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BOOK APPOINTMENT

MYSTERY ILLNESS IN RAJOURI

No New Case Reported In 6 Days

Observer News Service

Jammu: No new illness case was reported in six days from a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district which was shaken by the unexplained deaths of 17 people belonging to three families between December 7 and January 19, an official said on Wednesday.

He said the district administration under the supervision of Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, is continuing with the intensive preventive care for the well being of the Badhaal village.

To mitigate the situation and prevent further casualties, 87 families comprising 364 individuals were shifted from the village to three isolated centres in Rajouri -- Government Nursing College, Government Boys Higher Secondary School and Government Medical College and associated hospital and are under observation.

"Comprehensive arrangements have been made to ensure the comfort and safety of the affected families which are being provided with meals, water, baby food, sanitary items, medicines, clothing and other daily necessities under close monitoring of the | More on P6

Spring In Kashmir's Winter?

Early Flower Bloom Signals Alarming Climate Trends

Tashir Khan

Srinagar: As winter shifts to spring, the sight of blooming flowers usually indicates the arrival of warmer days. However, this year, some flowers have begun to bloom unusually early.

This issue is raising concerns among scientists, environmentalists, and farmers. The early blooming, caused by rising temperatures, acts as both a symptom and a warning of the growing effects of climate change.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Centre in



Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 15 degrees Celsius in mid-January, which is almost 8 degrees above normal. "For the last several decades, temperatures | More on P6

87% Rainfall Deficit In January

Amidst the forecast of wet spell for the next one week, Jammu and Kashmir continued to record the deficit rainfall in the month of January | More on P6

Higher Reaches Receive Light Snowfall

After a prolonged dry spell in Jammu and Kashmir, the light snowfall was experienced at multiple places, especially in the higher reaches of the | More on P6

Predicted Wet Spell Vital For Kashmir's Crops: Experts

Srinagar: Chief Scientist of Sheri Kashmir University of Agriculture and Science Kashmir (SKUAST-K) Dr Rehana Rasool on Wednesday said the predicted wet spell from January 29 to February 5 is vital for the agricultural sector in the Valley.

Dr Rasool said, "If the wet spell occurs, it will help lower temperatures and ensure water reserves for May and June. It's a crucial factor in stabilizing the climate."

"The previous snowfall (in last week of December 2024), following months of drought, did not retain

much moisture, making the current precipitation vital for the agricultural sector," she said, adding, "The unusually warm temperatures recorded in Kashmir during the past few days in the crucial winter phase can lead to an early bloom, which may negatively impact the crop yield."

She said that a premature bloom could be detrimental. "If the early bloom continues and is followed by Western Disturbances in March, the drop in temperatures and excessive rainfall can cause petal shedding and hinder pollination, | More on P6

30 Killed In Maha Kumbh Stampede

Press Trust Of India

Uttar Pradesh: At least 30 people were killed and 60 injured in a pre-dawn stampede at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh early Wednesday as millions of pilgrims jostled for space to take a holy dip on the occasion of one of the most auspicious days of Mauni Amavasya.

Several hours after the incident took place between 1-2 am, Maha Kumbh DIG Vaibhav Krishna gave the details of the casualties at a press conference here in the evening.

"The incident took place due to the pressure of the crowd. The crowd broke barricades and jumped to the other side, crushing those waiting there. Over 90 injured were rushed to the hospital, of whom 30 died," he said.

The officer said 25 of the deceased have been identified. Four of them are from Karnataka and one each from Assam and Gujarat.

Among those injured, 36 are undergoing treatment at the hospital and the rest have been sent with their families.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences to the devotees who lost their family members in the stampede, describing | More on P6

Centre Plans Ropeway For Amarnath Yatra



Agencies

Srinagar: The Central government has announced plans to establish ropeway connectivity at 18 major religious and tourist destinations across India, including a ropeway connecting Baltal to the Amarnath shrine in Jammu and Kashmir.

It was learnt that the government is seeking proposals from consultants to prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) for these developments. The proposed 11.6-kilometre ropeway will link

Baltal with the Amarnath shrine. The initiative, as per the government, aims to improve accessibility and provide a convenient travel option for visitors to these sites. Currently, pilgrims undertake a lengthy trek from Baltal or Pahalgam or rely on helicopter rides, which may not always be available.

The new ropeway will reduce travel time and offer an alternative route, allowing visitors to enjoy views of the surrounding landscape. This project is expected to ease the journey for a wider range | More on P6

JPC Adopts Report On Waqf Bill By Majority

Opposition Leaders Slam 'Excessive' Govt Interference In Waqf Matters

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel examining the Waqf Amendment Bill on Wednesday adopted by a majority vote its report that contained changes suggested by ruling BJP members, prompting the opposition to dub the exercise as an attempt to destroy the Waqf boards.

The Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, chaired by BJP member Jagdambika Pal, adopted the report on the draft legislation by a 15-11 majority vote. Opposition members were submitting dissent notes to the report.

BJP members insisted that the bill, introduced in Lok



Sabha in August last year, seeks to bring modernity, transparency and accountability in the management of Waqf properties, while the opposition termed it as an attack on the constitutional rights of

the Muslim community and interference in the functioning of the Waqf boards.

Speaking to reporters after the 38th sitting of the committee, Pal said the report will be presented | More on P6

Ruhullah Meets Mirwaiz, Discusses Waqf Bill

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Wednesday met separatist leader and head of Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in Delhi. Sources said that the duo discussed Waqf Amendment Bill and several other issues during the meeting.

They also discussed issues related to Jammu and Kashmir and the Muslim community in the country.

Mirwaiz is in Delhi since he met the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf Bill on January 24.

The sources said the two political leaders, belonging to opposite shades of the political spectrum, had more than an hour long interaction over a wide range of issues including the situation in Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370, restoration of statehood and release of

political prisoners.

"The two leaders also talked about the Waqf amendment bill, plight of Muslims in the country, the situation in Kashmir post August 5, 2019, and range of other issues," the sources added.

Mirwaiz admitted that the NC leader had met him in the former's capacity of being the chief preacher.

"Yes, he (Mehdi) came to visit me. He is in Delhi for the parliament session and it was a courtesy call to me as Mirwaiz," the religious leader said.

Ruhullah and Mirwaiz also talked about the issues of youth of J&K as well as the row over reservation policy.

While Ruhullah participated in the protest against the existing reservation policy outside the residence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Mirwaiz had announced his support for the protest.

The MP's move had drawn sharp reactions | More on P6

Coffers Empty But FM Assured Support: CM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that coffers of Jammu and Kashmir are empty but there has been some breather from the Centre and Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) and Finance Minister (Nirmala Sitharaman) have assured support to the Government just like they did to the Lieutenant Governor's administration.

"Empty," Omar, who also holds charge of the Finance Department, said in response to a question on the status of UT's coffers. But at the same time, he added that there has been some breather from the Central Government and they are expecting more.

"We need help from the Government of India. The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have assured that just like they supported the Jammu

and Kashmir Government



during the LG Government, they will support the present Government as well. At the same time, we too need to take some steps for being self-sufficient," the Chief Minister said.

According to Daily Excelsior, he added that J&K faced tough situations during the last 30-35 years but expressed confidence that they will come out of it.

He clarified that the Government is not going to burden the common man with harsh steps in the budget.

Significantly amid talks of Local Bodies elections in April and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's Republic Day address that these polls will be held shortly, Omar refused to give any timeframe and put counter question to the interviewer: "Are you not tired of elections? Only last year, two elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir (Lok Sabha and Assembly)."

Simultaneously, he said, whenever the elections take place, "we are ready".

The Chief Minister also strongly batted for restoration of the Upper House saying there is no representation of Kashmiri Pandits and Christians and very few women and Sikhs. All of them need representation and for this, the | More on P6

J&K NHM Cautions Against Fake Recruitment Notification

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Health Mission (NHM), Jammu and Kashmir, has issued an urgent alert regarding circulation of fake job advertisements on social media, specifically concerning claims about the JKNHM CHO Recruitment 2024.

This misinformation has been propagated by the online portal www.bika.co.in, leading to significant confusion among the job seekers.

The NHM J&K has informed the public that currently no advertisement has been issued for recruitment of Community Health Officers (CHO) or any other

category of staff by the State Health Society, NHM, J&K. Any notifications claiming otherwise are entirely false and misleading.

The Mission has urged upon the candidates to disregard false announcements and ignore any unverified claims regarding recruitment circulating on social media or through unofficial websites. For accurate information regarding job openings, candidates should refer exclusively to the official NHM J&K website (https://jknhm.jk.gov.in/).

The NHM J&K emphasizes the importance of relying on verified sources to avoid falling victim | More on P6



37 Of 40 Springs In Ganderbal Found Contaminated

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Jal Shakti (PHE) Rural Water Supply Division Ganderbal has issued an urgent public notice regarding the safety of spring water across the district. Following a recent extensive testing and sampling drive, it was found that 37 out of 40 spring water samples collected across Ganderbal District were bacteriologically contaminated, making them unsafe for human consumption.

In light of these findings, the notice calls on residents of both Ganderbal and rural areas of Srinagar, where spring water is commonly used for drinking, to avoid using it for drinking purposes. The general public is

strongly urged to rely on tap water instead, until further instructions are issued by the authorities.

The notice also advises that if spring water is to be used, it should only be done after boiling it thoroughly for a prolonged period to ensure safety. The testing results highlight serious health risks, including waterborne diseases, due to the bacteriological contamination.

This measure comes as a precautionary step to safeguard public health across the affected areas, and further updates will be provided as necessary.

The notice has been widely circulated, and additionally, posters will be placed at spring water | More on P6



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN.
Sub. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.
Public Notice.
The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Jan Mohamad Tantry s/o Abdul Hamid Tantry R/o Sheerpora bangil Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 16/02/1991 occurred at home. In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 07 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
FKO

OFFICE OF THE ISHFAQ MAJEED MIR
LEGAL CONSULTANT & ADVOCATE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE NO 38, DISTRICT AND SESSIONS COURT ANANTNAG 192101
Mob: 8899973698, Email: ishfaqmir114@gmail.com
CAVEAT PETITION
To Public at huge Mohammad Yousuf Dar S/o Mohammad Ismail Dar R/o Ulbugh Nowgam, AnantnagCaveator
Versus Public at LargeOpponent
In the matter of: Caveat application under section 148-A of code of civil procedure
That this is to inform general public through the medium this notice that the caveator has apprehension that he may be sued by some unknown persons with respect to the property falling under survey No 505, Situated at Ulbugh Nowgam A and also with respect to the ongoing construction of bridge adjacent to the property of Caveator as such in order to follow natural justice and to pass any orders against the caveator the submissions of caveator be heard Accordingly no ex- parte order be passed in any suit, application or appeal which may be instituted by any person or interested party person against the caveator before any court without service of notice to the Caveator. The address mentioned in title clause be used for the service of notice.
Anantnag 27-01-2024
Caveators Through Counsel
Ishfaq Mir Advocate
Chamber 38 Dist. Court Ang
Phone 8899973698.
wlnut ads

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR
Dated: 30.12.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak
In the case of:
The J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Baran Pathar Batmaloo Srinagar Through Attorney Holder Javed Ahmad Sheera Applicant
V/S
1. M/S Sheikh Handicrafts through its Proprietors Ubaid Ahad Sheikh S/o: Abdul Ahad Sheikh R/o: Baran Pathar Batmaloo Srinagar ... Non Applicant
In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement
Whereas, applicant Bank has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts. Whereas, notice was issued against non-applicant but services could not be effective due to insufficient / incomplete address. Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applicant could not be effective in ordinary mode. Therefore, the non-applicant through the medium of this notice are directed to appear in person or their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e. 12.02.2025
Sd/- Secretary (Sub Judge) District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR
Dated: 30.12.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak
In the case of:
The J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Air Cargo Srinagar Through Attorney Holder Javed Ahmad Sheera Applicant
V/S
1. Ms. Snober Sameer W/o: Sameer Qadir Sofi R/o: Lane No. 13 Near Eder School Batmaloo Srinagar ... Defendant
2. Rouf Ah. Khan S/o: Yar Mohammad Khan R/o: Chandoosa Baramulla
3. Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh S/o: Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o: Chanpora Habba Kadal Srinagar ... Guarantors
In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement
Whereas, applicant Bank has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts. Whereas, notice was issued against non-applicant 1 and 3 but services could not be effective due to insufficient / incomplete address. Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applicant No. 1 and 3 could not be effective in ordinary mode. Therefore, the non-applicant No. 1 and 3 through the medium of this notice are directed to appear in person or their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e. 12.02.2025
Sd/- Secretary (Sub Judge) District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE
The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Murtaza Muneer while his correct name is Mohammad Aqib Khan which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Hamida Akhtar Mother of Mohammad Aqib Khan R/o Hanjiwera Bala FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE
The name and DOB of my Son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Mohd Younis instead of Mohammad Younis Bajran and Dob as 06-10-2003 instead of 25-02-2011 which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shareef Ahmad Bajran F/o Mohammad Younis Bajran R/o Kathohalan Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for Pesticides License the name and style RAIES PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS at (WATERGAM WAGOORA) if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of PLANT PROTECTION OFFICER (PPO) LAL MANDI SRINAGAR within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained
NAMERAIES AHMAD SHAH S/OABDUL RASHID SHAH R/O WATERGAM WAGORA BARAMULLA fko

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG, H/Q AWANTIPORA. CORRIGENDUM
CORRIGENDUM
SUBJECT: Installation of 15 cusec VT pumping unit (stand by unit along with mounting structure at LIS Semthan REFERENCE: E NTT NO21 OF 2022-23 Dated:16.01.2025
Please read: Pump/Motor speed ----- Less than or equal 1480 RPM
Instead of: Pump/Motor speed ----- 1480 RPM
Please read: Pump Efficiency at Duty Point Greater than or Equal 78%
Instead of: Pump Efficiency ----- 78%
Further it is to clarify that
1. Total length of column pipe including bowl assembly upto sole plate = 7 Mtr
2. Centre line of deliver elbow = 0.54 Mtr below the sole plate
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in ENIT
No MIDA/3049-55 DIPK-11371/24 Date:29-01-2025
sd/= Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Deptt Mech. Irri. Div., Anantnag H.Q. Awantipora

Public Notice
The particulars of my son has been wrongly written in his school records as
Name of child Mustafa Ali Azhar Mustafa
Mother's Name Uzma Zehra Uzma Fida
Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the G.D Goenka Public School Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Uzma Fida Mother of Azhar Mustafa R/o Baghwanpora Lalbazar Srinagar ss

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Palhallan
Subject Application of Javid Ahmad Teli , Rayees Rashid Teli S/o Ab Rashid Teli R/o Sheerburgh Sutanpora Khole for issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) for cast of Teli
PUBLIC NOTICE
Regarding the Subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC In this connection a report of patwal halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant in currently residing in village Sheerburgh Sutanpora Khole and belongs to the Teli Community . The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:
S Name of the family Relationship Age Occupation No Member with the Family Head
01 Ab Rashid Teli Ab Rehman 55 Labour
2 Raja Begum W/o Ab Rashid 53 H/W
03 Javid Ahmad S/o Ab Rashid 32 Student
4 Rayees Rashid -- 28 Student
Therefore, through this Public Notice Objections are being sought from general public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.
fko Naib Tehsildar

NEW ISLAMIA MODEL SCHOOL PALHALLAN
list of officials in Managing Body
S. No Name Parentage Address Phone Occupation Status Sex Adhaar No.
1 GHULAM NABI WAR GHULAM AHMAD WAR PALHALLAN, PATTAN 9858472883 Business-man Chairman M 831905908410
2 ROUF AHMAD TANTARY ABDUL RASHID TANTARY PALHALLAN, PATTAN 8899495011 Pvt. School Teacher Secretary M 58117189817
3 MOHAMMAD SHABAN BHAT GHULAM HASSAN BHAT PALHALLAN, PATTAN 9070000152 Carpenter Member M 759685445589
4 ALJAZ AHMAD GANAIE AH MOHAMMAD GANAIE TAPPER WARI-PORA, PATTAN 9622456745 Pvt. School Teacher Member M 487955613272
5 PEER GHULAM JEELANI PEER GHULAM MOHI UDIN PALHALLAN, PATTAN 9419074777 Business-man Member M 313056830042
6 MOHAMMAD SHAH MALIK MOHAMMAD SHAFI MALIK PALHALLAN, PATTAN 9906535185 Pvt. School Teacher Member M 877004404887
7 SAIMA JAN GHULAM MOHAMMAD W/OPALHALLAN, IRSHAD AHMAD BHAT PATTAN 9103662870 House Wife Member F 919728166892
FKO_r

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.
Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmids@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org
Corrigendum 05
For Date Extension.
Name of work: - SITC & ITC of sprinkler irrigation System including HDPE pipe/LLDPE pipeline /DG Set including allied fittings for Saffron Crop cultivated area at Bore well No. 116 under implementation of National Mission on Saffron
Reference: This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2024-25/76 Date:06-12-2024 (Tender ID: 2024_PWDJK_267227_1)
Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are hereby extended as under: -
S.No. Description Previous Dates Extended Dates
01. Last date of downloading/ submission of bids 28-01-2025 upto 06:55 06-02-2025 upto 06:55
02. Date of opening of bids online 29-01-2025 at 02:00PM 07-02-2025 at 02:00PM
All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.
Sd/ Technical Officer With Executive Engineer Machinery Division, Kashmir.
No: MDSK/TS-210/5955-54 DIPK-11356/24 Date: 29-01-2025

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/ Central Governments for the following works
S.No Name of Work Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.) Earnest Money in Rs. Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender. Date & Time of Opening of Bid Class of Contractor
1 Various Fencing Works and Renovations Works at Main and Naseem Bagh Campus (Phase-II) 39.88 Rs. 1100/- 79760/- 30-01-2025 to 17-02-2025 (6.00 PM) 18-02-2025 (12:00 Noon) "AAY & BEE"
2 Various Repair & Renovation Works in Different Departments at Naseem Bagh Campus. 38.51 Rs. 1100/- 77,020/- 30-01-2025 to 17-02-2025 (6.00 PM) 18-02-2025 (12:00 Noon) "AAY & BEE"
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.
Executive Engineer
NIT No: F(E.Tend) (Various Works NAAC Phase -II)(UCD)/KU/55/25
DIPK-NB-3309/24
DATED: 29-01-2025

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
Email:rbdivisionawantipora@gmail.com
NO: T-1/EEA/9210-15 EXTENSION CORRIGENDUM Dated: 27/01/2025
Subject:-
S.No. Name of Work
1 Augmentation and Consolidation of S.C Unit at Wuyan Pampore Pulwama. (Const. Of Water Harvesting Tank)
Reference: 1.E-NIT No: 123/EEA/RNB/Of 2024-25/8820-30 Dated 16/01/2025
It is notified for the information of all concerned that Zero bidder has participated for above said NIT. Hence the above mentioned work/Tender is hereby extended/modified and fixed as under:
1 Bid Submission End Date 03-02-2025 up to 3.00 P.M
2 Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) 04-02-2025 at 12.00 PM
All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NITs
Sd/-Tech. Officer DIPK-11344/24 dated: 29-01-2025 Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
District Industries Centre, Pulwama.
PUBLIC NOTICE
The unit M/s Super Fresh Agri Products Pvt. Ltd Unit II at IGC Lassipora Pulwama stands Provisionally registered with D.I.C. Pulwama under No.01/005/23/06326/PMT/MSME; dated: 14.11.2024 for the line of activity Controlled Atmosphere store with Grading, Sorting and packing line (5000 MTS) only as Pvt Ltd concern of 1. Mr. Ubair Mansoor S/o Mohammad Mansoor Shah R/o Shopian. 2. Khurshid Ahamd Mantoo S/o Ab Rahman Mantoo R/o E-201 Antriksh apartment West Delhi 3. Mohd Iqbal Wani S/o Mohd Ramzan Wani R/o Khair Bagh Shopian 4. Farooq Ahmad Wani S/o Mohd Ramzan Wani R/o Khair Bagh Shopian. Now, the Director of the instant unit has submitted an application before office of the undersigned wherein, he has requested for Change of constitution of the unit from Super Fresh Agri Products Pvt Ltd. Unit II IGC Lassipora Pulwama to M/s Lotus Agri Fresh Private Limited. IGC Lassipora Pulwama, without changing shareholders/Directors in respect of M/s Lotus Agri Fresh Private Limited. IGC Lassipora Pulwama
Any person (s) or any organization/department having any objection in this behalf should convey in writing to the General Manager DIC Pulwama within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the time frame no objection shall be entertained.
No: DICPL/5-88II/2025/3481
DIPK-11375/24
dated: 29-1-2025
General Manager District Industries Centre, Pulwama

Director SKIMS Unveils 20 Olympus Microscopes

Observer News Service

Srinagar- As a part of commitment to upgrade the infrastructure and facilities at SKIMS, Director SKIMS Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie unveiled 20 Olympus microscopes in the seminar hall of department of pathology SKIMS.

Along with Director SKIMS Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, Dean SKIMS Medical Faculty Prof. Shariq Masoodi and additional director Dr. Firdous Ahmad Giri were also present on the occasion.

The microscopes were procured in record

time and will benefit faculty, residents and the technical staff.

Department of Pathology SKIMS is a high volume centre providing state of art services to the community.

Head of Department of Pathology lauded the efforts of the Director in keeping the interest of the department on a top priority. Director SKIMS appreciated the department for the excellent work and meticulous reporting. The Director promised all help to the department of Pathology for achieving the long desired Digital Pathology services.

INSPIRE Award MANAK 2023-24 Project Competition Held At BHSS Jawahar Nagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar- The District Level INSPIRE Award MANAK 2023-24 Project Competition was successfully organized today at BHSS Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students across various schools.

The event, aimed at fostering innovation and scientific temperament among young minds, saw students presenting their innovative projects across multiple domains, including environmental sustainability, technology, healthcare, and renewable energy. Participants showcased unique models and ideas, reflecting their creativity and problem-solving skills.

The competition is part of the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Award - MANAK initiative, a flagship pro-

gram by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, in collaboration with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF). It encourages students to develop science-based solutions to real-world problems.

Students were required to submit their projects and participate in online activities designed to enhance their learning experience. The best projects from this district-level competition will advance to the state and national-level rounds, providing young innovators a larger platform to present their ideas.

Officials from the education department, science mentors, and jury members assessed the projects based on originality, feasibility, and societal impact. The event also featured interactive sessions, where students gained insights from experts in the field of science and innovation.



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Wildlife Casual Labourers Stage Protest Outside CM's House In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Scores of wildlife casual labourers staged a protest outside the residence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on Wednesday demanding salaries at par with other casual employees.

The protesting labourers later met National Conference President Farooq Abdullah who invited them to Jammu on Monday to settle down the issue with the forest Minister there.

The protesting labourers assembled in front of the residence of Chief Minister at Gupkar Road here and demanded a monthly salary of Rs 9030 at par with the casual labourers of other departments.

The Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was in Jammu.

"We are demanding a regular salary of Rs 9030 as being paid to other casual labourers of other de-



We have not assembled here to stage the protest to demand regularisation of our jobs, but to seek regular monthly disbursement of salary in favour of the Wildlife employees

partments monthly", President of Wild Life Casual Labourers Association Bilal Ahmad Dar told media persons.

"We have not assembled here

to stage the protest to demand regularisation of our jobs, but to seek regular monthly disbursement of salary in favour of the Wildlife employees", Dar said.

The President alleged that the employees of Wildlife are being paid Rs 2000 on the eve of Eid and Holi every year. He said that a delegation of employees met the Forest minister in Srinagar and Jammu recently, and there was no serious response from him.

Dar said that as soon as the protesting employees were detained by the police, National Conference President Farooq Abdullah called them for a meeting which was held on a positive note.

"Farooq Sahab invited us to Jammu on Monday at his residence and assured that he will also call the Forest minister there to settle down the issue", Dar said and added "we are hopeful that our demand would be accepted.

- 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: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 04
ZUHR 12:44
ASR 4: 21
Magrib 5:02
ISHA 7: 26

HIJRI CALENDAR
29 Rajab
1446

This Day In History

- 1018 - The Holy Roman Empire and Poland conclude the Peace of Bautzen
- 1077 - Pope Gregory VII pardons German emperor Henry IV
- 1349 - Gunther of Schwarzburg chosen German anti-king
- 1467 - Battle at Velke Kostolany: Hung king Matyas Corvinus beats Bratric
- 1487 - Bell chimes invented
- 1522 - Duke of Albany takes captured French back to Scotland
- 1607 - Massive flooding in England destroys around 200 square miles of coastline and results in approximately 2,000 casualties
- 1648 - Spain & Netherlands sign Peace of Munster, ending the Thirty Years War
- 1713 - England & Netherlands sign 2nd anti-French boundary treaty
- 1815 - Burned US Library of Congress re-established with Thomas Jefferson's 6,500 volumes
- 1820 - British explorer Edward Bransfield aboard Williams sights Trinity Peninsula, Antarctica, claiming it for Britain
- 1826 - The Menai Suspension Bridge, considered the world's first modern suspension bridge, connecting the Isle of Anglesey to the north West coast of Wales is opened.
- 1862 - USS Monitor, the US Navy's 1st ironclad warship launched
- 1889 - Archduke Crown Prince Rudolf of Austria, heir to the Austro-Hungarian crown, is found dead with his mistress Baroness Mary Vetsera in Mayerling.
- 1894 - Pneumatic hammer patented by Charles King of Detroit
- 1895 - SS Elbe sinks after collision in North Sea, 332 killed
- 1902 - Britain and Japan sign a treaty after months of negotiating which commits each country to supporting an independent China and Korea, although it acknowledges Japan's 'special interest' in Korea

SAD DEMISE

We inform the sad demise of Mohammad Ashraf Sofi R/o Buchwara Dalgate who died on 29-01-2025. His fateh Khawani will be observed on Friday, 31-01-2025 at his ancestral graveyard Maltang Dalgate Srinagar.

BEREAVED FAMILY

IRD

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR
Dated: 30.12.2024
Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak

In the case of:
The J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Air Cargo Srinagar
Through Attorney Holder Javed Ahmad Sheera
.....Plaintiff/ applicant

V/S

- M/S Snober Dry Fruits & Spices through Prop. Snober Sameer W/o Sameer Qadir Sofi R/o: Lane No 13, Near Den School Batmaloo Srinagar
- Rouf Ahmad Jhat S/o: Ghulam Qadir Jhat R/o: Bahshahi Darwaza Makhdoom Sahib Srinagar
- Ghulam Qadir Sofi S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Sofi R/o: 862 Lachmanpora Kalan Khurd S.D Colony Batmaloo Srinagar
- Roshan Ara W/o Javid Rashid Bhat R/o: Kalashpora Naid Kadal Srinagar

...Defendant/ Non-Applcant
In the matter of Substitute service through Publication / Advertisement
Whereas, applicant Bank has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts.
Whereas, notice was issued against non-applcant but services could not be effective due to insufficient / incomplete address.
Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applcant could not be effective in ordinary mode.
Therefore, the non-applcant through the medium of this notice are directed to appear in person or their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e. 12.02.2025

Sd/-
Secretary (Sub Judge)
District Legal Services Authority Srinagar

Office of the Authorized Officer Divisional Forest Officer Jehlum Valley Forest Division Baramulla

NOTICE

It is by medium of this notice hereby informed that the below mentioned cases are under trail as per Section 52-IFA-1927 in the Authorized Court. Now, the hearing of the said cases has been fixed on **05th of February 2025 at 11:00 A.M** in case, anyone having any kind of objection, will produce the same before this Authority on scheduled date and time.

S.No	Type	Registration No	Date of seizure	Seized by	Particulars	Remarks
01	Tata Mobile	JK05G/5482	29.04.2020	SHO Boniyar	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
02	LP Truck	JK02U/3985	27.11.2021	Range Officer Baramulla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
03	Tata Tigo Car	JK05H/1768	27.11.2021	Range Officer Baramulla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
04	Tractor	40955B0554001022 Z25482	30.06.2022	Range Officer Baramulla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
05	Load Carrier	JK05K/6842	18.08.2023	Range Officer FCR Bla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
06	JCB	Modal No TH86	14.12.2023	Range Officer Uri	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
07	Load Carrier	JK08D/9126	24.06.2024	Range Officer Doabgah	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
08	LP Truck	JK02BH/2215	15.01.2023	FPF K-07	Vehicle/Timber under Trail	-
09	Load Carrier	JK05K/3099	12.01.2024	Dy. Director FPF Bla	Vehicle/Timber under Trail	-
10	TATA AC	JK05D/5337	30.06.2017	Dy. Director FPF Bla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
11	Truck	JK02BS/1163	07.08.2017	Dy. Director FPF Bla	Vehicles/timber under trail	-
12	Tata Mobile	JK05B/1315	30.12.2018	Dy. Director FPF Bla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
13	Tata Mobile	JK01N/9626	29.06.2019	Dy. Director FPF Bla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
14	Tata Mobile	JK05/9561	18.08.2020	Dy. Director FPF Bla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
15	Maruti-800	JK05/6225	18.08.2020	Dy. Director FPF Bla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
16	Auto load carrier	JK05D/9640	21.11.2021	Dy Director FPF Bla	Vehicle/timber under trail	-
17	Maruti-800	JK05/6113	27.04.2022	Dy. Director FPF Bla & R.O Doabgah	Vehicle/Timber under Trail	-
18	TATA Mobile	JK09/5435	23.06.2022	FPF K-07 & R.O Bla	Vehicle/Timber under Trail	-
19	TATA Mobile	JK05G/9381	21.06.2024	Range Officer Baramulla	Vehicle/Timber under Trail	-
20	Tata Mobile	JK05B/5512	01.01.2025	Range Officer Doabgah	Vehicle/Timber under Trail	-

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division Baramulla

DIPK-11319/24
dated: 29-01-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct my caste on my Service book records as it has been wrongly mentioned as 'Khan' whileas my actual and correct caste is 'KHAN GOJER'.
If anyone has any objection he/She can contact concerned department within the period of seven days from this date.
Name: Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojer
S/O: Gulzar Ahmad Khan Gojer
R/O: Sumlar Shokbaba Gujarpati Bandipora fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 447313668667 from JAWAHRA to KOUSAR JABEEN . If anybody has any objection n this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained
JABEEN jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 435590257619 from MEHMOONA to MIR ZUBAIDA . If anybody has any objection n this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained
MIR ZUBAIDA jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 350620478018 from RAJA to HANEefa . If anybody has any objection n this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained
HANEefa jvd

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Honouring Preservation and Perseverance

Government of India conferring the Padma Shri to Farooq Ahmad Mir for the preservation of the Kani-shawl art is a step in the right direction



KO VIEW

March In January

Ever since the two weeks of intense cold in December, temperature in Kashmir has fluctuated wildly but has remained largely warm. So much so that January is feeling like March. The weather has largely been sunny and warm yet again in the valley with the day temperature climbing many notches above normal. This is an unusual turn in weather in the region and is attributed to climate change. However, these erratic changes in the temperature aren't just limited to Kashmir, other parts of the country are also experiencing similar changes. The national capital Delhi has also been experiencing unusually warm days. On January 23, the metropolis witnessed the warmest January day in six years at 26.1 degrees Celsius.

The unseasonably warm weather has become now a recurring phenomenon the world over. Last year in April, millions of people across South Asia faced sweltering temperatures. Severe heatwaves in India during this period caused about 110 reported deaths due to heatstroke. The intermittent heatwaves have been a cause of deep concern both globally as well as in South Asia. According to UNICEF, four times as many South Asian children could be exposed to extreme heatwaves in the 2050s. However, frequent warm weather in the cold regions like Kashmir should be of even greater concern. This is a serious development as the rise in temperature could lead to early melting of snow in high altitudes. The onset of early warmth could thus potentially disrupt our agriculture as it will elsewhere in the country and the world.

One can only hope that this year doesn't become a repeat of the last year. In 2024, Kashmir had a surprisingly warm March and April, the two months which otherwise used to be drenched in rain and the consequent cold. India and Pakistan suffered extreme heatwaves. The unusual rise in temperature across the globe has already caused deep concern about the creeping climate change, which is changing the nature of the seasons. Though this should cause alarm, it isn't. Or at least to the extent where it could matter. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh between them are home to around 1.7 billion people and any disruption in the climate pattern could severely impact them. So, the three countries, as well as other countries in the region need to wake up and work toward a global response to the looming catastrophe. But the factors causing climate change are global in nature and so any effort to reverse the damage has to be backed by the world. And this should be done sooner than later. The time is running out fast.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Finally, Farooq Ahmad Mir, an unsung hero of Kashmir, has been conferred with the Padma Shri award for his work in the promotion of Kani-shawl at both the national and international levels. The work of this reputed weaver was recognized after almost 60 years, even though he was felicitated in the past by the Prime Minister in 2015. This author wrote about his work last year in June when Srinagar was recognized as a World Craft City by the renowned international organization, the World Craft Council. The Ministry of Home Affairs made an announcement about the 2025 Padma awardees on January 25, 2025, and Farooq Ahmad Mir's name appeared on this list.

working on handlooms at 14, supporting his father and uncle. Farooq Ahmad Mir has been passionate about his craft since his youth, which led him to become one of the finest weavers of locally woven shawls and to develop rare skills in creating Pashmina and Kani shawl masterpieces. Although he couldn't attend school, he worked hard to send his younger siblings to school, including three brothers and two sisters. Over his 60-year career, Farooq Ahmad Mir has directly taught almost 350 artisans and indirectly passed on the skill of Kani shawl making to thousands of weavers. In the past two to three decades, handmade goods have seen high demand in international markets, and Farooq Ahmad Mir was one of the pioneers who helped preserve, protect, and propagate this heritage. He not only saved this legacy but also passed it on to his three sons—Majid Mir, Altaf Mir, and Fayaz Mir—who are all experienced Kani shawl weavers and national awardees.

try of Textiles) and was awarded the Sant Kabir Award in 2014, which was presented to him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 during a grand function in Chennai.

Struggle of Kashmiri Artisans Recognized

While Farooq Ahmad Mir was conferred with the Padma Shri Award in 2025, recognizing his work over the past six decades, the struggle of Kashmiri artisans is also being acknowledged by both the Government of India and the Jammu & Kashmir Government. Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat from Sonpah, Beerwah, and Mushtaq Ahmad Khan from Badamwari Srinagar were nominated for State Awards by the J&K Government for their contributions to Sozni and Kani shawl weaving. The Director of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat ul Islam, recently praised all the awardees for bringing laurels to Kashmir's Handicrafts and Handloom sector. He personally visited Farooq Ahmad Mir's house to congratulate him. LG Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah also praised the efforts of Farooq Ahmad Mir and other artisans.

Conclusion

The Kani shawls and other handloom products made by Farooq Ahmad Mir and his sons Majid, Altaf, and Fayaz are not only sold in the national market but also have international buyers, including the Ambani family. Unfortunately, our art is being hijacked by vested interests who sell machine-made products as Kashmiri handwoven items. Farooq Ahmad Mir, his sons, and many local handicraft businessmen like Manzoor Wangnoo have been vocal about this issue. They have raised concerns, but the government has yet to address this matter seriously. I appreciate the Government of India for conferring the Padma Shri to Farooq Ahmad Mir and the J&K Government for nominating other artisans for state awards. I am confident this recognition will mobilize and motivate those artisans and weavers who feel they are being pushed to the wall, boosting their morale and encouraging them to continue their trade and elevate it in the coming years and decades.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is Chairman & Founder of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement

About the Padma Awards

The Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian awards in the country, are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. The awards are given in various disciplines/fields, including art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of a high order; and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day each year and conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions held at Rashtrapati Bhawan, usually around March or April. For 2025, the President approved the conferment of 139 Padma Awards: 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards. The list includes 23 women, 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, and 13 posthumous awardees.

Who is Farooq Ahmad Mir?

Farooq Ahmad Mir is a 6th-generation artisan from Srinagar's downtown, who moved to Srinagar's uptown Natipora around 12 years ago. He was born in 1953 in the Khaiwan Narwara area of Srinagar's old city. His father, Ghulam Mohammad Mir, was a noted pashmina shawl weaver, and his family has been involved in this art for five generations. Farooq Ahmad Mir was born into a poor weaver's family. He did not receive formal education, which was a distant dream for many people associated with Kashmir's art and crafts at that time. He learned shawl weaving from a young age and began

“Unfortunately, our art is being hijacked by vested interests who sell machine-made products as Kashmiri handwoven items. Farooq Ahmad Mir, his sons, and many local handicraft businessmen like Manzoor Wangnoo have been vocal about this issue. They have raised concerns, but the government has yet to address this matter seriously”



Did You Know?

A Guide for Beginners on How to Avoid Losing Money

Irshad Mushtaq

Trading in the stock market can seem enticing, especially for newcomers who believe that buying and selling shares is an easy way to make money. However, without proper knowledge and tools, many traders—particularly beginners—often end up losing money. Here's a closer look at the common mistakes made by traders, focusing on the two main trading styles: intraday trading and longer-term investing.

Intraday Trading vs. Long-Term Investing

Intraday trading involves buying and selling shares within the same day, aiming to profit from short-term price fluctuations. On the other hand, long-term investing means purchasing stocks and holding them for an extended period—weeks, months, or even years—hoping to benefit from their overall growth. New traders often underestimate the complexity of these strategies, mistakenly believing that trading requires little effort or knowledge.

Common Mistakes Made by Traders

1. Overconfidence and Lack of Research

New traders may exhibit overconfidence in their abilities. They often jump into trades without conducting thorough research or analysis on the stocks they are buying or selling. This lack of understanding can lead to poor decisions and losses.

2. Emotional Trading

Fear and greed are powerful emotions that affect many traders. When prices fluctuate, traders may panic or become overly excited, leading to impulsive decisions. Emotional trading often results in buying high and selling low, which is counterproductive.

3. Failure to Use Technical Analysis

Many beginners overlook the importance of technical analysis. This practice helps traders understand price movements, trends, and potential entries and exits. Without the proper analysis, trades become more about guesswork than informed decisions.

4. Ignoring Diversification

Relying too heavily on one stock or sector can be risky. Many traders fail to diversify their portfolios, which increases their exposure to market downturns. Diversifying investments across different stocks and sectors can help mitigate risks.

5. Poor Money Management

Managing your money effectively is crucial in trading. Traders often ignore setting stop-loss orders or risk management strategies. Poor money management can quickly lead to excessive losses that may be hard to recover from.

Read the full article on our website: <https://kashmiobserver.net>
Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepreneur & Founder of MTI Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at miscurities@bp.sharekhan.com

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not offer investment advice. It's not an endorsement or an offer to buy or sell any financial products. If you decide to act on the information here, you do so at your own risk

Money Mule

A Dimwit Sold in His Own Territory

Sheikh Nissar

Haste to be rich is a great danger. It tempts a person to think of shortcuts, whether in the form of an opportunity or a scam. The tendency to take shortcuts is influenced by the content you consume and the people you associate with. In reality, shortcuts usually lead to disappointments and may land you in trouble that is too big to handle. Yes, everyone aims to make money in the easiest and fastest way possible, but the advice found on social media tempts people to follow a licentious path. Shortcuts to making millions is a fairy tale untrue in any world. The best financial shortcut is to understand that there is no fancy shortcut.

The shift of banking to digital channels has led to an epidemic of scams. From stealing modest sums a few years ago to now being part of a well-established network executing major frauds, scammers are using both human resources and technology to cheat people. Investigators have revealed that scammers are using never-before-seen capabilities of artificial intelligence to dupe individuals, thus shaking public trust in institutions. In order to avoid detection and conceal the origin of their illicit funds, criminals are using sophisticated methods to spread stolen money across a huge array of digital wallets and bank accounts, making it almost impossible for law enforcement to trace the origin of the funds. Once the funds are received from victims' accounts, the scammers transfer the illicit funds into an individual's account, creating a cascade of fund transfers that makes the transaction appear legitimate. They exploit the bank accounts of vulnerable individuals by offering small sums of money or commissions to acquire access to these accounts, using them as a conduit for transferring the stolen money. Hence, a money mule is born.

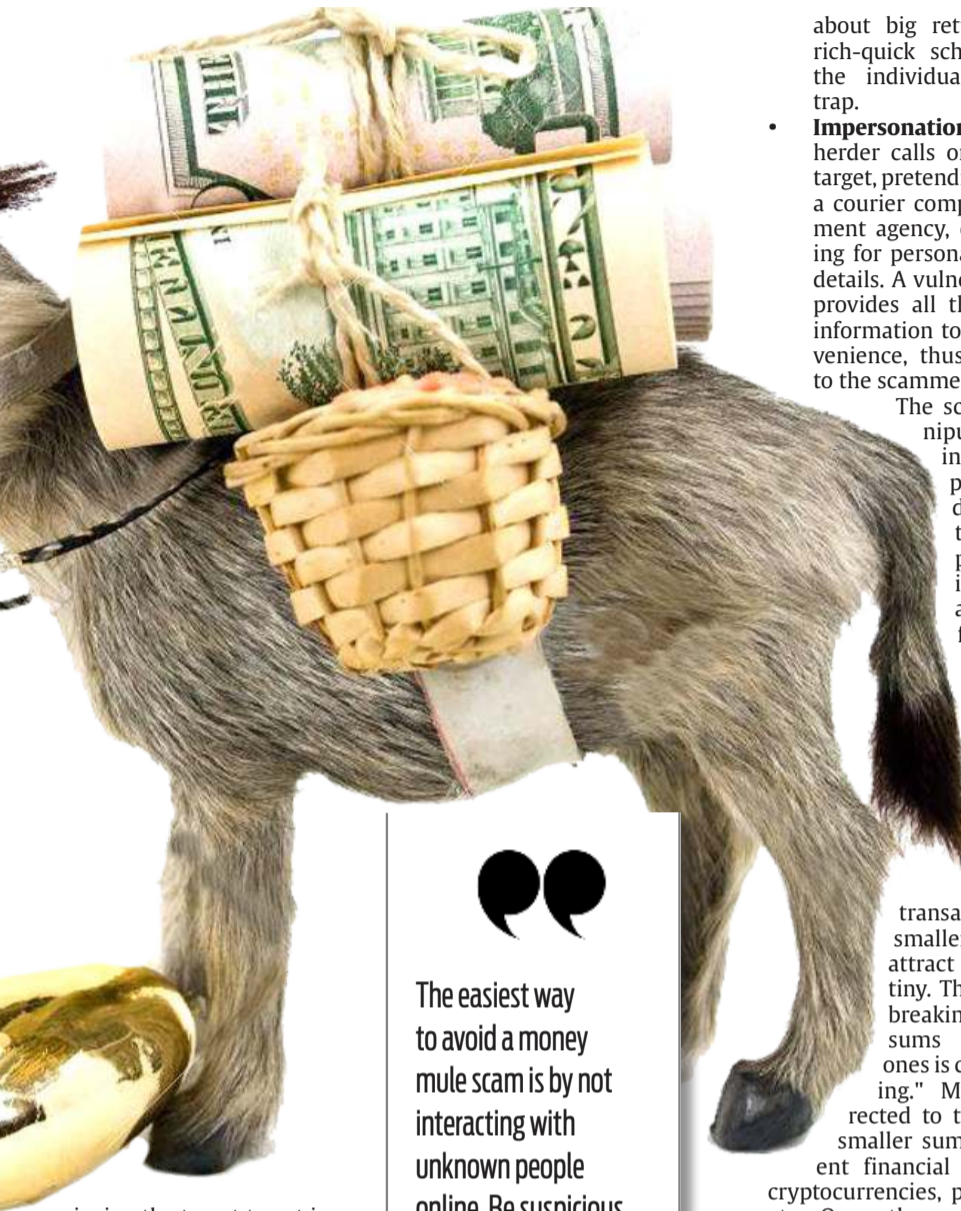
A money mule is a person who knowingly or, in certain cases, unknowingly helps criminals

launder their illicit or stolen money by providing their own account or digital wallet to receive or transfer funds. There are three types of money mules: unwitting or unknowing, witting, and complicit. An "un-

witting money mule" is a person who is unintentionally part of a larger money laundering scheme. Similarly, a "witting money mule" is someone who is willfully blind to or ignores obvious red flags. A "complicit money mule" is intentionally involved in moving illicit profits and is aware of their role. The accounts used by criminals or fraudsters to launder illicit funds are called money accounts. Those controlling the network are commonly referred to as money mule "herders," "controllers," or "recruiters."

How are Money Mules Recruited?

Money mule recruitment is a combination of manipulation and greed. Some individuals are lured with promises of financial gains or commissions for services rendered, while others are motivated by trust or solicited via online scams. For example, a money mule may be an agent or victim. Some people even fall prey to romantic relationships where the other party asks for help. Scammers reach out to vulnerable individuals through emails, chat rooms, job offering sites, or blogs, con-



The easiest way to avoid a money mule scam is by not interacting with unknown people online. Be suspicious of anyone who wants to use your bank account for inflows and outflows of funds. Similarly, never give your financial information to anyone you don't know or trust

vincing the target to get involved. The money mules are recruited in the following ways:

- **Job Scams:** Criminals contact job seekers, offering them positions even though they have never applied for the job.
- **Romance Scam:** A herder, often impersonating as a female, connects with a mule through social media or a dating platform, trapping them with romantic chats.
- **Investment Scams:** A recruiter sends messages

about big returns or get-rich-quick schemes, luring the individual into their trap.

• **Impersonation Scam:** A herder calls or messages a target, pretending to be from a courier company, government agency, or bank, asking for personal or banking details. A vulnerable person provides all their personal information to avoid inconvenience, thus falling prey to the scammers.

The scammers manipulate people into making payments under the pretext of fake promises or impersonation. Once funds are received, fraudsters advise mules to break down large sums received in their accounts into smaller

transactions, as smaller amounts attract less scrutiny. This method of breaking down large sums into smaller ones is called "smurfing." Mules are directed to transfer these smaller sums into different financial systems like cryptocurrencies, prepaid cards, etc. Once the mule transfers the funds, the money is further split up and transferred through multiple currencies and financial institutions until it reaches a fraudster via a shell company. By involving multiple currencies and financial institutions, the process of layering complicates the money trail and shields the fraudsters behind several layers of transactions.

How to Avoid Being a Money Mule

The easiest way to avoid a

money mule scam is by not interacting with unknown people online. Be suspicious of anyone who wants to use your bank account for inflows and outflows of funds. Similarly, never give your financial information to anyone you don't know or trust. If you are seeking a job, make sure to thoroughly research and verify the legitimacy of the company offering the position before accepting the offer. Never accept a job that requires your bank account to carry out transactions on behalf of your employer. If you suspect you have been used as a mule, cease all communications and report it to your bank and the authorities.

Money mules are not often caught, but the risk of getting caught is increasing every day as authorities deploy AI-based anti-fraud technology, such as MuleHunter.ai. Many times, mules are caught due to their suspicious activity. If a person is convicted of being a money mule, they will face punishment as well as penalties. A mule may still be found complicit in a money laundering scheme even if they weren't aware of how their bank account was being used. Serving as a money mule can also damage your credit and financial strength. Unfortunately, a mule risks having their own personal information stolen and used by the criminals they are working for, and they may be held liable for repaying the money lost by the victims.

The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the apex bank, has introduced an innovative artificial intelligence-based model called "MuleHunter.ai" to identify suspected mule accounts. MuleHunter.ai will detect fraudulent transactions by analyzing transaction patterns in real time, allowing banks and financial institutions to promptly detect and respond to suspicious activities.

The author can be reached for feedback at: shykh.nissar@outlook.com

DeepSeek: The Chinese AI App That Has The World Talking

Kelly Ng

Brandon Drenon

Tom Gerken

Marc Cieslak

Chinese-made artificial intelligence (AI) model called DeepSeek has shot to the top of Apple Store's downloads, stunning investors and sinking some tech stocks.

Its latest version was released on 20 January, quickly impressing AI experts before it got the attention of the entire tech industry - and the world.

US President Donald Trump said it was a "wake-up call" for US companies who must focus on "competing to win".

What makes DeepSeek so special is the company's claim that it was built at a fraction of the cost of industry-leading models like OpenAI - because it uses fewer advanced chips.

That possibility caused chip-making giant Nvidia to shed almost \$600bn (£482bn) of its market value on Monday - the biggest one-day loss in US history.

DeepSeek also raises questions about Washington's efforts to contain Beijing's push for tech supremacy, given that one of its key restrictions has been a ban on the export of advanced chips to China.

Beijing, however, has doubled down, with President Xi Jinping declaring AI a top priority. And start-ups like DeepSeek are crucial as China pivots from traditional manufacturing such as clothes and furniture to advanced tech - chips, electric vehicles and AI.

So what do we know about DeepSeek?

What is artificial intelligence?

AI can, at times, make a computer seem like a person.

A machine uses the technology to learn and solve problems, typically by being trained on massive amounts of information and recognising patterns.

The end result is software that can have conversations like a person or predict people's shopping habits.

In recent years, it has become best known as the tech behind chatbots such as ChatGPT - and DeepSeek - also known as generative AI.

These programs again learn from huge swathes of data, including online text and images, to be able to make new content.

But these tools can create falsehoods and often repeat the biases contained within their training data.

Millions of people use tools such as ChatGPT to help them with everyday tasks like writing emails, summarising text, and answering questions - and others even use them to help with basic coding and studying.

What is DeepSeek?

DeepSeek is the name of a free AI-powered chatbot, which looks, feels and works very much like ChatGPT.

That means it's used for many of the same tasks, though exactly how well it works compared to its rivals is up for debate.

It is reportedly as powerful as OpenAI's o1 model - released at the end of last year

- in tasks including mathematics and coding.

Like o1, R1 is a "reasoning" model. These models produce responses incrementally, simulating a process similar to how humans reason through problems or ideas. It uses less memory than its rivals, ultimately reducing the cost to perform tasks.

Like many other Chinese AI models - Baidu's Ernie or Doubao by ByteDance - DeepSeek is trained to avoid politically sensitive questions.

When the BBC asked the app what happened at Tiananmen Square on 4 June 1989, DeepSeek did not give any details about the massacre, a taboo topic in China.

It replied: "I am sorry, I cannot answer that question. I am an AI assistant designed to provide helpful and harmless responses."

Chinese government censorship is a huge challenge for its AI aspirations internationally. But DeepSeek's base model appears to have been trained via accurate sources while introducing a layer of censorship or withholding certain information via an additional safeguarding layer.

DeepSeek says it has been able to do this cheaply - researchers behind it claim it cost \$6m (£4.8m) to train, a fraction of the "over \$100m" alluded to by OpenAI boss Sam Altman when discussing GPT-4.

DeepSeek's founder reportedly built up a store of Nvidia A100 chips, which have been banned from export to China since September 2022.

Some experts believe this



DEEPSEEK ALSO RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT WASHINGTON'S efforts to contain Beijing's push for tech supremacy, given that one of its key restrictions has been a ban on the export of advanced chips to China

collection - which some estimates put at 50,000 - led him to build such a powerful AI model, by pairing these chips with cheaper, less sophisticated ones.

The same day DeepSeek's AI assistant became the most-downloaded free app on Apple's App Store in the US, it was hit with "large-scale malicious attacks", the company said, causing the company to temporarily limit registrations.

It was also hit by outages on its website on Monday.

Who is behind DeepSeek?

DeepSeek was founded in December 2023 by Liang Wenfeng, and released its first AI large language model the following year.

Not much is known about Liang, who graduated from Zhejiang University with degrees in electronic information engineering and computer science. But he now finds himself in the international spotlight.

He was recently seen at a meeting hosted by China's premier Li Qiang, reflecting DeepSeek's growing prominence in the AI industry.

Unlike many American AI entrepreneurs who are from Silicon Valley, Mr Liang also has a background in finance.

He is the CEO of a hedge fund called High-Flyer, which uses AI to analyse financial data to make investment decisions - what is called quantitative trading. In 2019 High-Flyer became the first quant hedge fund in China to raise over 100 billion yuan (\$13m).

In a speech he gave that year, Liang said, "If the US can develop its quantitative trading sector, why not China?"

In a rare interview last year, he said China's AI sector "cannot remain a follower forever".

He went on: "Often, we say there's a one or two-year gap between Chinese and American AI, but the real gap is between originality and imitation. If this doesn't change, China will always be a follower."

Asked why DeepSeek's model surprised so many in Silicon Valley, he said: "Their surprise stems from seeing a Chinese company join their game as an innovator,

not just a follower - which is what most Chinese firms are accustomed to."

Australia's science minister has raised some doubts over the security of the app.

"There are a lot of questions that will need to be answered in time on quality, consumer preferences, data and privacy management," Ed Husic told ABC.

"I would be very careful about that. These type of issues need to be weighed up carefully."

How are US companies like Nvidia hit?

DeepSeek's achievements undercut the belief that bigger budgets and top-tier chips are the only ways of advancing AI, a prospect which has created uncertainty about the future of high-performance chips.

"DeepSeek has proven that cutting-edge AI models can be developed with limited compute resources," says Wei Sun, principal AI analyst at Counterpoint Research.

"In contrast, OpenAI, valued at \$157 billion, faces scrutiny over its ability to maintain a dominant edge in innovation or justify its massive valuation and expenditures without delivering significant returns."

The company's possibly lower costs roiled financial markets on 27 January, leading the tech-heavy Nasdaq to fall more than 3% in a broad sell-off that included chip makers and data centres around the world.

Nvidia appears to have been hit the worst as its stock price plunged 17% on Monday before slowly begin-

ning to recover on Tuesday, roughly 4% by midday.

The chip maker had been the most valuable company in the world, when measured by market capitalisation, but fell to third place after Apple and Microsoft on Monday, when its market value shrank to \$2.9tn from \$3.5tn, Forbes reported.

DeepSeek is a privately owned company, which means investors cannot buy shares of stock on any of the major exchanges.

China is celebrating DeepSeek's impact

DeepSeek's rise is a huge boost for the Chinese government, which has been seeking to build tech independent of the West.

While the Communist Party is yet to comment, Chinese state media was eager to note that Silicon Valley and Wall Street giants were "losing sleep" over DeepSeek, which was "overturning" the US stock market.

"In China, DeepSeek's advances are being celebrated as a testament to the country's growing technological prowess and self-reliance," says Marina Zhang, an associate professor at the University of Technology Sydney.

"The company's success is seen as a validation of China's Innovation 2.0, a new era of homegrown technological leadership driven by a younger generation of entrepreneurs."

But she also warned that this sentiment may also lead to "tech isolationism".

The article was originally published by BBC



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