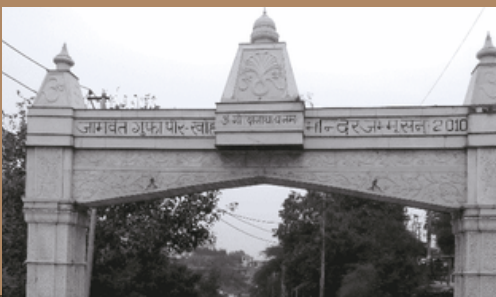


# JAMMU & KASHMIR GAZETTE

Feb 28, 2024 / Vol 16

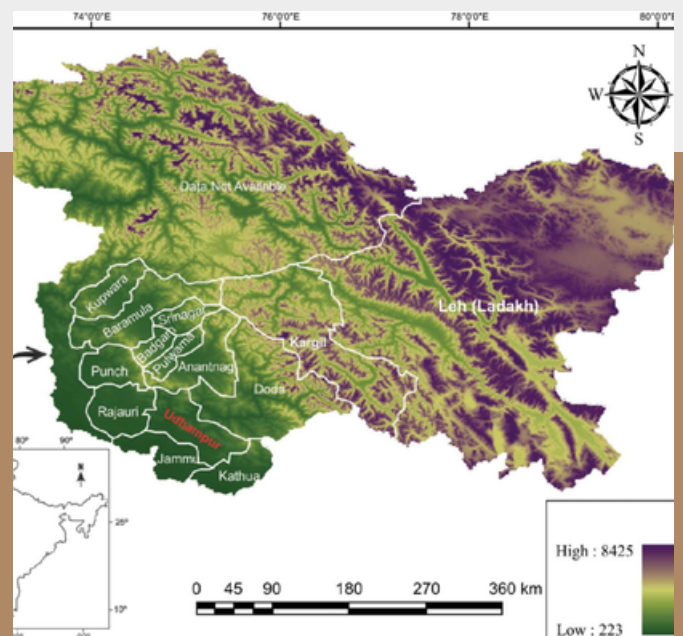
## The Shrines of Jammu

Jammu boasts a rich religious diversity, with a variety of temples, shrines, mosques, and gurdwaras gracing its landscape. The city's spiritual core is reflected in landmarks such as the esteemed Raghunathji Temple and the grand Ranbireshwar Temple, devoted to Lord Shiva. Other holy places like the ancient Panchvaktar Temple and the peaceful Peer Kho Temple contribute to the city's religious mosaic. The harmonious coexistence of different faiths is evident in landmarks such as the historic Jama Masjid and the serene Gurudwara Sunder Singh. From diverse sacred spaces to tranquil churches like St. Paul's, Jammu's religious legacy embodies unity in diversity.



## Exploring Jammu: Where Scenic Beauty Meets Abundance of Resources

Jammu's terrain is a blend of plains, hills, and valleys, intersected by the Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers. Stretching from Udhampur to Ramban, the area features fertile valleys producing crops such as maize, rice, and wheat, while its hillsides are adorned with cotton and barley. Abundant in minerals like coal, bauxite, and copper, Jammu also houses sapphire mines and diverse wildlife in forests like Kishtwar and Bhadarwah. Despite facing challenges due to its remote location, Jammu holds immense natural riches, making it a hidden gem waiting to be discovered and harnessed.



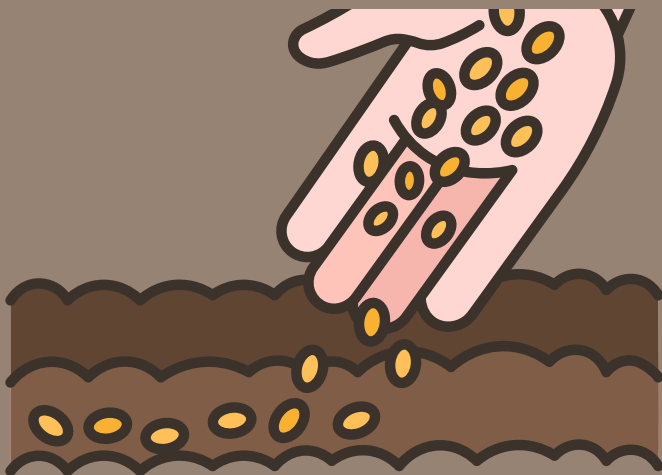
# The Saga of Kashmiri Apples: Mythology to Modern Cultivation



The apple, referred to as "Choonth" in Kashmiri, carries a deep historical and cultural significance that traces back to ancient eras. Originally hailing from Southern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and northwestern China, it journeyed through the Silk Road to Europe and eventually made its way to the Americas through European settlers. The apple represents knowledge, temptation, and the infamous fall of man.

Despite its folklore importance, the apple boasts an impressive 7500 varieties in cultivation. In Kashmir, where apple growing plays a crucial economic role, endeavors are ongoing to boost production and quality. Innovative methods, such as creating hybrid varieties like Lal-Ambri, offer promise for reviving Kashmir's apple heritage.

As Kashmir contributes significantly to India's total apple production, the fruit remains a cornerstone of the region's economy.



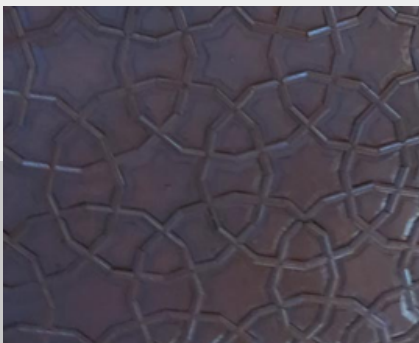
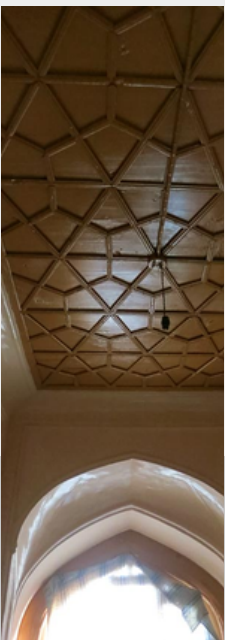
*Take a Tour through the apple orchard and find your perfect apples for your loved ones*





# Preserving Tradition: The Story of Papier-Mâché in Kashmir

Papier-mache, is an ancient craft introduced to Kashmir by Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani in the 14th century. Papier-mache has evolved into a diverse range of products, including decorative items. The intricate process involves two stages: Sakhtsazi, where paper pulp is molded, and Naqashi, the decorative painting. However, despite its rich heritage, papier-mache is facing challenges. Economic setbacks from floods, political changes, and the COVID-19 pandemic have led to a decline in artisans' livelihoods. While some continue to create traditional pieces like Quran boxes, the craft's survival is at risk, highlighting the need for support to preserve this art form.



## Khatamband: The Artistry of Kashmiri Woodwork

Khatamband, a unique aspect of Kashmiri woodwork, entails creating elaborate ceilings using delicate pinewood panels intricately shaped into geometric designs. Brought to Kashmir by Mirza Hyder Doulat in 1541, this technique relies entirely on precise manual work, with walnut or deodar wood pieces intricately interlocking without the need for glue or nails. Each piece is meticulously positioned to form striking geometric patterns, highlighting the skill and accuracy of Kashmiri artisans.



**Craft Exploration: Discover the Artistry of Kashmir through hands-on activities like papier-mâché painting and wood carving, fostering appreciation for traditional crafts and cultural heritage.**

# Gourmet Delights: Exploring Jammu's Dogra Cuisine

Jammu is renowned for its stunning visuals and delectable cuisine, particularly its signature Dogra dishes. Highlights include the famous "Rajma Chawal," aromatic kidney beans served with rice, and treats like Chocolate Barfi and Sund Panjeeri. Jammu also boasts unique Kalaadi cheese and specialties like Ambal and Khatta Meat. Tangy pickles add zest to the culinary experience, while dishes like Wazwan showcase Kashmiri influence with a grand 36-course meal of non-vegetarian delights.



## Kashmiri Shawls Crafting Legacy

Kashmiri shawls, renowned for their intricate buta patterns, have a rich history dating back to the 11th century CE. Originally crafted by weaver families using pashmina or shahtoosh yarn, these shawls gained popularity across North Africa, West, Central Asia, and Russia by the 16th century CE. Imperial patronage from Mughal kings and later Sikh ruler Maharaja Ranjit Singh propelled their fame, with the British East India Company further introducing them to European fashion in the eighteenth century. However, European mechanical looms led to mass-produced imitations, altering traditional designs and challenging the artisanal production of authentic Kashmiri shawls. Today, these shawls remain a luxury item, facing competition from machine-made alternatives.





# THE JAMMU, KASHMIR & LADAKH HERITAGE SITES

## Crossword



### ACROSS

1. FORT SITUATED IN UDHAMPUR DISTRICT
3. 'MOONLAND' OF LADAKH
4. ALSO KNOWN AS THE PALACE OF FAIRIES
6. TILL 1925, THIS PALACE WAS THE RESIDENCE OF THE DOGRA RULERS OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
8. ANNUAL FESTIVAL HONORING LORD PADMASAMBHAVA IS HELD HERE
9. THIS GARDEN HAS 12 TERRACES REPRESENTING 12 ZODIAC SIGNS

### DOWN

2. MANDIR CONSTRUCTED BY MAHARAJA GULAB SINGH IN 1835
5. LOCAL NAME OF MUGHAL ERA STONE MOSQUE LOCATED IN THE OLD CITY OF SRINAGAR
7. ANCIENT BUDDHIST SITE IN AKHNOOR

**TAKE ONE**

*digital network*

Solve the Crossword on Heritage Sites

Find out more about the Indigenous Communities of Jammu & Kashmir and write an essay on it



# INTACH's Efforts in Preserving Kashmir's Architectural Heritage Amid Modernization

Kashmir's unique architecture blends Islamic and Hindu influences, encompassing woodwork, walnut carving, and stone carving. However, modernization threatens traditional methods, with cement and iron replacing mud and timber. Organizations like INTACH strive to preserve heritage sites, advocating for stricter policies and community involvement. Architects emphasize the importance of local knowledge in construction, while craftsmen lament the decline of traditional woodwork due to limited resources and changing preferences. Despite challenges, efforts are underway to safeguard Kashmir's architectural legacy.



## References:

1. [wikipedia.in](http://wikipedia.in)
2. [gaatha.org](http://gaatha.org)
3. [mapacademy.io](http://mapacademy.io)
4. [pinterest.in](http://pinterest.in)
5. [risingkashmir.com](http://risingkashmir.com)
6. [tourmyindia.com](http://tourmyindia.com)

## Did you know?

1. According to the history of Jammu & Kashmir, Maharaja Hari Singh was the last ruling Maharaja of the princely state.
2. India's first floating post office was built on a houseboat at the western edge of Dal Lake in Srinagar
3. Kashmir is the largest producer of saffron in India and the third largest producer in the world