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### Quote!

To think too much is a disease  
- Fyodor Dostoevsky

### NEWS DIGEST

#### J&K Closes 38 New Corona Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 38 new Covid cases on Thursday that took the infection tally to 4,54,623, officials said. No Covid-related death was reported, they said. Of the new cases, 25 were reported from the Jammu division while 13 were from the Kashmir valley, officials said. The death toll stands at 4,755, they said. There are 220 active cases, while the overall recoveries have **More on P6**

#### Missing Teen Girl Found Dead

SRINAGAR: Body of a teenage girl from Damhal Hanjipora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district, who was missing since June 12, was recovered from a river in the district on Thursday, officials said. They said that the girl identified as Khushboo Jan (17) daughter of Jahangir Ahmad Naikoo was missing since June 12 from her home in Koraal Manzgam area. He said that her body was recovered from **More on P6**

#### 15 People Injured By Stray Dogs

SRINAGAR: At least 15 persons including a teacher and two children were injured in an attack by stray dogs in North Kashmir's Handwara on Thursday. Locals that stray dogs attacked and injured at least 15 persons in Gundchobutara Kralgund village of Handwara, who were all shifted to District Hospital Handwara for treatment. Sarpanch Naseer Ahmed Khan said that among the 15 people bitten by canines, **More on P6**

#### 3 Booked For Possessing AK-47 Rounds

ANANTNAG: Police have booked three youth including two students under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for possessing ammunition and having links with militants here in South Kashmir's Bijbehara town of Anantnag. Police have recovered 20 rounds of AK-47 from the possession of these three persons, a local news agency KNT reported Thursday. Quoting Police sources, the report said that an FIR **More on P6**

## Flood Threat Over As Water Level Recedes In Jhelum



KO File Photo

### Agencies

**Srinagar:** The flood situation in Kashmir Valley showed a marked improvement on Thursday as water level in Jhelum and other water bodies receded considerably. From reaching 22.09-ft at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, the water level in Jhelum at Sangam

gauge in south Kashmir was at 18.29 at noon on Thursday, an official of Irrigation and Flood Control department said, as per news agency GNS. However he said the water level was still above the 'flood declaration mark' of 18-ft. At Ram Munshi Bagh here, the Jhelum was flowing at 19.2-ft at noon against 19.77-ft at 4 a.m.

today. "The water level is expected to reduce further as the day progresses," said the official. The water level was still above the danger mark of 18-ft when flood was declared in Srinagar. At Asham in northern Kashmir's Bandipora district, the official said, the Jhelum level was at 12.58ft, almost 2-ft below the mark **More on P6**

#### No Major Rainfall Activity Till June 30: Met

**W**eatherman on Thursday said that there was no major rainfall activity expected in Jammu and Kashmir till the end of this month. A meteorological department official here said that mainly dry weather was expected over the plains of Jammu and Kashmir with very light rain or thundershowers at one or two places over the higher reaches in the next 24 hours. He said fair to partly cloudy weather becoming **More on P6**

## J&K Assembly To Miss Prez Polls For 2nd Time In History

### Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** As India elects its next president on July 18, the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will not be a part of the exercise for the second time in the history of the election to the top constitutional post. There have been precedents of legislative assemblies of states not being part of the presidential polls on account of their dissolution, the first such instance being of Gujarat in 1974. The assemblies of Assam, Nagaland and Jammu and Kashmir too could not participate in subsequent elections on account of dissolution. In the present case, the Legislative Assembly of

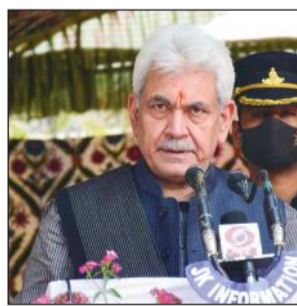
Jammu and Kashmir is yet to be constituted after the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in 2019. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act provides for a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, but the election is yet to be held due to various reasons. In 1974, Gujarat was in the throes of the Navnirman movement, which led to the dissolution of the state government headed by Chimanbhai Patel. Against the backdrop of demands to postpone the presidential polls, a reference was made to the Supreme Court to get its opinion **More on P6**

### AMARNATH YATRA

## LG Reviews Security Preparations In Unified Command Meet

### Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a meeting of top brass security and reviewed the security arrangements and preparations for the annual Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin next week amid heightened security. The LG chaired the Unified Command Meeting in Srinagar which was attended by Chief Secretary and senior security officers from the Home Department, J&K Police, Army, Intelligence Agencies, CRPF, BSF and others, an official spokesperson said.



He said that the officers apprised the LG Governor about the overall security situation while threadbare discussions were held on various arrangements related to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. "Detailed plans **More on P6**

#### 5000 Personnel To Be Deployed In Jammu City For Security

**A**s many as 5,000 security personnel will be deployed in the Jammu city as part of the multi-tier security arrangement for the Amarnath Yatra which begins later this month. The 43-day pilgrimage is scheduled to start on June 30 after a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. The journey will begin from both the routes - the traditional 48-km route from Nunwan in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag, and 14-km shorter but **More on P6**

## 25,000 Devotees Visit Sufi Shrine On IB

### Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The annual fair at the Baba Chamliyal shrine along the International Border in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir saw a huge rush of devotees on Thursday as it was being held after a gap of two years due to Covid, officials said. According to a police official, nearly 25,000 devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and neighbouring states have visited the shrine till 2 pm. The shrine of Baba Dalip Singh Manhas, known as the symbol of the Indo-Pakistan bonhomie in the past, did not see any visitors from the neighbouring country for the fifth straight year **More on P6**

## Highway To Remain Closed For 4th Day Today



### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Traffic on Jammu-Srinagar, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, shall remain closed on Friday for the 4th consecutive day, officials said. The thoroughfare remained closed due to multiple landslides triggered by incessant rains, officials said. "Tomorrow on 24-06-2022, movement of all type of vehicles shall remain suspended on Jammu-Srinagar highway in view of major landslide near Dewal bridge which has damaged both tubes of highway road where restoration work could not be

completed till today evening and will continue tomorrow also," a traffic department official told GNS. "Restoration work at t2 tunnel has also not been complete." Likewise vehicular movement from Jammu to Chenani, Patnitop, Doda, Ramban, Gool, Banihal, Srinagar and vice-versa shall also remain suspended because of closure of highway near Dewal bridge, he said. "People are requested not to undertake any journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW and other mentioned routes till clearance work is completed." Meanwhile in order to assess the ground situation that arose due to **More on P6**

**TRUCKERS UPTO TEN TYRE** are advised to use Mughal road from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa."

## HC Stays Man's Detention Under PSA On Medical Grounds

### Basit Amin Makhdoomi

**Srinagar:** The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has stayed the detention order under Public Safety Act (PSA) against a Srinagar resident on precarious health ground. A single bench of J&K, Ladakh High Court M. A. Chaudary was hearing a habeas corpus petition challenging the detention order under PSA issued by District Magistrate Srinagar on April 05, this year against Ajaz Ahmad Rah of Srinagar. The petitioner inter alia, challenged the detention order on the ground that the allegations made against him "are vague and indefinite and no prudent man can make an effective representation against these allegations". Rah, was apprehending arrest

under an order passed by District Magistrate Srinagar on April 5, 2022 for the activities prejudicial to the security of the state. While issuing notice to the respondents the bench directed the UT administration to file objections within two weeks. "In the meantime, the execution of the impugned order is stayed subject to objections from the other side and till the next date before the bench," the court said. Keeping in view the complicated medical condition of the petitioner and the fact that the order passed in the first week of April has not been executed so far by the respondents, the bench passed the directions of staying the operation of the said order. The petitioner **More on P6**

## Report Paints Scary Picture Of Damage Caused Due To Tourist Influx In Himalayan States

### Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** The barely 10 sq kms Leh town saw a total of 20,918 quintals waste - both biodegradable and non-biodegradable - generated in just 11 months from June 2021 till April 2022. However, of that, only 1,387 quintal waste - plastic bottles, multi-layer plastics, cardboard, tin, etc. - were sold for reuse while 19,531 quintal waste was deposited at the municipal processing site. Reason: The increasing tourist inflow in the fragile trans-Himalayan landscape. Due to improving and affordable connectivity, particularly air travel, the tourism sector is booming in India and there has been an immense growth in infrastructure.

However, not all growth has been sustainable and the tourists' have not exactly helped in economic prosperity, rather caused trouble for local landscape and biodiversity. These are the findings of a damning report 'Environmental Assessment of Tourism in the Indian Himalayan Region', submitted to the Environment Ministry in compliance with a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order. The report, submitted earlier this month, was prepared by Govind Ballabh Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Almora. After assessing every single state/UT - UT of Ladakh, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, West Bengal Hills & Darjeeling,



Assam Hills, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya - for tourist numbers, municipal facilities for waste treatment, air and water quality and biodiversity listing etc., the report came up with some common actions/

operations, carbon taxes, bio-fuel subsidies, vehicle purchase subsidies, planning and zoning restrictions, restriction on use of vehicles in eco-sensitive areas, feed-in tariffs for renewable energy, establishment of proper waste segregation and management systems in tourist spots, establishment of eco-friendly bio-digester toilets in high altitude trek routes, etc. Apart from the worries about water and air quality management - often discussed and written about issues - the report also highlighted that solid waste management has come up as a major problem for the IHR. For instance, in Uttarakhand, currently there are 91 urban local bodies targeting the population of 34,40,814 **More on P6**



**Fortis Team In Srinagar**
**Parkinson' Disease Curable: Dr Jindal**
**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: Neuro-Modulation Team from Fortis Hospital led by Dr Anupam Jindal in Srinagar addressed a press conference on Thursday.

Dr Jindal said that a 64-year-old Patient was facing a distressing time as he was suffering from Parkinson's Disease and exhibited symptoms such as trembling of hands, arms, head, difficulty in speaking, stiffness of limbs and impaired coordination.

"He had become non-responsive to medicines and his symptoms had been progressing, while severely hampering his mental and physical health".

Unable to bear the discomfort, the Patient approached Fortis Hospital Mohali, recently.

The Neuro-Modulation Team at Fortis Mohali discussed the Patient's case thoroughly and subsequently performed Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery.

"Deep Brain Stimulation involved implanting electrodes inside the brain to produce electrical impulses, which helps treat affected cells and chemicals in the brain"

**Burglars Loot 3 Shops At Forest Lane, Lal Chowk**
**Agencies**

Srinagar: Shopkeepers at Forest Lane of Srinagar city Thursday claimed that burglars looted ready-made garments worth lakhs from the three shops during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

Police rushed to the spot to take stock of the situation.

As per shopkeepers, they found the shutters of three shops half-open with broken locks after arriving in the market.

"Burglars have looted ready-made garments worth over 6 lakhs from the shop number 34 belonging to Ghulam Rasool Dhobi of Bemina, shop number 50 owned by Bilal Ahmed of Rainawari and shop number 60 belonged to Deen Muhammad, a resident of Lal Bazar area of Srinagar outskirts," the shopkeepers said.

President Forest Lane Shopkeepers Association, Mufti Abdul Hamid Shah said that this is the third incident of burglary in the same market. "For past 50 years, the market has never witnessed any theft incident but now burglars loot it at will," he said, adding that they have approached the police to ensure swift action.

He said that thieves have unsuccessfully tried to break the locks of other shops as well.



A gleaming view of sunset over Dal Lake captured by KO lens man Abid Bhat

**Miraculous Escape For Families As Houseboat Sinks In Dal Lake**
**Agencies**

Srinagar: Seven tourists and two families had a miraculous escape on Thursday after a houseboat capsized into the Dal Lake following incessant rains in the Kashmir Valley over the past few days.

Mohammad Yousuf, owner of the house boat said his houseboat "Kolhai" sank into the Dal Lake today morning and said that besides two families there were seven tourists in the houseboat when it started to sink.

He said that he along with other family members first evacuated the tourists as the houseboat was slowly sinking and somehow they managed to take them to a safer place. "After taking tourists to safer places, we evacuated other family members."

Meanwhile, he said that their house boat is old and they had requested the authorities to give them permission so that they can repair it, however, their pleas fell on deaf ears.

He added that had the government allowed them to repair the house boat, this incident would have not happened.

"We are now homeless, as the house boat has suffered massive damage. We appeal to the authorities to provide compensation, besides permission to repair our house boat," he said—(KNO)

**Govt Sets Up Panel For Houseboats**

**A**gencies: The government on Thursday constituted an advisory-cum-regulatory committee for regulating compliance by houseboats, an official order said.

The panel will be led by Director Tourism Kashmir while Vice Chairman, Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) will be Co-chairman. Besides, the committee will have five members including Deputy Director Tourism (Registration), Secretary, LCMA, Assistant Director, F&ES, Srinagar and two members nominated by chairman Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association (KHBOA).

The order said that the committee will identify areas of concern regarding preservation of the lake body with regard to the houseboats, point out measures to be taken for increasing tourist influx to the lake and houseboats in particular and review measures for proper and scientific waste disposal from houseboats and any other areas of concern.

"The committee shall also be responsible for scrutinizing all documents of houseboat(s) for issuance/renewal of registration. Ensuring adherence of the fire safety related guidelines by the houseboat owner(s), Ensuring functional bio-digester or similar Sewage Treatment system for Solid/Liquid Waste is installed and Making surprise inspections of houseboats to check overcharging by the Houseboats and facilities as per entitlement are made available to them," it added.(KNO)

**Committee Will identify areas of concern regarding preservation of the lake body with regard to the houseboats, point out measures to be taken for increasing tourist influx to the lake and houseboats in particular and review measures for proper and scientific waste disposal from houseboats and any other areas of concern**

**Budgam Boy Drowns To Death In Srinagar**
**Agencies**

Srinagar: An 11 year old boy on Thursday evening drowned to death in Umerhair Buchpora area of Srinagar, official sources said here.

Official sources said that the boy identified as Arsalan Ahmad Sheikh of Beerwah area of Budgam, who was

at his grandfather's residence at Umerhair Buchpora drowned in a Nallah this evening while taking bath.

They said that the boy was fished out by a team of Ahmad Nagar police station with the help of locals and was subsequently shifted to hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

The officials said that police have taken cognizance of the incident.(KNO)

**Office of the District Industries Centre Shopian NOTICE**

That the unit namely "M/S Rizwan Bakery & Confectionary IE Gagren Shopian" under the line of activity "Bakery & Confectionary Mfg." having proprietor Arifa Mehmood W/O Riyaz Ahmed Sofi R/O Gagren Shopian is Formally registered with GM ,DIC, Shopian vide registration No.01/015/11/00233/PMT/MSME dated:19.05.2022.The unit holder now wants to change constitution by way of inducting new partner namely Mr Parvaiz Ahmed Mir S/O Mohd. Shareef Mir R/o Gagren Shopian. If anybody has any objection with regard to the change of constitution in favour of above mentioned unit ,He/She may file an objection to the office of GM, DIC, Shopian within a period of seven (07) days from the date of issuance of publication of this notice, after that no objection will be entertained.

DIPK-4686/22

 Sd/-  
General Manager Industries,  
Shopian

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I have found Samsung J7 Phone at Babdem Srinagar. If anyone has lot it he/she can contact me on 9596020164

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Mushtaq Ahmad S/o Mohd Kamal R/o Saderkot bala tehil hajan District bandipora have lost rare number plate of Tanker bearing registration no JK15A1336 of Jahangir filling station from S.k.bala to Ajjass.I have applied for for new number plate, in case anyone has any objection the same can be communicated to RTO/ ARTO bandipora within seven days from the date of publication. inf

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- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
24- Zil- Qaddah  
1443

**PRAYERS**

FAJR	3: 35
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	5:33
Magrib	7:49
ISHA	9: 31

**This Day In History**

- 451 - 10th recorded perihelion passage of Halley's Comet
- 843 - Vikings destroy Nantes
- 972 - Battle of Cedynia, the first documented victory of Polish forces; Mieszko I of Poland decisively defeated Odo I of Lusatia
- 1128 - Afonso I of Portugal defeats army of his mother Theresa
- 1314 - Battle of Bannockburn; Scotland regains independence from England
- 1396 - Crusaders under Earl of Nevers reach Vienna
- 1397 - Sultan Bajezid I releases captured crusaders for ransom
- 1529 - Zürich and Catholic cantons sign Peace of Kappel
- 1658 - French fleet recaptures Duinker
- 1662 - Dutch invasion of Macau repulsed (Macau Day)
- 1795 - US & Great Britain sign Jay Treaty, 1st US extradition treaty
- 1812-Napoleon Bonaparte&#39;s forces invade Russia crossing the Neman River
- 1866 -Second Battle at Custoza: the Austrian Imperial army, joined by the Venetian Army decisively defeated the Italian army, despite the Italians&#39; strong numerical advantage.
- 1898- American troops drive Spanish forces from La Guasimas, Cuba
- 1917 -Russian Black Sea fleet mutinies at Sebastopol
- 1922 -Adolf Hitler begins a month long prison sentence for paramilitary operations; he rails against the &#39;Jewish sell-out&#39; of Germany to the Bolsheviks
- 1930- 1st radar detection of planes, Anacostia DC
- 1931- USSR & Afghanistan sign neutrality treaty
- 1932- Coup ends absolute monarchy in Thailand
- 1940- France signs an armistice with Italy during WW

**From KO Archives**
**New Delhi talks of Kashmir resolution**

Asks Hurriyat to come up with suggestions

**D**EHRADUN - The Centre today rejected the Hurriyat Conference's demand for inclusion in the Indo-Pak dialogue process but said the conglomerate could give its suggestions for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. "There is no question of involving the Hurriyat in the Indo-Pak talks," Union Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal told reporters here.

However, he said the Centre has opened its doors for the Hurriyat to give its suggestions for the resolution of the Kashmir issue. "Now the onus lies on the Hurriyat Conference as to when they want to come forward in this regard," he said, adding the Government was ready to hold dialogue with any group in Kashmir over the issue.

Chairman of the moderate Hurriyat faction Mirwaiz Umer Farooq who along with eight separatist leaders from Kashmir had visited Pakistan earlier this month, had said that the conglomerate should be included in the Indo-Pak dialogue process to find an amicable solution to the Kashmir problem.

Claiming that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was better now than at any time during the last 15 years, Jaiswal said the UPA government had taken several steps, including the current round of Indo-Pak dialogue, to bring peace in the State. "Tourist traffic is increasing in Kashmir, which is an indicator for the improvement in the situation here. We have also extended the duration of Amarnath Yatra from 30 to 45 days," he said.

He said the improvement was possible due to the economic package provided by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Referring to the northeast, Jaiswal expressed 'satisfaction' over the situation there and said talks were in progress at various levels in that region.

On the naxal menace prevalent in different parts of the country, Jaiswal asked the affected States to find a solution themselves. "A solution to end the naxal problem has to come from the States affected by it," he said, lauding the efforts of West Bengal in this regard.

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OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

## India-Pak dead-end

Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, in a recent speech at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad, advocated renewed engagement with India, a stance that took people in South Asia by surprise. He questioned the merit of past policies pursued by Pakistan with regard to India, asking if these had helped Pakistan achieve its objectives, "be it Kashmir, be it the rising Islamophobia." He stressed that despite a "long history of war and conflict" with India, the disengagement is, however, not productive. Bhutto-Zardari acknowledged that Pakistan had been isolated globally due to its past policies adding that if his country had achieved economic engagement with India in the past, it would have been in a better position to influence Delhi's policy and prevent both countries from taking extreme positions.

The speech has generated some buzz and also a controversy with the hawks in Pakistan seeing it as a climb-down from Pakistan's hardline position on India. Nevertheless, Bhutto-Zardari's speech indicates an intention to break from the past as far as relations with India. But whether this could actually lead to an engagement with India can be anyone's guess.

True, the recent takeover of Shahbaz Sharif-led coalition government had generated some hope for a bilateral dialogue. But this has turned out to be a mirage so far. The new government in Pakistan has just sixteen months before the national elections are called in the country. But despite this, the exchange of letters between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sharif had created a faint hope of some engagement. PM Modi congratulated Sharif on his election and said India desired peace and stability in a region free of terrorism. Sharif tweeted back that the resolution of Kashmir was "indispensable."

The Sharif family is generally seen as friendly towards India and there is hope that the new Pakistan prime minister will take steps to restore some kind of a relationship with India. When PM Modi was sworn in in 2014, Nawaz Sharif was among the invited regional leaders who had visited India for the ceremony. And later in 2015, Modi had made an impromptu visit to Lahore to attend the wedding of Sharif's granddaughter. But the bonhomie between the two countries was cut short when the militants traced to Pakistan attacked an Army base in Pathankot. From thereon, the relationship went steadily downhill reaching its nadir when New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of constitution in August 2019.

The neighbors tried to pick up the pieces with the surprise re-affirmation of the 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control in February 2021. Ever since, however, they have failed to build upon the truce and restore the dialogue. But so far nothing has changed. Here's hoping against hope.

OTHER OPINION

## State of Inequality in India

Overall, the findings of the inequality report clearly indicate that while there has been some improvement in the employment and income parameters in the recent pre-COVID-19 years, the benefit has been largely restricted to the dominant groups at the expense of the disadvantaged groups who have been marginalised and deprived of the gains. The trends in wage earnings clearly show that the gains have not only excluded the majority of the labour force at the bottom but also contributed to an uneven development and denied income gains and mobility to the disadvantaged social groups, especially women and the youth. This would have serious repercussions as these trends are likely to gain more momentum and again reduce participation rates and marginalise them further.

However, the growing disparities in the income earned in labour markets are only a partial reflection of the growing inequalities. The experience across the world has been that wealth inequalities, the data on which is largely restricted to rich countries, are usually much greater than income equalities. Such growing inequalities in income and wealth are rather distressing, especially in the context of the relatively smaller direct tax base of the economy where the tax rates on the higher-income groups are often lower than that in the developed economies.

But the most potent implication of the growing inequality highlighted in the report is its repercussion on the medium- and long-term growth. It is now increasingly recognised by economists across the world that higher inequality can emerge as a serious deterrent to growth. Even the publications of the International Monetary Fund vouch for the negative correlation between inequality and growth. In fact, the evidence they ferret out shows that an increase in the share of income of the top 20% leads to a deceleration in the gross domestic product growth in the medium term.

In contrast, any increase in the share of income of the bottom percentiles is usually associated with an acceleration of the medium-term growth rates. The reason for this is that a large number of poor and middle classes can do more for growth as they produce positive vibes through the inter-related economic, social, and political channels and provide the critical synergies needed for boosting growth.

EPW

# Inflation: Power Play Gone Wrong



YANIS VAROUFAKIS

But, today, demanding that workers forgo wage gains are absurd. All the evidence suggests that, unlike in the 1970s, wages are rising much more slowly than prices, and yet the increase in prices is not just continuing but accelerating

**A**THENS – The blame game over surging prices is on. Was it too much central-bank money being pumped out for too long that caused inflation to take off? Was it China, where most physical production had moved before the pandemic locked down the country and disrupted global supply chains? Was it Russia, whose invasion of Ukraine took a large chunk out of the global supply of gas, oil, grains, and fertilizers? Was it some surreptitious shift from pre-pandemic austerity to unrestricted fiscal largesse?

The answer is one that takers never encounter: All of the above and none of the above.

Pivotal economic crises frequently evoke multiple explanations that are all correct while missing the point. When Wall Street collapsed in 2008, triggering the global Great Recession, various explanations were offered: regulatory capture by financiers who had replaced industrialists in the capitalist pecking order; a cultural proclivity toward risky finance; failure by politicians and economists to distinguish between a new paradigm and a massive bubble; and other theories, too. All were valid, but none went to the heart of the matter.

The same thing is true today. The "we told you so" monetarists, who have been predicting high inflation ever since central banks massively expanded their balance sheets in 2008, remind me of the joy felt that year by leftists (like me) who consistently "predict" capitalism's near-death – akin to a stopped clock that is right twice a day. Sure enough, by creating huge overdrafts for the bankers in the false hope that the money would trickle down to the real economy, central banks caused epic asset-price inflation (booming equity and housing markets, the crypto craze, and more).

But the monetarist story cannot explain why the major central banks failed from 2009 to 2020 even to boost the quantity of money circulating in the real economy, let alone push consumer price inflation up to their 2% target. Something else must have triggered inflation.

The interruption of China-centered supply chains clearly played a significant role, as did Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But neither factor explains Western capitalism's abrupt "regime change" from prevailing deflation to its opposite: all prices taking

off simultaneously. This would require wage inflation to overtake price inflation, thus causing a self-perpetuating spiral, with wage rises feeding back into further price hikes which, in turn, cause wages to rise again, ad infinitum. Only then would it be reasonable for central bankers to demand that workers "take one for the team" and refrain from seeking higher wage settlements.

But, today, demanding that workers forgo wage gains are absurd. All the evidence suggests that, unlike in the 1970s, wages are rising much more slowly than prices, and yet the increase in prices is not just continuing but accelerating.

So, what is really going on? My answer: A half-century long power play, led by corporations, Wall Street, governments, and central banks, has gone badly wrong. As a result, the West's authorities now face an impossible choice: Push conglomerates and even states into cascading bankruptcies, or allow inflation to go unchecked.

For 50 years, the US economy has sustained the net exports of Europe, Japan, South Korea, then China and other emerging economies, while the lion's share of those foreigners' profits rushed to Wall Street in search of higher returns. On the back of this tsunami of capital heading for America, the financiers were building pyramids of private money (such as options and derivatives) to fund the corporations building up a global labyrinth of ports, ships, warehouses, storage yards, and road and rail transport. When the crash of 2008 burned down these pyramids, the whole financialized labyrinth of global just-in-time supply chains was imperiled.

To save not just the bankers but also the labyrinth itself, central bankers stepped in to replace the financiers' pyramids with public money. Meanwhile, governments were cutting public expenditure, jobs, and services. It was nothing short of lavish socialism for capital and harsh austerity for labor. Wages shrank, and prices and profits were stagnant, but the price of assets purchased by the rich (and thus their wealth) skyrocketed. Thus, investment (relative to available cash) dropped to an all-time low, capacity shrank, market power boomed, and capitalists became both richer and more reliant on central-bank money than ever.

It was a new power game.

The traditional struggle between capital and labor to increase their respective shares of total income through mark-ups and wage increases continued but was no longer the source of most new wealth. After 2008, universal austerity yielded low investment (money demand), which, combined with plentiful central-bank liquidity (money supply), kept the price of money (interest rates) close to zero. With productive capacity (even new housing) on the wane, good jobs scarce, and wages stagnant, wealth triumphed in equity and real-estate markets, which had decoupled from the real economy.

Then came the pandemic, which changed one big thing: Western governments were forced to channel some of the new rivers of central-bank money to the locked-down masses within economies that, over the decades, had depleted their capacity to produce stuff and were now facing busted supply chains to boot. As the locked-down multitudes spent some of their furlough money on scarce imports, prices began to rise. Corporations with great paper wealth responded by exploiting their immense market power (yielded by their shrunken productive capacity) to push prices through the roof.

After two decades of a central-bank-supported bonanza of soaring asset prices and rising corporate debt, a little price inflation was all it took to end the power game that shaped the post-2008 world in the image of a revived ruling class. So, what happens now?

Probably nothing good. To stabilize the economy, the authorities first need to end the exorbitant power bestowed upon the very few by a political process of paper wealth and cheap debt creation. But the few will not surrender power without a struggle, even if it means going down in flames with society in tow.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Project Syndicate*

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## No Roads for Swanky Cars

**W**ith passing time, families have expanded and so the use of cars and bikes has increased. Earlier, if there was one car for each family, now there are different cars for each member of a family. The number of vehicles commuting across the city has increased unprecedentedly in the past few decades, but unfortunately, the road structure across the city has remained unchanged and unaccommodating. The roads connecting

Srinagar are mostly narrow, there are almost no double lane roads, and in many places, roads are occupied by street vendors, causing traffic woes. The road infrastructure across Srinagar is deficit and poor, while road connectivity and potent road infrastructure is widely recognized as an important means to aid socio-economic development. Although the government has initiated various projects at different levels, it has been more than a decade of constant

work without any end result. These projects need to pick up pace and efficiency, because it has become tough to commute throughout the city in the contemporary time. While the authorities are bragging about their efforts to transform Srinagar into a smart city, basic road structure remains in shambles. A 'smart city' does not initially require road paintings and graffiti, but a civil city planning, most important of which is road planning. But alas, it has been

more than decades of work, and we are still very far from becoming a planned and developed city, leave apart the idea of 'smart city'. Road widening is the need of the hour and the government needs to pay heed to what is important rather than wasting their conscience and resources upon things that don't do any good to the common people of the state

Sauliha Muneer

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

# Hobbies as Game Changers

## Hobbies are Game Changers for Your Kid's Mental Health

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The beautiful thing about hobbies is that they can be just that—relatively pointless activities that make you feel good—but they also have the potential to be much more. They may serve as models for success and accomplishment. They can impart to an adolescent priceless life lessons that last through the ages and improve the quality of life on the physical, emotional, and psychological levels

Wasim Kakroo

One of life's greatest pleasures is having a hobby, but throughout adolescence, this is commonly ignored. One of the best things you can do for your adolescent as a parent, mentor, or guardian is to support their hobbies.

Hobbies have the following benefits:

### 1. PREVENT BULLYING:

Adolescents can interact with classmates in a positive way and build strong social networks by participating in after-school activities like music, painting, or sports. Your child's social skills may be "exercised" if they have a reliable group of friends. Through their hobbies, adolescents can interact diplomatically with their classmates without resorting to violence or insults.

### 2. DETECT AND PREVENT EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR:

Teenagers can get assistance when they need it through turning to trusted adults more frequently, adult supervision, and friends. People are encouraged to refrain from engaging in delinquent behaviour,



such as substance addiction, by trying to offer support in a way that still respects their privacy and feeling of autonomy as adolescents.

### 3. INCREASES SELF-ESTEEM:

We all know that self-esteem is crucial for adolescents. Hobbies and extracurricular activities have been found to be very beneficial for showcasing talents while creating a welcoming environment where teenagers feel protected and appreciated. Children who have high self-esteem frequently do better in school, have stronger family ties, and are less likely to use drugs or alcohol as a coping mechanism.

### 4. HELPS TO ESTABLISH FRIENDSHIPS:

When a child enters puberty, making friends can be challenging. Having a variety of interests and hobbies can help teenagers find friends who share their interests and get involved in positive activities. An adolescent can benefit from having friends who share their interests and can act as a support system. For instance, two friends who love photography may alternately teach each other new tips. Learning from peers can be an extremely useful

strategy that could produce better results than constant lecturing from adults.

### 5. MAKE ADOLESCENTS COMPETENT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Hobbies and extracurricular activities are advantageous for college applications and can frequently be added to resumes. Teenagers who participate in extracurricular activities not only tend to perform better academically, but they may also fetch them certificates that they can use to compete in various competitive examinations.

### 6. REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF OBESITY AND SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE:

The occurrence of obesity is increasing alarmingly particularly among children and adolescents. Hobbies can help children and adolescents spend less time in front of the television or computer or over other electronic devices and teach them good routines that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

### 7. MANAGE TIME:

Adolescents may learn time manage-

ment skills through engaging in hobbies. Rather than spending their whole free time sitting on a couch, they may learn to devote time to their hobbies because they want to, not because they have to. They learn to balance their hobby time with homework, family obligations, and social obligations—and that's not always simple.

### 8. DISCOVER THEIR IDENTITY:

Most adults are aware that creating an identity involves making mistakes: you try something, you don't like it, so you try something else. The ideal time to begin this process is during the adolescent years and hobbies can help in discovering and establishing identity.

### 9. HELP CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS:

It takes persistence and time to master a talent. Investing time in a hobby inevitably involves dealing with the ups and downs one experiences along the way. Almost every element of adult life benefits directly from having this competence.

### 10. HELPS TO DEAL WITH ADVERSITY:

Things don't always go according to plan when engaging in hobbies. Losing happens, for instance, in sports. Adolescents

who know how to overcome the negative and focus on the positive have an advantage in life. As we all know, adversity happens and is inevitable, the sooner someone learns how to handle it, the better.

Some hobbies are merely enjoyable. And that's what makes them so wonderful. They are simply enjoyable things to do to pass the time; they are not part of work, school, or family and that is completely OK. Everyone requires a means of passing the time, releasing tension, and enjoying oneself simultaneously. The beautiful thing about hobbies is that they can be just that—relatively pointless activities that make you feel good—but they also have the potential to be much more. They may serve as models for success and accomplishment. They can impart to an adolescent priceless life lessons that last through the ages and improve the quality of life on the physical, emotional, and psychological levels.

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# Covid, Kids and Speech Disorders

## What Is The Reason Behind The Surge In Cases of Kids With Speech Disorders?

Satata Karmakar

COVID-19 Pandemic and lockdowns have triggered a sense of fear and anxiety across the globe. This phenomenon has led to many short-term as well as long term impacts on the mental health of children. Various factors impact that impacts the developmental outcomes of children and toddlers are their developmental age, pre-existing mental health condition, financial status, quarantine, COVID infections, family structure, screen viewing times, the opportunity for social exposure and play, and neglect, family discord, loss of a parent etc. These factors play important role in determining the quality and magnitude of impact on the developmental outcomes of our toddlers. TheHealthSite.com spoke to Dr Himani Narula Khanna, Co-founder & Director of Continua Kid, to understand more about this condition. Here's what she says.

### COVID AND ITS IMPACT ON KIDS

COVID-19 has impacted the lives of children across the world in an unprecedented way, the essential step taken for prevention from COVID-19 infection has been isolation and social distancing strategies to protect children from the risk of infection. Some of the measures taken during lockdowns were the closure of schools, educational institutes, and activity areas. These inexorable situations lead

to an increase in the level of stress and anxiety in children as well.

A surge in cases of children having speech, behavioural, and developmental problems has been observed by child specialists, teachers, speech therapists and other developmental therapists. Doctors who are currently examining children born in the COVID era of age between 2-3 years report an increase in the number of children with speech and communication delays. Typically, a child begins to babble around the age of six months and says their first word between 10-12 months, by 18 months can speak at least 6-10 meaningful words and have a vocabulary of more than 200 meaningful words with the use of 2-word phrases to communicate at 2 years of age. Children learn by sensory inputs from surrounding, sounds of parents, conversations of family members and sounds in immediate surroundings that influence the development of speech. Research says that we need to speak at least 21000 words per day with a baby from 28 weeks of gestational age for them to acquire age-appropriate speech at 2 years of age.

During the Covid era with lockdowns, quarantines, social distancing and closure of schools and educational institutes led to an increase in the use of alternative methods of engaging children which includes increased exposure to screens and gadgets. On one side the worldwide recommendations on the use of



“Children are experiencing challenges in interpreting and understanding various sensory inputs from the environment and are finding it difficult to adapt and interact with the change of going back to school or play areas

screens say no screen time till 2 years of age and less than an hour from 2 to 6 years, the children were on screens for longer than 2 hours a day. Fewer members at home, working parents, and lack of exposure to social scenarios in play areas, day cares, schools, and activity areas further reduced their sensory and social exposure to the language leading to significant delays in social and communication

skills. In post COVID era children are still not able to speak a few words properly and have significant delays in their communication skills. Many children sound like cartoon characters, with robotic speech, and speak with the same accent as the cartoon. Speech for many is not meaningful; they are unable to express their needs and share their emotions in words. Children are experiencing challenges in interpreting and understanding various sensory inputs from the environment and are finding it difficult to adapt and interact with the change of going back to school or play areas. More and more professionals are reporting behavioural problems like separation anxiety, nervousness, fears, temper-tantrums, meltdowns, aggressive behaviours etc.

Lockdowns have resulted in a spurt of need for child developmental experts like Developmental Pediatricians, speech language therapists, occupational therapists, Child psychologists and other rehabilitation experts. This must alarm us to empower our schools and teachers by training them on early identification, and behavioural strategies to manage children with developmental challenges in classroom environments. Parenting workshops can be good an initiative to empower parents with the parenting styles and tips. Accepting every child and being able to provide equal opportunity for all must be our vision.

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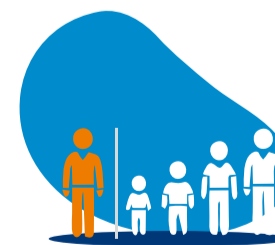
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