29th year OF PUBLICATION

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Light Rain, Snow Likely In J&K Around Nov 5

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to receive light rainfall in parts of the region, with snowfall over higher reaches around November 5, as a weak Western Disturbance is expected to affect the region, Meteorological Department Director Mukhtar Ahmad said on Tuesday.

Ahmad said that the weather system could trigger light precipitation at isolated places, while most areas are expected to witness dry weather thereafter until November 9.

He said another Western Disturbance is likely to influence Jammu and Kashmir on November 10 and 11, bringing the possibility of light rain in some districts of both Kashmir and Jammu divisions and light snowfall over higher-altitude areas.

Isolated thundershowers are also possible during the period, he said, adding that no major weather activity is anticipated under the prevailing forecast.

Meanwhile, temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir are gradually declining, with a further drop expected in the coming days.

"Winter has almost set in," Ahmad said, noting that shallow fog was being observed over plains during morning hours.

He cautioned that reduced visibility due to fog could become more frequent in the coming days and weeks.

On agricultural operations, the MeT | More on P6

NC Used Me For Votes, Betrayed People: Ruhullah Resigns

Calls Exit A 'Charter Of Freedom'; Accuses Omar Abdullah Of Abandoning Election Promise

Observer News Service



Srinagar: After months of simmering differences with the National Conference leadership, Srinagar Lok Sabha member Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday announced his resignation from the party and sent his resignation from Parliament to Speaker Om Birla, accusing the ruling party of betraying people's mandate and abandoning its commitments on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's rights.

Addressing a gathering at Behisht-e-Zehra Park in Budgam on the 26th death anniversary of his father, Aga Syed Mehdi, the influential Shia leader launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and NC president Farooq Abdullah, accusing the leadership of prioritising power over the political struggle it had promised to pursue before the 2024 Assembly elections.

Describing his departure as a "charter of freedom" from what he called a "deceitful, corrupt organisation", Ruhullah said he could no longer remain associated with a party that had failed to honour its commitments to the people.

"All the posturing during elections | More on P6

'Reclaiming Rights Needs Politics, Not Theatrics': NC

NC Accuses Ruhullah Of Political Opportunism, Betrayal

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The National Conference on Tuesday launched a sharp counterattack against Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi following his announcement of resignation from the party and submission of his resignation from the Lok Sabha, accusing the Srinagar MP of betraying the organisation that shaped his political career and questioning his contribution to the causes he has cited for quitting.

Terming Ruhullah's speech at a rally in Budgam a manifestation of "mental and moral bankruptcy" and "self-obsession", the NC accused him of using "derogatory, abusive and unparliamentary" language against its leadership.

In a statement posted on X, the party said Ruhullah's invocation of the Quran and its message of dignity and respect for human beings stood | More on P6

A Resignation Delivered Through Tufail Mattoo's Father

In a symbolic gesture that brought the political fallout of 2010 into Tuesday's developments, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi handed his National Conference resignation letter to Mohammad Ashraf Mattoo, father of teenager Tufail Mattoo, asking him to deliver it personally to | More on P6

Is A New Political Front In The Making?

While ruling out an immediate announcement of a new political outfit, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has signalled his intention to pursue a wider political movement, raising questions about the emergence of a new political | More on P6

Ruhullah Rally: Supporters Travel Miles, Turnout Modest

Syed Mohammad Burhan

A man from Kishtwar postponed his wedding, a teenager travelled from Soura in a battery-operated auto, and supporters arrived from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir to attend Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi's | More on P6

WINTER SLUMP

Local Hydel Generation Falls To 250-280 MW

Agencies

Srinagar: With the onset of winters, Hydro power generation in Jammu and Kashmir declines by nearly 80 percent—thus raising a question on supply to consumers during the peak winter season.

An official said that the hydel power generation from the J&K owned projects was fluctuating between 250-280 Megawatt (MW).

"During the past week, the average power generation from the local generation projects was fluctuating from 250-280 or 270-300 MW," the official said.

The official further said that the power generation usually declines in winters owing to the low water levels.

However, the official said that the Ministry of Power (MoP) is allocating some electricity from the central pool for J&K every year.

"Furthermore, from December-01 till February-2027, we are getting more 330 MW from the central pool that will compensate for the power demand to some extent during the peak season," the official said.

Earlier this news agency reported that Kashmir is reeling under power deficiency of nearly 300 MW.

An official had informed that "In Kashmir, the power demand during the third week of September remained around 1350 Megawatts (MW)."

He said, | More on P6

SC Directions: J&K Sets Up Panel To Strengthen ICU Services

15-Day Deadline For Panel To Prepare Roadmap, Identify Gaps In Critical-Care Facilities Across UT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Following directions issued by the Supreme Court, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has constituted a high-level committee to assess intensive care facilities across the Union Territory and prepare a time-bound roadmap to address deficiencies in the delivery of critical-care services.



According to Government Order No. 757-JK (HME) of 2026, dated November 3, issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, the committee has been directed to submit a consolidated draft action plan to the department within 15 days.

The move follows the Supreme Court's directions in Civil Appeal No. 8402/2016, titled Asit Baran Mondal & Anr. Vs. Dr. Rita Sinha & Ors., particularly its orders dated May 20 and September 21, 2026, concerning the implementation of prescribed guidelines for the organisation and delivery of ICU services.

The committee will assess the preparedness of healthcare institutions to provide Level-I, Level-II and Level-III intensive care services and identify gaps in infrastructure, medical equipment, critical-care specialists, nursing staff and other healthcare personnel. It will also examine infection control measures, patient safety arrangements and the availability of specialised training.

Headed by the Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology/ Critical Care | More on P6

Concrete Barrier Leaves 150 Kashmir Fishing Families Without Catch

A structure built beneath a bridge on the Sukhnag stream in Budgam has blocked fish migration for two years, leaving about 150 fishing families in nearly a dozen villages without their traditional catch.

Syed Sammar Mehdi



Srinagar: For Abdul Rashid Waza, a fisherman from Beerwah, the Sukhnag stream has brought two years of frustration.

He says he and other fishermen have watched their catch disappear since a concrete structure built beneath a bridge at Makhama blocked fish from swimming upstream.

About 150 fishing families from nearly a dozen villages in the Beerwah area depend on the stream for their livelihood. According to the fishermen, the obstruction has stopped their fishing activities for the past two years, cutting off an important source of income.

"When we raised our voice against this injustice, the contractor got me arrested two years back," Waza said. "Our voice is being muzzled and nobody has listened to us for the last two years."

The dispute centres on a concrete cross-section structure that the Roads and Buildings Division in Beerwah constructed beneath the Makhama bridge about two years ago.

The department intended the work to protect the bridge's abutments. Fishermen and environmental | More on P6

'Witnesses Turned Hostile': NIA Opposes Er Rashid's Bail

Press Trust Of India



New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency on Tuesday opposed a plea by Baramulla MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh alias Engineer Rashid in the Delhi High Court for bail in a terror funding case, alleging that he has influenced some of the prosecution witnesses.

The probe agency contended that two of the prosecution witnesses, who are also protected witnesses, have turned hostile.

The submissions were made before a bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Vikas Mahajan, which reserved its order on the bail plea.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the National Investigation Agency (NIA), said the testimony of the witnesses, examined so far, would show that three particular witnesses have been influenced by Rashid.

He contended that at least two protected witnesses have turned hostile.

Luthra submitted that Rashid has given specific speeches against India and has been supporting anti-India activities.

"In view of the influence that the appellant (Rashid) wields, he does not deserve to be granted bail," he contended while giving details of bail orders passed against Rashid.

He added that when Rashid was granted bail to meet his ailing father, he met certain witnesses.

In his rejoinder submissions, Rashid's counsel said the argument that | More on P6

'Very Sad': SC Raps 23 States, UTs Over Jail Reforms

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the failure of 23 states and Union Territories to respond to information sought by the Centre in a case concerning discrimination inside prisons, warning that their chief secretaries could be summoned personally if they failed to comply.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Manmohan, hearing the suo motu case titled In Re: Discrimination inside prisons in India, said it was "unfortunate" and "very sad" that the states and UTs had not responded to the Union Home Ministry's queries.

The court noted that the Centre had filed a fresh status report highlighting progress in the implementation of its earlier directions, including the constitution of district-wise boards of visitors under the Model Prison Manual, 2016.

The report also flagged issues concerning police regulations similar to the Madhya Pradesh Police Regulations, 1937.

The bench observed that the Union Home Ministry had written to the additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries (Home), home secretaries and directors general of police of the respective states and UTs seeking information on the steps taken to comply with the court's directions.

"Unfortunately, 23 states/ UTs are yet to reply to the information called for by the Home Department of the Union of India," the | More on P6

DCs, ADCs Empowered To Hear Land Record Correction Suits

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has clarified that Deputy Commissioners and Additional Deputy Commissioners, functioning as Collectors, can entertain and decide suits seeking correction of entries in the Record of Rights under Section 32 of the J&K Land Revenue Act, without rejecting them on the ground of the former one-year limitation linked to Section 49(1) of the Act.

In an order issued by the Office of the Financial Commissioner (Revenue), the government has directed all Collectors to entertain and dispose of such suits, including cases seeking correction of land records and possession of the rights claimed, wherever applicable.

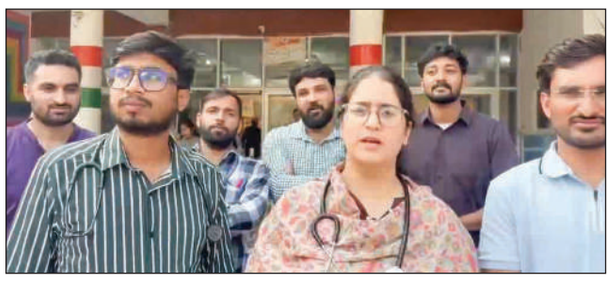
The clarification follows reports that revenue authorities were refusing to entertain applications under Section 32 on the ground that the remedy was barred by a one-year limitation period, forcing aggrieved persons to approach the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) under Section 27 of the Act.

The order states that Section 49 was repealed and omitted from the statute book through Act X of 2005, removing | More on P6

PG Doctors' Stipend Revision

AIMSA Sets Nov 12 Deadline For J&K Govt

Observer News Service



Srinagar: The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) has set November 12 as the deadline for the Jammu and Kashmir government to address the long-pending demand for revision of stipends for postgraduate (PG) medical and dental resident doctors, warning of peaceful protests across the Union Territory if the issue remains unresolved.

Addressing a press conference at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu on Monday, AIMSA representatives expressed concern over disparities in the stipend structure, saying PG resident doctors in J&K were receiving significantly lower remuneration than their counterparts in several other states.

The association said first-year PG resident doctors in J&K receive Rs 64,000 per month, while those in subsequent years are paid Rs 67,000, despite shouldering demanding clinical responsibilities, working extended hours and providing continuous patient care.

Demanding an immediate revision, AIMSA called for the existing stipend structure to be brought in line with prevailing rates in other states.

The press conference was led by AIMSA Chief Advisors Dr Sanah, Dr Abhishek Mittal, Dr Fazan Lone and Dr Sidhant Sharma.

Dr Danish Hamid, Joint Secretary of AIMSA, who represented PG dental residents across | More on P6

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism Kashmir

TRC, Srinagar, Kashmir. 190001Tel/Fax 0194-2502279, 81.
e-mail. dirtourism-kashmir@jk.gov.in
Notice

Integrated Basic /Intermediate Ski Courses

Applications on prescribed format (Annexure "A" or Annexure "B") are invited from interested persons (maximum intake of 30 in each batch respectively) for undergoing 14 days **Integrated Basic Skiing Course (IBSC) OR Integrated Intermediate Skiing Course (IISC)** Course at Gulmarg / Pahalgam / Sonamarg / Doodhpathri on rotation basis to be held in December 2026 to March 2027 subject to availability of Snow and Destinations.

Eligibility for Basic Course	Eligibility for Intermediate Course
➢ Age **12 to 18** (D.O.B, Certificate). ➢ Domicile of Jammu & Kashmir. ➢ Proof of Identity / Aadhaar card. ➢ Physical fitness Certificate from Registered Medical Practitioner. ➢ Selection shall be done on first come, first served basis. ➢ Fee - Rs. 5000/- per candidate inclusive of Training, Boarding & Lodging to be deposited in the official account by the selectees.	➢ Age **12 to 20** (D.O.B, Certificate). ➢ Domicile of Jammu & Kashmir. ➢ Proof of Identity / Aadhaar card. ➢ Proof of successful completion of Basic Skiing Course. ➢ Physical fitness Certificate from Registered Medical Practitioner. ➢ Selection shall be done on first come, first served basis. ➢ Fee - Rs. 6500/- per candidate inclusive of Training, Boarding & Lodging to be deposited in the official account by the selectees.

Note: Fee is non-refundable. As such, it is advised not to submit the fee before selection.

Duly filled applications shall be sent in person or through email on jktourismskicourse@gmail.com **(PDF format)** by or before 30-11-2026.

03/11/26

Deputy Director Tourism
Recreation

No. DTK/Rec/261-A/302 Dated. 03.11.2026

" Annexure A "

APPLICATION FROM
INTEGRATED BASIC SKI COURSES (IBSC)

Name (in Capital Letters)		Passport Size Photo
Date of Birth		
Age (as on 31-12-2026)		
Parentage		
Address		
Identity card/ Adhar card to be enclosed	Yes No	
Domicile Certificate	Yes No	
Participants' Contact No.		
Emergency Contact Name and Phone No.		
E-Mail address		
Height		
Weight		
Ski Shoe Size (UK)		

I_____S/D/o_____hereby submit an undertaking to follow all the Rules and regulations strictly and obey the Instructions/orders given during training.

In case of any accident or injuries or death, I shall not hold the Department of Tourism J&K, (Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir) and its Officers /Officials/ Instructors responsible. I hereby certify that the above information is Correct. Further in case of any loss or damage to the Equipment / Government Property used by me / him / her, I shall compensate the same.

Date:
Place:

Signature of Applicant
Parent / Guardian (In case of Minor)

" Annexure B "

APPLICATION FROM
INTEGRATED INTERMEDIATE SKI COURSES (IISC)

Name (in Capital Letters)		Passport Size Photo
Date of Birth		
Age (as on 31-12-2026)		
Parentage		
Address		
Identity card/ Adhar card to be enclosed	Yes No	
Domicile Certificate	Yes No	
Completion Certificate of Basic Ski Course	Yes No	
Participants' Contact No.		
Emergency Contact Name and Phone No.		
E-Mail address		
Height		
Weight		
Ski Shoe Size (UK)		

I_____S/D/o_____hereby submit an undertaking to follow all the Rules and regulations strictly and obey the Instructions/orders given during training.

In case of any accident or injuries or death, I shall not hold the Department of Tourism J&K, (Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir) and its Officers /Officials/ Instructors responsible. I hereby certify that the above information is Correct. Further in case of any loss or damage to the Equipment / Government Property used by me / him / her, I shall compensate the same.

Date:
Place:

Signature of Applicant
Parent / Guardian (In case of Minor)

DIPK-7312/26
dated: 03-11-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Imran Mehdi to (new name) Imran Mehdi Bhat . In future i will be known as (New Name) Imran Mehdi Bhat. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may fiel them in the Passport office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card bearing No 4721 2791 1228 of my son the name is entered as MOHAMMAD OWAIS GANIE while his actual name is OWAIS IQBAL GANIE. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

MOHAMMAD IQBAL GANIE
F/O OWAIS IQBAL GANIE
R/o EIDGAH MOHALLA
HUMHAMA mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAYAQAT. HASSAN S/O LAL HASSAN R/O. Buni Khet(Dhooni. Khet) Sialan punch Surankote it is information for general Public that I want to apply for DEE Class Contractor Card if anybody is/she may contact at Chief Engineer CI &D Wing JKPDC Bemina within a period of seven days No objection Shall be entertained

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zahida Maqbool, W/o Javid Ahmad Malik, R/o Srive Dangarpora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby solemnly declare that I have applied for the grant of a fresh licence for the sale of fertilizers under the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. I hereby undertake to abide by all the rules and regulations prescribed under the said Order and its subsequent amendments. I shall not indulge in any unauthorized or unlawful activity, including black marketing, overpricing or the sale of substandard fertilizers. I shall also maintain proper stock registers, records and accounts as required by the concerned authorities and shall be personally responsible for any violation of the said provisions. This notice is issued for the information of the concerned authorities and the general public.

FKO

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Syed Bilal Ahmad S/o Late Syed Mohd Sharief R/o Kreeri For issuance of Legal Heir certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above ,in this context. As per the death certificate and report submitted by the patwari concerned reveals that Syed Mohd Sharief S/o Syed Sham-sudin passed away on 31-01-2022 The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has following dependents.

S. NO	NAME OF DEPENDENT	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION
1	Syed Bilal Ah	Son	58	Teaher
2	Syed Marifat Hussain	Son	52	Businessmen
3	Sabeena	Daughter	48	H/W

The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate . As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days(Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.

fko

Naib Tehsildar

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No:. --Session: -- Year --through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the self error against my name , father's name and Mother's Name as Furkaan Lateef , Father's Name: Mohammad Lateef Mir , Mother's Name Rehana Mir instead of Furkaan Latif Mir Father's Name Mohd Latif Mir , Mother's Name Rehana Begum

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Furkaan Latif Mir
Father's Name : Mohd Latif Mir
Mother's Name : Rehana Begum
DOB: 01-02-2011
Residence: Kehnusa Bandipora
Mobile no: 7889463747

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that I have lost the number plate of my vehicle. I am applying for the issuance of a duplicate number plate. Anyone having any objection or claim regarding the same may kindly report/contact Police Station Nowgam within 7 days.

Owner's Name:
Mohd Muzamil
Vehicle Registration No.:
JK01AT3466

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL NEW LIGHT EDUCATIONAL MODEL INSTITUTE TAPPER WARIPORA

No:PNLEMI/219/2026 Date:03=11=2026

List of Managing Committee

S. No.	Name/Parentage/Contact No.	Address	Occupation	Designation in MC	Aadhaar No.	Photo
1	Sonaullah Parray S/o Ab. Khaliq Parray 9541418814	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Business Man	Chairman	252230394151	
2	Sonaullah Parray S/o Ghulam Rasool Parray 9596088232	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Business Man	Dy. Chairman	816273151552	
3	Ghulam Mohi ud din Najar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Najar 7889384404	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Self Employed	Accountant	662291346378	
4	Bashir Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Gani Dar 9797140335	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Principal New light educational model institute	School Representative	725231641799	
5	Naiam Akhter Bhat S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat 7006328186	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Private Teacher	Secretary	764024213748	
6	Asif Ahmad Bhat Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat 9797212127	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Self Employed	Member	752006954879	
7	Zahida Bano W/o:- Zahoor Ahmad Bhat 9906843449	Checki Tapper Ps:- Kreeri	Housewife	Member/ Parent	939654258861	
8	Jameela Begum W/o:- Mushtaq Ahmad Ganaie 9103205216	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Housewife	Member/ Parent	900300553192	
9	Aijaz Ahmad Parray Sonaullah Parray 8899467712	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Private Teacher	Member	251798230014	
10	Shahida Sultan Mohammad Sultan Bhat 7051508182	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Self Employed	Member	662291346378	
11	Shahnaza Akhter W/o:- Mohammad Altaf Ganie 91035544950	Tapper Waripora Ps:- Kreeri	Housewife	Member	871502499596	

fko

PRINCIPAL
NEW LIGHT EDUCATIONAL MODEL INSTITUTE
TAPPER WARIPORA PA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) under Roll No:. 121004212 Session: Annual (PVT) Year 2026 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the self error against my name as Altaf Ahamd Hajam Instead of Altaf Ahmad Hajam



Now, have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Altaf Ahmad Hajam
Father's Name: Bashir Ahmad Hajam
Mother's Name: Rahti
DOB: 9/2/1996
Residence: Batapora Kanihama
Mobile no: 7889312074

bmg-R

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS PATTAN

Coram: Mr. Anjeet Singh

IN THE CASE OF:
Arhaan Farooq Wagay (Minor) through Father Farooq Ahmad Wagay R/o Peth Bug Warpora Sopore

Applicant

V/S

Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pattan
(Registrar of Births and Deaths)

Non-applicant

IN THE MATTER OF:
Application for Registration of Birth and Issuance Of Birth Certificate in respect of Arhaan Farooq Wagay S/o Farooq Ahmad Wagay R/o Peth Bug Warpora Sopore, District Baramulla.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Through the medium of this publication, the public at large is hereby informed that the applicant has instituted the above captioned petition in which the next date of hearing is fixed on 14-11-2026. If anybody has any objection or want to become a party in the petition/case as applicant/non-applicant, he/she may approach this court on or before the next date of hearing, failing which the petition/case shall be heard and appropriate orders warranted under law shall be passed.

Announced
29.10.2026

Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Pattan

fko

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Ganderbal NOTICE

Whereas, an application has been received from Mr. Inayat Manzoor S/O: Manzoor Ahmad Ganaie R/O Wakura Ganderbal (purchaser of the motor vehicle) together with NOC vide No. Ch 2021 NOC-B31 dated 23-01-2021 for Registration No. CH01BX8164 Model 2015 B.S for registration series of District Ganderbal of J&K as the vehicle was previously registered with the Registering Authority (RTO) Chandigarh in the name of Manoj Kumar Sehgal S/O Som Nath R/O: 11-9-19 Gobind Pur Town Chandigarh.

Before proceeding further in the matter, if any body having any objection regarding assignment of new registration mark to the vehicle bearing registration no. .....model.....B.S ..... may kindly file objection within seven days from the publication of this notice to the office of undersigned.

No objection/representation shall be entertained after expiry of stipulated time period.

NO: ARTO/GbV/Re-Registration Dated: _____

Sd/-
(Registering Authority)
ARTO Ganderbal

Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as MASROOF AHMAD While as my actual name is MAROOF AHMAD TEDVA C/O SHAIR DIL TEDVA R/O KALAROOCH KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

MAROOF AHMAD TEDVA
C/O :- SHAIR DIL TEDVA
R/O :- KALAROOCH , KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as SUNAINA NAZIR While as my actual name is ANISA NAZIR C/O NAZIR AHMAD KHAN R/O ZANGLI KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193222 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

ANISA NAZIR
C/O :- NAZIR AHMAD KHAN
R/O :- ZANGLI , KUPWARA

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as ZAHIDA BANOO While as my actual name is ZAHIDA ASHRAF C/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF LONE R/O MARHAMA KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193224 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

ZAHIDA ASHRAF
C/O :- MOHAMMAD ASHRAF LONE
R/O :- MARHAMA , KUPWARA

fko

Narrower Roads, Wider Footpaths:

Srinagar's Smart City Planning Under Scrutiny

Agencies

Srinagar: Questions over road space, traffic congestion and the durability of urban infrastructure have resurfaced again in Srinagar, where stretches developed under the Smart City Project are facing criticism over narrowed carriageways, widened footpaths and the dismantling of recently completed pedestrian works.

The concerns have gained fresh attention after sections of the pedestrian walkway at Jehangir Chowk were dismantled and reworked recently, with tiles removed and stacked beside the road. The reason for the latest intervention has not been officially explained.

The issue has also drawn political criticism. National Conference spokesperson and Zadibal MLA Tanvir Sadiq described the Smart City Project as ill-conceived, arguing that roads in Downtown Srinagar had been narrowed while footpaths were widened without adequate planning.

"Using tiles does not make a city smart," Sadiq said while questioning the planning approach and stressing the need for functional drainage and sewerage infrastructure.

The concerns are not limited to political criticism. Commuters have reported persistent congestion on key stretches, including Maulana Azad Road and Residency Road, where traffic movement has remained slow despite road upgrades.

A trader, Zahoor Ahmad described the difficulty of reaching his shop in Lal Chowk amid recurring traffic congestion, saying he had switched from using a car to a scooter, but even that had become difficult because of limited road space.

The repeated reworking of completed infrastructure, has raised questions about planning, coordination between agencies, project supervision and the public cost of dismantling and rebuilding works.[KNT]

Carpenter Dies After Falling From Height

Agencies

Srinagar:A 50-year-old carpenter died after falling from a height at Rawalpora area of Srinagar on Tuesday, officials said.

An official told KNO that the man, who was working as a carpenter, sustained injuries after falling from a height at a house in Rawalpora.

He was shifted to SMHS Hospital Srinagar, where doctors declared him brought dead.

The deceased was identified as Manzoor Ahmed. Meanwhile, police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation—(KNO)



SMC Orders Intensified Crackdown on Illegal Encroachments, Unauthorised Constructions

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom, has ordered an intensified enforcement drive against illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions and violations of municipal regulations across Srinagar, making it clear that officials who fail to act against such violations will also be held accountable.

The directions were issued during a comprehensive review meeting of the Enforcement Wing, chaired by the Commissioner today, to assess enforcement activities and take stock of action against violations across the city.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner, Administration, Zone East & South and Joint Commissioner, Revenue, Zone West & North, Assistant Legal Remembrancer, Chief Enforcement Officer, Zonal Enforcement Officers and all Ward Officers.

Taking stock of the enforcement measures undertaken so far, the Commissioner called for stepped-up field inspections and closer supervision to ensure that illegal encroachments, unauthorised constructions and violations of building permissions are dealt with promptly. He directed officers to act decisively on violations and ensure that complaints are not left unattended.

The Commissioner also directed the concerned Joint Commissioners to undertake a comprehensive verification of all ongoing and newly raised constructions within their respective jurisdictions to ascertain whether these conform to approved building permissions and municipal regulations. A definite timeline has been prescribed for completing the exercise, with the concerned officers directed to ensure thorough verification and submit compliance within the stipulated period.

Commissioner also directed for constitution of Enforcement cells under Joint Commissioners and formation of Flying Squads for quick response and verification of field reports. It was directed to develop an online platform for public to report grievances and violations.

The Commissioner made it clear that public spaces cannot be allowed to fall prey to encroachments and that no one would be permitted to undertake construction in violation of approved permissions. Enforcement, he stressed, must be uniform and impartial, irrespective of the individual or interests involved.

The Commissioner also took a firm view of accountability within the Enforcement Wing, directing supervisory officers to ensure that their respective jurisdictions remain under constant watch. He cautioned that any instance of negligence, dereliction of duty or deliberate failure to initiate action against violations would invite strict disciplinary action.

In a significant accountability measure, the Commissioner ordered withholding of the salaries of three Zonal Enforcement Officers over lapses in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities. The action underscores the Corporation's firm stance that supervisory and field-level officials will be held directly accountable for enforcement failures and any negligence in preventing or acting against illegal encroachments and unauthorised constructions.

Stressing the need to move beyond routine inspections, he called for sustained field-level enforcement, effective coordination among zonal and ward-level functionaries and visible action against violations on the ground.

While safeguarding public spaces, enforcing building regulations and ensuring compliance with municipal laws must remain among the Corporation's key priorities. The Commissioner directed the Enforcement Wing to deliver measurable results and ensure that municipal regulations are enforced in letter and spirit.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR

23 Jumada al-Awwal
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 28
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 58
Magrib	5: 39
ISHA	7: 00

This Day In History

- 1520- Danish Norwegian King Christian II crowned King of Sweden
- 1619- Frederick V crowned king of Bohemia
- 1846- American inventor Benjamin Palmer from Meredith, New Hampshire, patents the artificial leg
- 1856- James Buchanan elected 15th US president
- 1862- American inventor Richard Jordan Gatling patents the hand cranked Gatling machine gun in Indianapolis
- 1864- Battle at Reynoldsburg Island near Johnsonville, Tennessee: Confederate troops bombard Union supplies and fleet destroying four gunboats
- 1866- Kingdom of Italy annexes Venetia
- 1879 - African American inventor Thomas Elkins patents the Refrigerating Apparatus [1]
- 1879- James Ritty patents first cash register, to combat stealing by bartenders in his saloon in Dayton, Ohio
- 1890- Great Britain proclaims Zanzibar as a protectorate
- 1903- Panama and Colombia wake up to news that the insurrectionists have declared an independent Republic of Panama
- 1910- Russian Tsar Nicholas II visits German Emperor Wilhelm II at Potsdam; they force tentative agreements on spheres of influence in the Middle East
- 1911- France & Germany sign treaty about Morocco & Congo
- 1918- The Allied armistice with Austria-Hungary, signed 3 November, goes into effect
- 1921- Japanese Prime Minister Hara Takashi is assassinated by a right wing fanatic in Tokyo
- 1921- The Sturmabteilung or SA (the "Brown Shirts") is formally established by Adolf Hitler
- 1922 - Howard Carter rediscovers the intact tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun in Egypt
- 1924- Stanley Baldwin becomes Britain's Prime Minister for a second time after a landslide victory over Ramsay MacDonald's Labour Party
- 1929- Richard E. Byrd, Laurence McKinley Gould and their polar expedition team begin a 2½ month, 1500-mile dog-sledge journey into the Queen Maud Mountains. The first exploration of the interior of Antarctica.
- 1939- US allows "cash & carry" arms sales during WW II
- 1942- 13th day of battle at El Alamein: Afrika Korps draws back
- 1944- German troops reconquer Schmidt Hurtgenwald
- 1946- United Nations Educational, Scientific, & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) formed
- 1948- American-born British poet T. S. Eliot wins Nobel Prize for literature
- 1950- US troops vacate Pyongyang, North Korea
- 1952- Republican candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower is elected President of the United States, defeating Democrat candidate Adlai Stevenson
- 1956- 200,000 Russian troops attack anti-Soviet movement in Budapest, Hungary
- 1957- 2nd Soviet Earth-satellite launched
- 1958- Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli crowned as Pope John XXIII
- 1958- Belgian minority government of Gaston Eyskens resigns
- 1960- Mary Leakey and Louis Leakey discover first Homo habilis jaw fragments (OH 7) at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania
- 1961- Konstantinos Karamanlis becomes premier of Greece
- 1962- US performs atmospheric nuclear test at Johnston Island
- 1968 - Battles between Jordanian army & Al Fatah-arm forces
- 1970 - Russian nuclear physicist Sacharov forms Human Rights Comittee
- 1972 - Bangladesh adopts constitution
- 1993 - Bolivia becomes a member of the Berne Convention copyright treaty
- 2002 Chinese authorities arrest cyber-dissident He Depu for signing pro-democracy letter to the 16th Communist Party Congress
- 2003 - The most powerful solar flare as observed by satellite instrumentation is recorded.
- 2008 - Barack Obama becomes the first African-American to be elected President of the United States
- 2015 - Justin Trudeau sworn in as Canadian Prime Minister with a cabinet split equally between men and women
- 2015 - Plane crashes after take-off from Juba international airport, South Sudan, killing 37, 1 year old survives in father's arms
- 2016 - Paris Agreement on climate change becomes effective



In The Name Of Allah All Merciful All Compassionate

Our family extends our deepest thanks to everyone who supported us during this difficult time of mourning. We are incredibly moved by those who visited our home, offered condolences, and stood by us purely for the sake of Allah, transcending all boundaries. To our relatives, friends, neighbours, and well-wishers who called, messaged, or visited physically —thank you.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to:

Hussainie Welfare Organisation Hassanabad

Ummati Rasool (SAWA) Blood Bank

The Local Youth Committee

Your selfless dedication and constant availability during our time of need will never be forgotten. May Allah grant you the best rewards for your pious duty.

Finally, we express our profound gratitude to all the Zakireen and orators who consoled us by recalling the sorrows and unmatched legacy of the Holy Prophet's (SAWA) Family, particularly during these days of Ayyam-e-Fatimah (SA).

JazakAllah Khair to all.

We will never forget you .keep us in your prayers always

1 Firdous Husaain Dar
2.Sajad Hussain Dar
3.Shabir Hussain Dar
4.Mahboob Ali Dar
With Mir inayatulla

J&K Bank

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
IAPM Department,Zonal Office Srinagar,
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.
0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 17.08.2026 thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely 1) Mrs. Syed Rifat Qadri W/O Aflaq Ahmad Qadri R/O Umer Lane, Zaffaron Colony, Zewan, Srinagar (Borrower/Mortgagor), 2) Mr. Suhail Aflaq Qadri S/O Aflaq Ahmad Qadri R/O Umer Lane, Zaffaron Colony, Zewan, Srinagar (Co-Borrower), 3) Syed Beenish Qadri D/O Aflaq Ahmad Qadri R/O Umer Lane, Zaffaron Colony, Zewan, Srinagar (Co-Borrower) and guarantor namely 4) Owais Ahmad Ashai to repay an amount of Rs. 24,43,250.34 (Rupees Twenty Four Lacs Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty and Paise Thirty Four Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.07.2026 in the account of the borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 03.11.2026

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs. 24, 66, 604.44 (Rupees Twenty Four lacs sixty six thousand six hundred four and paisa forty four only) as on 31.10.2026 together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Residential House along with land measuring 7 Marlas 213 Sft falling under Khasra No.1014 min, Khata No.437 and Khewat No.90 situated at Mouza Zewan, Tehsil Panthachowk, District Srinagar standing in the name of Mrs. Syed Rifat Qadri (Borrower).

SD/ AUTHORIZED OFFICER

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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KO VIEW

Beyond the NC

Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has finally done what he promised.

He has severed his 24-year association with the National Conference and announced his resignation from the Srinagar parliamentary seat.

His dramatic departure, announced before a large gathering in Budgam, could signal the beginning of a new political experiment in a region where established parties have struggled to inspire public confidence.

The turnout at Behisht-e-Zahra Park gave the first indication of the political energy surrounding Ruhullah. Thousands gathered to hear him announce his departure and outline his intention to build a new movement.

His appeal to young people to join him has given his politics a new dimension. There is clearly an appetite for an alternative voice, particularly among those disillusioned with the existing political establishment.

But public enthusiasm and political organisation are two different things.

Ruhullah is entering unfamiliar territory. For years, he operated within the National Conference, benefiting from its political machinery, organisational reach and electoral support. He also held ministerial office and served as one of its prominent political faces. His present criticism of the party therefore raises an important question: where was this confrontation when he was part of the government and shared responsibility for its decisions?

The National Conference has also questioned his parliamentary performance and his approach to the restoration of Article 370 and statehood. These questions cannot simply be dismissed as political retaliation.

If Ruhullah expects accountability from the party, he must also accept scrutiny of his own political record.

His challenge is to turn a popular following into a credible political platform. But Kashmir has seen ambitious political departures before.

Dr Shah Faesal's political experiment generated considerable excitement before losing momentum. Historical parallels with Ghulam Mohammad Shah and Shamim Ahmad Shamim also give reasons to examine how individual political influence translates into lasting political power.

Popularity can open doors, but sustaining an independent political identity demands organisation, consistency and a clear programme.

There are, however, reasons why Ruhullah could emerge as a serious challenger.

The 2024 parliamentary election demonstrated that established political calculations can be disrupted. Engineer Rashid's victory over Omar Abdullah showed how a candidate with a strong public appeal can overcome the advantages of an established party.

Ruhullah could draw on a similar political sentiment, although replicating that success will be difficult.

His departure also presents the National Conference with an uncomfortable reality. The party cannot claim an unquestionable mandate while dismissing questions about the promises on which it sought votes, particularly Article 370, constitutional rights and the release of political prisoners.

For Kashmir's largely frozen political landscape, Ruhullah's departure has introduced a new possibility. But a movement built around one individual cannot remain dependent on public anger or electoral nostalgia.

Ruhullah has taken the first step. The harder task begins now. He must show that he can build something larger than his own political following. Kashmir needs an alternative that can survive beyond the popularity of its founder.

Whether Ruhullah can build one will determine if this moment becomes a turning point or another unfinished political experiment.

Can Ruhullah Break the NC Pattern?

The National Conference has weathered several high-profile rebellions over the decades. Whether Aga Ruhullah Mehdi can turn his personal popularity into an independent political force remains an open question.



Farooq Ahmad Khan



Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has taken a decision that may prove far more consequential for his own political future than for the National Conference.

His differences with the party leadership are neither imaginary nor insignificant. Ruhullah has consistently argued that the National Conference cannot allow restoration of statehood to become a substitute for its larger political commitment to the restoration of the constitutional position represented by Articles 370 and 35-A.

That is a legitimate political position. Indeed, there is considerable force in the argument that a party which sought votes on constitutional questions must continue to articulate them after coming to power.

But disagreement with one's party and departure from it are two very different things.

Ruhullah's decision follows a prolonged public disagreement with the party leadership and Dr Farooq Abdullah's challenge to him to seek a fresh mandate outside the party.

The resignation brings back an interesting lesson from the political history of Jammu and Kashmir.

The National Conference has survived many rebellions. The rebels have not always survived the grand old party of Kashmir.

That statement is not intended as praise for everything the party has done. The National Conference has committed its share of political mistakes, some of them serious enough to remain subjects of historical debate.

But political parties are not judged merely by the correctness of every decision taken by their leaders. They are also institutions created over decades, with an organisation, a symbol, a political memory and an emotional relationship with sections of the electorate.

Individual leaders sometimes discover this distinction only after leaving.

Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beg gives an early and striking example. Few men were closer to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, with their political association spanning decades. But when the two fell out in 1978, Beg resigned as Deputy Chief Minister and later formed the Inquilabi National Conference.

The new formation could never acquire anything resembling the political weight that Beg had enjoyed while standing beside Sheikh Abdullah.

There were others, like Shamim Ahmad Shamim, an intellectual, parliamentarian, journalist and editor of Aaina, possessing an individuality few politicians of his generation could match. Abdul Rashid Kabli was another recognisable political figure.

Their departures from the dominant political stream did not translate their personal standing into enduring alternative political institutions.

Then came the spectacular revolt of 1984.

Ghulam Mohammad Shah did what few dissidents anywhere manage to achieve: he broke the National Conference, took legislators with him and actually became Chief Minister.

Devi Das Thakur was one of the principal personalities associated with that rebellion and became Deputy Chief Minister. For a moment it appeared that the National Conference itself might have been permanently fractured.

It was not.

The Shah government fell in 1986 and the breakaway formation gradually disappeared as a major political force. The parent organisation endured.

In later years too, prominent individuals left or moved away from the National Conference. Ghulam Hassan Mir, Dilawar Mir and others possessed political experience, constituencies and considerable visibility. But none succeeded in creating an organisation capable of replacing the National Conference's broader footprint.

Saifuddin Soz is the only exception, as his case is different.

After leaving the NC, he had a substantial career in the Congress, including service in the Union Government. His example therefore cautions against making the simplistic claim that everyone leaving the NC becomes politically irrelevant. History rarely accommodates such absolute propositions.

Devender Singh Rana is an even stronger exception and cannot honestly be omitted.

Rana was among the most important faces of the National Conference in Jammu and served as its provincial president. In 2021, he and Surjit Singh Slathia resigned from the party and joined the BJP.

Rana did not disappear politically after leaving the NC.

On the contrary, contesting Nagrota on the BJP ticket in 2024, he won by an impressive margin of 30,472 votes.

case proves something important: political history is not governed by an iron law.

But Rana also moved into another large, nationally established political organisation.

He did not build an independent political force capable of drawing away the National Conference's social base. His success, therefore, does not necessarily challenge the larger argument.

If anything, it points to another truth: leaving a large organisation is easier when another large organisation is ready to take you in.

That contrast may matter enormously in Ruhullah's case.

Ruhullah is undoubtedly a serious politician. He is articulate, politically aware and possesses an identity of his own. His victory from Srinagar in the 2024 parliamentary election was emphatic: he secured 356,866 votes, or 52.85 per cent, defeating his nearest rival by 188,416 votes.

But how much of that mandate belonged to Aga Ruhullah personally and how much belonged to the National Conference?

That question cannot be answered by speeches, television debates or social-media applause. Only an election can answer it.

It is precisely here that political ambition can occasionally misread public affection.

A leader standing on the platform of a large political party sees thousands listening to him, workers raising slogans for him and voters putting their faith in him. It is tempting to conclude that the crowd belongs to the speaker. Often, however, part of that crowd belongs to the flag behind him.

The National Conference demonstrated its continuing organisational strength in the 2024 Assembly election, winning 42 of the 90 seats and emerging as the principal political force forming the government. Whatever criticism may legitimately be directed against it, it cannot presently be wished away from the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Ruhullah therefore had another option, and perhaps a more useful one.

He could have remained inside the National Conference and continued pressing its leadership relentlessly on Article 370 and 35-A. An articulate dissenting voice within the most influential political organisation in Kashmir could arguably exert greater pressure than another leader standing outside it.

Internal disagreement is not necessarily weakness. Properly handled, it may be evidence that a political party still possesses ideological life.

Nor should the National Conference leadership have permitted differences to reach a stage where challenges were issued publicly and resignation became a matter of prestige. Political organisations need dissenters too. A leader capable of questioning his own party is sometimes more valuable inside the room than outside the gate.

Ruhullah's concern that the constitutional questions confronting Jammu and Kashmir should not be reduced merely to restoration of statehood calls for political discussion. But a worthy cause does not automatically make every political strategy adopted in its pursuit equally wise.

Fragmentation has been one of the recurring weaknesses of Kashmir politics. Every new division may produce another leader, another platform and another set of slogans, while leaving the collective political weight of the region diminished.

Ruhullah's departure is undoubtedly the NC's loss. He is too important a political figure for anyone to pretend otherwise. But history suggests that the greater risk may be his.

The National Conference has lost formidable leaders before and remained standing. Many of those who walked away discovered that leaving a party and carrying its constituency along are entirely different political achievements.

Ruhullah may yet prove to be the exception.

The author is an advocate practising the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar. He can be reached at advofarooqahmadkhan@gmail.com.

India's Market Needs More Than Tax Cuts

As foreign investors pull billions out of Indian equities, the Union Budget must address a deeper problem: the shortage of globally competitive companies and the policy uncertainty that keeps capital looking elsewhere.



Sri Varshith Kumar Reddy E

India's stock market increasingly resembles a shop offering discounts on merchandise that customers have little reason to buy.

The Nifty 50 has fallen about 13 per cent this year, while the rupee has lost roughly 5.6 per cent of its value.

For a dollar-based investor, the combined loss is considerably larger.

Foreign portfolio investors have withdrawn approximately 3.1 lakh crore from Indian equities, almost twice the 1.7 lakh crore they pulled out during the whole of 2025.

The government has begun consultations on long-term capital gains tax and securities transaction tax.

With the Union Budget due on February 1, 2027, the Finance Ministry has an opportunity to address investor concerns before the next round of capital allocation begins.

Tax reform would help, but India's problem runs deeper than the cost of investing in its stock market.

The country is asking investors to pay more for access to a market that has yet to produce enough companies capable of competing with the world's most exciting businesses.

The tax burden is substantial. Long-term capital gains on listed shares attract 12.5 per cent above 1.25 lakh annually. Surcharge and cess push the effective burden close to 15 per cent.

Until July 2024, the headline levy was 10 per cent. Securities transaction tax has also increased.

Since April this year, the levy on futures has risen from 0.02 to 0.05 per cent, while options have gone from 0.10 to 0.15 per cent.

The comparison with other markets makes India's position harder to defend.

Investors in the United States, Britain, Singapore and Japan generally pay no capital gains tax on listed equities. Taiwan uses a 0.3 per cent transaction tax instead. India collects both capital gains tax and transaction tax, creating a cumulative burden that investors increasingly question.

Still, the timing of the foreign exodus suggests taxation alone cannot explain it.

The long-term capital gains levy has remained unchanged since July 2024, while withdrawals have accelerated this year. Global money has followed the artificial intelligence rally into Taiwan and South Korea. Expensive crude, a weaker rupee and rising US bond yields have added to the pressure.

Valuations also need attention.

The Nifty trades at approximately 20.4 times earnings, above Japan's 19.9. Indian equities have become cheaper after their decline, but their valuations remain demanding when compared with the opportunities available elsewhere.

A wholesale abolition of capital gains tax would be fiscally irresponsible. Equity long-term capital gains generated 1.29 lakh crore in FY25.

The government cannot casually surrender such a substantial revenue stream. A better approach would address specific distortions while protecting public finances.

One obvious correction concerns foreign funds that maintain their accounts in dollars.

India taxes their gains in rupees, which can create a peculiar situation. A weakening rupee can produce a taxable gain even when the fund has earned nothing in its own currency. Taxing dollar-denominated gains in dollar terms would correct this distortion without imposing a large fiscal cost.

The government should also reconsider the cumulative burden of securities transaction tax and capital gains tax.

A phased reduction in transaction tax, followed by a review of the holding period for long-term gains, could ease investor costs while preserving revenue.

SBI Research has suggested a longer holding period alongside abolition of securities transaction tax.

Fairness will remain central to any reform. Officials have legitimate concerns about round-tripping, where Indian money moves overseas and returns disguised as foreign investment to secure tax advantages.

Applying similar treatment to resident and non-resident investors, backed by beneficial ownership checks, could address this concern. The exemption granted to foreign investment in government securities from April demonstrates that targeted tax arrangements are possible.

The larger challenge, however, lies beyond the stock exchange.

Tax concessions can change the price investors pay for listed companies. They cannot create the next generation of Indian businesses.

Consider where global capital has gone.

Taiwan and South Korea have attracted money through their growing artificial intelligence industries. Investors see companies developing products and technologies with international markets. India needs a comparable pipeline of businesses, particularly in sectors where it has the potential to become a global player.

That ambition depends heavily on government policy.

The Jan Vishwas exercise has removed 900 provisions from central laws, including 717 provisions across 79 Acts in 2026. DPIIT reports that 47,957 compliance requirements have been digitised, simplified, decriminalised or eliminated by the Centre and state governments.

These figures point to considerable administrative activity. But their real economic value depends on how easily an entrepreneur can set up a factory, register a company or complete routine documentation.

Much of the daily friction comes from state regulations and municipal inspections. A founder facing prosecution over a delayed filing has less time and capital for developing a business.

An independent body should publish an annual account of compliance obligations across sectors and states. Businesses need to see which requirements have disappeared and which continue to consume their time. Counting abolished provisions is a poor substitute for measuring the experience of running a company.

India also needs greater patience with frontier industries. Space technology, defence, semiconductors and deep technology often take a decade to mature.

These businesses need long-term public capital, assured government procurement and listing rules that allow them to access equity markets before generating consistent profits.

Strong disclosure standards must accompany such flexibility to protect retail investors.

Policy consistency is equally important. Global funds can calculate the cost of a high tax burden. Sudden reinterpretations of tax laws are harder to price into investment decisions.

A five-year commitment to stable capital gains taxation and treaty treatment would provide investors with something more valuable than a temporary concession: confidence in the rules.

Foreign investment figures show that India's appeal remains intact, although its composition is changing.

Direct investment reached a record $94.53 billion in 2025-26. It rose another 6 per cent to $19.81 billion during April-June 2026. Total foreign direct investment, including reinvested earnings and other capital, increased approximately 22 per cent to $30.65 billion.

The changing geography of that investment is worth examining.

US inflows fell from $5.61 billion to $1.34 billion during the same quarter, while Japan led with $5.71 billion. Investors committing capital to factories and long-term business operations continue to see opportunities in India, even as the countries placing those bets change.

The Budget should recognise the difference between money seeking a quick market opportunity and capital prepared to build a business over ten years.

The former may return after a tax concession, but the latter needs companies worth investing in, institutions that respect predictable rules and a government willing to reduce the cost of enterprise.

Dalal Street may be asking the Finance Minister for a discount. The more important request comes from investors deciding where the next generation of global businesses will emerge.

India needs to give them a reason to believe that some of those businesses will be built here.

The author is a pracademic working on government policy and public institutions. He can be reached at varshith7.reddy@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Unending Biscoe-Burn Hall Feud

A dispute between former pupils of Biscoe and Burn Hall has exposed a larger problem: the ease with which personal loyalties turn into public ridicule, even among people who claim to work for social good.



Naveed Qazi

Kashmir has a way of turning personal loyalties into public identities.

The school someone attended, the neighbourhood they came from and the friends they made can become lifelong badges of belonging.

Such loyalties often begin with fond memories and a sense of pride. The problem starts when that pride comes at the expense of others.

A recent dispute on X involving a self-described proud Biscocite, philanthropist and social activist brought this tendency into public view.

A video directed at Burn Hall School, accompanied by posts mocking the institution, drew criticism before the individual deleted the video.

The episode may appear to be another social media quarrel between people attached to rival schools. But its implications reach further into a society where personal affiliations frequently influence public behaviour.

Biscoe and Burn Hall occupy an important place in Kashmir's educational history. Generations of students have passed through their classrooms and gone on to serve in different professions and sections of society.

Former pupils naturally retain affection for their schools. They remember friendships, teachers, school traditions and the experiences that helped frame their early lives. Such memories can sustain lifelong bonds.

But affection becomes something less generous when it needs an opponent. A school's reputation gains little from ridicule directed at another institution. Nor does attending a particular school establish anyone's intellectual ability, professional worth or character.

Education should expand a person's understanding of society, rather than encourage the belief that membership of one institution confers superiority over another.

BURN HALL HAS EDUCATED GENERATIONS OF KASHMIRIS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE GONE ON TO SERVE IN SENIOR POSITIONS IN DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS AND FIELDS. Its former students, like alumni of other institutions, should be able to disagree publicly without turning their educational backgrounds into grounds for ridicule. The same principle applies to Biscoe and its alumni.

Burn Hall School, Srinagar
"Industria Floremus - In Toil We Flourish"



Kashmir has far greater concerns competing for public attention.

Unemployment continues to trouble young people, income inequality weighs on households and opportunities remain limited for many families. Parents struggle to secure good education for their children, while young graduates search for work that matches their qualifications.

Against this background, public energy spent reviving old school rivalries seems particularly misplaced.

The contradiction becomes sharper when the people involved present themselves as philanthropists or social activists.

Charity work and public engagement can contribute to society, but the values behind those activities must also appear in daily conduct. Someone who speaks about helping disadvantaged communities has a responsibility to consider how their words affect people outside their immediate social circle.

Public service involves more than meeting influential people, appearing at political gatherings or associating with intellectuals from different backgrounds.

The individual involved in this dispute appears comfortable maintaining relationships with politicians from different political camps and people holding varied intellectual positions.

Such associations can be perfectly legitimate. An open mind benefits from exposure to different opinions.

The question concerns the principles guiding these public relationships.

What connects the causes being promoted, the opinions being expressed and the social work being undertaken?

An activist should be able to explain the values that give coherence to their public activities. Otherwise, activism risks becoming a succession of appearances, photographs and associations, with little clarity about the larger purpose.

Social media adds another complication.

Platforms such as X reward visibility, confrontation and the ability to command attention. A provocative post can generate more engagement than a thoughtful argument about unemployment, education or public welfare.

This environment can tempt public figures to turn disagreement into spectacle. It would be unfair to assume that this explains any particular individual's intentions, but the incentive is plain to see.

The reaction to criticism can be equally revealing.

Someone questions a post, and the discussion soon shifts towards the critic's intelligence, conduct or personal background. The original argument disappears beneath personal accusations.

Such exchanges allow people to avoid addressing the substance of criticism while rallying their own supporters.

This behaviour often comes from the way people attach their self-worth to groups.

An attack on a school can feel like an attack on former pupils, their friendships and their personal histories. They defend conduct among their own circle that they might condemn elsewhere. They seek respect when their own affiliations face criticism while overlooking the effect of their words on others.

Kashmir's closely connected society makes this tendency particularly visible.

Personal friendships, professional relationships and institutional loyalties frequently overlap. A dispute involving two former pupils can quickly draw in people who attended neither school but feel compelled to take sides.

Social media gives these affiliations a public stage, turning an ordinary disagreement into a contest over collective identity.

Schools themselves should remain open to criticism.

Biscoe, Burn Hall and other educational institutions in the valley can be questioned about their academic standards, administration, teaching practices and contribution to society.

Such scrutiny can help parents and students make informed choices. The distinction lies in the purpose and manner of criticism.

Examining an institution's shortcomings with evidence serves the public, while mocking its pupils and alumni encourages personal hostility.

Burn Hall has educated generations of Kashmiris, many of whom have gone on to serve in senior positions in different professions and fields. Its former students, like alumni of other institutions, should be able to disagree publicly without turning their educational backgrounds into grounds for ridicule. The same principle applies to Biscoe and its alumni.

There is also a lesson here for those who use the language of social reform.

Values such as fairness, kindness, honesty and respect are easiest to proclaim when people agree with us. Their real test comes when someone challenges our opinions, questions our conduct or belongs to a group with which we have little in common.

The deleted video may disappear from an X timeline, but the behaviour it exposed belongs to a much wider culture of online hostility.

People increasingly use public platforms to settle personal scores, defend old affiliations and secure the last word. The responsibility for changing this culture begins with the people who participate in it, particularly those who claim a commitment to the common good.

Kashmir's schools have spent generations teaching children to read, think, compete and live alongside others. Their former pupils now occupy different positions in society, with different political beliefs and personal loyalties. The real measure of that education lies in what they do with those differences.

Long after the school uniform has been put away, the lessons of the classroom should remain visible in how people treat one another.

A former pupil's greatest contribution to a school may well be the ability to respect someone who graduated from another.

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The Prayers of Zoon Mouj

When my maternal aunt, Zooni Begum, died on October 27, a warmth disappeared from our family and the village of Showpora. I have since found myself thinking about the small acts of kindness through which she made so many people feel loved.



Shabir Bhat

I keep thinking about her prayers.

How she would greet someone with affection, ask after their well-being and send them away with a dua.

It seemed such a natural part of her being that I rarely stopped to think about it.

Now that my maternal aunt, Zooni Begum, whom we lovingly called Zoon Mouj, is gone, I find myself returning to those little moments.

They have become some of my most precious memories of her.

She passed away on October 27, leaving our family in deep grief. But the sadness I have seen in Showpora, our village in Chadoora, Budgam, has made me realise how many people shared a bond with her.

She was my aunt, but her affection reached well beyond our family. People knew her, loved her and sought the comfort of her company.

Her departure has left an emptiness in many homes.

I have known Zoon Mouj all my life. When I try to recall what made her special, I think first of her extraordinary kindness.

I cannot remember her deliberately hurting anyone or wishing ill for another person. She had no appetite for jealousy, bitterness or malice. She seemed to find it easier to see the goodness in people than to dwell on their shortcomings.

Her way of treating people was free of calculation. She did not ask about someone's wealth, position or standing before greeting them with warmth.

A young person received the same affection as an elder. A neighbour was welcomed with the same kindness as a close relative.

She had a generous heart, and people felt it in the way she spoke to them.

Her duas were perhaps the clearest expression of that generosity.

She blessed people with a sincerity that made the words feel personal. They were never hurried courtesies or phrases spoken out of habit.

She genuinely wished for others to live well. People came to her with their worries and left with her prayers.

Sometimes, that was enough to make a difficult day feel a little easier.

I wonder how many people remember meeting her, how she would say something kind, ask about their family or offer a blessing before they left.

These moments may have seemed ordinary then. They were simply part of who she was.

But after someone is gone, it is often these little things that we miss the most.

Zoon Mouj lived simply. She had no need for wealth or social recognition to make herself important to others. Her smile, gentle speech and affection were enough. She taught us that a person's goodness is revealed in the way they make others feel, especially when there is nothing to gain from being kind.

I learnt this by watching her. She never sat us down to explain how we should treat people. She showed us through her own conduct. The way she welcomed someone, the care with which she spoke and the prayers she offered were lessons in themselves.



SHE BLESSED PEOPLE WITH A SINCERITY THAT MADE THE WORDS FEEL PERSONAL. They were never hurried courtesies or phrases spoken out of habit. She genuinely wished for others to live well. People came to her with their worries and left with her prayers. Sometimes, that was enough to make a difficult day feel a little easier.

Looking back, I realise how much of what I understand about being a good human being came from elders like her.

Her absence has made me think about the place such people occupy in a village. Their importance rarely appears in public accounts of community life. They may have no official position, no public achievements to list and no wealth to leave behind.

People know where to find them, remember the warmth with which they are received and hold on to their words even after the meeting is over.

Showpora will continue with its routine life. Children will go to school, people will return to work and families will gather on festive occasions. The lanes will remain, and the days will pass as they always have.

But I know that some of these occasions will feel different.

I will miss seeing her among us. I will miss the sound of her voice and the affection in her greetings. I will miss the duas that followed our meetings.

There is a strange sadness in knowing that a comforting voice has become a memory. I wish I could sit with her once more, hear her affectionate words and receive another of her prayers.

What consoles me is the thought of what she leaves behind.

Her legacy is found in the people who remember her kindness, in the prayers she gave so freely and in the affection she planted in the lives of others.

I hope we can preserve some of that goodness in our own conduct. Perhaps the finest way to remember her is to treat others with the same warmth she showed us.

— The author comes from Showpora, Chadoora, and can be reached at shabirbhat68@gmail.com.

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NC Used Me For

about restoring Article 370, releasing prisoners and providing free electricity were just lies. And I cannot continue to be a part of these lies anymore," he said.

Ruhullah, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Srinagar on an NC ticket in 2024, also indicated that he was looking beyond the formation of another political party and intended to build a broader movement involving people from Jammu and Kashmir.

"They might have given up but we have not. We will launch a movement where honest and compassionate people come forward to lead the struggle for restoring what has been snatched from us," he said.

The nearly 80-minute address marked the culmination of months of public differences between Ruhullah and the NC leadership, particularly over the party's position on Article 370, reservation rationalisation and the implementation of its electoral commitments.

Taking direct aim at Omar Abdullah, Ruhullah accused the Chief Minister of failing to honour promises made to voters and becoming disconnected from their concerns.

"You were elected to undo what the BJP and RSS did to the people of Jammu and Kashmir but all you managed is present shawls to those who hurt the feelings and dignity of our people," he said.

He also criticised the government's handling of reservation rationalisation, regularisation of daily wagers and the demands of medical interns, accusing the Chief Minister of browbeating students and employees who raised their concerns.

Ruhullah further questioned the NC's approach towards the Centre, asking why the party was reluctant to pursue the political commitments on which it had sought votes.

In his two-page resignation letter addressed to Farooq Abdullah, Ruhullah said the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A in 2019, while constituting an assault on the region's rights, had also presented an opportunity to reclaim political space.

He said he had considered the National Conference, the "grand old party of Kashmir", the natural candidate to lead the struggle that the situation demanded.

"I approached you and you assured me of a struggle, the pain that the abrogation of the Articles had caused you. Based on this assurance, I aligned my politics more vigorously with the NC," he wrote.

Ruhullah said he had campaigned vigorously for the party during the 2024 Assembly elections, but alleged that the leadership changed its political position soon after securing the mandate.

"Personally, I saw this as a betrayal. But that is politics and part of politics. What hurt me most was that the expectations of people had been betrayed," he wrote.

He accused the party of abandoning the political space it had promised to occupy in favour of what he described as "mere governmentality" and a vague promise of restoration of statehood.

Ruhullah also said the region was undergoing political and social transitions that could threaten its identity, arguing that the depoliticisation of Jammu and Kashmir would further weaken the people's position.

While ruling out an immediate announcement of a new political outfit, he appealed to young people from both Jammu and Kashmir to participate in a collective movement cutting across regional and religious identities.

He said the proposed initiative should bring together people committed to restoring the dignity and rights of the people, leaving its future structure and direction to those who joined it.

NC COUNTERS ATTACK

The National Conference hit back at Ruhullah, accusing him of moral bankruptcy and betraying the party that had provided him a political platform.

In a strongly worded statement, the party said his speech was filled with derogatory and unparliamentary remarks against its leadership and questioned the timing of his resignation.

The NC alleged that Ruhullah should have resigned much earlier if he had serious differences with the party, accusing him of remaining within its ranks while working against it during the Budgam Assembly by-election.

Questioning his parliamentary record, the party asked why he had not initiated a resolution or a private member's bill seeking restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status or statehood.

It also questioned whether he had raised the reservation rationalisation issue in Parliament or organised protests against the Lieutenant Governor's administration over the concerns of the open merit category.

The party maintained that reservation rationalisation was an election commitment and said the government had constituted a Cabinet sub-committee and initiated the process, but alleged that the Lieutenant Governor's administration and the Centre had stalled the file.

The NC also referred to Ruhullah's tenure as a Cabinet minister in 2010 and his participation in the 2014 Assembly elections on the party ticket, questioning his position on the issues he had raised during Tuesday's address.

BJP SEES NC DIVIDED

Reacting to the resignation, BJP national vice-president Ram Madhav said the National Conference was visibly divided, while suggesting that the rally had been held with the "blessings of our people".

"I would not like to comment on the matter, but the National Conference is visibly divided today. Ruhullah is holding the rally today with the blessings of our people," Madhav told reporters in Jammu.

He maintained that the BJP had no direct involvement in the internal differences within the ruling party, describing the developments as an internal matter of the NC.

Former J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina also distanced his party from the developments but warned that the National Conference was heading towards further political trouble.

"We have absolutely nothing to do with the turmoil within the National Conference," Raina said, adding that a "mountain of troubles" was approaching the ruling party.

CONGRESS BACKS COALITION

Meanwhile, alliance partner Congress sought to downplay the implications of Ruhullah's departure, attributing his differences with the NC to ideological incompatibility.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hameed Karra said Ruhullah had a different perspective while the party was moving in another direction.

He expressed confidence that the NC leadership would resolve its internal differences through dialogue and reiterated the Congress's commitment to the ruling alliance.

"We have always maintained that whenever the National Conference faces any threat from the BJP, the Congress party must stand firmly alongside the National Conference," Karra said.

Ruhullah's departure comes amid growing internal differences within the National Conference and adds to the political challenges facing the ruling party over the pace of implementation of its electoral commitments.

His resignation from the Lok Sabha will take effect only if accepted by the Speaker. The future course of the political movement he has proposed, and whether it eventually takes the shape of a new political platform, remains to be seen.

'Reclaiming Rights

in contrast to the language he used against the NC leadership.

"While invoking the holy Quran and the divine message of dignity and respect for human beings, Ruhullah's speech was full of derogatory, abusive and unparliamentary language against NC leadership. The language used by him only reflects who he is!" the statement said.

The party questioned the timing of Ruhullah's criticism over special status and reservation, saying he had remained associated with the NC and held government positions despite the issues he was now raising.

Referring to his role as a Cabinet minister in the Omar Abdullah-led government during the 2010 unrest, the party said Ruhullah had remained in office until he was removed in a general reshuffle and had subsequently contested the 2014 Assembly elections on the NC ticket.

"He only remembered to resign when he was told to by the party president. The same way he only remembered 2010 today when it suited him," the statement said, adding that he had "conveniently forgotten" the episode for 16 years.

The NC also questioned Ruhullah's parliamentary record, asking what initiatives he had taken to build support for the restoration of special status and statehood.

The party referred to his role in mobilising signatures of more than 100 MPs from different political parties for an impeachment motion against Allahabad High Court judge Shekhar Kumar Yadav, asking why he had not made a similar effort on Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional status.

"Can he tell us if he ever made such an effort to gather signatures of MPs for the restoration of special status or statehood? Did he even try to move a resolution or bill in Parliament in this regard?" the statement asked.

It further accused Ruhullah of failing to adequately highlight what it described as the undermining of the elected government's authority under the Union Territory arrangement, including the Lieutenant Governor's role in departments falling within the elected government's jurisdiction.

On reservation, the NC said rationalisation of the quota framework had been part of its election manifesto and that the government had constituted a Cabinet subcommittee to examine the issue and recommend changes. It alleged that the file had subsequently been stalled by the authorities.

The party questioned why Ruhullah had not raised the matter in Parliament or challenged the Centre and the Lieutenant Governor over the delay. It also accused him of blaming the elected government rather than directing his criticism at the authorities responsible for the existing reservation framework.

Defending its position on Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional status, the NC maintained that restoration of statehood would not come at the expense of special status.

"Our thrust on restoration of statehood is not and will never be at the expense of the special status," the statement said, adding that protection of the region's identity and constitutional rights remained central to the party's political ideology.

The party said it had deliberately chosen its political roadmap in view of the limitations of the present administrative arrangement, adding that the Chief Minister had reiterated the commitment to special status in his August 15 address.

Responding to Ruhullah's announcement, the NC said reclaiming the rights taken away from Jammu and Kashmir required political strategy rather than public theatrics.

"Reclaiming and repossessing what was taken away from us needs a deft politics, not theatrics. Theatrics will not take us anywhere. It may temporarily grab some attention and social media likes, but in the long run it will not achieve anything for people," the statement said.

The party also accused Ruhullah of working against its interests during the Budgam Assembly by-election, alleging that he contributed to its defeat while continuing to be associated with the organisation.

"Aga Ruhullah's decision to resign as MP is too late. He should have done a year ago when he chose to join the forces who were rattled by the mandate to NC," the spokesperson said.

Questioning his decision to leave after around 25 years of association with the party, the NC said Ruhullah had begun his political career with the organisation, served three terms as an MLA, held ministerial office and was elected to Parliament on its ticket.

Ruhullah announced his decision to leave the NC and submitted his resignation from the Lok Sabha on Tuesday at a gathering in Budgam, where he accused the party leadership of abandoning its political commitments and betraying people's expectations.

Ruhullah Rally: Supporters

rally in Budgam on Tuesday. Yet, despite such personal efforts to be present, the gathering at Behisht-e-Zehra Park drew a few thousand people, below the larger turnout many had anticipated for a major political announcement by the Srinagar MP in his home constituency.

The journeys made by some attendees offered a glimpse into the personal support Ruhullah commands. Abrar Ahmad, a resident of Kishtwar, said he had postponed his wedding ceremonies, scheduled for November 1, 2 and 3, to attend the gathering.

"My wedding ceremonies were scheduled for November 1, 2 and 3. However, because of Aga Ruhullah's convention on November 3, I decided to postpone them. Being here and listening to him was equally important to me," he said.

Ayaan, a teenager from Soura, Srinagar, said he had travelled in a battery-operated auto and reached the venue around 9 am.

"I came all the way from Soura in a battery auto. I reached here at 9 in the morning because I wanted to listen to what Aga Ruhullah would say. I love him from the bottom of my heart," he said.

Others who attended expressed similar admiration. Saika, who travelled from South Kashmir, described Ruhullah as a man of principles and conviction and called him a voice of Kashmir. An elderly woman in her eighties from a village in Budgam recalled his childhood and alleged that the NC had pressured him into joining the party. Shaukat Ahmad from Mir Behri, Srinagar, said he was prepared to make any sacrifice for the leader.

The expressions of support came as Ruhullah announced his departure from the National Conference and submitted his resignation from the Lok Sabha, accusing the party leadership of abandoning its political commitments. The gathering also saw several attendees offering noon prayers at the venue.

Ruhullah described the response as exceeding his expectations, claiming people had travelled from Poonch to Kupwara, including Rajouri and Kishtwar, at their own expense.

"People had come from different areas. They spent their own money and time to participate. They were not brought by any party or political organisation," he told reporters at his residence.

He said the gathering was not meant to celebrate a personal political achievement but reflected people's willingness to stand for principles and demand accountability.

However, the turnout was notable given that Budgam is Ruhullah's home constituency, which he represented in the Assembly for three consecutive terms. The gathering, despite drawing supporters from distant areas, did not match the larger show of strength some had expected.

His decision to also relinquish his parliamentary position has raised questions among some voters. Mehraj-uddin Dar, a Srinagar resident, questioned whether resigning as MP was necessary to register his disagreement with the NC leadership.

"People elected him to represent their concerns in Parliament. By resigning from that position as well, he has left questions about his responsibility towards those voters," Dar said.

The National Conference has also questioned the timing of his departure, accusing him of betraying the party that shaped his political career. "Aga Ruhullah's decision to resign as MP is too late. He should have done it a year ago when he chose to join the forces rattled by the mandate given to the NC," the party said.

Is A New Political

platform in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing supporters in Budgam, Ruhullah appealed to young people from both Jammu and Kashmir to join a collective initiative aimed at restoring the dignity and rights of the region's people.

He said the proposed movement should not be confined to one party, region or religious community, but bring together people willing to participate in what he described as a struggle for the rights of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I need honest people, youth from both Jammu and Kashmir," he said, urging families to encourage young people to enter public life.

Ruhullah referred to Kashmiris, Dogras, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and other communities, emphasising that the initiative should have a broad social and regional base.

He also indicated that those joining the initiative should decide its future structure and name, suggesting that he was not announcing a ready-made political organisation.

"The new journey has begun," he said.

In his resignation letter, Ruhullah argued that the political space created by the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 demanded a sustained struggle, but alleged that the NC had stepped away from that responsibility after securing the 2024 electoral mandate.

His proposed movement, therefore, appears centred on the issues he says the party abandoned: restoration of rights, political dignity and the representation of public aspirations.

Whether the initiative develops into a formal political platform, a campaign or a broader movement remains unclear. For now, Ruhullah has left the National Conference without announcing a new party, while seeking to mobilise support beyond its traditional political framework.

A Resignation Delivered

NC president Farooq Abdullah.

Tufail was killed during security forces action against protesters in 2010, triggering widespread demonstrations across Kashmir during the Omar Abdullah-led government, in which Ruhullah was then a Cabinet minister.

Ruhullah deliberately chose Mattoo to carry his resignation, saying he would not send it directly to Farooq Abdullah.

"This is a charter of freedom. I will not send this to Farooq Abdullah. They do not have the standing or worth for me to send it to them," he told the gathering.

Calling the NC a "deceitful, corrupt organisation", Ruhullah asked Mattoo to forward the letter with his own hands.

The gesture invoked a politically charged chapter of Omar Abdullah's previous tenure and linked Ruhullah's present confrontation with the NC leadership to the protests and deaths that marked 2010.

Ruhullah himself was part of the government at the time, a fact the NC later cited in its counterattack, questioning why he had not raised similar objections during his years in the party and government.

The party also accused him of selectively invoking the events of 2010, saying he had continued to contest elections on its ticket and remained associated with its leadership for years afterwards. (ONS)

Local Hydel Generation

"During the peak hours, we generally had a power demand of 1300-1350 MWs in Kashmir division. However, the power availability was fluctuating between 1000-1150 MWs."

The official further said that the power supply keeps on fluctuating. "Thus, the power demand and availability also varies from time to time. During that period we enforce grid curtailment."

Jammu and Kashmir imports nearly 84 percent of power from other states even as the Union Territory generates nearly 370 Megawatts (MWs) from its local stations.

The official figures in this regard reveal that the Union Territory was importing nearly 2000 MWs of power from other states and UTs.

Top officials have informed that out of the total power production capacity of 1197 MWs from the Jammu and Kashmir owned plants, the power generation fluctuated between 360-400 MWs.

The official had informed that the region was generating 298 MWs of power from the Baghilhar-1 hydroelectric power project, 49 MWs from other projects of Kashmir division and 20 MWs through the Independent Power Producers in Jammu division.

According to the official figures, The State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) had recorded a power load of 1170 MWs in Kashmir division and 1130 MWs in Jammu division respectively.

It also said that from the centrally owned hydel projects in Jammu and Kashmir that has a generation capacity of nearly 2200 MWs, the authorities were generating nearly 1100 MWs of power. (KNO)

Light Rain, Snow

director advised farmers to continue harvesting and other field activities, including fresh sowing, threshing and preparation of fields, as weather conditions remained largely favourable.

He also urged people travelling across the region to follow traffic advisories, particularly while moving through vulnerable and higher-altitude areas.

'Witnesses Turned

Rashid influenced witnesses is completely untenable as during most of the period he was in custody.

The witnesses who Rashid is alleged to have influenced are extremely closely attached to him; that is, one is a driver and two others are personal assistants and they have been continuously working for Rashid for years, the counsel said.

He added that the appellant is a member of Parliament and has sworn his allegiance to the Constitution of India, and therefore this is a fit case for grant of bail.

The court had earlier noted that Rashid has been in custody for almost seven years and there are a total of 240 witnesses in the case and the trial would take a long time to conclude.

The court was hearing arguments on Rashid's plea seeking bail in the terror case lodged under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Rashid was earlier granted interim bail to attend the ceremonies related to his father's demise.

He faces allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir. He has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him in the 2017 case.

After he was named in a chargesheet in October 2019, a special NIA court framed charges against Rashid and others in March 2022 under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the government), and 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code and under relevant provisions of the stringent UAPA.

Concrete Barrier

activists say the structure has obstructed the movement of fish upstream, disrupting the stream's aquatic ecosystem and the livelihoods of communities dependent on it.

A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Climate Action Group, led by its chairman, Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, visited Makhama and met the affected fishermen. Accompanied by senior group members Irshad Mushtaq, Advocate Shakir Parray and Tariq Bhat, the delegation joined the Sukhnag Fishermen Association in protesting against the construction.

Bhat called the structure illegal, alleging that the Roads and Buildings Division had proceeded without obtaining consent from the Fisheries and Flood Control departments.

"The Fisheries Department had written a letter to the Executive Engineer R&B Beerwah in this regard, but he didn't act till date even after more than 18 months," Bhat said.

The Assistant Director of Fisheries in Budgam had also raised concerns and communicated with the executive engineer, according to Bhat. "The construction continued despite those objections, leaving the fishermen waiting for administrative action."

The group has asked the authorities to restore the stream's flow by constructing a fish ladder at Makhama. Such a passage would allow fish to move past the concrete obstruction and reach upstream habitats.

The dispute also brings renewed attention to the environmental pressures facing the Sukhnag, a designated trout stream that has previously faced illegal riverbed mining.

Bhat said a construction company had extracted material from the streambed for years before the group secured an order from the National Green Tribunal to stop the work about two years ago.

He alleged that the concrete construction beneath the Makhama bridge violates the National Water Policy and the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010.

Bhat has appealed to Chief Engineer R&B Central Kashmir Ishfaq Beigh, Budgam Deputy Commissioner Jatin Kishore and Jammu and Kashmir Director of Fisheries Abdul Majid Tak to intervene and resolve the dispute.

He said the group would approach the National Green Tribunal again if the authorities failed to act.

SC Directions: J&K

at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu, the panel will include representatives from SKIMS Soura and GMC Srinagar, besides heads of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care departments of other government medical colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

Its members will also include officials from the Health and Medical Education Department, Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Directorates of Health Services Jammu and Kashmir, the Accounts Service and representatives of two selected private hospitals with established critical-care facilities.

Among its key responsibilities, the committee will review existing ICU guidelines, compliance matrices and gap analysis reports to identify institution-wise shortcomings against prescribed standards.

It will prepare a corrective action plan covering the availability of specialists, doctors, nurses and trained healthcare personnel, besides requirements relating to equipment, infrastructure, medical utilities, infection prevention and patient safety. (KNO)

AIMSA Sets

Jammu and Kashmir, highlighted the concerns of the dental fraternity and called for uniformity in stipend policies for medical and dental postgraduate residents.

AIMSA Additional Secretary Dr Shahnawaz Malik was also present.

The association said it had submitted a representation to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, seeking his intervention for an early resolution of the issue. The representation was signed by AIMSA President Dr Mohammad Momin Khan.

Urging the government to provide a concrete response and take necessary measures by November 12, AIMSA warned that failure to address the demands within the deadline would compel its members across Jammu and Kashmir to launch peaceful and democratic protests.

Reiterating its demand for fair and competitive remuneration, the association said PG medical and dental resident doctors deserved a uniform stipend policy that adequately recognised their contribution to healthcare services across the Union Territory. (KNS)

DCs, ADCs Empowered

the statutory event to which the one-year limitation period under Section 32(1) was linked.

Referring to an earlier order dated September 10, 2026, passed in Munshi Ram v. RDS&LR Doda, the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) observed that following the repeal of Section 49, the foundational starting point for computing the one-year limitation period had ceased to exist in law.

The latest order, however, clarifies that the direction does not dispense with any other limitation prescribed by law, including the limitation applicable under Section 32(2) to suits concerning annual records.

The order also provides for the transfer of pending cases under Section 32 from the Court of the Financial Commissioner (Revenue), the Commissioner, Survey and Land Records, and designated committees to the respective Deputy Commissioners for further proceedings and disposal under law.

As per Annexure A, a total of 739 cases have been listed for transfer to the concerned Deputy Commissioners across Jammu and Kashmir.

To facilitate adjudication, the Financial Commissioner has directed the constitution of committees comprising the Assistant Commissioner Revenue or concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrate as chairperson, the concerned Tehsildar as member, and a representative of the Regional Director, Survey and Land Records, not below the rank of Naib Tehsildar.

The committees will examine relevant records, undertake spot verification wherever required and submit factual reports along with recommendations to the Collector within one month. Submission of the committee report has been made mandatory in every Section 32 case before final adjudication.

The concerned Collector will subsequently dispose of each matter through a reasoned and speaking order in accordance with law.

The order further directs all Deputy Commissioners to submit monthly statements of Section 32 cases to the Registry of the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) by the fifth day of every month in the prescribed format.

The district-wise annexure lists 203 cases from Pulwama, 102 from Budgam, 90 from Srinagar, 66 from Kulgam and 48 each from Jammu and Udhampur, among other districts.

'Very Sad': SC

bench said.

The court also took note of submissions by senior advocate S Muralidhar, assisting it as amicus curiae, that states and UTs were required to file appropriate affidavits or reports detailing the steps taken towards constituting district-wise boards of visitors.

The boards are intended to oversee prison administration and ensure compliance with prescribed standards. In its July 30 order, the Supreme Court had directed all states and UTs to constitute such boards in every district within four weeks, with the principal district judge heading the respective board.

Granting the defaulting states and UTs one final opportunity, the bench directed them to immediately respond to the Centre's queries so that a consolidated report could be placed before the court.

"We make it clear today that by the next date of hearing, if the states do not respond, we shall be compelled to direct the chief secretaries/principal secretaries of the states/UTs to personally remain present before this court," the bench said.

The matter has been posted for further hearing on January 13.

In a landmark judgment delivered in October 2024, the Supreme Court had struck down provisions in the prison manuals of 10 states that permitted caste-based discrimination, including segregation of prisoners in barracks, division of manual labour on caste lines and discriminatory treatment of members of de-notified tribes and habitual offenders.

Holding such practices unconstitutional, the court had directed states and UTs to bring their prison rules and practices in line with constitutional principles of equality and dignity.

Kashmir's Paddy Fields Give Way To High-Density Apple Orchards

Agencies



SRINAGAR: Kashmir's traditional agricultural landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, with an increasing number of farmers abandoning paddy cultivation in favour of high-density apple orchards, driven by better returns, early fruit production and changing market preferences.

The shift is particularly visible in low-lying areas of Kashmir, where vast stretches of land once dominated by paddy are gradually being converted into apple orchards.

In several villages of Pulwama district, including Niloora and Nowpora in the Shahoora area of Litter Tehsil, farmers said the proportion of land under paddy cultivation has declined dramatically. According to local estimates, paddy cultivation, which once covered nearly 95 per cent of the agricultural land in these villages, has now been reduced to approximately 10 to 15 per cent in just a few years.

Growers told KNO that the trend is largely influenced by the comparatively higher economic returns from high-density apple varieties, which begin producing fruit within a short period and allow farmers to recover their investment earlier than traditional plantations.

"Earlier, almost every household in our village was associated with paddy cultivation. The fields would remain covered with paddy crops during the summer and autumn. However, things have changed considerably. Today, only a small portion of the land is being used for paddy, while the remaining area has been converted into apple orchards," a grower from Niloora said.

Another farmer from Nowpora said the transformation was continuing at a rapid pace, with even those who had initially hesitated now showing interest. "Once people saw that high-density orchards could produce quality apples within two to three years and fetch better prices, they started considering it a more profitable option. Gradually, paddy fields began disappearing, and the process has not stopped yet," he said.

Growers said declining demand and comparatively lower prices for several traditional apple varieties have also contributed to the shift, with high-density varieties fetching better prices owing to their uniform size, attractive colour and market preference.

High-density apple cultivation was introduced in Kashmir around 2015 to modernise the horticulture sector, increase productivity and improve produce quality. Unlike conventional trees, which take several years to reach commercial production, high-density plantations start yielding fruit within the first few years. The early harvesting window, generally between August and September, enables growers to bring produce to markets before the peak arrival of traditional varieties. Farmers also point to anti-hail nets and other protective measures that help reduce weather-related losses.

Mohammad Ali Dar, a grower from a low-lying area of Shopian who has established a high-density orchard on eight kanals, said, "People have witnessed the results of high-density cultivation and are now convinced about its potential. I have already planted eight kanals and have prepared another 12 kanals for conversion." He said the new system was easier to manage and produced apples with better grading and market appeal.

Among the varieties gaining popularity are Jeromine, King Roat, Gala Scarlet, Red Velox, Scarlet Spur-II, Super Chief, Redlum Gala, Auvi Fuji, RD 11, Syncho Gala, Terex Gala, Z1 and SS2.

Kashmir produces over 20 lakh metric tonnes of apples annually, and the industry remains a major contributor to the rural economy, providing livelihoods to thousands of families. However, the growing conversion of paddy land into orchards brings into focus concerns regarding the future of foodgrain production, particularly in a region that depends on outside supplies to meet a substantial portion of its rice requirements.

While farmers view the transition as an economically driven decision, the rapid disappearance of paddy fields raises questions about balancing horticultural expansion with the preservation of agricultural land used for food production, highlighting the need for a comprehensive assessment of land-use changes—(KNO)

CM Omar Distributes Appointment Letters To 17 Candidates In PWD (R&B) Department



JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah distributed appointment letters to 17 candidates appointed in the Public Works (Roads and Buildings) Department here at the Civil Secretariat.

The appointment letters were distributed in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Anil Kumar Singh, Director Finance, R&B, and other concerned officers.

The Chief Minister congratulated the newly appointed candidates and extended his best wishes for their future endeavours. He expressed hope that they would discharge their duties with dedication, sincerity and a strong sense of responsibility, contributing meaningfully to the functioning of the department and the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

The appointees include eight Supervisors and eight Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) appointed under the RAS, while one candidate has been appointed under SRO-43. (Observer News Service)

Waqf Board Begins Development Works at Historic Tral Shrine



SRINAGAR: Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for several developmental works at the historic Khanqah-e-Faiz Panah in Tral, including a modern Wudhu Complex and a Conference Hall.

She also inaugurated the newly constructed Sabat Complex and unveiled plaques documenting the shrine's history and developmental initiatives undertaken for its upgradation.

During the visit, Andrabi reviewed ongoing and proposed works aimed at improving facilities for devotees while preserving the shrine's historical and spiritual heritage.

She said the Board was committed to upgrading religious institutions through improved infrastructure while safeguarding their cultural and historical significance.

The Waqf Chairperson was accompanied by Board members Mohammad Hussain Haqqani and Dr Gh. Nabi Haleem, and BJP UT spokesperson Altaf Thakur.

Special Officer Waqf Board Dr Bashir Ahmad, Executive Magistrate and Tehsildar Ishtiyaq Mohiuddin, Executive Engineer Er. Qazi Mushtaq and other officials and local residents were also present. (Observer News Service)

Director Colleges Calls On Education Minister

JAMMU: With the Darbar Move marking reopening of the Civil Secretariat in the winter capital, Director Colleges, Professor Twinkle Sure, today called on Minister for Education, Shamim Firdous here.

The meeting provided an opportunity to deliberate on key developmental priorities and emerging challenges in the higher education sector, with emphasis on strengthening the academic ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, they discussed a range of issues concerning the development of government colleges, upgradation of educational infrastructure, enhancement of academic facilities and effective implementation of various developmental initiatives aimed at improving the quality of higher education.

Professor Twinkle Sure apprised the Minister of the progress of ongoing departmental initiatives. She highlighted important matters requiring focused attention and timely intervention to accelerate the growth and development of higher education institutions across the Union Territory.(Observer News Service)

DC Inspects Progress Of Quality Of Patient Care Services at GMC Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat visited MMABM AH Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, to review the progress of various developmental works and take stock of the healthcare infrastructure being developed at the institution.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various facilities, including oxygen generation plants, registration counters, newly constructed washrooms and other infrastructure projects under execution or nearing completion.

He took a detailed assessment of the physical progress of the works and directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the pace of execution and ensure timely completion of all ongoing projects without compromising on quality.

The Deputy Commissioner was informed that several major projects including upgradation of the District Teaching Block, being executed at an estimated cost of Rs 149.17 crore, which has achieved 98 percent physical progress; installation, testing and commissioning of two 1,000 LPM oxygen generation plants at a cost of Rs 7.69 crore; construction of the Radiation Oncology Block at an estimated cost of Rs 4.99 crore; construction of an Animal House, and establishment of a 50-bedded Critical Care Block at an estimated cost of Rs 23.75 crore, are at different stages of execution. (Observer News Service)

Amazon Great Indian Festival Generates Record ₹2,800 Crore Savings

Observer News Service



NEW DELHI: Amazon said the ongoing shopping festival recorded its highest-ever shopping volume, registering a year-on-year increase of more than 50 per cent. The event, which will continue until Bhai Dooj on November 11, has also witnessed a significant surge in participation from customers in smaller towns and cities across the country.

The company said customers saved over ₹2,800 crore through instant bank discounts, cashback, Amazon Pay rewards, coupons, exchange offers, free Prime deliveries and other promotional benefits. One in every three units purchased during the festival also carried a cashback benefit.

Prime members emerged among the biggest beneficiaries, saving more than 10 times compared to the previous year through exclusive offers. Amazon also recorded its highest-ever Prime membership sign-ups during a shopping event. Deliveries to Prime members registered a 3.6-fold increase in same-day fulfilment, including deliveries completed within minutes and hours.

Saurabh Srivastava, Vice President, Amazon India, said the company had witnessed record customer participation and shopping volumes across product categories.

"It has been humbling to see customers across the country choose Amazon.in to fulfil their festive aspirations and upgrade across product categories – from smartphones and smartwatches to ethnic wear, festive décor, beauty products, everyday essentials and more," he said.

He added that the company had enabled savings of over ₹2,800 crore, welcomed more new Prime members than in any previous shopping event and recorded significant growth for sellers.

The festival also highlighted the growing purchasing power of consumers beyond metropolitan cities, with more than 70 per cent of customer visits coming from non-metro locations. Shopping volumes from these regions increased by over 50 per cent year-on-year, while premium smartphones, appliances, fashion, beauty, healthcare and home categories recorded multifold growth.

EMI transactions grew 40 per cent compared to the previous year, with nine out of every 10 rupees spent through EMI going towards interest-free No-Cost EMI purchases, enabling customers to purchase higher-value products.

Amazon's ultra-fast delivery service, Amazon Now, also recorded substantial growth during the festival. The platform attracted 23 times more first-time shoppers to Amazon.in compared to last year, while daily orders increased 18 times. The average order value rose by 30 per cent year-on-year.

Delivery speeds also witnessed a significant improvement, with one in every three orders delivered on the same day across the country. In more than 120 cities, Amazon delivered one in every two products within minutes. The number of products delivered on the same day or faster increased nearly fivefold.

The company also doubled the number of shipments transported daily through India's Dedicated Freight Corridor, alongside air shipments across key routes.

Small businesses and sellers from smaller cities recorded strong growth during the festive season. The number of small and medium business sellers registering a tenfold increase in sales rose by over 30 per cent year-on-year, while new sellers recorded more than 2.3 times growth in unit sales.

CDS Exam Rank-Holder From Pulwama Says He Leveraged AI To Prepare

Press Trust Of India



SRINAGAR: Inspired by the heroics and dedication of decorated Army officer Brigadier S S Shekhawat, Mohammad Owais Bhat from Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir worked hard for four years to achieve his dream of cracking the Combined Defence Services (CDS) Examination.

Bhat (22) secured a 107th rank in the final list of successful candidates for the CDS examination released on Monday.

"If I talk about present-day leaders, Brigadier S S Shekhawat sir inspires me immensely. He is one of the most decorated Army officers. He has inspired me a lot," Bhat told PTI from his home in the Dangerpora area of the south Kashmir district.

He said the success feels all the more sweet as it came after a struggle of four-and-a-half years, including two failures.

"This was my third attempt, so I feel very satisfied. I have flashbacks from the time when I was at my lowest. Back then, I dreamed that one day, an All India Rank would come my way. Thanks to the Almighty, I achieved AIR 107. It feels wonderful," he added.

Bhat said he used Artificial Intelligence (AI) extensively to prepare for the examination.

"My first advice to those preparing for any competitive examination is to thoroughly study the syllabus. Entering the preparation without understanding the syllabus makes it feel like an endless ocean. If you adopt a targeted approach, you can narrow down that ocean into manageable ponds.

"I would also highlight AI innovations. I am very glad to have had AI in my preparation. I leveraged artificial intelligence, ChatGPT, and other bots significantly. I took a paid subscription for Rs 399, fed in the syllabus, and prompted it to predict the ongoing trends. That helped me identify patterns easily, allowing me to anticipate around 20 to 40 questions beforehand by analysing the question formats alongside AI," he said.

He said one can make full use of modern AI resources and YouTube lectures, which are exceptional.

"Avoid spending two to two-and-a-half lakh rupees on extravagant coaching centres; effective preparation can be done for as little as Rs 4,000. Focus on that, and you will easily excel in whichever field you choose," he said.

Asked why few youngsters go for CDS examinations, Bhat said the reasons could be lack of awareness about the requirements of defence examinations and inadequate knowledge about the armed forces.

"Many don't even distinguish between the CRPF and the Army. UPSC conducts several exams for defence, besides IAS/IPS, which come under the UPSC Civil Services Examination. The youth and children in Kashmir generally are not aware of these exams," he said, adding that he himself got to know about it from a relative.

Bhat credited his parents for their support, saying they "always play the greatest role".

"Without their will, and their financial, moral and ethical support, this would have been impossible," he said.

Bhat said he gained more than 20 kilograms while preparing for the written examinations.

"I had to work extremely hard to get back in shape by losing 20 kilograms within two months ahead of the physical tests," he said.

Bhat will join the Indian Military Academy in January for a one-and-a-half-year training before he is commissioned into the Army.

Kashmir's Wildlife Hospital Emerges As Lifeline For Injured, Endangered Animals

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: From performing delicate eye surgeries on endangered leopard cats to treating fractured wings of wild birds, Kashmir's specialised wildlife healthcare system is quietly transforming the way injured and endangered animals are treated, rescued and rehabilitated.

At the heart of this effort is the Wild Animal Health Care Centre, Kashmir, the region's apex referral facility for wildlife medicine, emergency rescue and conservation research, operating under the veterinary leadership of Dr Mohsin Ali Gazi, Officer In-Charge of the Centre.

The facility provides advanced medical treatment and specialised surgeries, including ophthalmic, orthopaedic, dental and soft-tissue procedures. Modern diagnostic facilities, including colour Doppler and ultrasound-guided investigations, have further strengthened its clinical capabilities.

The Centre also leads emergency rescue operations involving leopards, Asiatic black bears, Himalayan brown bears, snakes and birds of prey, ensuring their safe capture, treatment and rehabilitation.

Its work extends to disease surveillance, wildlife forensics and conservation of the endangered Kashmir Hangul at the Shikargah breeding centre in Tral. It also monitors wildlife health at Dachigam, Pahalgam Zoo and Kashmir's wetlands.

Through research, specialised training and its One Health approach, the Centre is strengthening wildlife protection while promoting peaceful coexistence between humans and animals.

RVS iGLOBAL Celebrates Diwali With Cultural Performances, Community Spirit In Jammu

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Vikram Randhawa attend celebrations; highlight company's role in promoting local talent and employment opportunities

Observer News Service



JAMMU: RVS iGLOBAL celebrated Diwali with a vibrant cultural programme, bringing together its employees, leadership and distinguished guests to mark the festival of lights while showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage and the organisation's growing global presence.

Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Vikram Randhawa attended the celebrations as special guests, joining employees in marking the occasion and highlighting the values of togetherness, positivity and shared progress.

The celebrations began with a traditional Diwali Aarti, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the two dignitaries, Directors Rajesh Gupta and Ramni Gupta, Managing Director Vikrant Gupta and Chief Operating Officer Sandeep Sharma.

The evening featured a series of cultural performances by employees, including traditional dances, musical presentations and a comedy skit. A special highlight was the representation of Dogri culture, with employees performing traditional Dogri songs and dances in ethnic attire, celebrating the cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Employees also showcased their creativity and entrepreneurial skills through stalls featuring handmade candles, handcrafted decorations and artwork, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Earlier, Jugal Kishore Sharma and Vikram Randhawa visited the RVS iGLOBAL office, where they were welcomed by Managing Director Vikrant Gupta and taken on a tour of the facilities. They interacted with employees and were briefed about the organisation's operations and the technology and IT services it provides to clients across the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States.

Addressing the gathering, Jugal Kishore Sharma appreciated the organisation's efforts in bringing employees together through a cultural celebration and expressed satisfaction over the growth of a technology and IT services company in Jammu.

Public Notice



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th)under Roll No:. 121004212 Session: Annual (PVT) Year 2026 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the self error against my name as Altaf Ahamd Hajam instead of Altaf Ahmad Hajam
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Altaf Ahmad Hajam
Father's Name : Bashir Ahmad Hajam
Mother's Name : Rahti
DOB: 09/02/1996
Residence: Batapora Kanihama
Mobile no: 7889312074
bmg

Iran Rejects US Overtures, Says Hormuz Will Remain Shut Until Demands Are Met

Agencies



TEHRAN: Iran has rejected the latest US diplomatic response to its demands, insisting that the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz will remain closed until Washington explicitly addresses seven conditions set by Tehran, as regional mediators continue efforts to prevent a renewed confrontation between the two countries.

Major General Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), said the American response to Tehran's demands was unconvincing and that Washington must provide clear answers and take concrete action before the crucial maritime passage could be reopened.

"The US response to Iran's rights and demands was not convincing, and they must completely and explicitly answer and act upon Iran's seven conditions," Rezaei said. "Only in this case will the Strait of Hormuz be reopened."

His remarks underline the continuing diplomatic impasse despite renewed exchanges between Washington and Tehran and efforts by regional countries to broker an understanding.

The Strait of Hormuz, a critical artery for international energy shipments, has remained at the centre of the confrontation, with its reopening emerging as a key condition in negotiations.

Rezaei's statement came days after Iran confirmed receiving and reviewing a communication from US Vice President JD Vance. The letter was reportedly delivered through Qatari mediators and proposed a framework for direct negotiations between the two sides.

According to the account provided, Vance suggested placing Iran's peaceful nuclear programme on the negotiating table from the outset, a demand Tehran has repeatedly rejected.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has meanwhile ruled out immediate talks with American officials, dismissing reports of an imminent diplomatic meeting as "mere media guesswork".

Araqchi said Iran's own proposal concerning the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz remained the only viable plan currently under consideration, adding that mediators were continuing to exchange proposals between the two capitals.

Qatar sees scope for interim agreement

Despite Tehran's firm public position, diplomatic efforts appear to be continuing behind the scenes.

Qatar said on Tuesday that it remained hopeful of securing an interim agreement between Washington and Tehran, pointing to ongoing indirect negotiations and the exchange of proposals.

"Both parties remain committed to the negotiation process... They are currently reviewing the ideas and proposals we have presented," Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari told reporters.

Al Ansari said intensive indirect discussions were under way, while cautioning that any further escalation could seriously complicate the diplomatic process.

Qatar has emerged as an important intermediary in the exchanges, facilitating communication between the two sides at a time when direct engagement remains uncertain.

The reported involvement of Qatari mediators in delivering Vance's letter to Rezaei reflects the continuing reliance on third-party channels to bridge differences.

Conflicting signals from Washington

Washington, however, has sent mixed signals about the purpose and prospects of the diplomatic initiative.

US President Donald Trump previously sought to play down the significance of Vance's communication, telling reporters that it concerned "medical supplies" for Iran rather than negotiations.

The contrasting accounts have added uncertainty over the nature of the American proposal and the administration's approach to Tehran.

While diplomatic contacts continue, military tensions remain high. Iran has accused the United States and Israel of intensifying military threats against it amid the wider confrontation and political developments in both countries.

Tehran has repeatedly warned that it is prepared to respond to any aggression against its sovereignty.

Araghchi recently said Iran was not ruling out the possibility of renewed war and had prepared for different scenarios.

"We do not rule out any possibility regarding the outbreak of war, and we are prepared for all scenarios," he said, adding that Iran had upgraded its military capabilities, addressed vulnerabilities and tested new weapons.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
pnb
punjab national bank
(Govt. of India Undertaking)

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK CELEBRATED AT PNB CIRCLE OFFICE SRINAGAR; MESSAGE OF AWARENESS CONVEYED THROUGH INTEGRITY PLEDGE, BLOOD DONATION CAMP AND WALKATHON



Punjab National Bank (PNB), Circle Office Srinagar, successfully organized various public awareness programmes under Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 in accordance with the guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). The theme for this year's Vigilance Awareness Week is “Probity for Prosperity.”

On the occasion of the inauguration of the week, all officers and employees of the Circle Office and its subordinate branch offices collectively took the Integrity Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to upholding transparency, honesty and ethical values in the workplace.

With the objective of promoting social responsibility and the spirit of philanthropy, a voluntary Blood Donation Camp was organized at the Circle Office premises. Staff members from the Circle Office as well as its subordinate branches participated enthusiastically and voluntarily donated blood, contributing towards the noble cause of serving humanity.

Furthermore, a grand Walkathon was organized to spread awareness among the general public about vigilance, ethical conduct and the importance of building a corruption-free society. Staff members of the Bank participated enthusiastically in the Walkathon and conveyed the message of integrity and honesty to citizens through banners and placards. *Abass Advt.*

