

# Kashmir Monitor

## Protests held across valley

World Disability Day

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MONITOR NEWS BUREAU



PROTESTS HELD ACROSS VALLEY

SRINAGAR: World Disability Day was observed across Kashmir with physically challenged people taking to streets to express their concern over the government's failure to rehabilitate them into the mainstream society.

The police used force against a group of such protestors at the Press Colony here and took many into custody, although it allowed a rally by the hearing and speech impaired towards the Deputy Commissioner's office to submit a memorandum.

The Humanity Welfare Organisation Helpline, a non-governmental organisation working for the rights of disables persons, says there are around eight lakh (eight hundred thousand) people with disabilities in the state.

It said the government has till now only adopted a "charity based" approach and is providing the disabled with a monthly stipend of Rs 400 a month.

"There is a need for an overall rehabilitation policy by the government from education to employment so that these people live independently in the society," the HWOH said.

Dressed in bright colours, the young men and women showed no regrets about their disabilities, but onlookers seemed in pain when the speech and hearing impaired 'conversed' with smiles on their faces.

The All Jammu and Kashmir Association of The Dead [And Dumb] said government apathy is preventing its members from being assimilated into the society.

Police used force against a group of protestors with physical disabilities at the Press Colony in capital Srinagar and took many into custody.

The Association has demanded that the government construct a school for the Deaf and Dumb and impart technical training to them.

It has also demanded facilities for sports activities and financial assistance on subsidy basis.