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O Vintage Mall, 2nd floor Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

This cutting-edge technology effectively reduces dark spots, melasma, and sun damage, revealing a radiant complexion with minimal downtime



MYSTERY ILLNESS IN RAJOURI

No New Case Reported In 6 Days

C+91-9797703533

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**

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

Higher Reaches Receive Light Snowfall

fter a prolonged dry spell in Jammu and Kashmir, the light snowfall was exand Kashmir, the light shows a specially perienced 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 (SKUAST-K) Kashmir 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

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.

related to Jammu and Kashmir

and the Muslim community in

the country.

January 24.

They also discussed issues

Mirwaiz is in Delhi since he

met the Joint Parliamentary

Committee on Wakf Bill on

The sources said the two

political leaders, belonging to

opposite shades of the politi-

cal spectrum, had more than

an hour long interaction over

a wide range of issues includ-

ing the situation in Jammu

and Kashmir post abroga-

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

ed about the Waqf amend-

ment bill, plight of Muslims

in the country, the situation in

Kashmir post August 5, 2019,

and range of other issues," the

Mirwaiz admitted that the

NC leader had met him in the

former's capacity of being the

visit me. He is in Delhi for the

parliament session and it was a

Ruhullah and Mirwaiz also

While Ruhullah participated

in the protest against the exist-

ing reservation policy outside the

residence or Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah, Mirwaiz had announced

talked about the issues of

vouth of I&K as well as the row

courtesy call to me as Mirwaiz.

the religious leader said.

over reservation policy.

his support for the protest.

"Yes, he (Mehdi) came to

political prisoners.

sources added.

chief preacher.

Centre Plans Ropeway For Amarnath Yatra



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 under-

take 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 narliamentary 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 (IPC) on the Wagf (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

YOU HAVE VIOLATED OUR RIGHTS GRANTED under Article 26 of the Constitution. You talked about Uniform Civil Code, but there are Hindu Endowment Board, Sikh Boards, Christian boards which do not have non-Hindus, non-Sikhs, and non-Christians as members. But why does this not extend to Muslims?"

tion of Article 370, restoration The MP's move had drawn of statehood and release of sharp reactions | More on P6

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

formation has propabeen gated by the online portal www. bika.co.in, lead-

ing to significant confusion among the job seekers. The NHM J&K has in-

formed 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

upon the candidates to disregard false announcements and ignore any unverified

ing JKNHM CHO recruitment circulating on social media or through unof-

ficial 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**

Ruhullah Meets Mirwaiz,

Discusses Waqf Bill

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

Coffers Empty But FM Assured Support: CM

Kashmir Government

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



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)."

he Simultaneously, 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

CHO Recruitment 2024 This misin-

and misleading. The Mission has urged

claims



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 registar birth BDO Khore Sherabad submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Jan Mohmad Tantry s/o Abdul Hamid Tantry R/o Sheerpora bangil Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of hirth 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.

FKO

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Murtaza Muneer while his correct name is Mohammad Agib Khan which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any obiection 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

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

NAME RAIES AHMAD SHAH S/OABDUL RASHID SHAH

R/O WATERGAM WAGORA BARAMULLA

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Palhallan

Subject Application of Javid Ahmad Teli, Rayees Rashid Teli S/o Ab Rashid Teli R/o Sheerbugh Sultanpora Khoie 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 patwai halga concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant in currently residing in village Sheerbugh Sultanpora Khoje and belongs to the Teli Community . The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

	Name of the Member	familyRelationship with the Fam-		Occupa- tion
		ilv Head		
01	Ab Rashid Teli		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 deys (Seven days J positively from the date the notice has been published No objection shall be entertained alter the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar

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

Public at huge Mohmmad Yousuf Dar S/o Mohmmad Ismail Dar R/o Ulbugh Nowgam, Anantnag

Versus Public at Large ..Opponer

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 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 interesting 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

Chamber 38 Dist. Court Ang Phone 8899973698.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name and DOB of my Son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Mohd Younis instead of Mohammad Younus 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 Bairan

F/o Mohammad Younus Bairan fko R/o Kathohalan Shopian

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION ANANTNAG,

H/Q AWANTIPORA. CORRIGENDUM

Installation of 15 cusec VT pumping unit (stand by unit along withmounting structure at LIS Semthan

Total length of column pipe including bowl assembly upto sole plate = 7 Mtr

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

CORRIGENDUM

Less than or equal 1480 RPM

Greater than or Equal 78%

78%

Jal Shakti Deptt Mech. Irri, Div., Anantnag

sd/= Executive Engineer.

H.O. Awantipora

1480 RPM

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 Javeed Ahmad Sheera

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

> 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 Javeed Ahmad Sheera Applicant

- Ms. Snober Sameer W/o: Sameer Qadir Sofi R/o: Lane No. 13 Near Eder School Batmaloo Srinagar .. Defendant
- Rouf Ah. Khan S/o: Yar Mohammad Khan
- R/o: Chandoosa Baramulla Mushtag 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 thority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts. Whereas, notice was issued against non-applicant 1 and 3

incomplete address. Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the ndersigned that service of non-applicant No. 1 and 3 could not

out services could not be effective due to insufficient /

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

The particulars of my son has been wrongly written in his school records as

	Incorrect	Correct
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

Public Notice

Mother of Azhar Mustafa R/o Baghwanpora Lalbazar Srinagar

NEW ISLAMIA MODEL SCHOOL PALHALLAN

list of officials in Managing Body

S. n o	Name	Parentage	Address	Phone	Occupation	Status	Sex	Adhaar No.
i	GHULAM NABI WAR		PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9858472883	Business- man	Chairman	M	831905908410
2	ROUF AHMAD TANTARAY	ABDUL RASHID TANTARY	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	8899495011		Secretary	М	581171189817
3	MOHAMMAD SHABAN BHAT		PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9070000152	Carpenter	Member	М	759685444589
4	AIJAZ AHMAD GANAIE	AH MOHAMMAD GANAIE	TAPPER WARI- PORA, PATTAN	9622456745	Pvt. School Teacher	Member	М	487955613272
5	PEER GHULAM JEELANI	PEER GHULAM MOHI UDIN	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9419074777	Business- man	Member	M	313056830042
6	MOHAMMAD ISHAO MALIK	MOHAMMAD SHAFI MALIK	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9906535185	Pvt. School Teacher	Member	М	877004404887
7	SAIMA JAN	GHULAM MOHAMMAD W/O IRSHAD AHMAD BHAT	PALHALLAN, PATTAN	9103662870	House Wife	Member	F	919728166892
								FKO_r

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MACHINERY DIVISION KASHMIR, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, KASHMIR.

No MIDA/3049-55

DIPK-11371/24

REFERNACE:

E NIT NO21OF2022-23 Dated:16.01.2025

Pump/Motor speed -----

Pump/Motor speed -----

Pump Efficiency-

Further it is to clarify that

Date:29-01-2025

Pump Efficiency at Duty Point

Please read:

Instead of:

Please read:

Instead of:

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@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: -Previous Dates **Extended Dates** Description 01. Last date of downloading/ 28-01-2025 upto 06:55 06-02-2025 upto 06:55 submission of bids 07-02-2025 at 02:00PM 02. Date of opening of bids online 29-01-2025 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

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NO: T-1/EEA/9210-15

Email:rbdivisionawantipora@gmail.com **EXTENSION CORRIGENDUM**

Dated: 27/01/2025

Subject:-S.No. Name of Work Augmentation and Consolidation of S.C Unit at Wuyan Pampore Pulwama. (Constt. Of Water Harvesting Tank)

Reference: 1.E-NIT No: 123/EEA/RNB/Of 2024-25/8820-30

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:

Dated 16/01/2025

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

dated: 29-01-2025 DIPK-11344/24

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

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/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works

S.	.No	Name of Work			Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of	Date & Time of	
				Challan (in Rs.)		E-Tender.	Opening of bid	tor
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 & Renova- tion Works in Different Departments at Naseem Bagh Campus.		Rs. 1100/-	77,020/-	30-01-2025 to 17-02- 2025 (6.00 PM)		"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

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.

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 (IN-SPIRE) Award - MANAK initiative, a flagship program 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 as-

sembled 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 me-

"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: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

RAILWAYS



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

5:02 Magrib **ISHA** 7:26

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
- Mátyás Corvinus beats Bratrici 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 reestablished 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

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR

BEREAVED FAMILY

We inform the sad demise of Mohammad Ashraf

2025. His fateh Khawani will be observed on Friday,

Sofi R/o Buchwara Dalgate who died on 29-01-

31-01-2025 at his ancestral graveyard Maltang

SAD DEMISE

Dated: 30.12.2024 Present: Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak

IRD

In the case of:

Dalgate Srinagar.

The J&K Bank Ltd B/u: Air Cargo Srinagar Through Attorney Holder Javeed Ahmad SheeraPlaintiff/applicant

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 Batamaloo Srinagar
- Roshan Ara W/o Javaid Rashid Bhat R/o: Kalashpora Naid Kadal Srinagar

...Defendant/ 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

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

> 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

S.No	Туре	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 ZZ5482	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	§K09/5435	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	

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

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

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 fko

S/O: Gulzar Ahmad Khan Goier

R/O: Sumlar Shokbaba Gujarpati Bandipora

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

jvd

HANEEFA

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🔪 KO VIEW

March In January

ver 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



Did You Know?

A Guide for Beginners on How to Avoid Losing Money

Irshad Mushtaq

rading in the stock market can seem enticing, especially for new-comers 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

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

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. Failure to Use Technical Analysis

Many beginners overlook the importance of technical analysis. This practice helps traders understand price movements, trends, and potential en-

tries and exits. Without the proper analysis, trades become more abou guesswork than informed decisions. 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 sector

can help mitigate risks. Poor Money Management Managing your money effectively is crucial in trading. Traders often ignore setting stop-loss orders or risk management strategies. Poor money manage

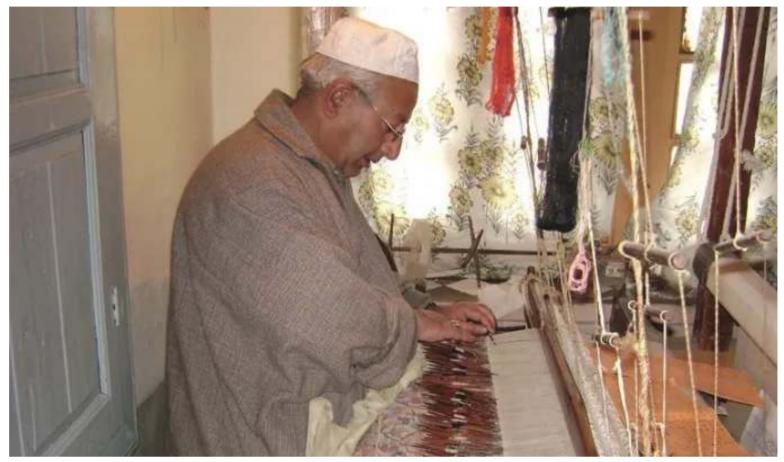
ment can quickly lead to excessive losses that may be hard to recover from.

Read the full article on our website: https://kashmirobserver.net Learn from the insights of @Irshad Mushtaq, Writer, Investor, Entrepre neur & Founder of M I Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at

misecurities@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,

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





Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Unfortunately,

hijacked by vested

interests who sell

handwoven items.

Faroog Ahmad Mir,

his sons, and many

local handicraft

have been vocal

about this issue.

They have raised

concerns, but the

government has

matter seriously

yet to address this

businessmen like

Manzoor Wangnoo

products as Kashmiri

machine-made

our art is being

inally, 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

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 6thgeneration 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 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 Faroog 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.

Mir: A Sant Kabir Awardee

Farooq Ahmad Mir has worked passionately to keep the Kani shawl art form alive. He empowered hundreds of young men and women, enabling them to earn their livelihood through this art. The weavers of Kanihama in Budgam had kept the Kani shawl tradition alive for years, and that is why the village is known as Kanihama. Srinagar also had reputed Kani shawl artisans, but by the late 1980s, the art began to decline. Mir took the initiative to introduce new designs and trained many people in Srinagar's downtown, including his sons. He never urged his sons to pursue government or private jobs, but instead guided them to learn this art. Farooq sahib had been awarded in the past but always remained a low-profile figure. with little media coverage of his work. I came into contact with him through his son, Fayaz, whom I have known for the last 15 years. When I saw Fayaz and his brothers working on their Kani looms, I was amazed by their skills. I began sharing their work with my friends and family. Fayaz told me that his guru was his father, which further facilitated my understanding. Farooq Ahmad Mir was conferred with a National Award in 2007, the Thakur Ved Ram National Award in 2011-2012, the Kamala Award (Shanta Prasad Award) in 2018, and the prestigious State Award for excellence in Arts & Crafts in 2019. He was also the recipient of the National Award in Kani Shawl art from the Govern-

ment of India (under the Minis-

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

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 w 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 Faroog 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 vears 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

Money Mule

A Dimwit Sold in His Own Territory

Sheikh Nissar

aste 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

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

launder their illicit or stolen about big returns or getrich-quick schemes, luring money by providing their own account or digital wallet to receive or transfer trap. funds. There are three types of money mules: unwitting or unknowing, witting, and complicit. An "unwitting money mule" is a person who is un-

intentionally 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 mule accounts. Those controlling the network are commonly referred to as money mule "herders," "controllers," or mule "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-

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

the individual into their **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 ma-

> nipulate people into making payments under the pretext of fake promises or i m p e r s o n ation. Once funds received, fraudsters advise mules to break down large sums received in their accounts into smaller transactions,

> > 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

smaller

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

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 antifraud technology, such as Mule-Hunter.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 intelligencebased 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

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

DeepSeek: The Chinese AI App That Has The World Talking

The easiest way

to avoid a money

interacting with

unknown people

to use your bank

and outflows of

account for inflows

funds. Similarly, never

information to anyone

you don't know or trust

give your financial

online. Be suspicious

of anyone who wants

mule scam is by not

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 oneday 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 ques-

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



ALSO RAISES OUESTIONS 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 "largescale malicious attacks", the company said, causing the company to temporary 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 decisons - 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 ques-

tions 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 highperformance 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 beginning 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

J&K Bank Launches Interactive Signages To Enhance Customer Experience

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant step towards enhancing customer experience, J&K Bank on Wednesday launched Interactive Signages at its Corporate Headquarters.

MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee inaugurated the Interactive Signages in presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers, DGMs and other senior officials. With 100 branches already equipped with these self-service terminals, the initiative marks the

completion of Phase 1 of the project. The Bank will extend this facility to more branches in the subsequent phases of implementation.

Speaking at the inauguration, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "India has witnessed an unparalleled digital transformation in banking over the past five years, and at J&K Bank, we are committed to lead this evolution in our areas of operations. The introduction of these interactive digital signages is another step in this direction - serving as a one-stop digital touch point for



empowering customers with vital banking information mandatory for regulatory compliance, grievance redressal mechanisms, product details and as a strong platform for financial education."

"With customer feedback as the bedrock of our service enhancement strategy, these signages will provide invaluable insights directly from our branches. And given their interactive nature, we will continue to enrich their interface, ensuring our customers experience a seamless and fully digital banking journey", he added.

DGM (BPR/IT) Mohammad Muzafar Wani gave a detailed overview of the project on the occasion.

Notably, designed to streamline customer interactions, the Interactive Signages will serve as digital kiosks offering a wide range of banking services. These self-service terminals will not only provide customers with quick and convenient access to essential banking information but also aim to reduce waiting times at branches.

Besides displaying essential banking information, the touchscreen kiosks offer multiple

interactive features, including comprehensive notice board covering customer service details, service charges and grievance redressal; products & services to provide insights into the Bank's offerings; Government-Sponsored Schemes for financial inclusion; internet banking guidance and access; customer feedback to improve service quality; branch & ATM locator for easy navigation; disputed digital transactions resolution mechanism; loyalty rewards information and Bill Payment Services for seamless transactions.

CONTD. FROM **PAGE 1**

Early Flower

have been increasing during the autumn and winter months," said Professor Shakil Romshoo, renowned earth scientist and Vice Chancellor, Islamic University Of Science and Technology (IUST).

"However, over the past four years, we have observed a significant rise in temperatures during these seasons. February, which used to be a cold month, has been notably warmer in the last three to four years. This year, starting from the third week of January, we are experiencing unusually warm conditions, with temperatures rising by 6 to 7 degrees Celsius. This is why we are seeing flowers bloom early in January."

Romshoo highlighted that this trend is part of a larger issue related to climate change, which disrupts the natural blooming cycle. "Blooming typically occurs in March or April, but now it begins in February, which disrupts this cycle. Late snow or rain following early blooms can often damage the flowers, putting plants like cherry blossoms at a greater risk of being adversely affected by unpredictable weather patterns," he explained.

The repercussions go beyond just flowers. Reduced snowfall during winter, a characteristic of Kashmir's climate, has significant effects on both tourism and agriculture.

As Romshoo stated, "We predicted this impact on winter tourism over 15 years ago. Addressing climate change requires global cooperation, but local actions are equally vital. Afforestation, improved public transportation, and a reduction in fossil fuel usage are essential steps to mitigate these impacts."

Dr. Tariq Rasool, an Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at SKUAST Kashmir, has been researching the effects of rising winter temperatures on plant life for over 15 years.

He has observed that warmer winters are altering the growth patterns of apple trees and other crops. "For example, in apple trees, the first stage—called the 'green stage'—typically occurs in late March, followed by flowering in the first week of April. However, as temperatures rise, these stages can happen 10 to 15 days earlier," Dr. Tariq explained.

Although early blooming has not yet caused significant damage to crops, extended warming could lead to greater issues.

"If temperatures drop in March or April, plant development will halt until conditions warm up again. However, prolonged hot weather could result in increased pest infestations and problems with fruit development," he cautioned.

Dr. Tariq explained that pests and insects thrive in warmer conditions.

"High temperatures lead to increased dryness, which can severely affect trees. Farmers should use high-quality organic materials to retain soil moisture and consider innovative solutions for moisture conservation," he suggested, emphasizing the importance of sustainable agricultural practices.

The changes are not limited to plants and insects. Mushtaq Pahalgami, a social activist and environmentalist, highlighted how rising temperatures are altering the nature of winter in Kashmir. "If we consider Pahalgam during the harsh winter season of Chillai Kalan, snow is now melting—something that was unimaginable in the past. Although we received some snowfall this year, it was not significant. This change is a result of the environmental imbalance caused by the increasing number of vehicles, air pollution, and water pollution," he said.

Pahalgami expressed concern about the long-term consequences of early flowering, connecting it to a broader trend of environmental degradation.

"If flowers bloom in January or February, there is always a risk of snowfall in March. Snowfall during that time can destroy everything, further destabilizing our already fragile ecosystem," he stated, citing examples of how neglecting the environment has led to disasters in other parts of India.

He stressed the importance of education and awareness regarding environmental issues.

"We need to implement a compulsory subject in schools and colleges that focuses on the environment of Kashmir. Those in influential positions should use their platforms to address these environmental concerns. If we don't act now, the consequences will first impact tourism and then agriculture," Pahalgami warned.

The early blooming of flowers, although beautiful, serves as a stark reminder of our changing climate. Scientists, environmentalists, and citizens are urging immediate action to tackle this issue.

The need to address climate change has never been more urgent, requiring both global cooperation and local initiatives.

As Prof. Romshoo aptly said, "Our climate system is interconnected with global systems, illustrating that climate change is a global issue. However, implementing sustainable practices at the local level can significantly mitigate its impacts."

The Meteorological Centre in Srinagar has reported the possibility of fresh spells of rain and snow starting from January 29th. Light rain and snow are expected at various locations from the night of January 29th to the 30th and onwards. Some middle and higher elevations

may receive moderate snowfall.

The changing patterns in nature are not only symptoms of environmental imbalance but also a call to action for greater awareness, education, and collective efforts to preserve Kashmir's fragile ecosystem for future generations.

Immediate action is essential to mitigate the effects of climate change. Local initiatives, such as afforestation, improved public transportation, and sustainable agricultural practices, should be prioritised alongside global cooperation to tackle this crisis.

Predicted Wet Spell

leading to reduced yields," she added.
"Apple trees require adequate chilling hours,

"Apple trees require adequate chilling hours, and if the temperatures remain high, their chilling requirement may not be met. This could result in poor blooming and lower production," Dr Rasool said.

Pertinently, rising temperatures in Kashmir have led to stakeholders anticipating an early bloom of apples, almond, cherry, peach, and plum trees.

87% Rainfall

with details revealing that a deficiency of 87 per cent was recorded from January 01 to January 29.

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), against the normal rainfall of 88.2 mm, the Union Territory has recorded a precipitation of iust 11.5 mm only.

The highest deficiency of 98 per cent was recorded in Kathua during the period followed by 96 per cent in Shopian district in south Kashmir and 95 per cent in Doda.

The data further reveals that Jammu, Kishtwar and Reasi districts in Jammu division saw a deficiency of 94 per cent each in the first 29 days of this year—2025. Kulgam in south Kashmir has also recorded a deficit rainfall of 93 per cent during the period.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir saw a deficit rainfall of 82 per cent. Udhampur, Ramban and Samba stations have recorded a deficit precipitation of 90 per

cent, 89 per cent and 86 per cent respectively.
Anantnag and Pulwama districts in South
Kashmir have seen a deficiency of 85 per cent and
81 per cent respectively, the data revealed and
added that Budgam, Bandipora and Baramulla
have recorded a deficient rainfall of 83 per cent,

76 per cent and 73 per cent respectively.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir is expected to witness rains and snowfall for the next one week as the series of Western Disturbances according to the weatherman are affecting the Union Territory from this afternoon till February 05. (KNO)

Higher Reaches

Valley on Wednesday, bringing down the mercury across Kashmir.

As per the reports, the light snowfall was recorded in Pir Panjal areas, Zojila, Razdan Pass, Sinthan Top, Sadhna Top and other areas today.

The fresh snowfall was recorded under the influence of feeble Western Disturbance, which started affecting J&K this afternoon.

The gusty winds were reported from

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the other areas of the Valley since this afternoon.

Earlier, the weatherman had predicted light snow and rain at scattered places from this afternoon.

"Fresh spell of light rain and snow is expected at scattered places during 29th night and 30th morning & at isolated places during 31st January," Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said, adding that the weather would remain generally cloudy on February 01 and 02 with the possibility of light rain and snow at scattered to fairly widespread places during the period.

Sharing further details, the Director stated that generally cloudy weather is expected on February 03 with the possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches.

at isolated higher reaches.
Also, on February 04 and 05, there is a possibility of light rain and snow at scattered places,

he said. (KNO) **No New Case**

doctors and district administration," the oficial said.

On-site medical team, comprising three doctors and six paramedics, has been put on duty round the clock, he said, adding that critical care ambulances are also stationed at the venues.

Meals are prepared in kitchens under CCTV surveillance, with food samples sent for testing at NFL Ghaziabad and Patoli Food Testing Lab, Jammu, he said.

The official said Anganwadi workers and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) are deployed to take care of below six children, while temporary schooling arrangements are in place for school-going children.

Craft teachers and ITI instructors are providing training to individuals in tailoring and other trades. Sewing machines have been supplied by the Social Welfare Department, he said

by the Social Welfare Department, he said. He said officials from agriculture, horticulture and labour departments are educating families about government schemes.

To ensure the safety of the remaining 808 households, comprising 3,700 individuals, in Badhaal, the village has been divided into 14 clusters monitored by multi-departmental teams of 182 officials.

All shops and establishments have been sealed, and ration is being provided under strict supervision, the official said, adding official teams are feeding 424 domestic animals and 168 poultry birds belonging to shifted families.

He said daily sampling of food and consumables is underway and 167 blood, urine and nasal swab samples have been collected for testing at GMC Rajouri.

A control room under the supervision of the Additional District Development Commissioner has been established to coordinate efforts, address public queries, and provide updates to prevent panic, the official said.

He said the district administration is addressing the situation comprehensively and ensuring the well-being of all affected families.

30 Killed In Maha

the tragedy as "extremely saddening". Later in the night, Uttar Pradesh Chief inister Yogi Adityanath announced a three-

Minister Yogi Adityanath announced a threemember judicial commission, comprising Justice Harsh Kumar, former DG VK Gupta and retd IAS VK Singh to look into the reasons behind the stampede. He also announced an ex gratia of Rs 25 lakh each for the kin of the deceased.

"It is important to get to the bottom of the whole episode on how such a tragedy occurred," a visibly emotional Adityanath said, adding that the chief secretary and DGP would visit the Maha Kumbh on Thursday for an indepth probe into the tragic incident.

Being held after 12 years, the Maha Kumbh kicked off on January 13 and will continue till February 26.

There was a stampede during the 2013 Kumbh in which dozens of pilgrims were killed at the railway station and several left injured.

Centre Plans

of pilgrims, including children, the elderly, and those with mobility issues, making the annual Amarnath Yatra more accessible to thousands of devotees.

In 2024, the Amarnath Yatra commenced on June 29 and concluded on August 19, spanning 52 days. The pilgrimage attracted over 350,000 registered pilgrims, marking a significant increase from the previous year.

Notably, helicopter services were available for those preferring a quicker journey, providing access to the Panjtarni base camp, located about 6 kilometres from the cave.(KNO)

JPC Adopts Report

to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday and tabled in both Houses of Parliament during the Budget Session beginning Friday.

A key concern of the opposition was the appointment of non-Muslims on the Waqf Board, which they claimed was violative of Article 26 of the Constitution that granted citizens freedom to manage their religious affairs, including establishment and maintenance of institutions for religious and charitable purposes.

"You have violated our rights granted under Article 26 of the Constitution. You talked about Uniform Civil Code, but there are Hindu Endowment Board, Sikh Boards, Christian boards which do not have non-Hindus, non-Sikhs, and non-Christians as members. But why does this not extend to Muslims? This is an attempt to destroy the Waqf Boards," Congress member Imran Masood told reporters here.

At its meeting on Monday, the committee had adopted 14 amendments to the bill, all proposed by BJP members and rejected every change suggested by the opposition members, including Congress, DMK, TMC, AAP, Shiv Sena-UBT and the AIMIM.

Trinamool leader Kalyan Banerjee claimed the observations and recommendations of the committee were "wholly perverse".

The BJP members contended that the amendments suggested by the opposition were intended to uphold the 1995 law and negate the spirit of the Waqf Amendment Bill-2024.

"All these amendments are not in the interest of the Waqf. These will destroy the Waqf board and increase interference of the central government in their functioning," AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi said.

He said the evacuee properties could also be taken over by the government.

"This will not be acceptable to the masses, especially the Muslim community. We reject this Waqf amendment. Muslims will lose their masjids," Owaisi said.

According to the amendments accepted by the committee, the state Waqf boards will now include one member from the Muslim OBC community, ensuring broader representation.

It also has provisions that allow the state government to establish separate Waqf boards for Aghakhani and Bohra communities and safeguard women's inheritance rights in Waqf Alal Aulad (family waqfs).

The amendments also allow the income from Waqf Alal Aulad to support widows, divorced

women, and orphans, if specified by the waqif (creator of the waqf).

Pal claimed that many of the amendments approved by the committee have addressed several concerns of opposition members as well, adding the Bill once enacted will help Waqf board in discharging its duties transparently and more effectively.

For the first time, "pasmanda" (backward) Muslims, the poor, women and orphans have been included among beneficiaries of the Waqf, an endowment made by Muslims for charitable religious purposes, he said.

The committee held 38 meetings in the national capital since its constitution on August 8 last year and toured several state capitals to consult stakeholders.

consult stakeholders.
"This report is a significant document that empowers the Muslim community," BJP member Tejasvi Surya said.

DMK's A Raja said that the draft report was circulated among the 31-member committee late Tuesday night and members got very little time to peruse the voluminous document.

While the adopted bill accepts the government's stand of removing the "Waqf by user" clause in the existing law, it has added that no cases will be reopened against such properties on a retrospective basis provided these are not in dispute or belong to the government

in dispute or belong to the government.

The report made it clear that the provisions to omit the 'Waqf by user' definition of a Waqf property will be with prospective effect.

It has also endorsed the government's move to include non-Muslims in Waqf boards, saying they can be "beneficiaries, parties to disputes, or otherwise interested in Waqf matters".

It, however, does away with the enquiry power vested with the district collector concerned in cases of disputes with the government, giving the authority to the state government to designate an officer senior to the collector to probe the matter.

'Excessive' Govt Interference In Waqf Matters Opposition members on Wednesday objected to the proposed omission of the 'waqf by user' clause in the Waqf Amendment Bill, contending that the provision existed since time immemorial.

In a dissent note to the report, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the last-minute inclusion of the proviso to the clause omitting 'waqf by user' was "wholly unhelpful" as the principle will only be tested in cases where the property is placed 'in dispute', in which case the proviso will not apply.

Seeking to allay fears that the existing waqf properties will be subject to scrutiny after the amended waqf law comes into force, a parliamentary panel had recommended that no cases will be reopened against such properties on a retrospective basis, provided the asset is not in dispute or belongs to the government.

"Any bad-faith actor can institute a litigation over any part of the properties belonging to the 'waqf by user' and consequently prevent it from seeking any protection under the amended Act," Congress member Gaurav Gogoi said in his dissent note.

Gogoi, the deputy leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, said the Bill allows excessive government interference in the functioning, control and management of waqf and waqf properties in the country.

"...this has a detrimental impact on the community as well as the institution of the autonomy, which are necessary to administer the institution," he said. In his dissent note, DMK member A Raja said

the proviso of 'waqf by user' existed since the time of Prophet Mohammad and any move for its omission would violate the fundamental rights of the Muslim community.

Raja said, "To obliterate the freedom to establish, manage, own and administer waqf by the religious denomination is violative of the Constitution of India."

He also objected to the provision of including non-Muslims in the waqf boards and nominating members. Several endowments of Hindu faith forbade management by persons other than their denomination, he noted.

Shiv Sena UBT member Arvind Sawant also objected to the inclusion of non-Muslims as members of the Waqf Board.
"Nomination of such non-related members

will create chaos as tomorrow the other communities may demand parity in all endowments," Sawant said in his dissent note to the report. He noted that as far as Hindu endowments

are concerned, it is categorically mentioned that only Hindus will be members and officebearers of the Hindu Endowments for Temples.

"The Waqf Act was made to save and safeguard the waqf properties. However, the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act are going to do the exact opposite. Instead of saving the waqf properties, they will open new ways and avenues to further encroach upon and usurp the waqf properties," Sawant said.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) members Kalyan Banerjee and Nadimul Haque objected to the amendment to the original Act that states if any government property is identified or declared as waqf property, before or after the enforcement of this Act, it shall not be a waqf property.

The amendment states that if any question arises regarding the property to be government

property then the issue shall be referred to an officer above the rank of collector, as notified by the state government, for adjudication.

"The said amendment hits the basic tenants of the property laws. The government is not meant to create its property by taking recourse in an unauthorised manner. When the government acts as a trespasser, such unauthorised acts cannot be legalised by the proposed amendment," the TMC leaders said.

YSRCP member Vijay Sai Reddy had submitted his dissent note before resigning as Rajya Sabha member on January 25.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was referred to the JPC on August 8, 2024, following its introduction in Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

The Bill aims to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, to address issues and challenges in regulating and managing Waqf properties.

Ruhullah Meets

from his own party, with some of his colleagues saying the prominent Shia leader was indulging in pure theatrics and that he had given space to the party's enemies.

Abdullah in an interaction with mediapersons earlier this month had said while Ruhillah's participation in the protest reflected intra-party democracy, he expected the Lok Sabha member to organise a similar protest for restoration of statehood in Delhi.

Recently, deputy chief minister Surinder Kumar Chaudhary and advisor to chief minister Nasir Aslam Wani met Ruhullah at the latter's residence in Budgam.

The move was widely perceived as an attempt to placate the estranged leader.\

Coffers Empty

Upper House is must, he said

J&K had 36-member Upper House but it was dissolved after August 5, 2019 decisions by the Central Government.

To a question as to when five MLAs will be nominated to the House, Omar said they were expecting this to happen on Day one.

Referring to dual control in the UT, he said

none can deny this.

"While we have the powers to transfer JKAS officers, it is the Raj Bhawan which has to order transfers and postings of IAS and IPS officers. The Cabinet decisions have to be sent to the LG for approval. Only when he signs, they are returned to us. Law and Order is implemented by Delhi through the LG. Earlier, we used to post the Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners. Now, we can't. This is the scenario and we have to work with it. But we think this will not last long," he

asserted.
On the development front, he said back-to-back elections last year leading to imposition of Model Code of Conduct hampered speed of works and utilization of funds but in the last quarter of the financial year, we are trying to speed up work. Priorities have also been taken

from the MLAs.
Asserting that the private sector investment is not visible on ground, Omar said some efforts have been made through the package but it will not reach far off areas of Jammu and Kashmir and will remain confined to National Highway corridor like Kathua, Samba, Bari Brahamana and Jammu. "The industry is not going to reach Pulwama, Shopian, Rajouri-Poonch or Doda. We need to give a boost to tourism, agriculture,

horticulture etc to benefit the people."

Speaking to reporters after the function,
Omar said it is Parliament which will take a final call on the Uniform Civil Code and the Waqf
(amendment) bill

(amendment) bill.

Uttarakhand on Monday became the first State to implement UCC with the ruling BJP fulfilling a major commitment made ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls, while the Joint Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill adopted all amendments proposed by the ruling BJP-led NDA members and negated every change moved by

opposition members.

"Let them do what they want to do till a law is enacted for the country. Finally, it is Parliament which will decide on this and not the individual UTs or States," he said, reacting to the implementation of the UCC in Uttarakhand.

In response to another question related to the Waqf bill, he said the Parliamentary Committee is still holding discussions and the Government

is not implementing any law. **J&K NHM Cautions**

to misinformation or defrauds. Job seekers should remain vigilant and consult official announcements for any updates regarding recruitment processes.

cruitment processes.

For further information on this account, the NHM J&K office can be contacted directly through the official website or Centralised

Health Helpline 104. **37 Of 40 Springs**

sources, and public announcements will be made in mosques and temples to spread awareness.

For any concerns or clarifications, the residents have been directed to follow official channels for continued guidance.

PDP Leaders Accuse NC Of **Targeted Demolition In Sonamarg**

Saliq Manzoor

SRINAGAR: People's Democratic Party leaders have criticized Omar Abdullah and the National Conference (NC) following the recent demolition of the property belonging to PDP leader Bashir Mir. The demolition has sparked accusations of politically motivated actions, with PDP leaders alleging that the NC is conducting targeted demolitions for personal and political gain.

Senior PDP leader and MLA from Pulwama, Waheed Para, along with PDP leaders Bashir Mir and Jamaat Ali Shaheen, visited Sonamarg and strongly criticized the authorities for allegedly targeting PDP leader Bashir Mir's hotel for demolition. According to PDP, Bashir Mir, who had contested the Assembly elections against Omar Abdullah, is reportedly being unfairly targeted despite having proper construction permissions for his hotel.

Speaking to reporters, Bashir Mir alleged that the NC was trying to undermine his political career. "The Kangan seat is reserved for Scheduled Tribes, and NC assumed no one from PDP would contest. However, during the Assembly elections, Jamaat Ali Shaheen ran and gave NC stiff competition. They thought my political career was over." Mir said.

"I contested against Omar Abdullah in Ganderbal. Now that PDP has gained strength

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Central Bu-

reau of Communication (CBC),

Field Srinagar, under the Min-

istry of Information and Broad-

casting, Government of India.

today organized a Mini Integrat-

ed Communication and Out-

reach Programme at Childcare

Educational Institute, Saderkoot

Resource persons and ex-

perts elaborated on the eradi-

cation of drug abuse, environ-

mental protection, unity and

promoting cultural exchanges

besides awareness on various

The programme, held under

the supervision of Director

CBC J&K and Ladakh Region,

Ghulam Abbas, aimed to raise

awareness about Mission LiFE

(Lifestyle for Environment), Ek

Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, drug

addiction, and various Central

mitment to continuing such

initiatives across Jammu and

Kashmir, Director CBC J&K and

Ladakh region, Ghulam Ab-

bas said that that such out-

reach programmes are being

conducted across Jammu &

Government schemes.

Reaffirming CBC's

Central government schemes.

Bala, Bandipora district.

CBC Organises Outreach

Programme on Mission LiFE &

Drug Addiction At Bandipora

here under my leadership, they want to destroy me financially and politically," he said.

Mir further claimed that multiple buildings in Sonamarg were constructed on state and forest land without permits. "I am not against anyone personally, but the law should be applied equally. Targeting me based on personal interests will not make me surrender," he added.

Para echoed these sentiments, alleging that the NC government was normalizing the August 5, 2019, decision that revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status. "The people gave Omar Abdullah a mandate with 50 MLAs. At that time, people were unhappy, and we opposed demolitions by the BJP government. But now, NC is selectively targeting common residents in Sonamarg," Para said.

Para also alleged corruption in the administration, claiming that the recent transfer of the Pahalgam Development Authority CEO was linked to the construction of 300 illegal structures backed by NC leaders. "In Sonamarg, too, there are numerous illegal buildings, vet only PDP leaders are being targeted. This is injustice, and the NC government is misusing its power," he said.

Para urged the Lieutenant Governor's administration and the Anti-Corruption Bureau to investigate the matter and take action against corrupt officials

Kashmir and Ladakh to ensure

maximum reach of welfare ini-

tiatives. He said that awareness

is a key to avail benefits of vari-

Field Publicity Officer Naseer

Ahmad Rather underscored the

importance of such initiatives in

educating people about govern-

ment schemes. Stressing on col-

lective responsibility in building

a sustainable and drug-free so-

ciety, he urged the students to

act as ambassadors of change in

environmental protection and

Sami stressed the role of youth

in preserving natural resources

and thanked CBC for its efforts

in reaching out to students

Principal Mudasir Ahmad

speeches on environmental

protection and drug addic-

tion, stressing the importance

of youth participation in these

Resource person Mohammad

drug abuse eradication.

from remote areas.

generation.

Students

critical issues.

ous government schemes.

and NC leadership.

J&K's Rural Govt Schools Lag Behind

Over 52% 8th Graders Unable To Read 2nd Grade Texts: Report

SRINAGAR: In rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, the education system at middle class level is showing a decline trend among the 8th class wherein less than 50 percent of government schools students are not able to read the texts of 2nd standard level.

Besides, more than 70 percent of students in government schools in the rural areas are not able to do the division tasks in mathematics.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) of 2024 report released on Tuesday states that during the survey it found only 47.2 percent students in Jammu and Kashmir were able to read 2nd standard level text.

The survey further suggests that the reading of the books of junior classes was in decline trend because at least 55.5 percent students were able to read 2nd standard level text in 2018 that reduced to 50.2 percent in 2022 and 47.2 percent in 2024.

The survey further reveals that only 28 percent of stu-



"More than 70% students of Class 8th in **Govt schools** cannot do division tasks in Maths."

dents in 8th standard were able to do the tasks of division in Mathematics.

The ASER report also states that 25.3 percent of students studying in government schools of Jammu and Kashmir in 2018 were able to do the task of division followed

by 26.3 percent in 2022 and 28 percent in the year 2024.

Besides, the report said that the out of school figures for boys and girls was low in Jammu and Kashmir even in the age group of 15-16.

"Data from ASER show that even those in the age group beyond 6-14 have high enrollment levels," it reads.

Pertinently, the sampling of the survey is based on selection of 30 random villages in each district, 20 households in each village. It also surveyed all children of age 3-16 in household and assessed all children of age 5-16 in household. The sampling method has remained consistent over

J&K Finance Dept Approves Additional Fund Releases For 2024-25

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Finance department has authorized the further release of funds under the Revenue Budget for the Financial Year 2024-25.

The authorization follows Government Order No. 268-F of 2024, dated August 16, 2024, and an earlier order issued on January 9, 2024.

According to the order, the funds have been released to the extent of 100% of the Budget Estimates (BE) 2024-25 or as per the reworked Revised Estimates (RE) 2024-25, whichever is lower. This applies to all detailed heads, including "Salary" and similar expenditure categories, where at least 70% of the released funds have already been utilised.

For detailed heads where expenditure is below 70%, the funds have been released up to 85% of BE 2024-25 or as per reworked RE 2024-25, whichever is lower.

Additionally penditure categories such as ever is lower," the order said.

travel expenses (TE), telephone charges, office expenses, fuel (POL), camps, seminars, hospitality allowances, and advertisement & publicity have been allocated up to 90% of BE 2024-25 or as per RE 2024-25, if the expenditure level exceeds 55%

"Certain categories, including Leave Travel Concession (LTC), vehicle purchase, furniture procurement, interest payments, power purchases, food grain costs, snow clearance, UT Share under the Revenue component, and the Disaster Response Fund (DRF), will



of previously released funds.

"If the expenditure in these heads is below 55%, further funds of 10% have been authorised, ensuring an aggregate release of up to 85%," the order said.

"Full fund authorisation has been granted for detailed heads involving contra-credit, such as electricity charges, as per the BE 2024-25 or reworked RE 2024-25, whichbe considered for fund release on a case-by-case basis upon proposal submission by the respective departments," it added.

"The utilization of the authorized funds will be subject to conditions outlined in Government Order No. 268-F of 2024 and adherence to austerity measures specified in Government Order No. 10-F of 2025, issued on January 11, 2025," it added. (KNO)

DAK Appeals For Ethical Journalism In Healthcare Reporting

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) has penned a formal letter to the Press Club of Kashmir, expressing deep concern over recent instances of "premature media trials" targeting healthcare professionals. In a communication signed by DAK President Dr. Mohammad Yousuf Tak, the association appealed for ethical reporting practices in healthcare-related news.

thanked CBC for organising The DAK's letter, dated Janusuch awareness programmes ary 28, 2025, highlighted the in far flung areas, saying such informative programmes prove detrimental impact of biased very beneficial to the local popor unverified reporting on the ulace, especially the younger reputation of medical practitioners and the erosion of public also delivered trust in the healthcare system.

"As journalists play a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, we earnestly appeal to the esteemed members of the Press Club of Kashmir to encour-

age ethical reporting practices," the letter stated. The DAK stressed the importance of due diligence, verification of facts, and impartiality in healthcare reporting to avoid misleading the public and tarnishing the image of dedi-

cated professionals. The association acknowledged the vital role of media in ensuring transparency and raising public awareness on health issues. They reiterated their commitment to collaborating with journalists for constructive purposes, emphasizing their willingness to provide accurate and reliable information.

"DAK remains committed to collaborating with the media for constructive purposes, ensuring transparency and enhancing public awareness on health issues," the letter affirmed.

The DAK's appeal comes

amidst growing concerns within the medical community about sensationalized reporting and the potential for misinformation to spread rapidly, causing irreparable damage to the credibility of healthcare providers. The association urged the Press Club of Kashmir to intervene and uphold the principles of responsible journalism, fostering a relationship of trust and mutual respect between the media and the medical fraternity.

The letter concluded with a call for support and understanding, emphasizing the shared goal of serving the public interest through accurate and ethical dissemination of information. The DAK leadership expressed hope that their appeal would be heeded, leading to a more balanced and responsible approach to healthcare reporting in the region

Er Rashid Seeks Interim Bail In Delhi HC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir MP Rashid Engineer on Wednesday moved the Delhi High Court seeking interim bail in a terror-funding case.

Rashid sought the reprieve on the ground that he wished to attend the upcoming budget session of the Parliament, which begins on January 31 and concludes on April 4.

As an alternative, he prayed that he be given custody parole during this period.

The plea forms part of his pending petition on the issue of granting him bail in the case by the NIA.

In the main petition, he has urged the high court to either direct the expeditious disposal of his pending bail application by a lower court here or decide the matter itself.

On January 23, the high court had sought the stand of the NIA in the case and listed it for hearing on January 30. Rahid's plea for the interim

bail is also expected to be heard by the high court on January 30. On December 24 last year, additional sessions judge Chander Jit Singh -- who had requested the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers as Rashid became an MP -- dismissed Rashid's plea urging him to pronounce the verdict

With the matter sent back to him by the district judge, the trial judge said in his decision that he could only decide the miscellaneous application and not the regular bail plea.

on his pending bail application

in the NIA case.

Before the high court, Rashid's senior counsel said the MP was left without any



redressal as the court hearing the bail plea "suddenly" took the view that it could not hear his case and the MP/MLA court did not have the jurisdiction to hear NIA cases.

He argued the pendency of the bail plea was resulting in Rashid's constituency being left unrepresented during the parliamentary sessions owing to his continuing custody.

The NIA counsel had said the agency in November wrote to the registrar general of the high court on the issue of designation of a lower court to hear the case but he was not aware of the status of the request.

Rashid was elected from the Baramulla constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror-funding case. The ED filed a money laundering case against the accused persons on the basis of the NIA's FIR, which accused them of "conspiring to wage war against the government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir valley.

Cases of the NIA and the ED also involve Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba chief and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahud-

Union Minister Karandlaje Reviews Construction Of ESIC Hospital At Budgam



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Union Minister day reviewed the construction of 100-bed Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district.

Karandlaje, the MoS for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Labour and Employment, chaired a meeting to review the construction of 100-bed ESIC Hospital at SIDCO Industrial Complex at Ompora in Budgam, an official spokesman said.

The hospital, being constructed at a cost of Rs 160 crore, would be equipped with modern healthcare facilities, including OPD, IPD, ICU, diagnostic laboratories, operation theater and disaster management facilities in addition to an independent sub-station, the spokesman said.

"Besides, surgery and psychiatric departments would be established in which specialist doctors and well trained staff will be made available round the clock," he added.

Karandlaje said that the hospital was yet another step to boost healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. She said the hospital is being

constructed to provide world

class healthcare facilities under ESIC to strengthen the preventive, primary and secondary mu and Kashmir. Karandlaje directed the au-

thorities to complete the project before the deadline while cautioning against any breach in set completion timelines. The minister visited all the

health facilities under construction planned for 23 specialties in the hospital. Karandlaje said there are

more than 6,000 industries and establishments in Jammu and Kashmir under the ESI Act.

More than 1.30 lakh insured people and their dependents are being given benefits in Jammu Branch Office and five other dispensary-branches at Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Katra and Srinagar, she said, adding this hospital will serve a considerable population registered under the ESI Act.

"The hospital is planned to be built in the same style as hospitals in metro cities to provide better treatment to the locals. The goal is to deliver better healthcare services to the disadvantaged elements of society at an affordable price," the spokesman said.

He said that treatment costs would be capped to ensure accessibility for those in need.

Valley's Lone Tertiary Care B&J Hospital Lacks Robotic Surgical System Dr Sajad, an orthopaedic surorthopaedic surgeries often re-

quire large incisions, which lead

to longer recovery times and a

higher risk of infections. Robot-

ic-assisted surgeries, he said, are

minimally invasive and result in

smaller incisions, reduced blood

"The advanced technology mi-

nimises damage to surrounding

loss and faster healing.

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Bone and Joint (B&J) Hospital in Srinagar, the only tertiary care centre for orthopaedic treatment in the valley, continues to operate without a robotic surgical system, despite its growing significance

in modern medicine. Located in Barzulla, Srinagar, this hospital conducts dozens of orthopaedic surgeries daily, but the lack of robotic-assisted technology has limited its ability to provide the most advanced and minimally invasive surgical procedures to patients.

Robotic-assisted surgery utilises specialised technology to enhance a surgeon's precision, allowing procedures to be performed through small incisions with greater accuracy and reduced trauma to surrounding tissues.

Several doctors at the hospital told there is an urgent need for robotic technology, citing its multiple benefits across various surgical disciplines, including heart surgery, gastrointestinal surgery, gynaecological procedures, thoracic surgery, urologic surgery and orthopaedic operations.

geon at B&J Hospital, said the robotic technology has a transformative impact on orthopaedic procedures, particularly in knee and hip replacement surgeries. He said robotic-assisted surgeries enhance precision, reduce recovery time and improve overall patient outcomes by allowing for real-time imaging and 3D mapping. "This ensures that bone cuts and implant placements are made with the highest degree of accuracy, reducing

implant longevity," he said.

According to him, traditional

the risk of errors and improving

tissues and muscles, leading to a quicker recovery process for patients," he added. Dr Irfan, another orthopaedic specialist, also elaborated on the advantages of robotic-assisted

orthopaedic surgeries. He said

patients who undergo robotic-

assisted joint replacement surgeries often experience a shorter hospital stay, with many being discharged within a day or two. "The minimally invasive nature of robotic procedures also leads to less post-operative pain and a quicker return to daily activities," he said.

One of the key benefits of robotic surgery, according to experts, is its ability to utilise advanced preoperative planning tools. These tools allow surgeons to customise procedures based on each patient's unique anatomy, ensuring optimal implant positioning and alignment. This

level of precision is particularly crucial in joint replacement surgeries, where proper alignment directly impacts the durability and functionality of the implant.

They said robotic systems reduce the likelihood of surgical complications and revision surgeries, thereby improving overall patient safety and long-term surgical success.

Social activists in Kashmir also voiced their concerns about the absence of a robotic surgical system at the region's premier orthopaedic hospital.

Irfan Ahmad, a social activist from Srinagar, called for upgrad-

ing B&J Hospital's infrastructure to ensure that patients no longer have to travel outside the region for advanced medical care. He urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Sakina Itoo to take immediate action toward the installation of this crucial technology.

"The implementation of a robotic surgical system at B&I Hospital would enhance the quality of medical treatment, reduce patient referrals outside the state and strengthen the overall health infrastructure of the valley," Ahmad said. (KNO)







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