

PROTEST AGAINST NEW RECRUITMENT POLICY FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

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KASHMIR CENTRAL

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Kashmir Central Conclave 2022 A PHENOMENAL SUCCESS



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VOLUME 2 | EDITION 39
02 OCTOBER 2022

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OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO FIRST KASHMIR CENTRAL CONCLAVE

*Hein apne bhi khafa mujh se
beghane bhi naa khush
Mein zehr e hilal ko kabhi ke ne
saka kand*

Since the last three
or four months,
we at the weekly
news magazine
Kashmir Central

were planning to organise the

first Kashmir Central Conclave. We discussed the idea with friends and requested them to support us at least morally to make the conclave happen. We realised towards the end that all are not friends. Some of them are saboteurs. There was every overt and covert attempt to sabotage the event. It was not so easy as it seems from a distance. We were apprehensive till the time the Conclave actually commenced on October 1 at Taj Vivanta.

Our sincerity of purpose and our intentions were rewarded in a big way. The conclave went off very well. It may not be an exaggeration if I say the conclave was a block buster. The first one and such an overwhelming response!

More than anything else, the overwhelming participation reflected on our credibility. I am grateful to all those who participated. And let me state with humility and pride the conclave was very fruitful for those who participated. It was a reward for them too for their faith in us. The conclave was intellectually stimulating, thought provoking and educating.

The renowned academicians had an opportunity to express themselves in a very scholarly atmosphere. The scholars and the students were enriched by the discussions. The team got a pat on its back and the we at the Kashmir Central proved that we believe in ourselves and we do what we do on our own. We offered our people something that they had been waiting for long – an honest, unbiased discourse.

Bashir Assad



CONTENTS



**05 KASHMIR CENTRAL CONCLAVE
A HUGE SUCCESS**
by **Prof Tariq Ashai**



09 WIDE GAMUT OF ISSUES DISCUSSED
by **Prof Faheem Masoodi**



**11 KASHMIR NEEDS AN
INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE**
by **Bisma Nazir**



14 THE EVENT WILL BE REMEMBERED FOREVER
by **Dr Shafiya Khan**



**21 PROTEST AGAINST NEW RECRUITMENT
POLICY FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSORS**
by **Mareaya Fayaz**



**25 HALTING OF FRUIT LADEN TRUCKS
MUST STOP**
by **Sheikh Sameer**

Addressed Vital Issues Faced By Youth Of Jammu And Kashmir

Kashmir Central Conclave A Huge Success

by Prof Tariq Ashai

Kashmir Central, a Srinagar-based weekly news magazine, organized a one-day conclave at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Srinagar, on the issues faced by the 21st century.

The chief guest for the inaugural session was Prof Abdul Qayoom, Vice Chancellor Cluster University. While inaugurating the conclave, he highlighted that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have great potential. They should work hard to harness the benefits of that potential in different arenas.

Other guests who participated in the inaugural function were Prof Farooq Ahmad Shah Vice Chancellor Central University of Kashmir; Prof Tariq Ashai,



Principal, Department of Higher Education and President College Teachers Association; Prof Mohd Afzal Zargar, Registrar, Central University of Kashmir; Prof Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University of Kashmir.

Various faculty members from Kashmir University, Central University, Jammu University, Islamic University, faculty members from the Department of Higher Education, private B.Ed. colleges, eminent civil society members, trade union members and students from various universities and colleges.

The program was divided into different technical sessions based on themes relevant to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

KASHMIR YOUTH: CHOICES AND CHALLENGES

The first technical session was titled 'Kashmir Youth: Choices and Challenges'. It was deliberated upon by different experts.

Prof Farooq Ahmad Shah emphasized that the young generation should focus on skill-based education and research-oriented projects. Prof Tariq Ashai expressed that for imparting skill-based education, emphasis should be given on collaboration between academia and industry. Students should be provided scholarship for internship. Start-ups should be provided financial incentives.



The youth of Jammu and Kashmir have great potential. They should work hard to harness the benefits of that potential in different arenas: Prof Abdul Qayoom, Vice Chancellor Cluster University

Prof Ashai recommended a rehabilitation policy for highly educated youth and highly educated contractual teachers working in different universities and colleges of Jammu and Kashmir.

Another panelist, Prof Gul Mohd Wani, gave constructive suggestions to the government for the upliftment of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Ashok Pandey, author and Fellow, Vivekanand India Foundation (VIF), said that Kashmir has

great potential for opening industrial units. Emphasis should be given to boost the infrastructure keeping in view the geographical conditions.

ECONOMY, INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The second technical session was on 'Economy, Investment and Development: Scope and Opportunities in the



From Left: Prof. Tariq Ashai, Prof. Gul Mohd Wani, Dr. Ashok Kumar Pathak, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah, Prof. Qayoom Hussain, Dr. Ashok Kumar Pandey

Geographical Area of Jammu and Kashmir'. The panelists for this session were Prof Mohd Afzal Zargar, Registrar Central University Kashmir, Mr Fayaz Ahmad Malik, President of Spore Fruit Mandi Association, and Dr Mohd Shafi Khan, Professor Central University Kashmir.

The panelists in this session discussed the various parameters responsible for the growth and development of the economy. They highlighted that horticulture is the backbone of the Kashmir economy. Government intervention can act as a catalyst in the growth and development of

horticulture, giving livelihood to 70% of the population. Jammu and Kashmir has great potential to offer job opportunities to youth either directly or in allied activities. The speakers also urged the agriculture university scientists to act honestly while approving the fertilizers and sprays for fruits and vegetables.

BEING WOMAN AND RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The third technical session was on 'Being Woman and Rights and Opportunities'. The panelists included Ms Safina

Youth should be guided regarding proper use of technology. Technology can be good or bad, depending on how we utilize it

beigh, Chairperson DDC Baramulla, Ms Nuzhat Jabbar, Chairperson DDC Ganderbal, Dr Nowsheeba Asmi, Chief Librarian, Department of Higher Education and Ms Farhana Shabir, a reputed journalist of J&K.

The panelists observed that the need of the hour is to

spread awareness among women about opportunities and their constitutional rights. They informed that the government has introduced schemes and commissions for the welfare of women and for safeguarding their rights. Women must be aware of government provisions for their welfare so that they can derive the corresponding benefits.

ERA OF TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA: PROS AND CONS

The fourth technical session was on the theme “Era of Technology and Social media: Pros and Cons”. The panelists included Mr Muzaffar Hussain Beigh, Padma Bhushan; Prof Ashok Pathak, author and Fellow VIF, Prof Afzal Zargar, Prof Faheem Masoodi and Prof J Jagannath.

Mr Muzaffar Hussain Beigh praised technology but stressed that youth should be guided regarding proper use of technology. Speakers emphasized that technology can be good or bad, depending on how we utilize it.

The panelists stressed that cyber security measures should be considered while using technology and social media. During all the technical sessions, the participants raised many questions and the panel experts responded with relevant and appropriate answers.



During all the technical sessions, the participating youth raised many questions and the panel experts responded with relevant and appropriate answers

EVENT HIGHLY APPRECIATED

Kashmir Central Conclave was highly appreciated by the participants including professors, experts, industrialists and students. All acknowledged the efforts of Chief Editor of Kashmir Central Mr Bashir Assad for organising such a mega event, which will be path-breaking in resolving the challenging and tough issues faced by the young generation vis a vis education, employment, socio-political and technological issues.

Ms Bisma Nazir, Managing Editor Kashmir Central conducted the proceedings of the program. The reportier of the Conclave was Dr Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Faculty, Department of Higher Education.

Prof Shafiya Khan, Department of Higher Education, presented the vote of thanks at the end of the Conclave. She thanked the vice-chancellors, professors, experts, media, students and particularly the organizers for conducting such a path-breaking and brain storming program.

Four Big Drifts That Will Play Pivotal Role In Lives Of Kashmiris

WIDE GAMUT OF ISSUES DISCUSSED

by **Prof Faheem Masoodi**

▼
From economy, investment and development to choices and challenges faced by the Kashmiri youth, from challenges of being a woman to social media responsibilities of big tech companies, the first edition of The Kashmir Central Conclave-2022 discussed the four big drifts that will play a pivotal role in lives of Kashmiris in coming times. The first of its kind event, organised by The Kashmir Central was held at Taj Vivanta, Kralangri, Srinagar on October 1.

The panel discussion of the theme 'The Era of Social Media: Responsibilities of Big Tech' was moderated by Prof Mohammad Afzal Zargar, Registrar, Central University Kashmir. The panel comprised Jenab Muzaffar Hussain Beigh (Padma Bhushan, MP and former Deputy Chief minister of J&K state), Mr Ashok Kumar Pathak, Author and Fellow VIF; Dr. Faheem Masoodi, Cyber Security specialist and Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Sciences, Kashmir University and Dr J. Jeganaathan, Department

of National Security Studies, Central University Jammu.

Setting the tone for the last session of the day, Mr Pathak talked about role of tech giants in influencing social media users and their obligation to the society and to their end-users, who help them built their businesses. Mr Pathak also echoed his views on how different countries around the globe need to keep in check the big tech companies amid the growing chorus of the influence and dominance of social media.

CONSTANT PRESENCE OF TECH GIANTS IN DAILY LIFE

Dr Masoodi talked about the constant presence of tech giants in our daily lives and how they know everything about where we have been, what we have purchased and our habits, likes and dislikes. He focussed on how the security issues related to social media are overlooked. Dr Masoodi spoke about the need to develop the understanding of the vulnerabilities of social media users and spreading awareness. He talked about how to keep abreast with security measures, considering the continuous technological upgrades in cyber-attacks. Dr Masoodi pointed out various security practices including parental control, security settings and curating social media connections.

ABCDS OF INNOVATION

Dr J. Jegannaathan talked about the ABCDs of innovation and outlined multiple reasons how these technologies (Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain/Big-data, Cryptocurrency/Cloud and Digital) can significantly boost the profitability within the financial sector. He also talked about the lack of awareness among the social media users, particularly among females and children, and cited multiple incidents that occurred recently in some universities in northern India.

Speaking at the conclave, Mr Muzaffar Beigh shed light on the importance of raising awareness among the youth about social media use. He reiterated the fact that along with the good comes the bad, and presented some statistics of social media cons over last one decade. In his concluding remarks, Mr Beigh lauded the efforts of Mr Bashir Asad, the chief organiser of the event for providing a platform to the participants and speakers to exchange ideas and thoughts.

There is need to develop understanding of the vulnerabilities of social media users and spread awareness. It is important to keep abreast with security measures, considering the continuous technological upgrades in cyber-attacks



Kashmir Central Conclave 2022 Sets The Ball Rolling

Kashmir Needs An Intellectual Discourse

by **Bisma Nazir**

How has the abrogation of Article 370 impacted the Kashmiri economy?

This was the question from a Kashmir University student to the panelists at the Kashmir Central Conclave 2022 organized on October 1 at Hotel Taj Vivanta in Srinagar.

The question caught the panelists off guard, since the ongoing discussion was largely academic and scholarly. The speakers were hesitant to address a question that had political dimensions. The speakers were perhaps hesitant because they were seriously engaged in an intellectual discourse beyond



Kashmiris have the guts and the potential to compete in academic and professional fields globally. We need to channelize their energies in a positive manner. An honest and unbiased discourse can go a long way in creating positivity and provoking the thinking minds

politics and political narratives. Meanwhile, everybody sitting in the hall was curious

and waiting for an appropriate response from the speakers.



From Left: Ms Safeena Beigh, Ms Renu Koul Verma, Ms Newsheeba Asmi, Ms Farzana Mumtaz, Ms Nuzhat Ishaq

PROF GUL WANI'S APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

At this juncture, renowned academician and political scientist Prof Gul Mohammad Wani, who was seated among the audience, got up. Seeing that the panelists were hesitant to answer the question, Prof Wani rose to the challenge. He went to the podium to respond to the question which was required from an intellectual of his stature.

Prof Wani answered the question in a scholarly manner. He said, "To be honest, there is no scholarly analysis of whether the economy has got a boost or not, post the abrogation of Article 370. There is no consensus on the subject, and this is perhaps because the subject has not been debated

so far. There are claims and counter claims from the political class. Those who claim that Article 370 was a hindrance in the economy development of the region need to prove that the abrogation has helped the economy of Jammu and Kashmir," Prof Wani said.

Prof Wani added that there are many other regions and states which enjoy such kind of constitutional arrangement and legal frame work. Till now, it has not come to the fore whether such kind of legal and constitutional framework has in any manner hindered the economic growth of that particular region.

On one side, Prof Wani's response to the question bailed out the panelists. On the other side, his response was received well by the scholars, students and other sections of

Kashmir society present at the Conclave. The audience was fully involved throughout the day in the proceedings of the Conclave, and this question from a university student was the highlight of the day.

GRACEFUL CONDUCT OF ALL PARTICIPANTS

Throughout the proceedings, the speakers and also the participants conducted themselves gracefully. The conclave was about setting and starting a discourse in Kashmir which is purely academic and scholarly.

It is for the economists and political analysts to analyze the economic indicators post the abrogation of Article 370 and study how the economy



has been impacted by the abrogation. As Prof Wani said, there is substantial evidence on how the abrogation of Article 370 has impacted the Kashmir economy. What is evident, encouraging and fascinating is the change of behaviour and conduct of the people, particularly the younger generation.

It is notable that the same question would have created a furor about three to four years ago. There would have been disruption in the proceedings of such a high-profile event, which would have forced the organizers to suspend the proceedings by hours till order was restored in the conference hall.

It must also be observed that the question was posed by a student. It was not motivated, as was the practice in the past. It

was just an intelligent question from a participant who was involved in the proceedings. He had no political or ideological baggage. It was question from a student to his teachers.

GENUINE QUESTIONS DESERVE ANSWERS

There are questions posed by the youngsters which deserve answers by the people in the establishment, and by those who provide policy inputs to the state. Questions should be appreciated, and response to the questions should be based on facts and figures. People have every right to ask questions. Those at the helm of affairs are duty bound to provide answers to the questions posed by the people.

The question brought forth the anxiety of the people on vital issues facing Kashmir. We need to provide answers to such questions. As far as the politics, law and order situation and other aspects are concerned, much has been said and debated. Certain issues are beyond politics, and people need a dialogue around them. In a healthy democracy, questions need to be asked and answered for the satisfaction of the people.

HEALTHY ACADEMIC DISCOURSE

The Kashmir Central Conclave got a huge appreciation and an overwhelming response

from the intellectual class from Kashmir for setting a healthy academic discourse. It was amazing to see the students of all the three universities showing deep interest in participating in such a scholarly discussion at the Conclave.

We are convinced that more than politics and hollow political sloganeering, Kashmir needs an intellectual discourse which is in the larger interest of both the union territory and the people. The saner voices seem drowned in the din of the political rhetoric.

Such noises have polluted the minds for too long. People are fed up with political narratives on both sides of the ideological and political divide. Being an intelligent race, Kashmiris have the potential to grow if a congenial environment is ensured to them.

As rightly pointed out by Prof Imtiyaz ul Haq of Kashmir University, Kashmiris have the guts and the potential to compete in academic and professional fields globally. We need to channelize their energies in a positive manner. An honest and unbiased discourse can go a long way in creating positivity and provoking the thinking minds. The Kashmir Central Conclave has sincerely laid a foundation for such a discourse. We need to provide the younger generation a platform to discuss and debate the issues faced by us.

The Event Will Be Remembered Forever

by **Dr Shafiya Khan**

A few auspicious events have had a lasting impact on me. Kashmir Central Conclave is one of them.

I got an opportunity to witness the enlightening event that taught me about life in many different aspects.

To be among the great dignitaries that included policymakers was an honour in itself.

The conclave was organized by Kashmir Central, the weekly news magazine. The main focus and agenda of the Conclave was to encourage the youth and provide insights about different arenas of employment rather than waiting endlessly for government jobs.

The focus of the Conclave was to bring youth and the policymakers on the same



platform and facilitate dialogue which will benefit the youth and the society.

The Conclave comprised of four sessions that addressed diverse arenas of concern for the youth.

As I mentioned earlier, the focus of the Conclave was to listen to the youth - not just their issues but also their needs.

Dignitaries and experts from diverse fields ensured that the platform was left open for the



students to express their views.

I must say that the venue for the Conclave, Taj Vivanta, was a major source of attraction for everyone, especially students hailing from far-flung areas. Their smiling and laughing eyes said it all. Students from different colleges and universities participated in the event.

The event started at sharp 11 am. The session was inaugurated by presenting “Izband Souz”, bouquet and shawls to the Chief Guests, Mohammad Qayoom, VC Cluster University, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah VC Central University Kashmir, Prof. Tariq Ashai, principal of GDC College Pattan, and political scientist Prof Gul Mohammad Wani.

Every honourable guest encouraged the students to have a positive outlook on life. The distinguished speakers enlightened students about different initiatives that the government has taken for the better future of our youth.

The focus of the Conclave was to bring youth and the policymakers on the same platform and facilitate dialogue which will benefit the youth and the society

THE INSPIRATIONAL PROF ASHAI

I, personally, am grateful to Prof Ashai for inviting me and providing me an opportunity to witness such a grand event.

Prof Ashai provided the students with a once in a lifetime opportunity, where they learned how to find their own way in life rather than complaining about the problems that life offers. His lively nature and grand aura left the audience overwhelmed.

MANY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

How can I not mention Prof Afzal Zargar, Registrar of the Central University of Kashmir. I learned so much from his words of deep wisdom and knowledge.

He and his colleagues were truly humble and generous.

Ms Farzana, a senior journalist shared her experiences regarding the challenges of being a woman.

Mr Muzaffar Beigh and his wife Ms Safeena Beigh also graced the occasion and were a part of the discussion panels.

LIVELY QUESTION-ANSWER SESSIONS

Every session concluded with a lively question-answer session. Students actively participated in these sessions. The distinguished

panelists answered the queries of students.

The conclave concluded with presenting certificates to the guests and participants. Finally, I (Prof Shafia, HoD English, GDC Women Baramulla) offered the vote of thanks. I am pleased to note that my lively and refreshing vote of thanks was appreciated by well-known dignitaries.

ALL THANKS TO THE ORGANISERS

The organisers, Mr Bashir Assad, Ms Bisma Bhat, and Mr Sheikh Sameer put their heart and soul into making the event a grand success. Who else could have been the best host for the event other than the organiser? Bisma was an anchor for the entire event. She not only moderated the event gracefully but was single-handedly handling the backstage. For me, she is a

Every session concluded with a lively question-answer session. Students actively participated in these sessions

host-turned-friend. Mr Bashir Assad, a known personality, is a remarkable person indeed. How can I forget that despite suffering from severe back pain, he kept

a bird's eye view to ensure that the entire proceedings were conducted perfectly. He is a gem of a person.

Mr Sheikh Sameer, a humble soul, was on his toes to check if everything was going perfectly backstage.

I shall never forget the experience in my life. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the event.



Moments & Memories

Kashmir Central Conclave 2022









Students demand policy review,
say it is unjust towards those pursuing
higher education

Protest Against New Recruitment Policy For Assistant Professors



by **Mareaya Fayaz**

Higher education is a coveted aspiration in our society. People compete in topmost universities for M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees, aspiring to get appointed to faculty positions in colleges and universities.

'I feel saddened that I spent precious years of my life getting these prestigious degrees. As per the new criteria, there is no value for my degrees, and no value for the time I spent pursuing these degrees. Why will anyone go for higher education?'



But media reports indicate that this time-honoured tradition is being violated in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has notified the new criteria for the selection of Assistant Professors, which is highly strange.

The criteria specifies that the selection process for teaching positions in universities and colleges will be done by conducting the entrance exam which will be of 75 marks. Academic qualification will be of 10 marks, and 15 marks shall be provided for the interview.

The 10 marks for academics shall include UG/PG, NET/SET/SLET, and Ph.D. and the experience. This is sheer injustice towards those who have devoted years and years to higher education. A

Research scholars of Jammu University organized a protest on September 30 against this draconian policy. I spoke to the aggrieved students, who feel that they are being let down by the policy makers.

RESEARCH SCHOLARS DEJECTED

Imtiyaz, a Ph.D scholar from Aligarh Muslim University said, “This new recruitment process has caused confusion. Why are the policy makers playing with the aspirations of the young? We were hoping for fairness and openness to the competition, but the new policy is highly



disappointing. A person spends four to six years to complete PhD in the hope that he will get an appointment in higher education. We are not against the exam. But it should be limited to our subject and should not be a mix up of many subjects. It doesn't make sense. Proper weightage should be given for the Ph.D degree, NET/SET and GATE exams.”

Another aspirant Dr. Amit said, “The new criteria for the selection of Assistant Professors (AP) is an attempt to

discourage and destroy research and innovation culture in the universities. It is not selection criteria. This is exclusion criteria intended to attack higher education.”

Another female aspirant said, “I have qualified JKSET two times. I have also qualified NET-JRF and have both MPhil and Ph.D. I feel saddened that I spent precious years of my life getting these prestigious degrees. As per the new criteria, there is no value for my degrees, and no value for the time I spent pursuing these



degrees. Why will anyone go for higher education? It is simply a move to curb the research process.”

Vaishali Sharma, a PhD scholar from University of Jammu said, “It seems that our PhD degree is an object of mockery for the system. The new proposed criterion for the selection of AP is totally biased and in favour of non-PhD candidates. Scholars like us who work hard for years should get some benefit for the degree. I believe that there is a need to

bring changes in the proposed criterion. At least the weightage of points for PhD should be increased by reducing the weightage given to the entrance.”

‘GIVE MORE WEIGHTAGE TO HIGHER EDUCATION’

▼
Mehak Kour, a PhD scholar said, “The new policy is sheer injustice towards those who have devoted themselves to research. Research is needed to bring in new ideas.

This new policy shall discourage people from opting for research. The policy makers must review it.”

Another research scholar, Mian Tufail, said the new policy for appointment of APs is sheer injustice towards the researchers. “They have thrown to the wind the guidelines of UGC. The Administration needs to understand that recruiting civil servants and Assistant Professors isn’t the same thing. In the new policy, the syllabus, procedure and weightage is so vague that it will brazenly lead to corruption, nepotism, and ambiguity. We demand that JK administration religiously follow UGC guidelines for recruitment and stop pushing educated youth to the wall. Let them comply with the weightage system as is being followed throughout the country. Jammu and Kashmir can’t be exception to UGC rules”.

A contractual assistant professor who did not wish to be named said, “Graduation and Masters degree points must be considered on pro rata basis. Graduation cannot be the basic qualification for appointment, as this recruitment deals with higher education.”

MPhil degree was disbanded by UGC under NEP 2020. Research scholars demanded that candidates who earned their MPhil prior to NEP 2020 must be given retrospective benefit. Not giving any credit to the MPhil degree is unjust towards those who toiled hard for the degree.

DEMANDS OF RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Students have demanded that NET, SET and JRF must be given equal weightage.

Students demanded that the points for PhD should be increased.

Points may be given for publications. Ten marks may be given for a maximum of five publications. UGC care list publication may be considered in case of Humanities and Social Sciences. SCI indexed publications may be considered in case of science subjects. The publications may be considered within or outside the thesis probably up to three authors. Due consideration may be placed to review articles, book publications, tools and patents.

The experience earned by the candidates by working in the field of higher education should be considered on pro rata basis with maximum of five points.

Students have demanded that there should be no age limit for the recruitment of candidates in colleges like that of universities, as a large number of candidates have attained maximum age limit



'This order will discourage young men and women from opting for research. The Administration must review this order'

while pursuing their Ph.D. and PDF.

A research scholar said that the administration is doing injustice with PhD candidates by giving only two points for PhD degree. "Scholars spend more than five years of their life in completing this degree. The introduction of 75 marks, which includes 60 marks for the concerned subject and 15 marks for GS, will not create transparency in the selection



process. It will lead to corruption. Equal weightage should be given to the written examination as well as to the academics/ interview, so that the hard work of the scholars doesn't go waste," said the research scholar.

Shareef, a NET/JRF qualified PhD scholar said, "This order will discourage young men and women from opting for research. The Administration must review this order."

Students, scholars and Contractual Assistant Professors demanded during the protest on September 30 that this draconian policy must be quashed. They emphasized that this policy makes mockery of the hard work of thousands of youth who have devoted themselves to research. The issues raised by the student community are genuine, and the LG administration must address their concerns on priority.



Fruits are perishable products, farmers face huge losses

Halting Of Fruit Laden Trucks Must Stop

by Sheikh Sameer

The frequent closure of the national highway and the halting of fruit laden trucks on the highway are leading to huge losses for fruit growers.

Growers are aggrieved that fruit-laden trucks remain halted for more than two days on the highway. This destroys the quality of the fruit. Fruit also loses its colour.

Growers say that the discolourization happens due to

high temperatures inside the load carriers.

A grower told Kashmir Central, “We all are aware about the tight packing of apple boxes. The fruits starts ripening if they are left in high temperature for long. Due the softness of the fruit, the creamy and juicy part starts seeping from the boxes. When the juicy part is lost, the inner part spoils. Thus when

the fruit reaches the mandi, the demand for it falls,” said an aggrieved fruit grower.

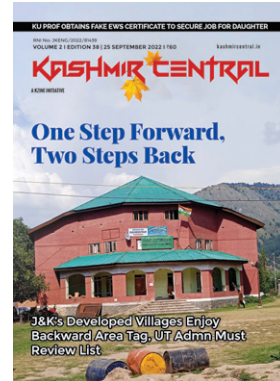
Horticulturists demand that fruit laden trucks should be allowed hassle free movement on the national highway. These loads carriers should be given priority like an ambulance vehicle so that the fruit from Kashmir reaches the market place on time.



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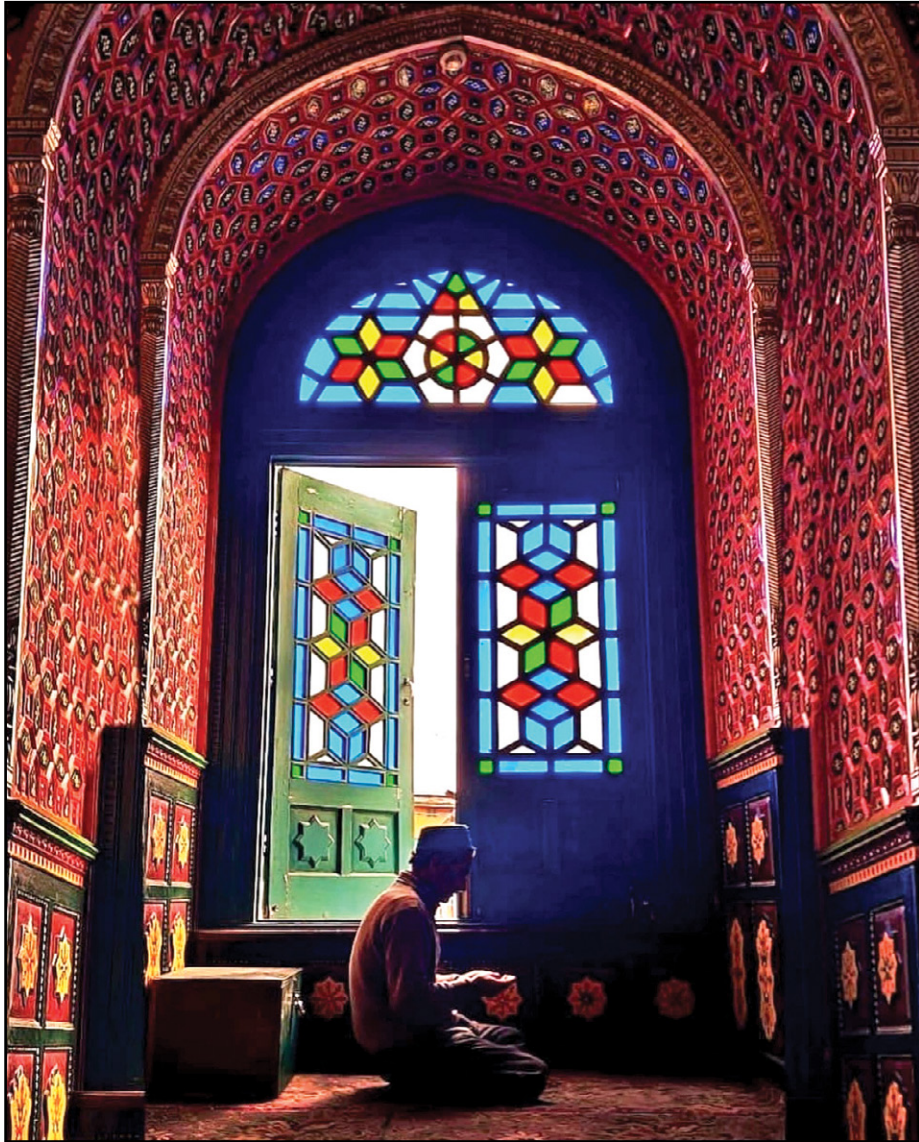
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