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Budgam, Nagrota By-Polls On Nov 11



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday announced the schedule for by-elections to the Budgam and Nagrota assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir, which will be held alongside the Bihar Assembly elections in 2025.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, addressing a press conference in New Delhi, said polling for the two vacant J&K seats will take place on November 11, while counting of votes will be held on November 14.

The Budgam assembly seat fell vacant after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah | [More on P6](#)

Nomination Process Begins For 4 J&K RS Seats

The nomination process for four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu & Kashmir began on Monday with the issuance of three separate notifications by the Election Commission of India (ECI), outlining the timetable for the polls. The notifications were issued after the President of India called upon the elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the | [More on P6](#)

NC Likely To Concede One Seat To Congress

The ruling National Conference (NC) is not averse to offering a seat to its alliance partner, the Congress, for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections scheduled for October 24, sources disclosed. Reliable sources said that NC has not expressed any reluctance to offer a seat to | [More on P6](#)

From Warm To Wintry: Snow, Rain Bring Down Temperatures

Weather Office Issues Orange Alert In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fresh snowfall in the higher reaches and steady rain in the plains on Monday brought a sudden chill across Kashmir, causing temperatures to plummet by nearly 10 degrees.

Officials said snowfall was reported from Sinthan Top in Anantnag, Affarwat in Gulmarg, Zojila Pass, Razdan Top in Gurez Valley, and other high-altitude areas, while Srinagar and other plains received moderate rainfall through the day.

The maximum temperature in Srinagar dropped to around 11°C — a sharp fall from 22.6°C recorded on Sunday — as overcast skies and persistent showers gripped the Valley.

Faizan Keng while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "January like conditions



prevailed in Kupwara and Baderwah as temperatures fell 16.0 C below normal."

The maximum temperature settled below normal across Union Territory with Srinagar

recording a day temperature of 12.5 degree Celsius (13.0 degree Celsius | [More on P6](#)

SC Issues Notice To Centre On Wangchuk's Detention

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre and the Union Territory of Ladakh on a writ petition filed by Gitanjali J Angmo, wife of activist Sonam Wangchuk, challenging his detention under the National Security Act (NSA) and seeking his immediate release.

A bench comprising

Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria did not pass any order on her plea seeking the grounds of detention and posted the matter for hearing on October 14. "Something has been done for now," the bench noted.

Wangchuk was detained on September 26, two days after violent protests in Ladakh demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status left four people dead | [More on P6](#)

HC Denies Bail To Duo In Codeine Syrup Seizure Case

Says Humanitarian Grounds Cannot Override Statutory Provisions

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Underscoring that the fight against drug abuse outweighs individual liberties, a Srinagar court on Monday rejected the bail applications of two individuals accused of

procuring large quantities of codeine phosphate-based syrup using fake licenses in 2022.

"The larger public interest in curbing the drug menace is paramount, as highlighted in surveys showing an alarming rise in substance abuse among

youth such as 1.3 crore cannabis users and nearly 90% of pharmaceutical addiction cases," observed Special Judge (NDPS cases) Srinagar Vinod Kumar while dismissing the bail pleas filed by Rameez Yousuf Dar of Nowgam and | [More on P6](#)

Baramulla CEO Removed After Social Media Directive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Chief Education Officer (CEO) of Baramulla district was removed from his post on Monday, just two days after issuing a circular directing teaching and non-teaching staff to refrain from criticising government policies on social media.

Bashir Ahmad Shah, the CEO in charge of Baramulla, has been attached to the Directorate of School Education Kashmir pending inquiry, while the CEO of Bandipora has been given additional charge of the district until further orders, according to an official order issued by the administrative secretary of the School Education Department.

The circular | [More on P6](#)

Maha FDA Flags Coldrif Syrup Batch Tied to Child Deaths

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: The Maharashtra FDA on Monday appealed to the people to immediately stop the sale or use of a specific batch of Coldrif syrup, following child deaths in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan allegedly linked to the medicine.

Earlier, the Tamil Nadu drug control authorities, in their report of October 2, declared the Coldrif syrup sample (Batch No SR-13; Mfg: May 2025; Exp: April 2027) manufactured by



Sresan Pharmaceuticals, Kancheepuram, as adulterated because it contained diethylene glycol (48.6% w/v), a poisonous substance "which may render the contents injurious to health".

As many as 14 child deaths have been reported from Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district due to suspected renal failure, linked to the consumption of the "toxic" cough syrup.

"The public is urged to remain cautious and to report any possession of Coldrif Syrup Batch No. SR-13 to the nearest Drugs Control Authority without delay," the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said in a statement on Monday.

It warned | [More on P6](#)

Refrain From Self-medicating Children: Secy Health

Press Trust of India

Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Monday emphasized the need for rational medication in children, warning against the misuse of

over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold syrups. He made these remarks while chairing a meeting at the Civil Secretariat, attended by Commissioner, Food & Drugs | [More on P6](#)

KPDCL Vows Better Power Supply This Winter

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Monday assured consumers of improved and uninterrupted power supply during the upcoming winter, despite challenges posed by recent floods and adverse weather conditions.

KPDCL Managing Director Mahmood Ahmad Shah said the discom has made significant improvements compared to last year. "This year so far, KPDCL has provided better power supply to consumers. A lot of improvement

has been made in the discom in comparison to the previous year," he said.

On the installation of smart meters, Shah said over 1.25 lakh new meters have been added across rural and urban areas of Kashmir this year, building on the 3 lakh meters installed last year. The MD emphasized that the goal is to achieve 100% smart meter coverage in the valley.

He also highlighted infrastructure upgrades, including the installation of insulated cables and the functioning of the Low Capacity Power (LCP) system. "Sometimes we face faults due | [More on P6](#)

Lawyer Tries To Hurl Shoe At CJI Gavai

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a shocking security breach, a 71-year-old lawyer allegedly attempted to hurl a shoe towards Chief Justice of India B R Gavai in his courtroom in the Supreme Court on Monday, prompting the Bar Council of India to suspend his license with immediate effect.

The CJI, who remained

unfazed during and after the unprecedented incident during the court proceedings, asked the court officials and the security personnel present inside the courtroom to "just ignore" it and to let off the errant lawyer identified as Rakesh Kishore with a warning.

"Don't get distracted by all this. We are not distracted. These things do | [More on P6](#)

Attack Has Angered Every Indian: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to Chief Justice of India B R Gavai to convey his condemnation of a lawyer's attempt to hurl a shoe at him, and said the attack has angered every Indian. "There is no place for such | [More on P6](#)

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69th National School Games Kick Off In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir takes center stage in national sports as the 69th National School Games for Football (U-19 Boys) kicked off Monday at TRC Football Ground, Srinagar.

This year's National School Games has drawn participation from 30 teams representing various States and Union Territories across the country, with matches scheduled to be played at six different venues. The events include competitions in Football, Wushu, Taekwondo, and Table Tennis.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah officially de-

clared open the 69th National School Games by ceremonially kicking a football, marking the formal commencement of the national-level sporting event. Addressing the players and athletes, J&K Director General of Youth Services & Sports, Anuradha Gupta talked about the features of the event in Jammu & Kashmir.

The department also launched its official podcast, "Khel Khel Mein", featuring stories of athletes and grassroots champions to inspire young talent. Reinforcing the "Sports for All, Fitness for All" mission, Gupta urged youth and civil society to actively participate.

Altaf Bukhari Calls On LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari called on Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha today at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar. They discussed the current political and se-

mir," the press release said. "On this occasion, the Apni Party leader applauded the administration's announcement of providing 5 marlas of land to flood-affected homeless and landless families, enabling them to construct their dwell-



curity scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, while Apni Party President Bukhari brought a range of pressing public issues to the notice of LG Sinha.

According to a statement, "During the meeting, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari apprised LG Manoj Sinha of several pressing public issues and grievances, and held discussions with him on the prevailing political and security situation in Jammu and Kash-

ing units on the allotted plots. Furthermore, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari urged LG Manoj Sinha to ensure adequate compensation for those affected in the fruit industry," the press release added.

He said that the recent natural calamity and the closure of NH-44 have inflicted huge losses on the fruit industry, and that the affected people are in desperate need of compensation from the government.

Bemina Residents Panic Over Growing Stray Dog Threat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Panic has engulfed Gousia Colony in Bemina, Srinagar, where residents report that over a hundred stray dogs have taken over four lanes, creating a serious public safety threat. The situation turned tragic on Monday when an elderly woman was chased and bitten by a pack of dogs, sparking outrage among locals.

Residents said that the stray dog population has grown unchecked in recent months. Despite repeated complaints, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has reportedly failed to act, allowing the menace to spiral out of control. "My elderly mother was bitten

after being chased by stray dogs. It is shameful that SMC has ignored such a dangerous situation," said one resident.

Movement during morning and evening hours has become especially risky for children and senior citizens. "Even school-going children are scared to step outside. We are living in fear," another local added.

The residents have urged the SMC to launch a large-scale sterilization and relocation drive and to deploy dog-catching teams immediately to prevent further incidents.

Attempts to contact the SMC Commissioner for comment were unsuccessful. (inputs from KNT)

Ensure Seamless Expansion Of e-Office Network: CS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Information Technology (IT) Department and the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

At the outset, the Chief Secretary emphasized the critical importance of strengthening cybersecurity across the Union Territory, directing the IT Department to expand the e-Office network to all tehsil and block offices. He also asked for a detailed status report identifying offices still outside the e-Office ambit.

Upgradation and Capacity Building

Dulloo instructed the department to expedite the upgradation of the State Data Centre (SDC) and es-

tablish a Mini Security Operations Centre (SoC). He called for the creation of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) in IT to develop skilled manpower aligned with industry requirements and urged officials to prepare a proposal for a futuristic IT Park to generate high-end employment opportunities.

Department Achievements Highlighted

Secretary IT Dr. Piyush Singla shared that the number of government websites audited by Third-Party Auditors had risen from 110 to 206 over the past three months, with over 210 websites and applications accessible to the public. He added that the SDC is in the process of obtaining ISO 27001 and ISO 20001 certifications, underlining the government's commitment to international standards in information security.



An elderly man covers himself with a plastic sheet as rain lashed Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

Centuries-Old Copper Naqashi May Vanish Soon: Master Artisan Warns

Agencies

Srinagar: For over four decades, the rhythmic tapping of tools on copper sheets has echoed through the modest workshop of Manzoor Ahmed Naqashgeer, a 60-year-old artisan from Teingpora Nawakadal, Srinagar. He has spent 45 years mastering the centuries-old art of copper naqashi, an intricate engraving craft that once symbolized Kashmir's rich cultural heritage.

Manzoor said, "I inherited this skill from my father when I was only 10 or 12 years old. This art has been in our family for five generations. I learned it from my father, who learned it from his uncle. But sadly, I don't see it continuing beyond me."

Manzoor, a recipient of multiple awards for his craftsmanship, including recognition from former J&K Governor N. N. Vohra and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, said he recently received his fourth major award for his lifelong dedication. "My work has reached countries across the world, but back home, the art is dying," he lamented.

While simple naqashi on copper utensils still exists, detailed, hand-engraved naqashi, which brought international acclaim to Kashmiri artisans, is vanishing due to rising costs and declining demand.

While simple naqashi on copper utensils still exists, detailed, hand-engraved naqashi, which brought international acclaim to Kashmiri artisans, is vanishing due to rising costs and declining demand. "Now I make pieces only on order. The cost has gone up so much that people prefer cheaper, machine-made products," Manzoor said.

He criticized government revival efforts, stating that many appointed trainers lack expertise and mostly teach village women who do it for livelihood rather than understanding the craft's

history and techniques.

Manzoor expressed concern about the future of his family legacy. "My children are not willing to take up the profession. They've seen me struggling. I haven't received significant work in the past year. It's not enough to sustain a livelihood anymore," he said.

Machine-made copper items have further dented the market for hand-engraved products. "This art requires patience and time. Machines can replicate designs in minutes, but they can never capture the soul of a craftsman's touch," he added.

Reflecting on the irreversible decline, Manzoor said, "The real masters of this art are no more. The tools I used 20 years ago are lying unused now. A single hand-crafted piece costs thousands, but there are no buyers left."

For Manzoor Ahmed Naqashgeer, every engraved motif tells a story of tradition, patience, and fading legacy. But as markets shift toward mass production, he fears that the age-old sound of hammer on copper — once the heartbeat of Srinagar's old city — may soon fall silent.

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- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR

13 Rabi-ul-Sani
1447

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 06
ZUHR	12:19
ASR	4: 29
Magrib	6:12
ISHA	7: 31

This Day In History

- 1513 -Battle of La Motta: Spanish troops under Ram3n de Cardona defeat the Venetians.
- 1520- 1st public burning of books in Netherlands, in Louvain
- 1542- Explorer Juan Rodr3guez Cabrillo, on a voyage for Spain, is the first European to discover Catalina Island off the coast of California
- 1571- Battle of Lepanto: Holy League of southern European nations formed by Pope Pius V destroy an Ottoman fleet in a significant loss off Western Greece
- 1637 - Prince of Orange Frederick Henry occupies Breda during the Eighty Years' War
- 1702- British & Dutch troops under Marlborough occupy Roermond
- 1737- A cyclone causes 40 foot waves that are believed to have killed 300,000 in Calcutta, India
- 1763- George III of Great Britain issues Proclamation of 1763, closing lands in North America north and west of Alleghenies to white settlement
- 1777- Americans beat British in Second Battle of Saratoga & Battle of Bemis Heights
- 1780- British defeated by American militia near Kings Mountain, SC
- 1806- Carbon paper patented in London by inventor Ralph Wedgwood
- 1828- The Greek city of Patras is liberated by the French expeditionary force in Peloponnese under General Maison.
- 1830- The Black Line begins; a levee of colonists in Tasmania, Australia, attempts to round up Aborigines onto the Tasman Peninsula [1]
- 1840 - Willem I resigns as king of Netherlands
- 1879- Germany & Austrian-Hungary sign Twofold Covenant
- 1886- Spain abolishes slavery in Cuba
- 1908 - Serbia & Montenegro sign anti-Austria-Hungarian pact
- 1916- The German submarine U-53 arrives off Newport, Rhode Island, and sinks 9 British merchant ships in international waters
- 1926 - Italian Great Fascist Council forms
- 1929 - Ramsay MacDonald is first British Prime Minister to address US Congress
- 1940 - World War II: the McCollum memo proposes bringing the U.S. into the war in Europe by provoking the Japanese to attack the United States.
- 1941 - German army occupies Viarna, USSR
- 1942 - US & UK government announce establishment of United Nations
- 1954 - Hassan el Hodeiby, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, arrested in Egypt.
- 1971 - Northern Ireland Prime Minister Brian Faulkner meets with British Prime Minister Edward Heath; they agree to send an additional 1,500 British Army troops to Northern Ireland.
- Event of interestEvent of Interest
- 1976 - Hua Guofeng succeeds Mao as Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China
- 1977 - USSR adoption of the Fourth Soviet Constitution.
- 1981 - Hosni Mubarak becomes acting-president of Egypt
- 1986 - First edition of new British newspaper "Independent" published
- 1988 - Latvian flag raised in Riga for first time since annexation by USSR
- 1990 -Israel begins handing out gas masks to its citizens
- 1993 -Nobel prize for literature awarded to American Toni Morrison
- 1994 -China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1994 - Faud Guliyev appointed premier of Azerbaijan
- 1994 - Ingvar Carlsson forms Swedish government
- 2001 - The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan starts with an air assault and covert operations on the ground
- 2001 - Crude oil resumes flowing through the trans-Alaska pipeline after workers welded shut a bullet hole that caused 260,000 US gallons of oil to spill out.
- 2009 - A digital version of psychiatrist Carl Gustav Jung's 'Red Book' is published 48 years after his death and contains personal notes on his subconscious during the period in which he developed his principal theories.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
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KO VIEW

Cough Syrup Scare

The deaths of 14 children in Madhya Pradesh linked to the toxic cough syrup Coldrif have once again exposed a disturbing pattern in India’s pharmaceutical safety regime. It is not the first time that a contaminated medicine has slipped through the cracks, and unless urgent corrective steps are taken, it won’t be the last. The tragedy must serve as a wake-up call for every state and Union Territory, including Jammu and Kashmir, to act before such poison reaches our shelves.

Laboratory tests have found that Coldrif, manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceuticals in Tamil Nadu, contained 48.6% diethylene glycol (DEG), nearly 480 times the permissible limit. DEG is not a harmless impurity; it is an industrial solvent used in brake fluid and antifreeze. Even tiny doses can cause irreversible kidney failure and death, especially in children. It is horrifying that such a product made its way into pharmacies and homes, killing infants who were simply given medicine for cough and cold.

The Union Health Ministry has now issued a nationwide advisory warning against the use of cough syrups for children below two years and discouraging their use for those under five. Multiple states, including Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Kerala, and Telangana, have banned the sale of Coldrif and ordered inspections of pharmaceutical distributors. However, Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford to wait for central directives. The UT must act now to ensure that no toxic syrup finds its way into local markets, clinics, or hospitals.

The J&K Drug Control Department should immediately launch an audit of all pediatric syrups currently available in the Union Territory, verifying their source, batch numbers, and test certifications. In addition, the government should make it compulsory for all chemists to display a public notice about the banned product and maintain a record of returns.

Equally important is public awareness. Parents often assume that over-the-counter syrups are safe because they are easily available. The Health Department must run a media campaign informing families about the dangers of unsupervised cough and cold medication for young children - more so, since we are already heading into winter - as well as the need to check expiry dates and batch details before purchase.

India has witnessed multiple DEG-related tragedies in Gambia, Uzbekistan, and now at home. Each time, outrage fades quickly, and business resumes as usual. But children’s lives cannot be collateral damage in a profit-driven system. For Jammu and Kashmir, prevention is the only protection. This is the time to act, before another toxic bottle claims another innocent life.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

From Heirloom to Investment

Kashmir’s relationship with gold is shifting from emotional to strategic without losing its shine.

Irshad Mushtaq

Gold has always anchored Kashmiri homes. Families gifted it at weddings, stored it for safety, and trusted it more than banks. Today, many are rethinking that old relationship.

What once glittered in lockers now moves through screens and trading apps.

Global markets drive this change. The London Bullion Market Association in the UK and the Multi Commodity Exchange in India decide gold’s daily value. Traders adjust prices based on supply, demand, and market mood. When inflation rises or currencies weaken, investors everywhere turn to gold. Kashmiri buyers are beginning to follow that rhythm, linking their savings to global trends instead of shop counters.

Young Kashmiri investors now buy digital gold and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). They trade it online, track prices in real time, and skip the costs of storage. The older generation still prefers the feel of physical gold. Both instincts tell a story of trust, though in different languages.

Many Kashmiris still depend on local shopkeepers for rates, unaware that global exchanges fix prices every hour. As awareness grows, investors are learning to see gold as a living asset, something that breathes with global economies.

Gold continues to hold Kashmiri faith, but it now carries a new purpose. It no longer rests quietly in family chests. It moves with the world, balancing memory with modern sense.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir’s Pill Problem

A recent inspection by the Drugs and Food Control Organization in Jammu and Kashmir exposed a worrying rise in substandard medicines. The findings point to a deeper crisis in public health and public trust.



Mohammad Hanief

Rebuilding trust in medicines demands a partnership between the government, healthcare providers, and citizens. Pharmacists must reject suspicious stock. Doctors must report unusual treatment failures. Patients must remain alert and demand information. Awareness campaigns in schools, mosques, and community centers can help people understand their right to safe medicines.

A few weeks ago, inspectors from the Jammu and Kashmir Drugs and Food Control Organization (DFCO) tested random samples of medicines from government and public medical stores. The results were troubling.

Several batches of common antibiotics and painkillers failed to meet the basic standards of potency and purity. Some tablets dissolved too slowly, others contained less of the active ingredient than required.

These findings may sound technical, but behind them lies a human story, one of patients depending on medicines that may not heal them.

Such discoveries strike at the heart of public trust.

Thousands of people across Jammu and Kashmir walk into these stores each day with prescriptions in hand, believing the medicines they buy will bring relief. When those medicines turn out to be weak or unsafe, the entire system feels unreliable.

The DFCO, which acts as the watchdog for drug safety in the Jammu and Kashmir, has been working to identify and remove poor-quality medicines from circulation. Through inspections, lab tests, and public advisories, it tries to ensure that what reaches patients is both safe and effective.

From city hospitals to small countryside clinics, the organization’s work spans a complex network of suppliers and storage facilities. Still, every failed batch reminds us how fragile that network can be.

Substandard medicines are those that fail to meet national or international quality standards. They may contain the wrong formulation, the wrong amount of the active ingredient, or harmful impurities.

In many cases, the problem is not malicious intent but poor manufacturing, improper storage, or weak oversight. But the consequences are serious.

A weakened antibiotic can make infections linger. A degraded painkiller can bring little relief. And when people lose faith in their medicines, they also lose faith in their doctors and the system itself.

The challenge is worse in rural and hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir, where people rely almost

entirely on public medical stores. Once a substandard batch reaches these areas, it often spreads widely before being detected.

By the time an inspection confirms a failure, patients have already consumed those medicines.

Limited access to private healthcare or reliable medical advice means there are few alternatives. In such communities, one faulty shipment can endanger hundreds.

Climatic conditions add another layer of difficulty. Many drugs require careful storage to remain effective.

In cold regions or areas with unstable power supply, temperature control becomes a real concern. A tablet that sits for weeks in a humid storeroom may look fine to the eye but lose its strength inside.

These are the small lapses that can turn a life-saving medicine into an ineffective one.

While the DFCO’s role is central, consumers also carry responsibility. Checking expiry dates, batch numbers, and manufacturer details may seem like small steps, but they can prevent harm. Signs of tampering, changes in colour or smell, or unclear labels should raise suspicion.

The DFCO has introduced digital tools and online complaint systems so that people can report any suspected medicine quickly. A single complaint can lead to an investigation, a lab test, and the removal of an entire faulty batch.

Many people in Kashmir are unaware that they can report substandard drugs or verify their authenticity online.

Civil society groups and local media have begun taking this message to the ground, especially in rural areas. Health workers now play a crucial role in spreading awareness about safe medicine use and early detection of problems.

Each informed citizen strengthens the collective defense against unsafe pharmaceuticals.

The issue also affects the broader image of Jammu and Kashmir. The region attracts millions of tourists every year, many of whom depend on local healthcare facilities during their stay. Whether it is altitude sickness or a minor infection, tourists expect safe medicines.

If even one case of substandard drugs reaches them, it damages the region’s credibility as a safe and responsible destination. Medicine safety, in this way,

connects directly with public confidence and economic well-being.

The government has taken steps to address the problem. Regular testing of samples, tighter licensing of distributors, and digital monitoring of supply chains are now in place. Collaborations with academic institutions have helped upgrade testing facilities. Some hospitals have started in-house quality checks before dispensing medicines.

But these efforts require consistent follow-up. Regulations on paper must translate into vigilance in practice.

The cost of failure adds to people’s expenses, prolongs recovery, and can even fuel antibiotic resistance.

The World Health Organization estimates that poor-quality medicines cost developing countries billions of dollars every year. For a small region like Jammu and Kashmir, the financial and emotional toll is immeasurable. Each ineffective dose means a delayed recovery, another hospital visit, and another burden on already strained families.

Rebuilding trust in medicines demands a partnership between the government, healthcare providers, and citizens. Pharmacists must reject suspicious stock. Doctors must report unusual treatment failures. Patients must remain alert and demand information. Awareness campaigns in schools, mosques, and community centers can help people understand their right to safe medicines.

Health, after all, depends as much on knowledge as it does on medicine.

Medicines carry hope, trust, and the promise of recovery. When that promise fails, people feel helpless and betrayed. The DFCO’s latest finding is a reminder that ensuring medicine safety is about humanity.

The path forward for Jammu and Kashmir lies in strengthening every link of the chain: manufacturing, testing, storage, distribution, and consumer awareness.

Every tablet that meets its standard represents care. Protecting that care should be everyone’s responsibility.

The author is a senior analyst in Kashmir and can be reached at m.hanief@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

What Kashmiri Children Are Secretly Watching Online?

The glow of a screen has become a close companion to Kashmiri children barely in their teens. It stays beside them through homework, meals, and long nights when curiosity meets the endless reach of the internet.

What was once a tool for learning has turned, for many, into a portal of confusion and exposure.

During a personal review of smartphones used by students aged 12 and 13, I came across evidence that felt deeply unsettling: browsing histories filled with adult websites, saved videos exchanged among classmates, and even searches for content involving other minors.

These incidents reflect a growing crisis of digital exposure among children who are using the internet without guidance, filters, or understanding.

The sudden abundance of internet has changed how children grow, learn, and see the world. When online classes became routine during the lockdowns, smartphones entered homes as essential tools. Over time, they became playthings and private worlds.

Parents, relieved to see their children occupied, often assumed innocence where risk was growing. Many have little idea how to activate parental controls or disable private DNS options that children use to bypass restrictions.

The problem deepens in the absence of dialogue.

In schools, explicit content circulates silently among peers. In homes, shame and silence keep it hidden. Children are scared of being judged. Parents are unsure how to ask the right questions.

This gap is where addiction begins. It alters perception long before anyone notices, shaping how a child interprets intimacy, relationships, and boundaries.

Research has shown that early exposure to pornography can influence brain development and emotional regulation. Such exposure can have lasting effects in the valley, where mental health resources are already limited. It can escalate anxiety, guilt, and distorted behaviour.

The issue, though wrapped in taboo, deserves open recognition and policy-level intervention.

The solution lies in awareness and trust, not punishment. Parents can begin by checking their child’s devices regularly and setting time limits for online use.

Schools can hold workshops on responsible digital behaviour. Mental health professionals can be brought into conversations about internet safety.

Most importantly, children need to know they can talk about what they see without fear.

Young generation deserves a childhood shaped by curiosity in a place still healing from decades of disruption. The screens lighting up their faces should be tools for growth, not gateways to harm.

It is time for every parent, teacher, and policymaker to look up from their own devices and ask: what are our children really watching?

Sincerely,

Yaamin Javaid
yaaminjavaids@gmail.com

Why Atheism is Impossible to Hold?

There is no need to evade a critical engagement with atheism. It need not be tabooed as if it were an insurmountable intellectual fortress or an unstoppable force.

Mugees Ul Kaisar

Many atheists tend to align with a particular strain of popular religious thought, which, by and large, lacks a proper recognition of the theological, philosophical, and mystical dimensions within the religious traditions.

This is observable in the works of prominent atheists of our time, particularly in the literature of the "New Atheist" movement, which often falls short of seriously engaging with the theo-philosophical themes within religious traditions.

Such a reception of religious thought, for example, reads God in extremely narrow terms. In the same light, religious rituals are (reductively) perceived as mindless, senseless, repetitive mechanical exercises.

In truth, atheism as an intellectual position is not possible to hold. Once we (re)define God in terms of Zahir wal Batin (that is, the apparent and the hidden), atheism becomes redundant.

A simple but critical point to register is that there are two aspects to reality, and both are undeniable.

One is the "apparent" part, the present reality in which we all participate, that which is available and accessible, that is, the zahir, which no theist or atheist can deny.

Everyone lives in this "given" reality, which is not disputed. Irrespective of the nature of this "given" reality, the fact is that there is something which is (given), and we find ourselves in it. This element of

tively refers to as God?

The answer is no.

That would be an incomplete picture. Atheists (like theists) accept that there is this present, apparent reality. This present existence is accessible to us.

What, then, is the additional aspect that religion proposes? What is it that the atheist supposedly misses? What is it that differentiates a so-called believer from an atheist?

If we reflect on it a little, we will realize that the atheist overlooks the element of batin: the hidden aspect of present reality, which is nothing but the inaccessible or indefinable essence of reality itself. It is important to bear in mind that this hidden aspect is not some unfounded belief or the "god of the gaps" argument that is being (abstractly) proposed and then foisted upon the people. Instead, it refers to the essence, origin, or source of the (already registered) present existence itself.

And this essence or origin of the present reality is a mystery (or gaib).

Let us simplify this. The point is that there is this reality in which we all live (the apparent/zahir). The question is, what is its essence, that is to say, what is the essence of this present reality itself, the essence of anything per se?

When we consider this question, we realize that the answer to this question simply escapes our thought structures. When we try to reduce reality from matter to par-



ter or consciousness, we are not able to exhaustively and definitively pinpoint its essence or (ultimate) source or origin.

It is this mystery at the heart of reality that the mystico-philosophical traditions within religions refer to as the batin, mystery, or gaib.

The great Sufi metaphysician, Ibn Arabi, notes that the highest station of knowledge is the station of bewilderment or hairat. Some great mystics have interpreted taqwa as an awe or astonishment expressed towards the wondrous and mysterious reality.

The essence of reality (pursued under a regime of reductionist analysis) escapes our language, thought, science, religion, and philosophy.

This "escaping" of the essence of the zahir/present reality is what religion refers to as "transcendence" (Az-zat). The reality of Theos, therefore, is not an abstract proposition. It does not need any proof or demonstration. Seen as zahir & batin, it becomes impossible to reject.

The hidden aspect, that is, the source, the origin, the essence (we may call it by different names), is mystery par excellence. And it is towards this that religion develops spiritual awe and bewilderment.

Atheists need to consider one fundamental question. What is this "given" reality? Not "designed life" or biology but existence (wajud)

itself. We no longer need to invoke the "arguments from design." Instead, attention needs to be directed towards the very existence of any existent thing per se. In other words, existence per se. The givenness of any "given" per se should become the focus of attention.

What is this "given" thing (anything at all)? Why fixate on the "design" of an eye, for example, when in fact even a stone in ultimate analysis is a mystery par excellence? What is a stone in its essence? What is an electron in its essence? What is energy in its essence? Why does anything exist at all?

For an evolutionary mechanism to operate, for example, there must be a background stage of the Earth's existence in the first place, without which biology cannot take off. That is why Dawkins wishes for another Darwin in the field of cosmology.

Therefore, the philosophical question with far-reaching implications is, why is there anything at all? Why not nothing? What kind of astonishing thing is this: the existence per se. What magic has it come to be?

In response to the above conundrum, contemporary physicists attempt to explain this bewildering phenomenon of existence, wajud, or reality, without, however, being successful at dissolving the present, given reality.

When physicists describe physi-

cal reality, they fail to circumvent the problem of the "given." That is to say, something always already precedes analysis.

A "given" (irrespective of the characterizations) has to be perpetually presupposed. Even if we remove all the particles and energy from the universe, the givenness of the "laws of physics" (no matter their shape and form) has to be presupposed, without which a universe is inconceivable.

It is this givenness of (some) "given" (whether information or intelligence) which is an utter mystery (at the root of reality).

In other words, there is a reality (perpetually "given" prior to our analysis) which has two aspects: it is "apparent" through various forms (what we see as "creation"). However, its essence is batin, that is, indefinable (and inexhaustible).

The "void" or the "nothing" (which Quantum Mechanics tries to study) has to be, in a way, positively charged to (spontaneously) set a net-zero energy-based universe into motion. There is something in the "void," some disproportion, some disharmony, some "that" which we cannot even begin to describe as a thing, which enables any spontaneous activity that leads to the fructification of the universe.

Why should absolute nothingness be disturbed into a booming and buzzing creativity? How come all of a sudden, an "absolute nothingness" becomes eligible to be subjected to the laws of Quantum Mechanics? And what are these laws of Quantum Mechanics that have to be presupposed, without which no process of manifestation (according to physics) can materialize?

Hence, the givenness of the "given" is impossible to eliminate in an exhaustive manner. We live in a present, given reality, which is available in whatever ways it is available (forming its apparent/zahir part), whereas its "isness" or "givenness" perpetually eludes our reductive analysis in that it is (exists) and that it is indefinable (in its essence), referring to the element of the hidden/batin.

The religious rituals, therefore,

are fundamentally expressions of awe towards the source, origin, essence, or hidden/batin, which is always already "given" without, however, being available for exhaustive characterizations. Our reductionist, analytical razor fails to cut it open.



The root word of "religion" is "religio," which means to connect or bind together. It connects individuals back to their source/essence, which is a mystery. It is this sense of wonder that, ultimately, even atheists cannot do away with. Dawkins succumbs to "wonder," and so do all great scientists.

A yearning to return to this ineffable source or origin or essence of reality represents the spiritual movement of religion.

The root word of "religion" is "religio," which means to connect or bind together. It connects individuals back to their source/essence, which is a mystery.

It is this sense of wonder that, ultimately, even atheists cannot do away with. Dawkins succumbs to "wonder," and so do all great scientists.

— The author is pursuing a PhD at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, focusing on the interplay of immanence and transcendence within post-metaphysical thought. He can be reached at mugees.kaisar@gmail.com.



The religious rituals are fundamentally expressions of awe towards the source, origin, essence, or hidden/batin, which is always already "given" without, however, being available for exhaustive characterizations. Our reductionist, analytical razor fails to cut it open.

zahir is, therefore, registered by everyone. This is the first aspect.

So, is this God? Is this apparent reality in which we all participate God? Is this what religion exhaus-

ticles to energy to laws of physics, we finally arrive at the dead end of mystery at the face of the givenness of the "given." No matter what we pick for analysis, whether it is mat-

In My Father's Shoes

The shoes that once carried a father's story now carry the next generation in the valley, with every step a lesson in life.

Bashir Ahmad Dar

As a child, I often tried slipping my small, stout feet into my father's shoes. It was a game, an experiment, and a secret ritual I believed connected me to him.

Evenings in our home in Anantnag were filled with moments I could read like a clock. I would hide behind the wooden fence in our courtyard, peeking through the narrow gaps, waiting for the familiar sounds: the creak of the main gate, the tuk-tuk of his shoes on the dusty floor, and the faint scent of leather carrying traces of the day's labour.

Each sound signaled his return, the arrival of Baba, and with it, the world felt safe.

When he finally entered, I would move with care, almost like a cat, and slip my feet into those large, rough shoes. They carried dust, dreams, unspoken desires, and the evidence of toil.

I would wobble, stumble, and fall, rise again, and fall once more. Every fall seemed to teach me something: how heavy the path could be, and how steady one needed to be to walk through life with integrity.

Years later, I saw the same scene unfolding in my own courtyard.

I had returned exhausted from a day of work, and through the windowpanes, I saw my four-year-old son moving slowly across the floor. His tiny feet had found my shoes. He paused, glanced toward my room, and continued, deliberate and careful.

My chest tightened. For a moment, I felt the past collapse into the present. I was seeing myself in him: the same curiosity, and the innocent yearning to inhabit the world of his father.

The realization hit me like a sudden gust of wind. Wearing a father's shoes demands endurance, patience, and humility. From surrendering sleep to swallowing pride, from absorbing bitter words to enduring invisible burdens, every step requires lessons that



Fathers before us, in modest homes, managed their lives with patience and foresight, often without recognition, but with an unshakable sense of duty. They smiled when pockets were empty, remained faithful in their work, and selfless in their care.

are often unspoken.

Those shoes carry history, struggle, and sacrifice.

I began to see the true measure of my father's life. Each mark on those shoes was a story of slog. Every speck of dust clinging to the leather was a witness to the miles he walked, the sacrifices he made, and the family he supported.

Those shoes also taught me about the human heart. They were lessons in love, endurance, and integrity. The laces that tied them together seemed to bind the family itself.

Fathers before us, in modest homes, managed their lives with patience and foresight, often without recognition, but with an unshakable sense of duty. They smiled when pockets were empty, remained faithful in their work, and selfless in their care.

Watching my son, I understood that life had come full circle. The shoes that once carried my father's story now carry mine. And one day, they will carry his.

— The author is a teacher from Anantnag, Kashmir. He can be reached at darbashir1234321@gmail.com.

Disease of the Soul

Some illnesses escape the body and take residence in the heart. Their cure lies in laughter, courage, and life lived fully.

Lily Swarn

"Diseases of the soul," proclaimed Cicero, perhaps with good reason, 'are more dangerous and more numerous than those of the body.'

Germes may kill slowly, but a sorrowful spirit can sap life in ways no medicine can touch.

Children could confess to their mothers, if honesty were demanded, that they might eat their green vegetables only if they smelled like butter chicken.

To some, streams of liquor flow like manna from heaven, while a plain glass of buttermilk is a humble draught no one admires.

Taste, desire, and habit bend our choices with strange authority. Well, to each their own.

A cheerless disposition and a constant complaint never healed an ailing body. Smiles rarely bloom from someone weighed down by pain.

But I know a gentleman who has long passed his 90th birthday, as lively and blithe as a lark.

His phone calls arrive like bursts of sunlight, carrying favourite poems, a parade of jokes, and a zest for life



the triviality of my anxieties. He told me, with pride, of the new battery in his pacemaker, assuring that by his calculations, he will remain with us until ninety-nine and a half.

His booming voice, rich and hearty, and the infectious laughter that follows, reaffirm my faith in life.

Cicero proves true in daily observation. I see women with psy-



Life demands attention to both flesh and soul. The latter calls for laughter, liveliness, and an audacity to embrace joy even amid fear. Perhaps the most potent medicine is the one we carry within ourselves.

that refuses to dim.

Every word, and laugh, sweeps away a little of the world's gloom. He astonishes me with his exuberance, reminding me how spirit can endure beyond frail flesh.

As I hang up, I reflect on my own petty fears and nagging worries. Uncle Bajaj makes me ashamed of

chosomal ailments, phobias, and melodramatic flair. "Hai hai ni mai te maran waali haan kudiyo," or "hai mere kaleje vich peed hai—ni koi mainu paani peya de."

Eyes roll, sighs swell, and gestures sweep with theater. Hypochondria, in full bloom. Half of being healthy, I think, is the wish to be healthy. In-

ternal jogging can be achieved with laughter that shakes the chest and warms the heart.

But the greater sickness lies in society itself.

Indifference, despair, and hollow appearances are rampant. Faces that shine with a fleeting joy are assumed to signal recovery, "un ke dekhe se jo aa jaati hai chehre pe raunaq, woh samajhte hain ki beemar ka haal achha hai."

How often do we mistake the shimmer for the cure?

The true remedy is subtle, stubborn, and human: courage to live, laughter shared, and spirit unfaltering.

I have seen extremes: vigour in aged bodies, drama in healthy ones, and the slow malaise of the collective spirit.

Life demands attention to both flesh and soul. The latter calls for laughter, liveliness, and an audacity to embrace joy even amid fear.

Perhaps the most potent medicine is the one we carry within ourselves.

— Lily Swarn is an internationally acclaimed multilingual poet, novelist, essayist, and columnist. She can be reached at sukhish83@gmail.com.

PIB J&K Media Tour To Mumbai Begins With Visit To Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority

Chairman JNPA interacts with journalists; highlights port's role in strengthening India's maritime trade

Observer News Service

Mumbai: The PIB J&K Media Tour to Mumbai began Monday with an interaction between the Chairman of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Shri Unmesh Sharad Wagh, and a delegation of journalists from Jammu and Kashmir.

The interaction marked the first engagement of the media tour organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Jammu & Kashmir. The delegation is being led by Neha Jalali, Director, PIB Jammu, and includes 14 journalists from Jammu and Srinagar. Jaidevi Pujari Swami, Deputy Director,

PIB Mumbai, was also present during the interaction.

During the interaction held at the JNPA headquarters, Wagh spoke about the port's vital role in strengthening India's maritime trade and improving logistics efficiency. He shared details about various modernization projects, developmental works, and the port's efforts to boost connectivity and trade facilitation across the country. He emphasized how JNPA, as India's premier container-handling port, continues to drive national economic growth through world-class infrastructure and innovative logistics solutions.

The interaction holds



particular significance for Jammu and Kashmir, as the Union Territory's economy relies heavily on the movement of goods, including handicrafts, dry fruits, and horticultural produce, to both domestic and international markets. Efficient port infrastructure and trade

connectivity are crucial for enhancing the export potential of Jammu and Kashmir's products and integrating local enterprises into global value chains.

Earlier, the media delegation was briefed by a team of senior JNPA officials led by Ambika Singh, Sr. Manager Marketing & PRO JNPA and DGM (Corporate Communications & Training), Vadhvan Port Project Ltd. She gave a detailed presentation on the functioning of various terminals of JNPA, the port's digitalization and operational efficiency, as well as its initiatives in promoting clean energy. Singh also briefed the delegation on upcoming projects,

including the Vadhvan Port Project, for which the foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year and which is expected to be completed by 2030.

The five-day PIB J&K media tour to Mumbai aims to provide journalists from Jammu and Kashmir with exposure to key national projects, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), and other institutions of strategic and developmental importance. The initiative seeks to enhance understanding of national development efforts and foster closer engagement between regional media and major institutions across the country.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Budgam, Nagrota

resigned from the constituency, opting to retain the Ganderbal seat, which he also won in the Assembly elections held last year.

The Nagrota seat, on the other hand, became vacant following the death of BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on October 31 last year, just weeks after the Assembly election results were declared.

The ECI also announced by-election schedules for several other constituencies across India, in addition to the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

With the poll date set, political activity is expected to pick up in both Budgam and Nagrota as parties gear up for another round of electoral battle in the Union Territory.

Nomination Process

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to elect members to the Upper House of Parliament.

According to the notifications issued by the Election Commission of India, the poll body announced that October 13, 2025, is the last date for filing nominations, while scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 14.

Candidates can withdraw their nomination forms until October 16, the poll body stated.

The ECI has fixed October 24, 2025, as the date on which polling shall take place, if necessary, with counting scheduled for the same day.

Three separate elections are being held for the four seats. While two separate elections will be conducted for the first and second seats, a combined election will be held for the remaining two seats.

The National Conference-Congress alliance is expected to comfortably secure three seats, while the BJP is in a strong position to win the fourth.

The BJP is in a commanding position to win the seat, given arithmetic in the House. There are seven independent members in the House who didn't contest Assembly elections on the ticket of any registered or recognised party and are not required to show their votes to polling agents.

It is worthwhile to mention that the provisions of the Tenth Schedule, including the anti-defection law, do not apply to Rajya Sabha elections. Therefore, political parties cannot issue a whip to their members for these elections. (With KNO Inputs)

NC Likely To

Congress in the Rajya Sabha polls during preliminary discussions on the matter. "Initial talks have been held between the leadership of both parties at the highest level," they said, adding that the Congress leadership in New Delhi would consult Rahul Gandhi before taking a final decision, reported news agency KNO.

The Congress party, which has six MLAs in the J&K Assembly, is supporting Omar Abdullah-led government but had declined to join the council of ministers last year, stating that it would not do so until the restoration of statehood.

It is worthwhile to mention that Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra had told reporters here a few days ago that the decision on the party's strategy for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls would be taken by the party high command.

In the Rajya Sabha elections, the NC-led alliance is expected to comfortably secure three seats, while the BJP is in a strong position to win the fourth.

National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Sajad Kichloo are frontrunners for the party's ticket.

The Congress could field working president Raman Bhalla or senior leader Ghulam Ahmed Mir. In the BJP, state spokesperson Sunil Sethi, former president Ravinder Raina, and former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh are contenders for the 'competitive' seat.

The BJP is also expected to field two candidates for the first two seats as a symbolic challenge to the NC-led alliance candidates, who are poised to win them.

From Warm To

below normal). Kupwara recorded 10.8 degree Celsius (16.0 degree Celsius) while Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 13.5 degree Celsius (10.6 degree Celsius below normal). Pahalgam recorded a day temperature of 9.2 degree Celsius (13.2 degree Celsius below normal) and Kokernag recorded 12.1 degree Celsius (11.7 degree Celsius below normal). Gulmarg, famous ski-resort, recorded a maximum temperature of 4.4 degree Celsius (12.1 degree Celsius below normal).

temperature settled at 10.0 degree Celsius (16.1 degree Celsius below normal). Batote recorded 12.6 degree Celsius (12.5 degree Celsius below normal) & Katra recorded 18.0 degree Celsius (11.1 degree Celsius below normal).Faizan Keng while talking to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "January like conditions prevailed in Kupwara and Baderwah as temperatures fell 16.0 C below normal."

The maximum temperature settled below normal across Union Territory with Srinagar recording a day temperature of 12.5 degree Celsius (13.0 degree Celsius below normal).

Kupwara recorded 10.8 degree Celsius (16.0 degree Celsius) while Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 13.5 degree Celsius (10.6 degree Celsius below normal). Pahalgam recorded a day temperature of 9.2 degree Celsius (13.2 degree Celsius below normal) and Kokernag recorded 12.1 degree Celsius (11.7 degree Celsius below normal). Gulmarg, famous ski-resort, recorded a maximum temperature of 4.4 degree Celsius (12.1 degree Celsius below normal).

IN Jammu division, Banihal recorded a maximum temperature of 11.2 degree Celsius (15.3 degree Celsius below normal) while Jammu recorded 21.3 degree Celsius (11.1 degree Celsius below normal). In Bhaderwah, the temperature settled at 10.0 degree Celsius (16.1 degree Celsius below normal). Batote recorded 12.6 degree Celsius (12.5 degree Celsius below normal) & Katra recorded 18.0 degree Celsius (11.1 degree Celsius below normal).

The Meteorological Department issued an orange alert for Jammu and Kashmir, forecasting intermittent spells of rain and snow across the region.

"Generally cloudy weather is expected with light to moderate rain, thunder, and gusty winds at most places, and light to moderate snow over higher reaches," the forecast said.

It also warned of possible landslides and shooting stones at vulnerable spots and advised farmers to suspend all activities till Tuesday morning. "Moderate to heavy snowfall is likely over a few higher reaches of South Kashmir and the Chenab Valley," it added.

The weather office said improvement is likely from Tuesday afternoon, with mainly dry conditions expected between October 9 and 16.

Centre Hikes DA

Pay Commission structure, and fractions below 50 paise will be ignored while rounding off payments

HC Denies Bail

Owais Amin Bhat of Rawalpura, both residents of Srinagar. "This Court cannot grant liberty to an accused against whom there is a prima facie case, merely on personal grounds, when the gravity of the statute demands otherwise," the judge ruled, emphasizing that while the court sympathizes with the family circumstances of the accused, humanitarian grounds cannot override statutory provisions, particularly in cases involving commercial quantities of narcotic drugs.

The court further stressed that the legislative intent behind Section 37 of the NDPS Act is clear: to effectively curb drug trafficking. This intent must be duly considered when deciding bail pleas in such cases.

"Considering the purpose behind the enactment of the NDPS Act to tackle the growing menace of drug peddling and illegal possession and its devastating impact on society, especially youth, as well as the rising crime rate, the nature and seriousness of the allegations, the character of the evidence, and circumstances specific to the accused, I am of the opinion that no valid ground has been made out for granting bail," the court said.

According to the prosecution, on February 8, 2022, Police Station Batamalo received credible information that a suspicious consignment had arrived at a transport company located at Tengpora Bypass. The consignment, addressed to "Sikander Pharma, Muslim Abad, NR Colony Bemina," was suspected to contain a large quantity of contraband substances intended to drive youth into drug addiction.

Following the tip-off, police registered case (FIR No. 18/2022 u/s 8/21, 29, 27A NDPS ACT 468, 471, 473 IPC) and launched an investigation. During the investigation, police seized 96 crates containing a total of 2,400 bottles of codeine phosphate syrup, each bottle holding 100 ml of the controlled substance branded as "B-PEN C."

During investigation it came to fore that Sikander pharma company is neither located in Muslim Abad NR Colony Bemina area nor it exists in anywhere, which indicates that a particular person has managed to prepare fake and forged documents in the name and style of M/S Sikander Pharma for purchasing and selling of contraband substances illegally among the youths. Further during investigation, one accused person namely Sikander Firdous Ahmad was arrested on the basis of statements of

witnesses and evidence collected against him. Later the name of Owais surfaced during investigation and it came to fore that he too had managed to procure drugs under fake license.

SC Issues Notice

and 90 injured. Authorities alleged he incited the unrest. He is currently lodged in Jodhpur Central Jail, Rajasthan.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Wangchuk's wife, sought directions for the grounds of detention to be provided to her. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta countered that the grounds have already been served to Wangchuk and that there is no legal requirement to share them with his spouse. He also claimed that the petitioner was attempting to create a "hype" around Wangchuk's alleged denial of medical relief and meetings with family.

The Supreme Court directed authorities to ensure Wangchuk receives his medical needs as per prison rules.

In her plea, Angmo described Wangchuk's detention as illegal, arbitrary, and unconstitutional, violating Articles 14, 19, 21, and 22 of the Constitution. The petition also sought immediate access to Wangchuk, quashing of the preventive detention order, and cessation of harassment against students and staff of the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL), which Wangchuk founded.

The plea highlighted that Wangchuk was transferred to Jodhpur without access to medicines, personal belongings, or family and counsel. It alleged that Angmo has been kept under virtual house arrest in Leh and that HIAL staff and students face intimidation and intrusive investigations.

The petition also underscored the psychological impact on the community, citing a reported suicide of a Ladakh Buddhist Association member, allegedly depressed following Wangchuk's detention.

It urged the court to direct authorities to provide Wangchuk with food, medicines, clothing, and other basic necessities, submit his medical report, and furnish all records and grounds of detention to the top court.

The plea emphasized that Wangchuk has always employed peaceful and Gandhian methods to highlight ecological and democratic concerns in Ladakh and that the detention is part of a mala fide state action to suppress democratic dissent and peaceful environmental activism.

Maha FDA Flags

that the batch is suspected to be adulterated with diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical.

The FDA officials said they are coordinating with the Tamil Nadu Drugs Control Administration to trace the distribution of the affected batch in Maharashtra.

All drug inspectors and assistant commissioners have been directed to alert retailers, wholesalers and hospitals to immediately freeze any available stock, the statement said.

The FDA Maharashtra further said it is taking all necessary measures to safeguard public health and prevent any further risk to life.

The syrup, containing Phenylephrine Hydrochloride and Chlorpheniramine Maleate, was produced by Sresan Pharma at Sunguvarchathram in Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram district, the statement said.

Refrain From

Administration J&K, Smita Sethi, heads of paediatrics departments from all government medical colleges, and officers from divisional and district levels of the Drugs Control Organisation.

The meeting was convened following a recent communication from the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, which advises that cough and cold medicines should not be prescribed or dispensed to children under two years of age.

Dr Shah highlighted the urgent need to ensure patient safety and promote evidence-based paediatric care across Jammu and Kashmir. He directed medical professionals, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and regulatory authorities to strictly comply with national guidelines and best practices.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers in J&K were instructed to adhere to WHO-GMP standards, carry out complete impurity profiling as per the latest pharmacopeial standards, and ensure the safety and quality of their products. Drugs Control Officers were asked to sensitize chemists and pharmacists against the OTC sale of cough and cold syrups without a valid prescription and to conduct regular sampling and testing under Section 23 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940. Violations, Shah warned, could lead to strict penal action, including suspension or cancellation of licenses under Rule 66 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules.

The general public was advised to refrain from self-medicating children and to always

consult doctors or paediatricians before administering any cough or cold medicine.

Dr Shah further directed all field officers and medical institutions to ensure strict enforcement of these guidelines throughout the Union Territory to safeguard child health, prevent misuse of medications, and promote rational, evidence-based paediatric care.

Baramulla CEO Removed

issued by Shah on Saturday instructed all employees of the district's School Education Department to strictly follow guidelines and avoid posting inappropriate content or "indulging in unwarranted debates and discussions" on social media. The directive came after a meeting chaired by the administrative secretary on Friday, which reportedly discussed instances of misuse of social media platforms by staff.

The circular also warned that violations could lead to disciplinary action, including censure, fines, withholding of increments or promotions, demotion, recovery from pay, premature retirement, or removal from service. However, it clarified that employees are not barred from using social media for "positive and constructive purposes."

The move drew sharp criticism from political circles. People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Waheed Para called the directive "deeply concerning" and urged the government to revoke the order. "In an already numb Jammu and Kashmir, this order warning teachers and government staff against raising their voices contributes to silencing the few remaining voices," he said in a post on X, attaching a copy of the circular.

Para further noted that the government had earlier informed the Assembly about drafting a new media policy to regulate digital platforms, following the 2020 New Media Policy, which faced criticism for its "authoritarian undertones."

KPDCL Vows

to rain, but till today, we have been providing normal supply to our consumers," Shah said.

In view of the orange weather warning, the MD assured that KPDCL staff are prepared to repair any disruptions promptly. "Despite disruptions caused by floods and other challenges, we are committed to ensuring continuous electricity supply across the region," he added.

Lawyer Tries

not affect me," the CJI, who was sitting on the bench with Justice K Vinod Chandran, told lawyers and continued hearing the mentioning of cases.

Bar bodies, SCBA and SCAORA, and lawyers including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and political parties strongly condemned the incident as "an attack on the Constitution and the institution as a whole". Police said Kishore was aged 71.

Kishore, a resident of Mayur Vihar here, was questioned for three hours by Delhi police officials inside the apex court premises and was later allowed to go at 2 PM as no formal complaint was lodged. Police also returned his shoes to him.

Police sources said a note, containing the slogan 'Sanatan dharma ka apmaan nahi sahega Hindustan' (India will not tolerate insults to Sanatan Dharma), was recovered by the police from his possession.

"We also found that he was carrying a card of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and the Shahdara Bar Association. While questioning Kishore, the team asked him about his motive for his act. The advocate has claimed that he was unhappy with the CJI's remarks during a recent hearing of a plea seeking the restoration of a Lord Vishnu idol in the Khajuraho Temple complex in Madhya Pradesh," the sources said.

According to lawyers, the incident occurred when the CJI-led bench was hearing the mentioning of cases by lawyers.

Kishore approached the dais on a raised platform, removed his shoe and tried to throw it towards the judges.

Alert security personnel present inside the courtroom immediately intervened and foiled an apparent attack.

The lawyer was swiftly escorted out of the court premises. As he was being taken away, the lawyer was heard shouting, "Sanatan ka apmaan nahi sahega" (will not tolerate insults to Sanatan Dharma).

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, in a statement, said it is not just an attack on the CJI but on our Constitution and no words are enough to condemn such an act.

"No words are adequate to condemn the attack on the Honourable Chief Justice of India in the Supreme Court itself. It is an assault not just on him but on our Constitution as well. Chief Justice Gavi has been very gracious but the nation must stand in solidarity with him unitedly with a deep sense of anguish and outrage," she said.

"An attempt to attack the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India in the Supreme Court today is unprecedented, shameful and abhorrent. It is an attack on the dignity of our Judiciary and the rule of law," Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta described the act as "unfortunate and condemnable", calling it a result of misinformation and an attempt at cheap publicity.

"Today's incident in the chief justice's court is unfortunate and deserves condemnation. This is the result of misinformation in social media. It is really heartening that the chief justice of India reacted with magnanimity.... I only hope that this magnanimity is not treated by others as the weakness of the institution," the top law officer said.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising termed the episode "an attack on the institution as a whole".

"I am not an eyewitness to the incident. What I know, I know from what the press has reported. It calls for investigation. I consider it to be an attack on the institution as a whole, not just the chief justice," she said.

The Supreme Court Bar Association(SCBA) expressed its "profound shock, outrage, and unequivocal condemnation" over what it termed a "reprehensible act" committed by an advocate inside CJI's courtroom.

In a strongly worded resolution passed unanimously, the SCBA described the advocate's conduct as "utterly unbecoming of an officer of the Court" and said it "strikes at the very foundation of mutual respect that underpins the relationship between the Bench and the Bar."

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association(SCAORA) described the incident as a "disrespectful and intemperate gesture" by an advocate.

The Bar Council of India(BCI) swung into action and swiftly ordered immediate suspension of Rakesh Kishore.

Issuing the interim suspension order, BCI chairperson and senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra said the advocate's act was "prima facie inconsistent with the dignity of the court" and in clear violation of the professional conduct rules prescribed under the Advocates Act, 1961 and Bar Council of India Rules.

"On the basis of prima facie material, it appears that at about 11.35 am on 6 October 2025, in Court No. 1 of the Supreme Court of India, you i.e. Advocate Rakesh Kishore, enrolled with the Bar Council of Delhi vide enrolment nos., removed your sports shoes and attempted to hurl them towards the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India during ongoing proceedings, whereupon you were detained by security," the BCI said.

According to sources, the incident could be linked to the lawyer's unhappiness over the CJI's remarks during a hearing last month concerning the restoration of a Vishnu idol in Khajuraho.

A bench headed by the CJI had dismissed the plea seeking directions to reconstruct and reinstall a seven-foot idol of Lord Vishnu at the Javari temple, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Khajuraho temple complex in Madhya Pradesh.

Terming the plea a "publicity interest litigation", the CJI had said, "This is purely publicity interest litigation.... Go and ask the deity himself to do something. If you are saying that you are a strong devotee of Lord Vishnu, then you pray and do some meditation."

Taking note of the online criticism of his comments, the CJI later said he respects "all religions".

Attack Has Angered

reprehensible acts in our society," he said and praised Gavi for maintaining calm following the incident.

Modi posted on X, "Spoke to Chief Justice of India, Justice B R Gavi Ji.

"The attack on him earlier today in the Supreme Court premises has angered every Indian. There is no place for such reprehensible acts in our society. It is utterly condemnable." He added, "I appreciated the calm displayed by Justice Gavi in the face of such a situation. It highlights his commitment to values of justice and strengthening the spirit of our Constitution."

In a shocking security breach, a 71-year-old lawyer attempted to hurl a shoe towards CJI Gavi in his courtroom in the Supreme Court on Monday, prompting the Bar Council of India to suspend his licence with immediate effect.

Police sources said a note, containing the slogan "Sanatan dharma ka apmaan nahi sahega Hindustan" (India will not tolerate insults to Sanatan Dharma), was recovered from his possession. The CJI, who remained unfazed during and after the unprecedented incident during the court proceedings, asked the court officials and the security personnel present inside the courtroom to just ignore it and to let off the errant lawyer identified as Rakesh Kishore with a warning.

Early Snowfall Sparks Hope For Busy Winter Tourism Season In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's tourism industry is seeing renewed optimism as early snowfall in October has boosted hopes of a strong winter season, following a subdued summer impacted by the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The incident, which left 26 civilians dead, had led to widespread cancellations and a slump in tourist arrivals.

Tourism stakeholders expressed hope that the snowfall would attract visitors back to the Valley.

Wali Mohammad, President of the Shikara Association, said, "The change in weather has renewed our hopes. The tourist footfall hasn't increased yet, but snowfall in the upper reaches will definitely encourage visitors to return. We are hopeful about our industry getting a boost in coming days."

Manzoor Pakhtoon, President of the Houseboat Association, added, "As the news of snowfall spreads, tourists will start planning their trips. It will take around a month to see how the season shapes up."

Houseboats See Early Inquiries



Houseboat owners along Dal and Nigeen lakes have already begun receiving inquiries from domestic tourists, especially families and newly-wed couples eager to experience Kashmir's winter beauty. Ghulam Rasool, a houseboat owner in Dal Lake, said, "Once the snowfall intensifies, bookings are expected to rise."

Travel Agents and Hoteliers Expect Uptick

Travel operators reported a slight increase in demand, with inquiries coming from states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and West Bengal. Altaf Ahmad, a Srinagar-based agent, said, "Many tourists are waiting for snowfall updates before finalizing plans. If conditions remain favorable, this winter could be one of the good seasons again."

Hoteliers also expressed cautious optimism. "Bookings for December and January are empty

as of now but are expected to rise steadily once snow reaches lower areas," said a Srinagar hotelier.

Pahalgam Records Over 5.6 Lakh Tourists Since April

From April to September 2025, Pahalgam recorded 5,64,039 tourists, including 2,08,122 domestic, 3,53,053 local, and 2,864 foreign visitors. Despite the setback from the April terror attack, the number of tourists gradually increased, with August and Sep-

tember showing positive trends.

Gulmarg's Snowfall Delights First-Time Tourists

Early snowfall in Gulmarg has turned the famous ski resort into a "white wonderland," delighting visitors from across India. First-time tourists expressed joy at experiencing snow in October, praising the Gondola rides and chairlift services.

Yashfi, a tourist from Kolkata, said, "The view from Phase II is absolutely mesmerizing. We wish everyone could visit and experience this beauty." Arun Kumar from Haryana added, "We always heard Kashmir is 'Paradise on Earth'. Today, we truly witnessed it. The unexpected snowfall made our trip unforgettable."

Positive Signals for the Winter Season

Officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC) reported over 400 visitors availing chairlift services on Sunday alone. A senior JKCCC official said, "The snowfall has brought a positive boost to tourism in Gulmarg and we expect the flow to increase further in the coming weeks." (inputs from KNO)

By Abid Bhat/KNO

False Information On Horse Slaughter

FIR Filed Against Facebook Page Admin

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir have registered a case against the administrator of a Facebook page for allegedly spreading false and misleading information about the killing of a horse, officials said on Monday.

According to a police spokesperson, the Facebook page "Kashmir Speaks" had shared a video showing a dead horse, claiming it had been slaughtered for its meat to be sold in local markets. The post, police said, created unnecessary fear and panic



among the local population.

The horse had been killed on August 26 in Rakhai village of Khanshabih Tehsil following a personal dispute between two parties, the investigation revealed. However, on October 5, the Facebook page allegedly misrepresented the incident, falsely claiming it was slaughtered for commercial meat purposes.

An FIR (No. 187/2025) was

registered under Section 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Khanshabih Police Station, and an investigation has been initiated.

Budgam Police appealed to the public and social media users to refrain from sharing unverified or false information, warning that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in spreading misleading content.

The incident comes amid heightened sensitivity in the valley following reports of rotten meat being sold in eateries, making authorities particularly vigilant about false claims on social media.

POSCO CASES

Budgam Man Gets 20-Yr Jail, Ganderbal Convict 10 Yrs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A court in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday sentenced a rape convict to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in a POSCO case, a police spokesman said.

The Budgam Principal District and Sessions Judge sentenced Zahid Ahmad Parra to 20 years of imprisonment and fined Rs 50,000 under Section 376 IPC (rape), he said. Parra was also sentenced to 20 years imprisonment under Section 4 of the POSCO Act and five years jail term under Section 363 IPC (kidnapping a minor), the spokesperson said.

"In case of default in payment of fine, the convict shall undergo six

months of additional simple imprisonment," he added.

In another case, a sessions court in Ganderbal district sentenced a rape convict to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment.

The Ganderbal Principal and District Session Court found Ulfat Ahmad Magray guilty of charges under Sections 376 and 506 (criminal intimidation) IPC and Section 4 (punishment for penetrative sexual assault) of POSCO Act, a police spokesman said.

"After a thorough investigation by the police and subsequent trial, the court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 1,000 for the offence punishable under Section 4 of the POSCO Act," he said.

Ladakh Peaceful; School, Offices Reopen: LG Office

LAB Calls It Illusion, Slams 'Continuing' Arrests

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Ladakh remains peaceful with schools, offices and markets reopened, the Union Territory administration asserted on Monday, even as Leh Apex Body (LAB) claimed that the situation is far from normal and demanded the immediate lifting of all curbs and the release of detainees to restore the confidence of people.

"Normalcy cannot return through intimidation.... What appears normal on the surface is just an illusion," LAB co-chairman Chering Dorjay said at a press conference and alleged that "mass arrests" were continuing.

Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta reviewed the security situation in the Union Territory on Monday. Leh was rocked by widespread violence on September 24 during an agitation spearheaded by LAB and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) for statehood and extension of Sixth schedule safeguards that left four persons dead and scores of others injured, prompting imposition of curfew and suspension of mobile internet service.

While the curfew was gradually lifted since the beginning of this month and schools up to class 8 started functioning from October 3, prohibitory orders banning assembly of five or more persons together remain in force, internet mobile services remain suspended along with work in the rest of the educational institutions.

"Lt Governor today (Monday) chaired a high-level meeting to review the security situation in Ladakh. The UT remains peaceful, with schools, offices, and markets reopened," the LG office said in a post on X on Monday.

Gupta, who has been chairing the security review meetings on a daily basis since the September 24 violence, asked officials to remain vigilant and focus on peace and development.

Addressing the press conference, LAB co-chairman Dorjay said the situation in the violence-

hit town is far from normal.

"Nothing is normal as the internet continues to remain suspended and mass arrests are also going on," Dorjay, flanked by other members of the LAB, alleged.

He said the government should immediately lift all restrictions, release all those detained and restore mobile internet services to restore the confidence of the people. "Such measures are imperative to bring Ladakh back to normal."

Dorjay accused the government of harassing numberdars (village heads) who had earlier informed the people about the LAB-led hunger strike from September 10 to September 24 in support of its demands, including statehood and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

"They (numberdars) are an important part of our culture and are being harassed without any

justification. We condemn such action and consider it an attack on our culture," he said, asking the administration to desist from such actions.

He said the detention of community leaders will not help restore peace, urging the administration to release all detained persons.

"Normalcy cannot return through intimidation. The questioning of numberdars is unjust. They did not instigate protests but only performed their duty of communicating with villagers," he said.

On Sunday, the Lt Governor said his administration is fully committed to restoring complete normalcy and easing public convenience at the earliest.

Blaming vested interests for the

September 24 violence, Ladakh Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal had on Saturday said the government stands committed to meet the aspirations of the people of Ladakh and would be keen to start the dialogue process soon.

Kotwal said that the government has always desired an open and constructive dialogue and has never shied away from meeting, standing committed to addressing the aspirations of the people of Ladakh.

The statement came after LAB and KDA decided to stay away from the scheduled meeting with the Centre on October 6 until a judicial probe is ordered into the death of four persons and all those detained, including climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, are released.

The chief secretary had said 30 of the 70 youth, who were detained following the September 24 violent clashes, have been released, and the rest are in judicial custody and would be released as per court orders.

"We will ensure that youngsters are not put to any hardship and no misguided innocent person is implicated," he stressed.

Heavy Rain In Jammu: Northern Railway Cancels Phase-In Of Train Services

The Northern Railway, Jammu Division, has announced the cancellation of the phase-in of train services due to heavy rains in the region on Monday.

According to Northern Railway, to facilitate passengers during the festive season, the fifth phase of restoration was planned to normalise rail traffic in the Jammu Division. This phase included the re-operation of several key trains.

The statement announced that the following trains will resume operations from the specified dates: the Jammu Tawi-New Delhi train will resume operations from October 16, 2025, while the Jammu Tawi-Nanded train will start from October 19. Additionally, Jammu Tawi-Pune train starts from October 17. The Jammu Tawi-Tatanagar train begins on October 18, the Jammu Tawi-Sambalpur train starts on October 19, 2025; the Pathankot-Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan train begins on October 15, 2025; and the Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan-Pathankot train will commence on October 15.

However, some trains in Jammu are being short-terminated and short-originated. The Jammu Tawi-Bandra Terminus train will be short-terminated from Ludhiana, while the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Sabarmati BG train will be short-terminated from Amritsar. Additionally, the Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan-Kota train will be short-originated from Ludhiana, the Shaheed Captain Tushar Mahajan-Indore train will be short-originated from Jalandhar Cantt, and the Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan-Durg train will be short-originated from Ambala Cantt.

Uchit Singhal, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, stated that efforts are ongoing to repair damaged tracks, bridges, and other rail infrastructure. He also advised passengers to verify train statuses before travelling.

"Following this disaster, we have worked on a war footing to repair damaged tracks, bridges, and other rail infrastructure. Our aim is to fully restore all rail services as soon as possible, ensuring minimal inconvenience to passengers. We are grateful for their cooperation and patience."

Additionally, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager also stated that passengers can also check for updates through the Indian Railways website or by contacting the Rail Madad helpline number (139) for further assistance. (Agencies)

2 Absconders, Drug Peddler Held

Jammu and Kashmir police have apprehended two persons wanted in connection with separate cases registered in Udhampur and Rajouri districts between 2015 and 2020, officials said.

In Rajouri, police also arrested a drug peddler along with six grams of heroin.

Rajinder Kumar, alias 'Nittu,' a resident of Sewna village, was arrested from Chenani area of Udhampur. He was wanted in a 2020 case registered at Police Station Chenani under various sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. An arrest warrant under Section 299 CrPC was issued by the Additional Sessions Court Udhampur, following which he was brought before the court and lodged in Udhampur District Jail.

In a separate case, police apprehended absconder Layaqat Ali, a resident of Gundha village, from Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. Ali had been on the run after a 2015 case at Police Station Budhal in Rajouri, which included charges of rioting and voluntarily causing hurt. He was produced before the court at Budhal for further legal proceedings. Additionally, Javed Iqbal, a resident of Panjgrain-Thanamandi, was arrested during patrolling at Bella Bus Stand in Rajouri with six grams of heroin. A case under the NDPS Act has been registered, and further investigation is underway, officials said. (Observer News Service)

Drug Peddler's Property Attached In Kulgam

Continuing its unwavering drive against the drug menace, Police in Kulgam on Monday said to have attached the property of a notorious drug peddler under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act.

"During the investigation of case FIR No. 85/2024 U/S 8/15, 21 NDPS Act of Police Station Qazigund, it came to light that the accused, Cheki Badwani, resident of Kurigam, Tehsil Qazigund, has been involved in multiple cases of drug trafficking and had no legitimate source of income. The accused is presently lodged in District Jail Bhaderwah," a police spokesman said in a statement.

The investigation further revealed that the accused had illegally acquired a residential house falling under Survey No. 797 min, valued at approximately Rs. 25 lakh (Twenty-Five Lakh Rupees), from the proceeds of drug trafficking. Acting swiftly, Police Station Qazigund initiated proceedings under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, leading to the attachment of the said property, the statement reads. It added that this action marks yet another determined step by J&K Police in its mission to eradicate the drug menace from the district and to strike at the roots of illegal narco-financing.

Meanwhile, J&K Police appealed to the general public to come forward with any information related to drug peddling or related activities in their localities. "All information shared will be dealt with utmost confidentiality," police said. (Observer News Service)

Submit Criminal Status Affidavit: HC To Er Rashid

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed Engineer Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Member of Parliament from Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, to file an affidavit declaring that no other criminal cases are pending against him, while hearing his regular bail plea.

A party spokesperson said that they remain optimistic about a fair outcome. "We are hopeful that justice will prevail. We have full faith in the constitution and the judiciary. Er. Rashid is innocent and was subjected to political victimization in 2019," the spokesperson said.

The next hearing in the matter has been scheduled for October 15.

Er. Rashid moved the regular bail plea before the Delhi High Court after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court had rejected his bail application earlier. (KO Web Desk)

AAP To Contest Budgam, Nagrota By-polls

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday announced it will contest the upcoming assembly by-elections in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam and Nagrota constituencies.

Bypolls for both seats are scheduled for November 11, with counting set for November 14. The Budgam seat fell vacant after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chose to retain Ganderbal following the 2024 assembly elections, while Nagrota became vacant after the death of BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana

on October 31, 2024.

AAP's decision was conveyed by party spokesperson Appu Singh Slathia after meeting J-K unit president and sitting MLA Mehraj Malik in Kathua jail. Malik, detained under the Public Safety Act since September 8, urged party leaders and workers to contest the elections with "truth and commitment."

Slathia, also part of the legal team challenging Malik's detention in the high court, emphasized that party members should continue their work with a single-minded focus on serving the people.

Budgam, Nagrota By-polls

No Talks Held With NC: Karra

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Congress President Tariq Hamid Karra on Monday said the party has not held any discussion related to Budgam and Nagrota by-elections with the National Conference.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Karra described the reports quoting him as saying that Congress has decided to skip Budgam and Nagrota as "mischievous and ridiculous."

"There have been no formal or informal discussions with the NC regarding the Budgam or Nagrota seats," he said.

He added that they will initiate legal action against the news portal if it doesn't remove the baseless content. "We will file a complaint against these mischievous claims. I don't know how I have been quoted as saying this, nor have I spoken to the news portal that carried the report," he said.(KNO)

PDP Appoints Constituency In-Charges; Key Leaders Omitted

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday announced several leaders as constituency in-charges across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the upcoming Panchayat and Local Body elections, while some senior figures were notably absent.

The list, approved by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti to "strengthen the party's grassroots structure," includes her daughter, Iltija Mufti, who lost the Srigufwara-Bijbehara Assembly seat last year, being reappointed as a constituency in-charge.

Other appointments include Abdul Rehman Veeri for Anantnag East-Shangus, Dr Mehboob Beg for Anantnag, Advocate Sheikh Javed for Anantnag West, Dr Shabir Siddiqi for Pahalgam, Chowdhary Talib (ST) for Kokernag, and Mohd Ashraf

Malik for Dooru.

In Kulgam, Mohd Sartaj Madani and Gulzar Ahmad Dar were named in-charges for Devsar and DH Pora, respectively. Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, and Rafiq Ahmad Naik were assigned Pampore, Pulwama, and Tral, while Shopian's Zainapora-Wachi and Shopian went to Ajaz Ahmad Mir and Raja Waheed.

For Ganderbal, Bashir Ahmad Mir and Jamaat Ali Shaheen were appointed, and for Bandipora, Nayeem Akhtar and Yasir Reshi. Rajouri's constituency in-charge is Advocate Asif Iqbal Chowdhary.

Notably, senior leaders Peerzada Mansoor Hussain, Yawar Bandey, and Gaffar Sofi were left out of the list. Former MLA Ajaz Ahmad Mir retained his traditional stronghold of Wachi (Zainapora).

CM Omar Abdullah Throws Open 69th National School Games In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday officially declared open the 69th National School Games at TRC Football Ground by ceremonially kicking a football, marking the formal commencement of the national-level sporting event.

The opening ceremony was attended by Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi).

This year's National School Games has drawn participation from 30 teams and 4000 athletes representing various States and Union Territories across the country, with matches scheduled to be played at six different venues. The events include competitions in Football, Wushu,



Taekwondo, and Table Tennis.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that sports play a vital role in fostering unity, friendship and understanding among young people from diverse regions of the country.

"Sports build bridges of unity and friendship. I am delighted to be here with you at the inaugura-

tion of the 69th National School Games. Unfortunately, the weather today does not permit me to deliver a long speech or keep you waiting in the rain. While the weather is beyond our control, it gives me immense pleasure—on behalf of myself, my colleagues, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir—to warmly welcome all

of you to this prestigious tournament," the Chief Minister said.

He assured participants of full support from the government and organisers, adding that every effort would be made to ensure their comfort and safety.

The march past by 30 participating teams drew appreciation from the Chief Minister and ap-

plause from a large gathering of school children and spectators at the venue.

Director General YSS Anuradha Gupta, Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul, Joint Director Kashmir Mohammad Rashid Kohili, Joint Director Jammu Vinakshi Koul and Deputy Director Activities and Planning Megha Baogia were also present on the occasion. Azhar Hajini, Convenor of the Media and Publicity Committee of the 69th NSG, conducted the proceedings of the colorful opening ceremony.

Meanwhile, in a high-voltage inaugural match of the Football tournament, the host J&K team defeated Karnataka with a convincing score of 5-2. Sahil was the top performer for the J&K team, scoring 3 goals, while Yasir and Basir contributed one goal each.

PM Modi Hails India's Showing At World Para Athletics

PPrime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hailed India's performance in the World Para Athletics Championships as historic, saying the country's best-ever showing in the event will be a motivation for youngsters.

India won a record 22 medals, including six gold, nine silver and seven bronze, surpassing their best of 17 at the 2024 edition in Kobe, Japan.

"A historic performance by our para-athletes! This year's World Para-Athletics Championships have been very special. The Indian contingent had its best-ever performance, winning 22 medals, including 6 Gold Medals. Congrats to our athletes," wrote Modi on 'X' while posting an image of all the country's medal winners.

This was the first time India hosted the mega para athletics event, which witnessed more than 2,200 participants from 100-plus nations competing in 186 medal events. (PTI)

MCC Backs 3rd Umpire's Call In Muneeba Run-Out Controversy

The Marylebone Cricket Club on Monday clarified that the third umpire's decision to adjudge Pakistan opener Muneeba Ali run out during their 88-run loss to India in the Women's World Cup was "entirely correct", asserting there was no deviation from the Laws of Cricket.

On the last ball of the fourth over of Pakistan's chase of 248 here on Sunday, Muneeba survived an lbw appeal off Kranti Gaud.

But as she stepped out of her crease, Deepti Sharma's throw hit the stumps. Muneeba had grounded her bat briefly, it was airborne when the ball struck, leading to her dismissal for two after a third-umpire review by Kerrin Klaaste of South Africa.

The decision triggered animated exchanges, with Pakistan captain Fatima Sana Khan arguing that Muneeba had no intent to run and had already grounded her bat. However, the MCC, who are the custodian and guardian of the Laws of Cricket, in its statement reaffirmed that the dismissal was consistent with the Laws. (PTI)

City's Rodri Out Of Spain Squad For World Cup Qualifiers

Midfielder Rodri has been dropped from Spain's squad for upcoming World Cup qualifying games because of an injury sustained when playing for Manchester City in the Premier League this weekend. Spain said Monday that Rodri will not play against Georgia and Bulgaria during the international break. The Spanish soccer federation said it made the decision after receiving the results of medical tests conducted by Man City.

Spain is already missing young Barcelona forward Lamine Yamal because of a groin ailment.

Rodri was forced off with a suspected hamstring problem in the first half of Man City's 1-0 win at Brentford on Sunday, the latest injury blow to hit last year's Ballon d'Or winner.

Rodri said after the game he "felt a little bit in the hamstring but it seems like it's not that much." (AP)

J&K Team For Ranji Trophy 2025-26 Announced

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Cricket Association on Saturday announced the J&K senior men's cricket team for Ranji Trophy 2025-26.

The JKCA acted on the recommendations of Senior Men's Selection Committee, under the chairmanship of Sarabjeet Singh, the Sub-Committee JKCA. Paras Dogra will captain the 20-member squad.

Here's the full list of players:

Paras Dogra (Captain)
Shubham Khajuria
Abdul Samad
Vivrant Sharma
Qamran Iqbal
Kawalpreet Singh
Sahil Lotra
Abid Mushtaq
Vanshaj Sharma
Yawer Hassan
Musaif Aijaz
Sunil Kumar
Rohit Sharma.
Umran Malik
Umar Nazir
Auqib Nabi
Kanhaiya Wadhawan
Yudhvir Singh
Mujtaba Yousuf



Lone Nasir Muzaffar

The Support Staff that will accompany the team includes:

Head Coach - Ajay Sharma
Bowling Coach - P. Krishna Kumar

Fielding Coach - Dishant Yagnik
Manager - Hilal Ahmad
Co-Manager - Ravi Sharma
Trainer - Sunny Verma
Physiotherapist - Chirag Pandya
Video Analyst - Susheel Pajnu
Masseur - Naresh Kumar

J&K will kick off its 2025-26 Ranji Trophy campaign with a blockbuster game against Mumbai on October 15. The contest will be held at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar, adding more spice to the

encounter.

Next, J&K will take on Rajasthan on October 25 at Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium.

On November 1, J&K will play Chattisgarh at SVNS International Stadium in Raipur. J&K will next play Delhi at Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi.

J&K will then return home to lock horns with Hyderabad on November 8 at JKCA Hostel Ground in Jammu. They will then take on Pondicherry on January 22, 2026, at Seichem Stadium in Pondicherry. J&K's final game will be against Himachal Pradesh on January 29 at ABVP Stadium in Amtar.

Pro Feet 7-A-Side Football Tournament Final Held At Natipora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The much-awaited Grand Finale of the Pro Feet 7-A-Side Football Tournament was held on Monday at the Natipora Ground, marking an exciting and memorable conclusion to the event.

The thrilling final clash between Morning Warriors and MVFC kept the spectators on the edge of their seats. The match ended goalless at full time, leading to a nail-biting tiebreaker, where Morning Warriors held their nerve and emerged champions.

Both teams displayed outstanding skill, discipline, and sportsmanship, earning thunderous applause from the massive crowd that had gathered to witness the grand finale.

Wasim Aslam, Ex-Chairman,

J&K Football Association, graced the event as the Chief Guest, while Amandeep Singh, Station House Officer, Chanapora Srinagar, attended as the Guest of Honour.

Other notable dignitaries present included Firdous Ahmad (Legal Advisor), Shameem Beig (Media Head), Naseem-ul-Gani (Senior Member), Bilal Wani, Pervaiz Sidiq (Chairman, Shere-e-Khaas Sports Fraternity), Zuhoor Mir, and several other distinguished members from the football fraternity and business community.

The Winners' Trophy, along with cash rewards, was jointly presented by Wasim Aslam and Amandeep Singh. Several players, officials, and sponsors were also felicitated for their valuable contributions and unwavering support.



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