one of the most successful pillars of bilateral defence cooperation, he said the joint venture now produces a wide range of munitions used across all branches of India's armed forces. UNI

State Governors cannot indefinitely sit on Bills: SC

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 : In a significant constitutional pronouncement, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that State Governors cannot indefinitely sit on Bills passed by State Legislatures. However, the Court also made it clear that it cannot prescribe mandatory timelines for the President or Governors to grant or deny assent under Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution.

However, it clarified that Governors cannot indefinitely sit on Bills. In cases of prolonged, unexplained inaction, courts may issue a limited mandamus directing them to decide within a reasonable time without examining the merits of the Bill.

The Court categorically ruled that the concept of courts declaring "deemed assent" in cases of delays is unconstitutional and violates the doctrine of separation of powers.

Answering a Presidential reference under Article 143, a Constitution Bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, Justice Surya Kant, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice PS Narasimha and Justice AS Chandurkar stated that judicially imposed deadlines would be contrary to the "elasticity" envisaged in the constitutional scheme.

The reference was made in May, soon after the Supreme Court's judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case, which had laid down timelines for constitutional authorities to act on Bills.

The Bench heard arguments over ten days and had reserved its opinion on September 11.

The key questions and the Supreme Court's answers are: 1. Constitutional options before a Governor under Article 200?

The Governor may assent to the Bill, withhold assent (which must necessarily be accompanied by returning the Bill to the Assembly), or reserve the Bill for the President.

Withholding assent without returning the Bill is impermissible and violates federalism.

2. Is the Governor bound by the aid & advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 200?

The Governor ordinarily acts on aid and advice, but Article 200 confers limited constitutional discretion particularly in returning or reserving a Bill.

3. Is the Governor's discretion justiciable?

Merits of the decision are not justiciable. However, prolonged, unexplained inaction may invite a limited judicial direction to decide.

4. Does Article 361 bar judicial review?

The Governor enjoys personal immunity, but the office of the Governor remains subject to limited judicial scrutiny in cases of inaction.

5-7. Can courts impose timelines on the Governor/President under Articles 200/201? Is their discretion justiciable?

No. Imposing timelines would violate constitutional separation of powers. "Deemed assent" is unconstitutional.

The President's discretion under Article 201 is also not justiciable, and courts cannot prescribe timelines for the President either.

8. Must the President always seek Supreme Court advice under Article 143 when a Bill is reserved?

No. Seeking advice is not mandatory. It depends on the President's subjective satisfaction.

9. Can courts review decisions of the Governor/President before a Bill becomes law?

No. Judicial review is permissible only after the Bill becomes law.

10. Can Article 142 be used to substitute Presidential/Gubernatorial decisions?

No. 11-14. Other queries

The Court reiterated that laws requiring assent to come into force, refused to extend Article 142 beyond its permissible limits, and declined to answer the question on Article 131 as irrelevant.

The Bench repeatedly clarified it was not sitting in appeal over the Tamil Nadu Governor judgment but only addressing constitutional questions raised by the President. Several States including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab opposed the maintainability of the reference, arguing that the issues had already been decided.

The Court questioned whether Governors could withhold Bills indefinitely, warning that such a practice could place democratically elected governments at the "whims of the Governor."

Attorney General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed judicial timelines, arguing that courts cannot assume the functions of constitutional offices. They also rejected the idea of "deemed assent."

Senior Advocates Kapil Sibal, Dr. AM Singhvi, KK Venugopal, Gopal Subramaniam, and Arvind Datar argued in favour of judicially enforceable timelines to prevent constitutional paralysis caused by delayed assent.

Senior Advocates Harish Salve and Mahesh Jethmalani supported the Union's stand against fixed timelines. UNI

NCRTC invites bids for Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor advertising rights

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

GURUGRAM, NOV 20 : The NCRTC has invited bids for the selection of a licensee to operate indoor and in-train advertisement rights across the Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor, offering a lucrative opportunity to partner with India's first Namo Bharat, a media release said today.

This exclusive opportunity will not only offer brands extensive visibility but also the prestige of association with India's first Namo Bharat, a new-age transport system redefining regional mobility in NCR.

The scope covers approximately 1,800 sqm of station indoor advertising space across key stations, including Sarai Kale Khan (100 sqm), Anand Vihar (100 sqm), Ghaziabad (100 sqm), Modinagar North and South (100 sqm each), Meerut Central (50 sqm), Begumpul (100 sqm), and Modipuram (100 sqm). In addition, provisions have been made for digital advertising screens at Sarai Kale Khan (50 sqm), Anand Vihar (25 sqm), and Ghaziabad (25 sqm).

The license also extends to in-train advertising rights across 16 Namo Bharat trains and 9 Meerut Metro (MRTS) train sets. Multiple formats for advertisement opportunities will be available, including fixed panels, digital screens, overhead grab handles, seat headrests, glass panels, and luggage racks, offering brands significant opportunities to engage commuters on board. The Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor spans 82 km across Delhi, Ghaziabad, and Meerut, with strategically located stations offering extensive brand visibility. Passing through densely populated areas, it attracts a diverse commuter base from

all walks of life. For the first time in the country, unprecedented emphasis has been placed on Multi-Modal Integration. Stations such as Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan exemplify this, being seamlessly connected with Delhi Metro, Indian Railways, ISBT, and city bus services. This translates into higher footfall and enhanced brand exposure, providing advertisers with unmatched reach and recall value. Further, in a pioneering initiative, local Metro services will be provided in Meerut on the same infrastructure of Namo Bharat, adding another dimension to the commuter base. Stations like Begumpul, which will be a stop for both Namo Bharat and Meerut Metro trains, are located in the heart of Meerut's main market and will further enhance advertising potential. Since its launch in October 2023, the corridor has already witnessed about 1.88 crore passenger journeys, underlining its rapid acceptance and growing ridership.

With daily ridership steadily increasing and full operations across the 82-km corridor set to commence soon, advertisers stand to benefit from ever-expanding advertising opportunities and a captive commuter base.

The tender offers a license period of 10 years. Details on scope, eligibility, and submission timelines are available on the NCRTC website.

National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), a joint venture company of the Government of India and the States of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, is mandated to implement the Namo Bharat project across the National Capital Region, ensuring a balanced and sustainable urban development through better connectivity and access. UNI

SPECIAL STORY Deepening rift between Fadnavis & Shinde; and 'Team Omie Kalani'—who is TOK ?

■ BY VIBHA SHARMA

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 : A deepening rift between Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is currently threatening the existence of the ruling Mahayuti alliance, though BJP leaders in Delhi insist that "all is well".

The Fadnavis government is "stable, and such posturing among allies is natural; all political parties, including those in alliance, are free to have their individual ambitions," the BJP says.

But is it really so simple? The conflict has intensified with Shinde Shiv Sena ministers boycotting a cabinet meeting in protest against the BJP's alleged poaching of local Sena leaders ahead of key civic polls. A "file war" is also going on with Shinde directing his ministers' files through him first.

Fueled by ambitions and survival, tensions are running high, and a reason is also Team Omie Kalani (TOK)—a local political outfit in Ulhasnagar led by Omie Kalani, son of former MLA Pappu Kalani. Last week, six former BJP corporators switched allegiance to Shinde's Shiv Sena faction and the TOK group, directly impacting saffron strength and support in the area.

The development in a part of Maharashtra was seen as a major realignment of the political equation in the city as well as the entire state ahead of municipal elections. The induction ceremony happened in the presence of Shinde's son, Kalyan MP Shrikant Shinde. The declaration that Shinde's Shiv Sena and the Kalani group would jointly contest



civic polls in Ulhasnagar as 'Dosti Ka Gathbandhan' was a red flag for the saffron side. Currently a BJP adversary, TOK officially allying with Shinde, along with defections, was seen as a major setback for the BJP.

It is another matter that eight years ago, the BJP had captured the MC with the help of the Kalani family; however, following internal disputes, the relationship went awry. In the Lok Sabha election, Omie Kalani campaigned only for Shrikant Shinde. Tensions have also been registered between BJP Ulhasnagar MLA Kumar Ailani and the Kalani group. Meanwhile, bolstering the BJP's position, earlier this week, former Congress corporator Godhumal Krishnani, his son, and supporters switched over to the saffron side. UNI

Jairam Ramesh demands govt response to US-China commission's controversial report on India

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 : Congress MP Jairam Ramesh on Thursday raised sharp questions for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the government to clarify its stance on the recent US-China Economic and Security Review Commission's (USCC) annual report. The report's portrayal of sensitive security

issues involving India has sparked concerns over India's diplomatic positioning. Ramesh asked pointedly, "Will the Prime Minister and the Ministry of External Affairs register their objections and lodge a protest against this report? Our diplomacy has suffered yet another severe setback." He specifically questioned the government's response to the USCC report's

description of the Pahalgam terror attack as an "insurgent attack" orchestrated by Pakistan. "What action will be taken regarding the report's claim of Pakistan's 'military success' over India during the four-day clash?" Ramesh demanded.

Highlighting the government's silence amid these serious allegations, Ramesh also referenced former US President Donald Trump's

repeated claims of halting Operation Sindoor, questioning the implications for India's diplomatic relations. "This report is simply unacceptable to India," Ramesh said in a post on X, pressing the government to address the contentious narrative and defend India's security interests on the global stage. The USCC report, submitted to the US Congress,

assesses economic and security issues related to China but also touches upon South Asian geopolitical tensions, including India-Pakistan conflicts, thereby influencing international perceptions and diplomatic discourse. Ramesh's call reflects growing demands for a robust and transparent response from India's leadership. UNI

US approves sale of Javelin missiles and Excalibur projectiles to India worth USD 47.1 million

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, NOV 20 : The United States has approved the sale of FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank guided missile systems and M982A1 Excalibur precision-guided artillery projectiles, along with associated equipment, to India, with an estimated value of USD 47.1 million. The U.S. State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to India for the Excalibur projectiles and related equipment. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency has delivered the required certification notifying Congress, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in a statement.

The Government of India has requested to purchase up to 216 M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. Additional non-MDE items to be included are ancillary items, Portable Electronic Fire Control Systems (PEFCS) with Improved Platform Integration Kit (iPIK), primers, propellant charges, US Government technical assistance, technical data, repair and return services, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

The total estimated cost is USD 47.1 million. The proposed sale will support US foreign policy and national security objectives by strengthening the US-Indian strategic relationship and enhancing the security of a major



defense partner. India continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions.

The sale will improve India's ability to meet current and future threats by providing precision capability equipment, enhancing first-strike accuracy in its brigades. India is fully capable of absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces. The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Arlington, VA. Currently, the U.S. Government is not aware of any

offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale; any such agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor. Implementation of the proposed sale will not require the assignment of additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to India. There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. The description and dollar value reflect the highest estimated quantity and cost based on initial requirements. Actual value may be lower depending on final requirements, budget authority, and signed sales agreements, if and when concluded. UNI





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Mitchell Replaces Rohit As No. 1 Ranked ODI Batter

■ ESPNCRICINFO

CHRISTCHURCH: Daryl Mitchell has dethroned Rohit Sharma to become the new No. 1 batter in the ICC ODI rankings. This marked just the second time that a New Zealand batter has occupied the top spot, following Glenn Turner's reign in 1979. A number of contemporary greats like Martin Crowe, Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor have spent time in the top-five of the ODI batting rankings but have never been No. 1. Mitchell made the move up after scoring his seventh ODI century, against West Indies on Sunday. He injured himself during that innings though and was ruled out for the rest of the three-match series.

Temba Bavuma also enjoyed a significant rise, breaking into the top five of the Test batting rankings for the first time. The South Africa captain scored the only half-century in extreme conditions in Kolkata and helped his team end a 15-year period without a Test win in India. Shubman Gill, currently injured, is just outside the top 10 with 737 rating points. Joe Root, preparing to play the Ashes on Friday, leads the Test batting pack followed by England team-mate Harry Brook.

Marco Jansen, also a key contributor to the events at Eden Gardens, waits just outside the top 10 among the Test bowlers rankings and has broken into the top five in the allrounders rankings. Jasprit Bumrah remains at No. 1 after picking up six wickets in the match, followed by Matt Henry and Noman Ali. Pakistan's 3-0 ODI series win over Sri Lanka resulted in upward movement for their legspinner Abrar Ahmed, who has moved up 11 spots to No. 9 on the bowlers' list. Rashid Khan remains at the head of the pack followed by Jofra Archer and Keshav Maharaj.

Jacob Duffy was the highest wicket-taker in the five T20Is that New Zealand played against West Indies in November and it reflects in his rise to No. 2 on the bowling rankings. Varun Chakravarthy is ahead of him and Rashid is just behind. Three Indians - Gill (No. 4), Virat Kohli (No. 5) and Shreyas Iyer (No. 8) - alongside Rohit (No. 2) make up the top 10 in the ODI batting rankings. Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran is at No. 3.

Starc ready for extra burden as Australia's senior paceman

■ ALEX MALCOLM

PERTH: The last man standing of Australia's big three, Mitchell Starc, says he may take on a little bit of extra responsibility as the senior man in their new-look pace attack. But he believes Scott Boland's experience and Brendan Doggett's form will hold them in good stead in the opening Ashes Test in Perth.

Starc, 35, is Australia's ironman having not missed a Test through injury since he broke his finger on Boxing Day in 2022. He reached his 100th Test and took his 400th Test wicket in Australia's last Test match in July. He will lead the attack in the absence of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood in Perth and remarkably will be the only one of Australia's quicks to have bowled in a first-class game at Perth Stadium, with Boland and Doggett having only played BBL matches at the venue.

But Starc is confident both men will handle the big occasion at the start of the series. "I think we're all pretty clear on what our roles are," he said on Wednesday.

"Obviously I've got a little bit more experience there. Scotty's been around for a fair while now, so it's not like I'm telling him what to do. We've got Patty in the sheds with us anyway. So yeah, I may take on a little bit of an experienced role, if you like. But we've all been



around the traps for a while, so it's just staying together as a group." Starc believes Doggett will be able to handle the pressure of an Ashes series as he seems certain to debut as Australia's third quick in the attack. Starc first met Doggett in 2018 when they toured the UAE together for a series against Pakistan and believes he has come a long way since his first tour with Australia's Test squad.

"Brendan was a lot younger and rawer then," Starc said. "We knew what he was about, and since then he's made the change to South Australia. I think he's come in red-hot. He's had a good couple of weeks. We as a group know what he's capable of, and the skills that he presents. And being a little bit older than back in 2018, he's probably a little bit more comfortable in his own skin and around the group. So really excited if he gets his opportunity this week to see what he can do on a Test arena. Having had him around the group for a while over the years, I think he's certainly in a great headspace."

ESPNCRicinfo

Youth Engagement Boost: SSP Handwara Inaugurates Cricket Tournament at Bungas Stadium Under CAP Initiative

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, NOV 20: Under the ongoing Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2025-2026, Handwara Police on Wednesday organized a Knock-Out Cricket Tournament at the picturesque Bungas Cricket Stadium, Kutlari Mawar, aimed at promoting sportsmanship, youth engagement, and strengthening police public relations. The tournament was formally inaugurated by Shri Sahil Sarangal (IPS), SSP Handwara, in the presence of senior police officials, local dignitaries, and a large gathering of enthusiastic spectators who turned up to support



the participating teams. The opening match was played between United Sports Jahama and Victory Vipers Mawar, delivering an exciting contest that drew loud cheers from cricket lovers across the Mawar region. A total of 12 teams from various parts of Mawar and adjoining areas are participating in the event, which is being held in a knock-out format to ensure high-energy and competitive matches throughout the tournament. Organizers announced that the winning team and runners-up will be felicitated with trophies and cash prizes, recognizing their talent and encouraging greater participation in sports. Speaking

on the occasion, SSP Sahil Sarangal emphasized the vital role of sports in channelizing youth energy towards positive avenues. He said that such initiatives help foster unity, discipline, teamwork, and healthy competition among the youth. He further reiterated that Handwara Police will continue to organize community-centric programmes under CAP to promote social harmony and nurture young talent. Handwara Police reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening police public cooperation and providing meaningful platforms for youth development across the Police District.

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