

HADP: A KEY OF AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

The agricultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed remarkable transformation over the past decade, and at the heart of this change is the Horticulture and Agriculture Development Project (HADP). Conceptualized as a holistic initiative to modernize farming practices, enhance productivity, and promote sustainable land use, HADP has emerged as a key driver of agricultural development in the region, bridging traditional practices with modern science and technology.

One of the most significant contributions of HADP has been its focus on soil health management. The project has systematically worked to educate farmers, extension workers, and researchers on the importance of soil fertility, organic carbon conservation, and biodiversity preservation. In the era of climate variability, soil is no longer a mere medium for plant growth-it is the backbone of food security, ecosystem balance, and sustainable agriculture. HADP's capacity-building programmes, workshops, and training sessions have empowered farmers to adopt science-based soil-management strategies, ensuring better nutrient efficiency, reduced input costs, and higher crop yields.

Equally important is HADP's emphasis on technology integration. Modern agriculture is as much about precision and information as it is about cultivation. Under HADP, farmers are being equipped with digital tools for soil testing, weather prediction, and crop monitoring. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and soil mapping initiatives have enabled a data-driven approach to decision-making, ensuring that interventions are targeted and effective. By linking farmers with real-time agricultural information, HADP is not only increasing productivity but also reducing the risks associated with unpredictable climatic events.

HADP's holistic approach extends beyond productivity to income generation and livelihood security. Through value addition, post-harvest management, and crop diversification, farmers are finding avenues to enhance profitability. Training modules on horticulture practices, integrated pest management, and sustainable farming techniques are helping cultivators shift from subsistence agriculture to commercial viability, while maintaining environmental sustainability. This dual focus on profitability and sustainability is crucial for the long-term resilience of the agricultural sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Furthermore, HADP has catalyzed collaboration between research institutions, universities, and farmer communities. Initiatives under the project have brought together academicians, scientists, and extension professionals to translate research outputs into practical solutions that address local challenges. For instance, the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) has partnered with HADP to conduct specialized training on soil health, climate-smart agriculture, and modern cultivation techniques. This knowledge-sharing ecosystem has strengthened the region's agricultural foundation, creating a pipeline of skilled professionals ready to lead future innovations. The project has also emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship. By promoting organic farming, judicious use of fertilizers, water conservation, and soil erosion control, HADP ensures that agricultural growth does not come at the cost of ecological degradation. In a fragile Himalayan ecosystem, where agriculture is intertwined with natural resource management, this focus on sustainability is critical.

A call that cost a lifetime's savings: Cyber scams tighten grip in JK

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF



A single phone call, masked as official authority and amplified by fear, cost an elderly Srinagar couple their lifetime savings of ₹48 lakh. The incident, involving a sophisticated "digital arrest" cyber scam, has once again exposed the growing vulnerability of citizens in Kashmir to online fraud and the urgent need for widespread digital awareness.

The couple according to the media reports was contacted through WhatsApp video calls by fraudsters posing as senior officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The callers alleged that the couple's mobile numbers and bank accounts were linked to serious criminal activities, including money laundering and illegal financial transactions allegedly routed through multiple shell accounts.

Speaking with authority and confidence, the impostors warned the victims of immediate arrest, seizure of property and freezing of all bank accounts. To reinforce their claims, the fraudsters displayed forged documents bearing government insignia and case numbers, creating an illusion of legitimacy that left the victims confused and terrified.

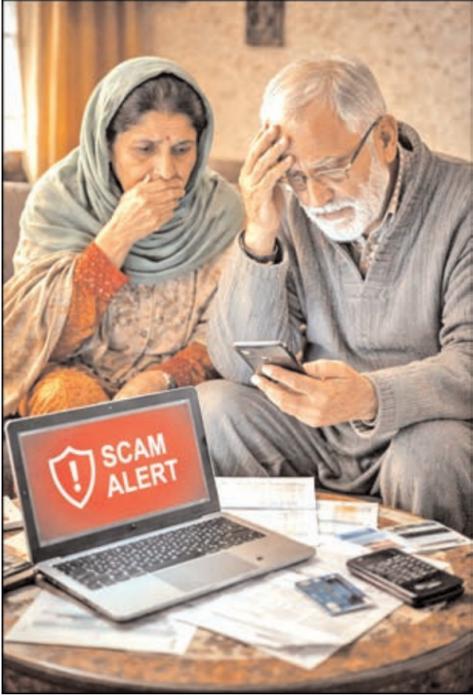
Over several days, the couple was kept under relentless psychological pressure through continuous video calls, a method investigators describe as "virtual house arrest". The victims were instructed not to disconnect the call or contact relatives, neighbours or police officials, and were told that any attempt to do so would result in swift legal action. Isolated, frightened and overwhelmed, the couple ultimately transferred ₹48 lakh in multiple transactions to bank accounts provided by the fraudsters.

It was only when communication abruptly stopped and no official follow-up occurred that the couple realised they had been duped. They later approached the authorities, leading to the registration of a case and an investigation into the source of the calls and the movement of the stolen funds.

Police officials have reiterated that there is no such legal concept as a "digital arrest" and that no government or law-enforcement agency conducts investigations, arrests or financial verification through phone calls, video calls or social media platforms. "No officer will ever ask for money, bank details, passwords or OTPs over a call," officials stressed, urging citizens to treat such communications as fraud.

The Srinagar case is not an isolated episode but part of a rapidly expanding pattern of cybercrime across Jammu and Kashmir. With the widespread adoption of smartphones, online banking, digital payments and social media, cybercrime has emerged as one of the fastest-growing threats in the region. What was once perceived as an urban or metropolitan problem has now reached households across cities, towns and rural areas of the Valley.

Cyber police data indicates that financial fraud constitutes the overwhelming majority of cybercrime complaints in Kashmir. These include fake bank calls, phishing messages, fraudulent investment schemes, online shopping frauds, job



and work-from-home scams, and impersonation of government agencies. In many cases, victims lose substantial sums within hours, often without realising they are being deceived until it is too late.

The digital arrest scam, in particular, has alarmed investigators because of its reliance on psychological manipulation rather than technical expertise. By impersonating powerful institutions and invoking fear of arrest, public disgrace and legal consequences, scammers succeed in breaking down victims' ability to think rationally. Cyber experts note that even educated and digitally aware individuals have fallen prey to such schemes due to the intense pressure created during these calls.

Kashmir's social and economic realities further compound the problem. While digital usage has increased rapidly, digital literacy has not grown at the same pace. Many people, especially senior citizens and first-time users of online banking services, are unfamiliar with evolving cybercrime techniques. At the same time, a large number of elderly residents live alone, as their children work or study outside the Valley, making them especially vulnerable to fear-based scams that rely on isolation.

Another troubling aspect is the delay in reporting cyber fraud. Many victims hesitate to approach the police due

to embarrassment, fear of official procedures or the belief that recovery is impossible once money is lost. Cybercrime officials warn that such delays significantly reduce the chances of freezing fraudulent transactions, as scammers quickly move funds through multiple accounts, often across state or national boundaries.

In recent months, cyber police units across Srinagar, Budgam, Kupwara and Jammu have recorded a sharp rise in cybercrime complaints. While timely reporting has helped authorities freeze suspect accounts and recover partial amounts in several cases, officials acknowledge that recovery remains challenging when transactions are delayed or routed through complex digital networks.

In response to the growing threat, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have intensified efforts to strengthen cybercrime prevention and investigation. Dedicated cyber police stations have been reinforced, personnel have undergone specialised training, and coordination with banks, telecom companies and national cyber agencies has been improved to enable quicker responses to fraud alerts.

Police have also stepped up public awareness efforts, repeatedly cautioning citizens that no government agency contacts individuals through WhatsApp or video calls for investigations. People are advised to immediately disconnect such calls, avoid engaging with unknown callers and report suspicious activity without delay. Authorities urge victims to contact the National Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 or register complaints on the official cybercrime reporting portal to facilitate swift action. Experts stress that law enforcement alone cannot counter the cybercrime menace unless supported by community awareness and family-level vigilance. Regular conversations within families about online safety, particularly with elderly members, can significantly reduce vulnerability. Encouraging people to verify suspicious claims with trusted relatives or local authorities before taking any action can disrupt the effectiveness of fear-driven scams. Community engagement also plays a crucial role. Open discussion of cyber fraud incidents, responsible sharing of verified information and removal of stigma associated with reporting such crimes can help build collective resilience. Cybercrime officials emphasise that victims should not blame themselves, as scammers use carefully crafted narratives designed to exploit trust, fear and authority.

The loss of ₹48 lakh by a Srinagar couple serves as a stark reminder that cybercrime is no longer a distant or abstract threat but a real and growing danger in Kashmir. As daily life becomes increasingly digital, the risks associated with online interactions continue to multiply. While police and regulatory agencies are strengthening enforcement mechanisms, awareness, caution and timely reporting remain the most effective defences.

In an age where criminals can reach victims with a single call or message, staying informed is not merely advisable-it is essential.

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Challenges and Opportunities in Sustainable Dairy Farming

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Livestock sector plays a significant role in the Indian economy. India has vast livestock sector. In India the contribution of dairy sector is well recognised. India is blessed with vast dairy resources. Presently India emerged as the world's largest milk producer but its share in the world milk trade is less. Dairy farming has grown massively in the last few decades in India and presently India is having the largest population in the world. India has been able to produce the self-sufficient dairy farming. Although the dairy farms are thriving across the nation but their sustainability remains an issue to be addressed. Dairy farming requires large amount of cattle feed, green fodder, medicines etc. Although India is at number one in the milk production but still there are lot of challenges in this industry. Lack of quality fodder, feed and health care of animals are the major constraints. In the present livestock production system, major thrust is given on the feed for the dairy farming which assisted to increase the milk production. But the high cost of feed does not give substantial profits to the dairy farmers. Intensive dairy farming requires confined facilities for optimal productivity. Tightly packed overcrowded facilities

are stressful and it causes different diseases to the animals. Overcrowded animals are susceptible to various diseases and it lowers the quality of milk. In sustainable dairy farming choosing the right breed of animals is primarily needed. While purchasing the dairy animals most of the farmers think only for the milk yield of animal but the other factors such as suitability of climate, feed availability, diseases and environmental conditions should also be considered. Typical hybrid cows such as Jersey are sensitive to extremely hot and dry climate. They also require extreme care. Many Indian breeds of cows and buffaloes are suitable in the Indian conditions.

Hygienic cowshed is also needed for the sustainable dairy farming. The dairy farm should have proper ventilation and it should protect the animals from adverse weather conditions. Iron sheets should be avoided while constructing the dairy shed as they generate intense heat which is harmful for any breed of animal. Regular checkup of animals is also required in the sustainable dairy farming. Cows and buffaloes can be allowed to roam in the grazing fields as it will help to keep the animals more fit. Steady supply of quality feed and fodder are also needed for an ideal dairy farm.

Efforts should be made to produce the organic feed and fodder at the farm and they should be avoided from the outside. The animals' wastes should be disposed off in the compost pits properly. A biogas unit can also be established with the waste products of animals of a dairy farm. In fact the natural gas produced from just four cows can fuel a kitchen for the four persons. There should be proper arrangement of electricity and power in the sustainable dairy farm. Diesel generators can also be used by some dairy farmers but it is a costly affair. So, solar power system can be used which is very cheap and farmers can afford it easily. A sustainable dairy farm should be economically viable and eco-friendly.

India is the largest cattle producer in the world and has large animal diversity and is first in buffalo while second in goat production in the world. 13 per cent of world's cattle population and 57 per cent of world's buffalo population is found in India. There is dire need of cross breed and Jersey bulls in the country to improve the cattle breed. The emphasis should be given on the use of advanced breeding tools to increase the breeding bulls for expansion of artificial expansion. Clinical animal health services with capacity building for super speciality and advanced medicinal interven-

tions need to be developed. Animal diseases and parasites need to be managed according to the different agro-climatic zones in the country. Focus should be given on important diseases like foot and mouth disease, mastitis, tuberculosis, metabolic disorders etc. for the safety of animals. Imbalanced animal diet in dairy animals affects their production, reproduction and health. Area specific dairy mineral mixture should be given to the dairy farmers to fulfill the diet of dairy animals. The efforts for the improvement of breed of animals are wasted without proper nutrition. Majority of livestock rearers in India are small and landless farmers who have very limited sources of fodder. Feed and fodder are the main factors for the dairy development. Fodder availability especially in the off-season is really a great problem for the dairy farmers. There is need to promote feed and fodder resources. There is need to promote scientific techniques for hay and silage making. Training on scientific cultivation of fodder should be imparted to the farmers and improved/hybrid seed of different fodder crops should be timely provided to the dairy farmers. Cost-effective nutritious feed should be made by the researchers. Promotions of Urea Molasses Multinutrient Blocks

(UMBB) have shown excellent results for the production and reproduction in dairy sector. More research should be in conversion of agricultural products into cattle feed. Livestock is emerging an important sector in the economy of India and plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the country. The contribution of dairying sector to the national income is invaluable. This sector provides insurance against crop failures. This sector helps in increasing the crop production by providing the drag power, organic manure and cash income on a regular basis. Although India ranked first in milk production but the productivity of milk in hilly areas is very less. Maximum milk is produced in the selected parts of the parts of the country. Animals contribute in climate change as they produce methane and carbon dioxide gases but changing climate is adversely affecting the livestock production and reproduction. There is need to reduce the adverse impact of climate change on the production and reproduction of animals and this is possible though the identification of proper feeds to the animals. There is need to develop the infrastructure of dairy plants especially in

the rural areas so that milk collection can be increased. Also there is need to have bulk coolers, refrigeration systems and also to develop the organized markets in the rural areas which further can help in rural development. The focus should be given on small dairy farmers who lack availability of nutritious feed, timely institutional credits, fodder availability in off seasons of the year, timely quality veterinary care etc.

Superior breeds of animals are not available in the rural areas. The rural areas can purchase the superior breeds of animals if institutional credit is provided to them. There is need to have proper linkage between the scientist, extension workers and farmers. There are open opportunities in dairy farming for the economically small dairy farmers in the country. Dairy technologies should be made by the scientists according to the socio-economic, size of dairy farm, market approach of the farmers and also according to the agro-ecological conditions of the area. This sector can newer avenues of income and employment and can improve the nutritional standards of our people.

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19th January-Kashmiri Pandit Holocaust Day

■ BAIRAJ CHAWALGAMI

On 19th January, 2026, Kashmiri Pandits in India and various parts of the globe have observed 37 holocaust day and have resolved to settle in their native place with honor, dignity and constitutional guarantees. For this, KP's have to struggle a relentless battle and defeat theocratic and fundamentalist and radical forces. It was the sad, very unfortunate as well tragic day rather the night of 19th January 1990 that loudspeakers fitted with the mosques in Kashmir particularly in summer capital of the then state of Jammu and Kashmir-Srinagar roared with the threatening calls which terrorized Kashmiri Pandits and forced them to leave the valley or face the serious consequences. That was a very sad and killing experience for the minuscule Kashmiri Pandits which forced them to leave Kashmir and became refugees in their own country for the only reason of being staunch Indian's. The state administrative apparatus was non-existent rather it was mostly comprised by the majority Muslim community almost compromised and this led to the mass migration of the Kashmiri Pandits from their native land. It was exactly 35 year on the fateful night of January 19, 1990 that these people were threatened, warned and asked to leave valley and so the unfortunate exodus occurred in the democratic and so called Bharat. So 19th January is annually observed as the Kashmiri Pandit holocaust day in Jammu, India and by the Kashmiri Pandits scattered all over the globe and even some democratic countries and human right organizations observe 19th January as KP's holocaust day. Kashmiri pandits were horrified and terrified by the calls of Alha Ho Akbar ,NizameMustfa, and warnings to Kashmiri Pandits to leave the valley. As if it was not enough, there further were calls of Cheliv ,RahivGaliv that meant leave, be converted or face death, and Asi Banaovov Pakistan Batave Rus Ti Batnav San-which translates as we will make Pakistan without Kashmiri Pandits and with Kashmiri Pandit women and other very objectionable slogans. Many Kashmiri Pandit leaders and extra-ordinary men

and government officers were killed with sadistic pleasure before 1990 that is in year 1989 which included KP and BJP leader Shri Tika Lal Taploo, Prem Nath Bhat, Juge Nilkanth Gangoo to name a few and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits reached its zenith in January 1990 and afterwards due to the threats and warnings from the loudspeakers fitted with the mosques and all this negative propaganda forced the Kashmiri Pandits to fled Kashmir for the safety and security to their lives and for securing the honor of their girls and other women flock. Had they remain in Kashmir in those radicalized and communalized and surcharged atmosphere, hundreds of the Kashmiri Pandits would have been brutally killed by the Pak sponsored armed marauders. In 1990 and specifically after in January of that year, the Kashmiri Pandits were living in most difficult and trying circumstances and they took the right decision of leaving their homes and heaths under total threat to their life ,dignity and honor of their women flock and thus the major killings which would had been enemas killings were averted by the conscious but most involuntary decision of leaving Kashmir. Even the Muslim neighbors also showed their inability to protect and stand by their Kashmiri Pandit neighbors in the time of their difficulty and insecurity as well as threat to their lives. So how could have they stayed put in Kashmir. The only silver lining was that Governor Jagmohan and he too could not have safeguarded the horrified Kashmiri Hindus as the whole of then state administration was passively watching the threat calls, warnings, pasting of the threat letters outside the houses of the Kashmiri Pandits. But it was a big relief that Kashmiri Pandits at the peak of militancy after January 1990 were not forced to stay put in Kashmir. In the rural areas of the whole Kashmir where KP's were living in scattered locations, there were big rallies of the people from majority Muslim community raising the religious as well as extremist slogans and this was enough to have terrorized and horrified the minority Kashmiri Pandits and which forced them to take the most involuntary and painful decision of leaving

Kashmir and taking refuge in most unfavorable climatic environment. Now 34 years of the displacement of the Kashmiri Pandits have taken place and the inner desire and yearning of returning to their homeland Kashmir is growing intense and ever stronger with each passing day. It is the highest of injustice and worst kind of human right violations of the Kashmiri Pandits that they left all movable as well as immovable properties accumulated by their forefathers and handed it down to them has been left in the valley which either has been usurped as distress sales and some properties stand occupied by the people of the majority community and the administration being a mute spectator to all this illegal possession of the displaced Landed and other properties. It is very unfortunate that successive centre and state governments and later the UT government has failed to ensure the safe and dignified return and resettlement of the aborigines of Kashmir in the land of their birth. Modi government also promised the return and rehabilitation of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir but without any policy in this direction. With the result the Kashmiri Pandits are continuing to live refugees in their own country. They are living in an alien environment and climatic conditions with which they are not acclimatized. The displaced Kashmiri Pandits are rotting in their colonies such as Jagti ,Purkhu and in their houses at other places in Jammu and all over the country and there seem to be no chances of their going back to their roots in Kashmir. The KP's have heard much rhetoric of different political parties that Kashmir is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits and the KP's are the part and parcel of the Kashmiri society only for political consumption and in reality no efforts are ever made to translate the promises of their return and rehabilitation to Kashmir. It seemed that KP's are destined to live as refugees for many more years. The KP's yearn to return to Kashmir but neither the centre government nor the UT government of J & K nor the majority community that is KMS are providing any helping hand to the displaced KP's in distress and so they are living involuntary outside their homes and heaths and

are cut off from their roots and culture and language. There is imminent threat to their extinction and identity. How long will the KP's continue to live the life of refugees in their own country? The centre government, UT government of J&K, KM's, KP's themselves should take the initiative of returning to Kashmir and great responsibility for the return and rehabilitation rests on the shoulders of the KM's who should play their pivotal role in this direction and make the reverse migration to Kashmir of the KP's a reality in near future. Various KP organizations have observed the black day which is genuinely a holocaust day at various displaced settlements. Pannu Kashmir, ASKPC, KPS Amphalla ,Nou Soun Front AIKS , BJP Displaced District and other KP organizations have observed the holocaust day on 19th January 2025 and reiterated their demand for homeland /Kashap Land / resettlement and rehabilitation at few concentrated locations in Kashmir where they can live with dignity, security and where there will be full constitutional guaranteed for the Kashmiri Pandits so settled. Till their return and dignified rehabilitation in Kashmir, the displaced KP's that is the small chunk of them should be paid enhanced relief and they should not be harassed unnecessarily under one pretext or the other. The longing to return to their land of birth is becoming intense with the each passing day and it is hoped that in near future displaced, uprooted and dispossessed KP's will return to valley with security and honor. Once of their return to Kashmir besides the government also rests on the shoulders of the KM's as it is they who can guarantee their safety, security and dignity now in the changed circumstances, as the militancy has been contained to some extent. Rest 19 January 1990 was a black spot on the history of Kashmir and Kashmiri Pandits and on this date every year a KP irrespective of where he temporarily resides is revisited of the black and dark day of the holocaust and resolve to return and rehabilitate to their native place. Jai Hind, Jai Pannu Kashmir & Jai Dugger as it is later who embraced KP's in their soil.