

LG Lashes Out At RG Over 'Raja' Remark

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday lashed out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks that the LG was working as a 'raja (king)' and that no developmental work had been done in the UT during the last five years.

Speaking at a media event, Manoj Sinha said that he would resign if more than 75 per cent of the people do not say that work has been done for the welfare of the public in the last five years.

The Lieutenant Governor said that a secret ballot could be carried out to gauge the public sentiment in J&K after the abrogation of Article 370.

"He (Rahul Gandhi) should take the opinion of the public, he will be more aware. Get a secret ballot done. If more than 75 per cent of the public does not say that work has been done for their welfare in the last five years, then I will resign", the LG challenged Rahul.

On the record | [More on P6](#)

Nobody Can Suppress Our Voice: Er Rashid Receives Rousing Reception On Return Home, Bats For K-Resolution

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Er Rashid, the head of the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) and a parliamentarian from north Kashmir's Baramulla, arrived in Kashmir on Thursday to a eenergetic reception by his supporters.

Rashid, who served five and a half years in Tihar Jail in connection with a terror funding case was released on interim bail from Tihar Jail on Wednesday for around three weeks. He arrived in Srinagar this morning to a grand welcome from hundreds of his supporters.



Known for his outspoken demeanor, the AIP leader went down on his knees and touched his forehead on the road after exiting the airport. "Alhamdulillah, | [More on P6](#)

Rejects Sympathy Vote Claims

In his first public address after being released from Tihar Jail, Engineer Rashid asserted that the "voice of Kashmiris cannot be silenced through oppression". Rashid said he wants to "make it clear to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that the people of Kashmir know where their loyalties lie". "Today, it is evident that Engineer Rashid, along | [More on P6](#)

Will Support INDIA Bloc If They Promise Art 370 Restoration

Srinagar: The North Kashmir Member Parliament Er Rashid Thursday said that he would support the INDIA bloc candidates in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections if the opposition group promises to restore Article 370 of the Constitution whenever they come to power at the Centre. "If INDIA alliance assures us that it will restore Article 370 when it comes to power in Delhi, I will tell every candidate of mine to pledge each vote of their supporters

for them," Rashid said. He said if India has to achieve the dream of being a global power, it will have to address the Kashmir issue. "If India has to be Vishwaguru, Kashmir has to be resolved. If you (Modi) have a better solution, please tell us. You are saying that the other side (of Kashmir) wants to join this side. It may be true as well but how do we find out?" he asked. The firebrand politician, who is facing charges of terror funding, said if he is | [More on P6](#)

Sajad Lone Files Nomination From 2 Seats

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Thursday filed nomination papers for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections from the twin seats of Handwara and Kupwara.

Lone, the separatist-turned-mainstream politician, has represented Handwara assembly segment in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly.

Lone had recently said he would contest from Kupwara also after people of the assembly segment requested him.

The People's Conference chief, who lost the parliamentary polls earlier this year from the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat in north Kashmir, first filed nomination from Handwara constituency.

Later, he filed nomination from Kupwara as well. He was accompanied by senior leaders of the party and his supporters.

Lone was | [More on P6](#)

Phase 3: 483 Candidates File Nominations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As many as 483 candidates have filed their nomination papers across 40 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) of seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir which are going to polling in the third and final phase of J&K Assembly Election 2024.

Thursday was the last day of filing nomination papers for the third phase of the Assembly Election scheduled to be held on 01 October, 2024.

A total of 483 candidates have filed 518 nomination papers for the third phase of the forthcoming Assembly Election 2024, a statement from the office of

- » **Baramulla District (7 ACs)**
Total candidates: 111
- » **Kupwara District (6 ACs)**
Total candidates: 80
- » **Bandipora District (3 ACs)**
Total candidates: 50
- » **Jammu District (11 ACs)**
Total candidates: 122
- » **Udhampur District (4 ACs)**
Total candidates: 40
- » **Kathua District (6 ACs)**
Total candidates: 47
- » **Samba District (3 ACs)**
Total candidates: 33

Chief Electoral Officer informed. A total of 122 candidates have filed their | [More on P6](#)

Over 7.22 Lakh Voters Set To Cast Ballots In Baramulla

Observer News Service

Baramulla: Baramulla district is preparing for elections in the third and final phase of the General Elections for the Legislative Assembly, with more than 7.22 lakh registered voters set to cast their ballots on October 1, 2024.

Baramulla district comprises of seven Assembly Constituencies of Sopore, Rafiabad, Uri, Baramulla, Wagoora-Kreeri, Gulmarg and Pattan with a total of 7,22,923 registered voters, including 3,64,517 male, 3,58,394 female and 12 third gender voters.

To facilitate the voters for smooth and hassle free



Total voters: **7,22,923**
Male voters: **3,64,517**
Female voters: **3,58,394**
Transgender voters: **12**
Polling stations: **908**

comprising 63,338 males and 62,978 females and 05 transgender voters.

To facilitate a smooth and inclusive voting experience for all registered voters the constituency also houses 158 polling stations, the highest number in the district.

The second highest number of electorate in the district, 08- Rafiabad Assembly Constituency with a voter population of 1,13,011, among which 57,760 are males and 55,250 are females and 01 voter is registered as transgender.

To facilitate the voters to exercise their franchise, 149 polling stations have been established in this constituency. The 07- Sopore | [More on P6](#)

electoral participation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has established 908 polling stations across the district.

In order to boost voter turnout and ensure that every voter can exercise their franchise with ease, specialized polling stations have been established across the district including Pink Polling Stations, Youth

Polling Stations, PwD manned Polling Stations, Green Polling Stations, Unique Polling Stations and Model Polling Stations.

Among all the seven Assembly Constituencies of the district, 10- Baramulla Assembly Constituency has the highest number of 1,26,321 registered electorate,

Under GPS Tracker, Former J&K Member Files Nomination

Agencies

Bandipora: Former district president of the banned Jama'at-e-Islami, Hafiz Mohammad Sikander Malik Thursday filed nomination papers for Bandipora constituency as independent candidate for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir assembly election.

Malik, a resident of Gundpora, Bandipora has served as district president of J&K until the organisation was banned. He was arrested in 2019 after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, and was twice booked under PSA and UAPA.



Sikander was released on bail on December 2, 2023. In 2024, when Jammu and Kashmir introduced GPS tracker anklets to monitor terror accused individuals on bail, authorities in Bandipora also affixed one to Malik to track his movements. Notably, several | [More on P6](#)

'From Boycotts To Ballots' J&K Witnesses Unprecedented Political Revival

Agencies

Srinagar: For the first time since 1987, the state of Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing an unprecedented moment in its political landscape. Peace, security, and elections are occurring simultaneously in the region that was once marred by conflict.

Candidates who once had to address voters from a distance, heavily shielded by security forces, are now shaking hands, hugging supporters, and even sharing tea with them as part of their campaigns.

Political campaigning, which used to come to a

halt before sunset due to the ever-present threat of violence, is now continuing until midnight. Khurshid Alam, a former legislator and current People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate from Srinagar's Eidgah constituency, remarked on this shift: "Earlier, we all returned home before sunset. There was danger then. These days, campaigning goes on until 12 AM."

The people, once hesitant and fearful, now openly welcome politicians into their homes, offering tea and blessings for votes. This level of engagement is unprecedented in the past 40 years.

In Pulwama, Abdul Qayoom Bhat, a resident, reflected on the past, stating, "Candidates were afraid of door-to-door campaigning. They feared stone-pelting and election boycotts orchestrated by terrorist organizations and Hurriyat leaders. Now, people are coming out of their homes, sharing their issues directly with candidates."

The scars of previous election cycles run deep. During the 1996 elections, separatists and terrorist groups specifically targeted National Conference leaders. The brutal murder of party leader Mohammad | [More on P6](#)

3 Choudharys Vie For Kokernag ST Constituency

Agencies

Srinagar: For the very first time, Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district is witnessing a major political contest between Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates, with substantial support from the non-ST population.

According to details, there are 10 candidates - most of them Choudharys - in the fray. However, according to political analysts, the main contest is between three Choudharys: National Conference's Zaffar Choudhary, People's Democratic Party's Haroon Choudhary and Independent candidate Gulzar Choudhary.

Kokernag in Anantnag was designated as an ST-reserved seat during the delimitation process conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) after Jammu and Kashmir's bifurcation into two Union Territories and the abrogation of its special status under Article 370.

AC 42-Kokernag (ST) includes 91,280 voters (46,840 males, 44,439 females, and one transgender voter) with 123 polling stations (five urban and 118 rural).

Zaffar Choudhary

Zaffar Choudhary, representing the National | [More on P6](#)

EPS #2



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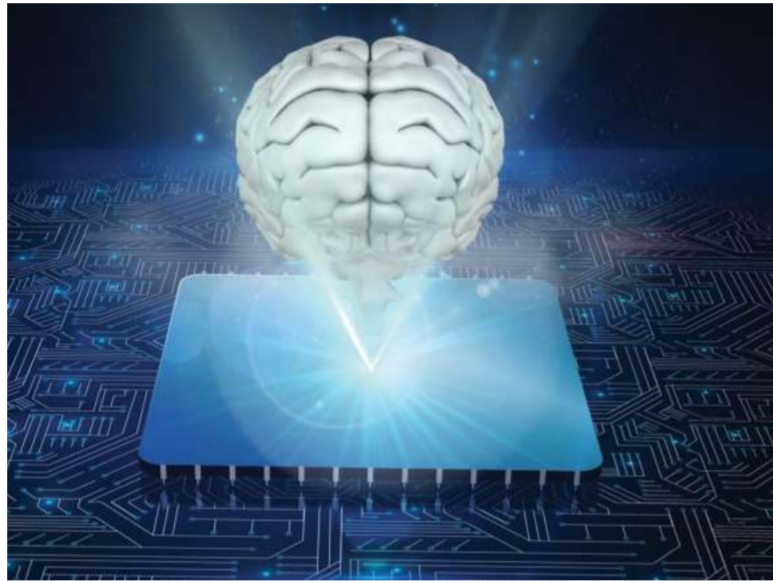
IISc Scientists Develop Brain-Inspired Analog Computing Platform Capable Of Storing, Processing Data

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a brain-inspired analog computing platform capable of storing and processing data in an astonishing 16,500 conductance states within a molecular film. They believe it could be a game-changer, revolutionising industrial, consumer and strategic applications. Published on September 11 in the journal Nature, this breakthrough represents a huge step forward over traditional digital computers in which data storage and processing are limited to just two states, the IISc said. Such a platform could potentially bring complex AI tasks, like training Large Language Models (LLMs) to personal devices like laptops and smartphones. These developments are currently restricted to resource-heavy data centres, due to a lack of energy-efficient hardware. With silicon electronics nearing saturation, designing brain-inspired accelerators that can work alongside silicon chips to deliver faster, more efficient AI is also becoming crucial. "Neuromorphic computing has had its fair share of unsolved challenges for over a decade," explained Sreeshankar Goswami, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc, who led the research team. "With this discovery, we have almost nailed the perfect system - a rare feat," he said. The molecular system at the heart of the platform was designed by Sreeraj Goswami, Visiting Professor at CeNSE. In a material film, molecules and ions create countless unique memory states, many of which have been inaccessible so far. Most digital devices can access only two states - high and low conductance, without being able to tap into the infinite number of intermediate states possible. By using precisely timed voltage pulses, the IISc team found a way to effectively trace a much larger number of molecular movements, and map each of these to a distinct electrical signal, thus forming an extensive "molecular diary" of different states. According to IISc, the fundamental operation underlying most AI algorithms is quite basic - matrix multiplication, a concept taught in high school maths. But in digital computers, these calculations hog a lot of energy. The platform developed by the IISc team

drastically cuts down both the time and energy involved, making these calculations a lot faster and easier. "This project brought together the precision of electrical engineering with the creativity of chemistry, letting us control molecular kinetics very precisely inside an electronic circuit powered by

by traditional systems, IISc said. The team includes several students and research fellows at IISc. They also collaborated with Stanley Williams, Professor at Texas A&M University and Damien Thompson, Professor at the University of Limerick, it added. The researchers believe that this breakthrough could be one of India's



nanosecond voltage pulses," explained Goswami. "Tapping into these tiny molecular changes allowed the team to create a highly precise and efficient neuromorphic accelerator, which can store and process data within the same location, similar to the human brain. Such accelerators can be seamlessly integrated with silicon circuits to boost their performance and energy efficiency," the IISc said. Researchers said the key challenge was characterising the various conductance states, which proved impossible using existing equipment. The team designed a custom circuit board that could measure voltages as tiny as a millionth of a volt, to pinpoint these individual states with unprecedented accuracy. It also turned this scientific discovery into a technological feat. Using their AI accelerator, the team recreated NASA's iconic "Pillars of Creation" image from the James Webb Space Telescope data on a tabletop computer. This was achieved in a fraction of the time and energy required

biggest leaps in AI hardware, putting the country on the map of global technology innovation. Navakanta Bhat, Professor at CeNSE and an expert in silicon electronics led the circuit and system design in this project. "What stands out is how we have transformed complex physics and chemistry understanding into groundbreaking technology for AI hardware," Goswami said. "In the context of the India Semiconductor Mission, this development could be a game-changer, revolutionising industrial, consumer and strategic applications. The national importance of such research cannot be overstated," he added. With support from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the IISc team is now focused on developing a fully indigenous integrated neuromorphic chip. "This is a completely home-grown effort, from materials to circuits and systems," he emphasised. "We are well on our way to translating this technology into a system-on-a-chip," he added.

NOTICE
I need to rectify the name/surname of my daughter from Zainab to Zainab Riyaz as per DOB which is inadvertently mentioned in the school record which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if any person/quarter should have any kind of objection he/she may file to the office of the principal RP School Mallabagh within a week at the most, after that no objection will entertained.
Media Line

NOTICE
I need to rectify the name/surname of my daughter from Ruqayah to Ruqayah Riyaz as per DOB which is inadvertently mentioned in the school record which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if any person/quarter should have any kind of objection he/she may file to the office of the principal RP School Mallabagh within a week at the most, after that no objection will entertained.
Media Line

NOTICE
I need to rectify the name/surname of my daughter from Kulsoom to Kulsoom Riyaz as per DOB which is inadvertently mentioned in the school record which needs to be corrected. In this regard, if any person/quarter should have any kind of objection he/she may file to the office of the principal RP School Mallabagh within a week at the most, after that no objection will entertained.
Media Line

Office Of The Returning Officer 43 Anantnag West AC

Assistant Commissioner Development (POWE) Anantnag
(Email ID: acdangik@gmail.com)

Subject:- General Election To Legislative Assembly of J&K-2024- Home Voting by AVPD & AVSC electors of 43 Anantnag West AC.

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of the rules/guidelines of Election Commission Of India, following date(s) are hereby notified for conducting of Home Voting in respect of Absentee Voters in Persons with disability (AVPD), Absentee Voters in Senior Citizens (AVSC) and Absentee Voters in COVID-19 affected Persons (AVCO) categories who have opted to cast their vote through Postal Ballots (Form-12D) in respect of 43-Anantnag West Assembly Constituency.

Date(s) of Voting	Time
13,14 & 15-September-2024	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

The team of polling officials shall visit the electors (AVPD, AVSC & AVCO) at the address mentioned in their application in the FORM 12D for facilitating their voting by postal ballot paper.

No: RO/43AC/2024-25/918-26
DIPK-5429/24
Dated: 12-09-2024

(SYED FAHEEM AHMAD BIHAQI, JKAS)
Returning Officer
(43-Anantnag West AC)

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth
Public Notice
The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Singhpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Abu Bakar S/o Mohammad AshrafDarR/o Reban Rafiabab Tehsil Watergam District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 30-09-2020 respectively occurred at Sdh Pattan
In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth
Public Notice
The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Singhpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Farooq Ahmad Pandith S/o Mohd Subhan Pandith R/o Trikabal Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 16-05-1978 respectively occurred at Home
In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Public Notice
The name of my daughter has been wrongly written in her aadhar as Ayat Fatima while her correct name is Syed Haniya which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mudasir Bashir
F/o Syed Haniya
R/o Mashwara Shopian
fko

ازنیاست پٹان
عنوان:- درخواست منجانب سارہ بیگم بیوہ مرحوم علی محمد گائنی ساکنہ موضع چندر ہامہ تحصیل چن بمراد اجرائی ذمہ داری سرٹیفکیٹ
اشتبہ ہرخاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدم میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بڑھائی گئی ہے جس کی پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ کو شوہر مرحوم علی محمد گائنی ولد مولیٰ محمد گائنی ساکنہ چندر ہامہ مورخہ 08-09-2023 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہہ کر کسی شخص کو کوئی غریب اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے مذکورہ اعتراض وادالت حد ا کو مقررہ اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں سے میا کوئی بنواری حلقہ میں نہیں ہوگا۔
نایب تھسیدار FKO

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth
Public Notice
The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of 1. Hyder Ali Khan 2 Fatima Nazir Wards of Nazir Ahmad Khan R/o Natipora Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 27-7-2021 and 28-08-2019 respectively occurred at SDH Pattan
In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

Public Notice
My name has been wrongly written in my aadhar as Tawqeer Aijaz while my correct name is Adil Aijaz Ahangar S/o Aijaz Ahangar R/o Barzulla (Kunzir Baramulla) which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Adil Aijaz Ahangar
S/o Aijaz Ahangar
R/o Barzulla (Kunzir Baramulla)
fko

Office Of The Returning Officer For Conduct Of Elections Of J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association .

Office: New Administrative Block, Bakshli Stadium, Srinagar -190008
Email: musbat.wani@gmail.com

Ref No:- SC/Legal/309/108-10 dated: 11-09-2024

NOTIFICATION

Election Schedule for J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association for the term 2024 -2028.

In pursuance to the J&K Sports Council letter No-SC/844/1344-50 dated 27-05-2024 regarding conduct of elections of J&K Tennis Ball Cricket at Association, I hereby notify the particulars of the Office bearers to be elected, the manner of election and the election schedule for information of the members of J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association, who are eligible to participate in the upcoming elections. The Voter list of eligible candidates/ members representing the concerned Districts stands already published by the Association in Rising Kashmir Srinagar & Greater Jammu on 27th of August 2024 and is open for objections till 12th of Sept -2024 .

Particulars of the Office Bearers to be elected for the term of 04 years i.e 2024-28 is given here as under ;

S.No	Name of the post	No of posts
1.	President	One
2.	Senior Vice President	One
3.	Hony General Secretary	One
4.	Joint Secretary	Four
5.	Treasurer	One
6.	Executive Members	Four

Election Schedule

S.No/Activity	Date	Time	Remarks
1. Date of submission of Nomination form	13th to 18th of Sept. 2024	Upto 4:00PM	Submission to the Returning Officer, at Office in person or by Email: musbat.wani@gmail.com
2. Withdrawal of Candidature Form	19th to 21st Sept-2024	Upto 4:00PM	Submission to the Returning Officer, at Office in person or by Email: musbat.wani@gmail.com
3. Final list of contesting candidates / voter list	24th of Sept- 2024		In the office of Deputy Legal Remembrancer JK Sports Council at Administrative Block Bakshli Stadium Srinagar and same shall be available on the official website of J&K Sports council.
4. Polling	26th of Sept- 2024	At 12:00 PM	The poll shall be taken post wise to cast one vote as against the name of each candidate and the vote by way of secret ballot will be by way of K) mark.
4. Counting /declaration of result	26th of Sept- 2024	After polling (if any)	By the Returning officer.
5. Venue			Sher-I- Kashmir Indoor Sports Stadium Gogijbaqh Srinagar.

Nomination Forms must be supported with passport size photograph and an affidavit (notarized), which is available in the office of Returning Officer and also on the Official Website of the JK Sports Council . The Nomination Forms and Withdrawal forms and objections if any to the conduct of elections have to be submitted to the Office of Returning Officer in person or through Email before the scheduled dates.

Musbat Ismail,
Deputy Legal Remembrancer,
J&K Sports Council
Returning Officer, I Tennis Ball Cricket Association of J&K, Election 2024.
Administrative Block Bakshi Stadium Srinagar .

AFFIDAVIT

I,.....aged ,S/O Sh..... at present working as/posted as..... in Elections of Office Bearers of JK Tennis Ball Cricket Association of Jammu & Kashmir do hereby state on oath/solemn affirmation as under:
1. That I have no political affiliations and will submit a non-political involvement certificate from the concerned District Magistrate if required.
2. That I have not held the office of the President of the Association for a maximum period of 12 years with or without break.
3. That I have not held the office of the Secretary General or Secretary and the Treasurer of the Association for a maximum of two successive terms of 4 years each and I am aware of the fact that a minimum cooling off period of 4 years will apply to seek fresh election to either post.
4. That I undertake that in case I am elected as the office bearer of J&K Tennis Ball Cricket Association of Jammu & Kashmir , I shall not be eligible to be office bearer simultaneously in other association except Olympic Association.
5. That I am not a Government employee as such do not require any prior permission of the Government to hold or continue to hold any office in any Sports Association of the State/U.T or National Sports Federation/Association. OR That I am a Government employee and undertake to submit written permission from the Government to hold or continue to hold any office in any Sports Association of the State/U.T or National Sports Federation/Association.
6. That I am not an employee of J&K Sports Council.
7. That I am not debarred or banned by the J&K Sports Council for occupation of any post in any Sports Association.
8. That the contents of this Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and nothing has been concealed there from.

VERIFICATION: -
Verified at..... this -----day of-----2024, that the averments made above are true and correct to the best my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed there from.
DIPK-NB-1553/24 dated: 12-09-2024
DEPONENT



DLSA Organizes Rally On Environmental Protection In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with local NGO conducted a vibrant rally today from Primary Health Centre, Habbak Srinagar to emphasize the paramount importance of environmental protection.

The rally was held under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA Srinagar (PDJ, Srinagar), and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary/Civil Judge, DLSA Srinagar.

The rally, flagged-off by the Secretary DLSA Srinagar, the chief guest for the event, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Crescent Public School and Bilaliya Public School.

The objective of the rally was to raise awareness among students and the broader community about the critical environmental issues facing our planet, such as pollution and deforestation. The aim was to empower young minds to become responsible citizens and advocate for a sustainable future.

Speaking at the event, the Secretary DLSA said, "we are committed to nurturing environmentally conscious citizens and this rally is a testament to our unwavering dedication

to empowering the future generation to actively participate in safeguarding our environment."

The rally served as a vibrant platform for raising awareness about the critical importance of environmental protection. It fostered a sense of responsibility among students and highlighted the need for collective action to address environmental challenges.

The rally culminated with a successful cleanliness drive at Duck Park, Srinagar, where students actively participated and engaged themselves in the cleanliness drive, showcasing their commitment to preserving the environment. This initiative highlights the vital role of education and community action in fostering environmental stewardship among the younger generation.

Among others, the event was attended by Shabbar Khan, Principal of Crescent Public School; Nisar Ahmed, Principal Bilaliya Public School; Dr. Touseef Ahmed, Chairman NGO; officials, Deputy Legal Aid

Defense Counsel, from DLSA Srinagar, school staff, members, volunteers of NGO, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar coming together to send a powerful message about the urgency of environmental protection.

'Fake Voter Detection'

NIT Srinagar Students Develop Working Model With AI Drone

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The DC office Srinagar- Election Commission of India Thursday conducted a mass SVEEP awareness program in collaboration with National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and other colleges and schools at the River Bank Jhelum.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Nodal Officer of SVEEP at NIT Srinagar, along with a team of 30 students, participated in the event. As a technical institute, the students developed a working model for Automated Fake Voter Detection using drone surveillance.

This AI-based model identifies voters list associated with the polling

station and matches them with individuals standing in the queue. It then sends automatic feedback to the central surveillance room for verification if the list is found to be unmatching with the person and data.

The future plan is to send a direct message to the presiding officer if any fake voter is detected in the queue, further a message will be sent to Zonal magistrate for cross verification.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman have congratulated the students for their new model. They said that there is no dearth of talent at the NIT and students needed right guidance and counseling.

Unidentified Dead Body Found In Barzullah

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An unidentified body of a man was found in Barzulla Baghat area of uptown Srinagar on Thursday, officials said.

An official said the police reached the spot and took the body into its pos-

session, shortly after receiving information about an unidentified male body lying in Barzulla, and took it into possession.

He said further medico-legal proceedings have been initiated, while his identity is being ascertained.



Assembly Elections- 2024

River Front Rajbagh Reverberates With Mega Voter Awareness Prog

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The banks of River Jhelum reverberated with the vibrant voices of democracy and voter awareness today as a grand mega event was held at River Front Rajbagh "River Of Democracy" under the aegis of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative.

The event, which drew an enthusiastic crowd from all walks of life, featured a mesmerizing array of cultural and musical performances, as well as thought-provoking skits and dramas. Artists, performers, and cultural groups from various colleges and higher secondary schools of district Srinagar took to the stage to convey the message of the importance of voter participation in strengthening our democratic fabric.

Akhlesh Kumar Mishra, General Observer who was chief guest on the occasion emphasized the vital role of youth in promoting voter awareness. He urged students and first-time voters to become agents of change by educating others about the importance of exercising their fundamental right to vote.

The other dignitar-

Awareness Program 'Every Single Vote Counts' Organized At Zadibal-AC

Srinagar: In order to raise awareness among general public regarding the importance of voter participation in the ensuing General Elections to Legislative Assembly-2024, a mass awareness program as part of Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign was today organized at 24-Zadibal Assembly Constituency (AC) here, reinforcing the message that 'Every Single Vote Counts.'

The program organized by the Returning Officer (RO) of the 24-Zadibal AC aimed to engage citizens and encourage them to actively participate in the upcoming election

process. A key highlight of the event was the call for universal voter participation, emphasizing that democracy thrives when everyone casts their vote.

In his address during the program, the Returning Officer stressed the power of a single vote and how it can influence the outcome of an election. He said the foundation of democracy is built upon the participation of each and every eligible voter. "Your vote is your voice, and it has the potential to shape the future of this constituency and the state. Every vote matters, and no one should feel that their vote is insignificant," said the Returning Officer.

ies present on the occasion were ADDC, Ghulam Hassan; Deputy District Election Officer, Imtiaz Ahmad; District Nodal Officer Special SVEEP, Tahir Ahmad

Magray; District Nodal Officer SVEEP Srinagar, Shabina Keysar and Anjum Raja.

The event featured interactive displays and workshops

Guided Tour For Travel & Tourism students To Dachigam Park Organized

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to explore the potential/ opportunities of ecotourism in Kashmir Valley, the students of Travel and Tourism, Govt. Women Polytechnic were facilitated with guided tour to Dachigam National Park, here.

The students were guided by experts Aqib Hussain, Biologist, Jan Mohamad, Range Officer and Imtiaz Ahmad, Inspector Fisheries, who provided valuable insights into the park's ecosystem and conservation efforts.

The students had a privilege of witnessing majestic Himalayan Black Bears in their natural habitat besides various bird species and trout fishes.

On the occasion, Parvaiz, Wild Life Warden shared his expertise on the plant species, balanced ecosystem and potential of ecotourism. The students were also shown wildlife documentary in the auditorium, further enriching their experience.

The expedition served as a valuable learning experience, fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural world and the importance of wildlife conservation besides giving an insight regarding wildlife tourism potential of Dachigam National Park, so as to become a popular destination for nature lovers and eco-tourists.

Dr Ashraf Inaugurates Emergency Lab At SKIMS



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In its continuous efforts to streamline the Emergency Services, Director SKIMS and EOSG Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie today inaugurated a "Point of care Emergency Lab" which has been set up to cater to the emergency patients to expedite essential tests, thereby reducing dependency on external facilities and enhancing diagnostic efficiency.

The lab has state of the art equipment and will provide various facilities including hematological, biochemical investigations besides blood gases and body fluid estimations. The lab will function round the clock.

The emergency revamping prioritised by the administration to ensure efficiency and patient centered care has seen a major upgradation in the first phase which includes separation of Pediatric Emergency which has

been shifted to the IDB block, besides the dedicated point of care Emergency Lab inaugurated today by Director SKIMS & EOSG and dedicated it to public.

Director SKIMS was accompanied by Additional Director SKIMS Dr. Firdous A Giri, Prof Afzal Wani Renowned Neurosurgeon & former Dean SKIMS, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Prof. Farooq A. Jan, Dr. Muhibul Haq HOD Bioengineering, Prof Bashir Ahmad Fonda HOD Microbiology & Convenor to facilitate shifting of Emergency Lab, Prof Abrar Ahmad Wani Incharge HOD Emergency, Dr Akbar Shah ,HOD Critical Care,Dr Umar Hafiz Additional Prof Geriatrics Dr. Shahnawaz Hamid Assistant Prof. HA and Admn Incharge Emergency ,Dr Fayaz A Bhat Assistant Prof. General Medicine, r Bilal A Wagay Assistant Professor General Surgery.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
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Table with AIRPORTS, RAILWAYS, and HIGHWAY STATUS sections.

Table with PRAYERS section including FAJR, ZUHR, ASR, Magrib, ISHA times.

This Day In History

- 533 - General Belisarius of the Byzantine Empire defeats Gelimor and the Vandals at the Battle of Ad Decimium, near Carthage, North Africa
604- Sabinian begins his reign as Pope replacing Pope Gregory the Great
1224 - Francis of Assisi is afflicted with stigmata after a vision praying on Mount Verna
1500 - Pedro Álvares Cabral and his Portuguese expedition arrive in Calicut, India
1515- First day of two-day Battle of Marignano: Francis I's French army defeats Swiss army force near Milan
1574 - Turkish fleet recaptures Tunis
1579 - Breda forms Union of Utrecht
1743 - Great Britain, Austria and Savoye-Sardinia sign Treaty of Worms
1751-Britain signs Austrian & Russian alliance
1759- British beat French forces at the battle of Plains of Abrahams near Quebec - kills both leading generals Wolfe and Montcalm
1782- The Grand Assault on Gibraltar by the allied French and Spanish fleets including ten floating batteries and land forces is heavily defeated by the British garrison with all of the floating batteries destroyed and allied casualties of 1,473 compared to only 83 for the British
1787 - Prussian army moves into Netherlands
1791- France's King Louis XVI accepts constitution
1800- Curacao in British hands (until Jan 1803)
1808- Finnish War: In the Battle of Jutas, Swedish forces under Lieutenant General Georg Carl von Döbeln beat the Russians, making von Döbeln a Swedish war hero.
1845- English chemist Michael Faraday discovers the 'Faraday effect', the influence of a magnetic field on polarized light
1850 - The main-belt asteroid "12 Victoria" is discovered by J R Hind
1861- 1st naval battle of Civil War, Union frigate "Colorado" sinks privateer "Judah" off Pensacola, Fla
1867- General Edward Canby orders South Carolina courts to impanel blacks jurors
1882 - Battle at Count el-Kebir: British troops defeat Egyptian force in the decisive battle of the Anglo-Egyptian War
1898- 20,000 Paris construction workers go on strike
1906- 1st airplane flight in Europe, Brazilian Alberto Santos-Dumont test flies his hybrid 14-bis plane (attached to a hydrogen balloon for take-off), at Bagatelle, France
1923- Miguel Primo de Rivera leads a military coup with the support of King Alfonso XIII to become Prime Minister of Spain
1925- 1st US University for African Americans, Xavier University, opens in New Orleans
1933- Elizabeth McCombs becomes the first New Zealand female Member of Parliament
1940 - Buckingham Palace damaged by German bombs
1940 - Italian troops under Marshal Graziani attack Egypt
1942 - Battle of Edson's Ridge (2nd Japanese assault) at Guadalcanal
1942- German forces attack Stalingrad
1943- German counter attack at Salerno
1944- Great Atlantic hurricane reaches peak intensity as a Category 4 storm, goes on to kill 300-400 along the US East Coast
1966- Johannes Balthazar Vorster sworn in as premier of South Africa
1968- Albania leaves Warsaw pact
1970 - Palestine guerrillas conquer Irbid Jordania
1971- Nikita Khrushchev, Soviet premier, buried in Moscow
1971- World Hockey Association forms
1973- ABC announces it obtained TV rights for 1976 Olympics
1973- Syrian/Israeli dogfight over Mediterranean Sea
1974 - OPEC instructs its Secretary General to "carry out a study of supply and demand in relation to possible production controls"
1984 - STS 41-G launch vehicle moves to launch pad
1984 - Shimon Peres forms Israeli government with Likud

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
DEN/Track/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date 03.10.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Friday | 13-09-2024

World Must Act In Gaza

In continuing tragedy in Gaza, Israeli air strikes on a school-turned-shelter in Gaza killed 18 including six staffers from the UN Palestinian refugee agency. The agency, home to 12,000 displaced people, mainly women and children, has been hit five times since the war began. Although the United Nations chief Antony Guterres termed the killings unacceptable, nothing can be expected to change on the ground. Israel has defended the strike on Gaza school compound, even as condemnation mounts. The war has been grinding on for close to one year now and it is nowhere close to ceasefire, let alone an end.

While the west is conniving with Israel including supplying it with money and equipment, the rest of the world seems both unconcerned and helpless. Israel has already leveled large swathes of Gaza, otherwise a small land strip, 25 miles in length and 7.5 miles in width. Over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed, but Israel is in no mood to relent and the world feels little urgency to stop it. According to the World Health Organization, about a quarter of the people wounded in Israel's war on Gaza – at least 22,500 Palestinians – have injuries that are "life-changing."

Now is the time for the world to redouble its efforts to conclude a ceasefire. Hamas has once again announced its willingness to "immediately implement" a ceasefire based on the US presented proposal agreed by the group in May. The group denied it had placed new demands on a ceasefire agreement and rejected any new terms issued by any side. As families are uprooted, children are traumatized, and basic infrastructure crumbles, Gaza faces a future marked by deeper poverty, psychological trauma, and social fragmentation. The international community cannot afford to look away while Gaza descends into further chaos.

That said, it is urgent for the world to work for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. A mere temporary halt in hostilities is insufficient. What is needed is a long-term solution that addresses the root causes of the conflict and paves the way for a lasting peace. The new emphasis by the international community on a permanent ceasefire, complete withdrawal, prisoner exchange, reconstruction, and the return of displaced persons is a step in the right direction.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza cannot be overstated. The war has pushed the enclave to the brink of starvation, with over a million people facing extreme hunger. It is time that the west acts, just as it did once in 1995 in order to end the ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Muslims.

OTHER OPINION

Politics Has Returned to J&K

After the Election Commission of India announced the dates for elections to the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly on August 16, politics with all its drama has returned to the region. Except for one seat in Kashmir and four in Jammu – where there will be a "friendly contest" between the allies – the National Conference (NC) and Congress have reached a seat-sharing arrangement. The NC will contest 51, Congress 32 and the CPM and J&K Panthers Party one each. On the face of it, Congress seems to have got the better end of the deal. Its political presence in the region has greatly diminished since 2014, exacerbated by the exit of stalwart and former CM, Ghulam Nabi Azad. While most of the seats allotted to it are in Jammu, Congress will work to gain a foothold over a broader swathe of the erstwhile state. For the NC, it is a chance to regain relevance and become the major player in electoral politics in the Valley and beyond. Former CM and NC leader Omar Abdullah told this newspaper earlier this month that "No, I am not contesting... I am not going to sit outside the waiting room of the LG and, ask him, 'Sir, please sign the file'". That he is now rethinking this position underlines the exigencies of electoral politics post the abrogation of Article 370.

Still, the NC-Congress alliance, like many others, is marked by contradictions. The NC has suggested that, if elected, it may bring a resolution in the Assembly against the abrogation of Article 370 even as it knows that it cannot move the clock back. The Congress – for the sake of its national politics, if nothing else – does not share this position. Managing such differences will be challenging. Congress's K C Venugopal has said that a Common Minimum Programme will guide the alliance if it comes to power. And while much water has flown in the Jhelum since 2018, it might be useful to remember that the BJP-PDP government too had an Agenda for the Alliance that promised not to revoke special status.

Both major constituents of the last elected government of the erstwhile state of J&K appear, for the moment, to be on the back foot. The BJP withdrew its first list of candidates hours after its release, reportedly due to protests and objections from within the party over ticket distribution. The PDP, part of the INDIA bloc at the national level, has been isolated in J&K. From a vote share of 22.67 per cent in the 2014 assembly elections, it was down to 8.48 per cent in the 2024 general elections and won no seats. The PDP's rise owed much to its founder, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed reimagining state politics and its relationship with the broader national picture. In the changed scenario after August 5, 2019, it remains to be seen if his daughter, his political successor, can do the same. All this may add to the uncertainty in the run-up to elections but what is clear is that politics is coming back – and that's an unambiguous positive

The Indian Express

Six Issues Facing Inclusive Education

Azher Ahmad Dar

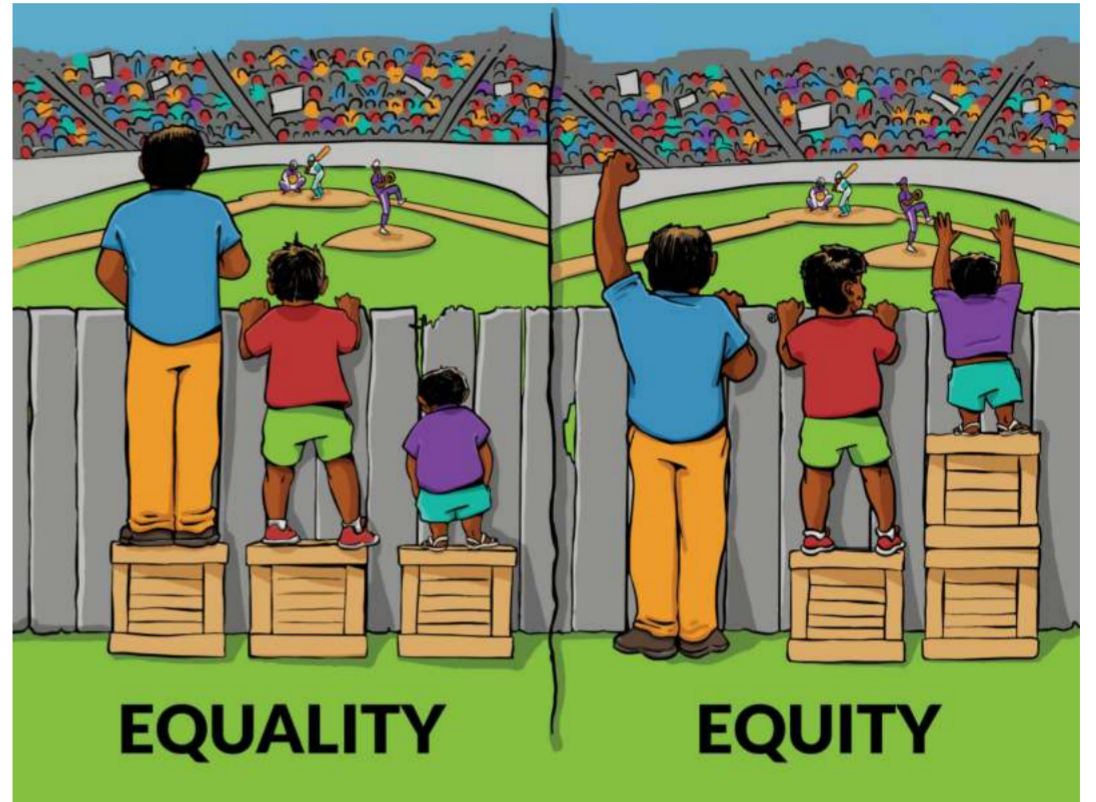
Inclusion is one of the important pillars of a successful public policy. While the focus of conventional economical methods has been to measure the level of development on income, this is changing by way of including inclusion as one of the parameters. Inclusive education is important to include everyone in the education system so that they are able to enjoy the fruits of development. However, India's inclusive education policy has been lax in terms of the support provided to those with various kinds of disabilities, such as intellectual disability, psychological disorder, physical disability, etc.

Various policies have been brought into the country, such as RUSA, RMSA, and SSA, which have not wholesale solved this problem. Now with the new education policy of 2020, we can say that some progress has been made in terms of the policy designed to address the needs of the people. Whether the diagnosis is followed remains to be seen, which will eventually come to the fore after many years of the implementation of the policy at the grassroots level. However, there are still structural problems that have to be addressed with regard to the policy design and implementation at large. Early identification and intervention is one thing that the government has improved upon, which basically is identifying the type of disability in a child and then intervening to remedy the learning failure. While it is a step in the right direction, there is a systemic lack of a mechanism that deals with intervention, which is spontaneous, which should be the other way around, by recognizing the level and type of the disability and, on the basis of that, extending support, which is done in Australia.

In Australia, there are four levels of intervention, which range from giving education (no substantial funding) to separate classroom settings (with substantial funding), which are efficient and tailored to the needs of each student. The 2nd issue is the faulty local governance system, with so much corruption and not so powerful. In various European countries, such as Scandinavian countries, local institutions are extremely important to recruit teachers for people with disabilities and to design the curriculum tailored to the needs of the students. In China, teachers have to pass an examination conducted by the local municipal councils in order for them to get recruited. However, India's local governance is plagued with corruption, red tape, and workers who are uneducated, which is the larger reason why the country has lagged behind in inclusive education.

In Kashmir, the situation is such that the midday meal rice is sold by teachers on the black market, which points to the moral crisis of the valley. In Uganda, in order to curb the menace of corruption, which famously is called 'a leak in the bucket,' a new strategy of increasing the efficiency of the flow of funds to the people was rolled out by advertising in the newspapers the sanctions provided by the government to a particular program or particular school, with the help of which the local people could act as a check on the evil intentions of the intermediate authorities. Any program of inclusive education must include the empowered role of the local governance in the curriculum design, funding, identification, etc., because the country is so huge that it is impossible to govern policy through a centralized system.

The third issue concerns teacher training suited to the needs of each student, which has been a major problem everywhere. A survey conducted said that teachers knew that there was a mechanism in place for inclusive education, but they did not know how they could play a role in the implementation. The national centre for education statistics (2005) found that 60% of all public school teachers indicated that they did not feel well-prepared to meet the social and emotional needs of the said students. Teachers have two attitudes whenever they hear about inclusive education policies: their response is that it is the responsibility of the resource centres to look after the challenged students, and the special students are a disturbance to the class.



Now with the new education policy of 2020, we can say that some progress has been made in terms of the policy designed to address the needs of the people. Whether the diagnosis is followed remains to be seen, which will eventually come to the fore after many years of the implementation of the policy at the grassroots level. However, there are still structural problems that have to be addressed with regard to the policy design and implementation at large.

The 4th issue is the rigid curriculum. This does not allow for adjustments in the curriculum, making it difficult for visually impaired children. Some of the top central universities in India do not have special learning materials for those with various kinds of impairments; the curriculum is available mostly in English; there is no provision for separate classes mandated by the central government. It seems that designing materials for people with disabilities looks like mayhem to the government. In OECD countries, it is made sure to design curriculum and resource centres are established. Added to that, there is a lack of diversity in the educational setting in which students with disabilities are placed. The convention is that special settings be established based on the kind of disability, which is manifold and sadly missing in the country, the ramification of which is that these students do not get adequate attention from teachers. At the school level, it is next to impossible to design and provide materials suitable for the needs of those with disabilities, which is ironic considering the mammoth public sector of the country.

The 2006 compulsory education law in China provides for compulsory education for children with disabilities. It is provided in special schools; separate classes in regular schools; the same classes as their peers. Home-based education is provided for those with severe disabilities. Those who do not have stable residency are provided with compulsory education in boarding schools established by the government. In order to accommodate children from ethnic and linguistic minorities, separate schools or classes are set up by the autonomous regions and municipalities under the central government. We can safely say that the government has failed the people at large.

The 5th issue is the inhibiting role of culture in thwarting the extension of education to these students. India has around 70 million disabled people, and only 1-2% of these are educated, mostly by NGOs. Of these, only 1% are employed, which is due to the stigma that has been recurring in society. Gabe (2004) did a study of the South Asian immigrants living in the US, and many of them attributed disability to the law of karma. This points to the overarching impact of the culture in shaping the attitude

of parents toward sending their children to special schools. Karma has a negative effect on the strategy part, which gives way to shame, stigma, and dishonour. As a result of this, they isolate themselves from the whole society. They do not join organisations that support special education, and parents do not provide special children with education.

Last but not least is the issue of funding, which does not have a concrete and systematic way of allocation to these students, coupled with inadequacies in the flow of funds, corruption, etc. This has an important effect on the quality of teachers, the quality of infrastructure, the learning equipment, such as resource support centres, etc. Funding should be made available in sufficient amounts. There is also a problem with mismanagement of the funds, which get off the hook before they reach the benefactors. With regard to the mechanism of allocation of funds for inclusive education, the system adopted by the OECD countries is worth emulating. Various components are taken into account, such as learners' socio-economic background, minority, and learners with disabilities, before any funds are allocated.

Various components of the inclusive education setup that are there include spending on a specific framework to implement inclusive education policies, spending on special settings, spending on resource centres, spending involving health and welfare services, etc. The various additional resources available at the school include ICTs, teaching aids, special classes, specific curriculum, extra teaching hours, etc., which are somewhat sadly missing in India. This calls for various steps to be taken, which in turn gives a clarification call for a whole-sale revamp of the setup by way of reforms. Since we are living in the era of Globalisation 3.0 (Thomas Friedman), the role of technology as a flattener should be there by using it in solving the issue at large. However, it is always the case that technology can't solve the problem alone; it has to be supplemented by various other things, especially blended learning.

Author is currently a student of Political Science and Economics at the University of Delhi. He can be reached at: academygeneral543@gmail.com.



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The Act Shattered Steel Not Resolve

September 11, 2001, is one of those dates that divides history into a "before" and an "after." The terrorist attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that day tragically and permanently altered thousands of lives and changed the tenor of debate globally. The 9/11 attacks were a defining event

for global extremists and terrorists. Widely considered the most egregious act of international terrorism, it killed almost three thousand people and injured an estimated twenty-five thousand.

The terror attacks shook the entire world and made people realize that even a powerful country like the United States could be a victim of ter-

rorism. The unimaginable loss of life and the unfathomable destruction of the World Trade Center left an indelible mark on world history, and will continue to haunt the global society. Immediately after the razing down of the twin towers, said the then US president George W. Bush: "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they can-

not touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

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Say 'No' to Drugs

A Stand Against Substance Abuse



READERS, AS WELL AS THE WRITERS, KNOW HOW HONEST THE STATEMENTS ARE YET NOBODY FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE. "NO" TO DRUGS is not just about abstaining from substances but also about embracing a lifestyle that promotes positive choices and resilience in the face of challenges.

Samina Jan

In today's world, the issue of drug abuse continues to be a significant concern affecting individuals and communities globally. Saying "No" to drugs is not just a slogan but a powerful statement that embodies the importance of making informed and healthy choices. Substance abuse, whether it be illegal drugs or misused prescription medications, can have severe consequences on one's physical health, mental well-being, relationships, and overall quality of life. Drug abuse poses significant dangers to individuals, families, and communities. The consequences of drug abuse can be far-reaching and devastating. Some of the dangers of drug abuse include:

- 1. Physical Health Risks:** Drug abuse can lead to serious health issues such as heart problems, respiratory disorders, liver damage, and increased risk of infectious diseases. Long-term drug use can have irreversible effects on the body, leading to chronic conditions and even death.
- 2. Mental Health Impacts:** Drugs can alter brain chemistry, leading to mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, paranoia, and psychosis. Substance abuse can exacerbate existing mental health conditions or trigger the onset of new ones, affecting cognitive function and

emotional well-being.

- 3. Addiction and Dependence:** Continued drug abuse can lead to addiction, where individuals develop a physical and psychological dependence on the substance. Addiction can be all-consuming, causing individuals to prioritize drug use over all other aspects of life, leading to destructive behavior and strained relationships.
- 4. Social Consequences:** Drug abuse can isolate individuals from their support systems, strain relationships with family and friends, and lead to social withdrawal. Substance abuse can also result in legal issues, financial instability, and difficulties in maintaining employment or academic success.
- 5. Risk of Overdose:** The use of drugs, especially in high doses or in combination with other substances, increases the risk of overdose. Overdosing on drugs can be fatal, leading to respiratory failure, cardiac arrest, or other life-threatening complications.
- 6. Impact on Society:** Drug abuse contributes to crime, violence, and societal problems. The illicit drug trade fuels organized crime, destabilizes communities, and places a burden on healthcare systems and social services. The ripple effects of drug abuse can be felt throughout

society, affecting individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

The decision to say "No" to drugs is a personal commitment to prioritize self-care and well-being. By rejecting the temptation of drugs, individuals empower themselves to lead a life free from the harmful effects of substance abuse. It is crucial to understand that the use of drugs not only impacts the individual consuming them but also has ripple effects on families, friends, and society as a whole. Education and awareness play a vital role in combating drug abuse. By spreading knowledge about the dangers of drugs, promoting healthy coping mechanisms, and providing support to those struggling with addiction, we can create a community that values sobriety and wellness. Saying "No" to drugs is not just about abstaining from substances but also about embracing a lifestyle that promotes positive choices and resilience in the face of challenges.

In conclusion, saying "No" to drugs is a powerful declaration of self-respect, self-control, and a commitment to a healthy future. By standing firm against the allure of drugs, individuals contribute to creating a safer, healthier, and more vibrant society for themselves and future generations. Let us unite in saying "No" to drugs and pave the way for a brighter, drug-free tomorrow.

Author hails from
Mughalpora Shopian

Role of Ethics & Morals in Shaping Life of a Student

Dr Waseem Gulzar

Ethics and morals play a crucial role in shaping the life of a student, influencing their decisions, behavior, and overall character development. These guiding principles provide a moral compass that helps students navigate the complexities of life, both academically and personally.

In an academic setting, ethical behavior is fundamental to maintaining integrity and ensuring a fair learning environment. Students are expected to adhere to academic honesty, avoiding plagiarism and cheating, which are not only violations of institutional policies but also undermine the essence of education. The cultivation of ethical values promotes a sense of responsibility and accountability, encouraging students to put in honest effort and contribute positively to their academic community.

Beyond academics, morals and ethics contribute significantly to a student's personal growth. These principles help in developing empathy, respect, and understanding towards others, fostering a sense of community and cooperation. Students who internalize ethical values are more likely to engage in prosocial behaviors, such as kindness, compassion, and cooperation, both within the school environment and in their broader social interactions.

Furthermore, ethics guide decision-making, helping students navigate the challenges of adolescence and make choices aligned with their values. Understanding the consequences of their actions and considering the impact on themselves and others helps students develop a strong sense of



right and wrong. This, in turn, contributes to the formation of a solid moral foundation that extends into adulthood.

The influence of ethics and morals is not limited to personal conduct; it also extends to leadership and social responsibility. Students who prioritize ethical considerations are

more likely to become responsible leaders who make decisions for the greater good. They understand the importance of ethical leadership, which involves transparency, fairness, and a commitment to the well-being of others.

In summary, ethics and morals are integral to the holistic devel-

opment of a student. They guide academic conduct, shape personal character, influence decision-making, and contribute to the cultivation of responsible and ethical leaders. The incorporation of these principles into education not only benefits individual students but also contributes to the creation of a

society that values integrity, empathy, and ethical behavior.

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Nobody Can Suppress

landed at the Srinagar airport," Rashid wrote in a post on his official Facebook page upon his arrival. He was arrested on August 9, 2019, four days after the abrogation of Article 370.

Rashid was surrounded by his enthusiastic supporters and showered him with candies as he waved his hand to everyone on the way from Srinagar airport to his hometown in frontier Kupwara.

A Delhi court had on Tuesday granted interim bail until October 2 to the Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, to campaign for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Engineer Rashid had been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail in a case of alleged terror funding since 2019.

Rashid, who contested the Lok Sabha election as an Independent, defeated National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah on Baramulla seat. He was granted parole to take oath as member of the Lok Sabha on July 5 this year.

Speaking to the media outside Srinagar Airport, Rashid advocated for a peaceful and meaningful resolution to the Kashmir dispute, which he claimed had been unresolved since 1947.

The north Kashmir MP also criticized the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for scrapping the special constitutional position of J&K under Article 370, asserting the people of Jammu and Kashmir find whatever choice Modi made on August 5, 2019, to be completely unacceptable.

"We are not begging for anything from anyone; rather, we just want to be treated as humans and allowed to live as such. Our main concern is the resolution of the Kashmir issue, which has been unsolved since 1947," Rashid said.

The Kashmir dispute, which has so far resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people, according to the AIP leader, needs to be resolved in order to bring peace back to the subcontinent.

"No mother's lap could be empty and no one could be imprisoned any longer. Power, whether as an MP or MLA, means nothing to me; what counts is the dignity, rights, and freedom of the Kashmiri people, which must be upheld, preserved, and respected," he added.

Rashid in his message to the people of Kashmir exhorted them to not give up or be afraid since the truth is on their side, and that no power on earth, not even Amit Shah or Narendra Modi, could silence them.

"I want the people of my nation to know that we Kashmiris are not weak and that we will win because we have been standing up for the truth. We will not accept the decisions that Narendra Modi made on Aug 5, 2019. To accomplish this purpose, I will continue to oppose Modi Ji's Naya Kashmir narrative for which I will be ready to spend rest of my life in Tihar jail," Rashid said, adding, we want honor and dignity to be restored in J&K, and not peace of a graveyard, thus peace will come on our terms, not yours.

Regarding his strategy for the upcoming assembly elections in light of the criticism he has received from the NC and PDP accusing him of being a BJP proxy, he said "My cause is far greater than what Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Ji are currently waiting for, with all due respect. Their absence from sight for 5.5 years was the reason behind their defeat in the parliamentary elections"

Replying to a query about defeating Omar Abdullah with a huge margin of 2 lakh votes in Parliamentary elections, he said "I'm not glad for Omar Abdullah's defeat, but happy that Modi Ji's Naya Kashmir rhetoric was ruptured in north Kashmir. I salute the people of Kashmir, particularly the northerners."

Will Support INDIA

being branded as a separatist for talking about resolution of the Kashmir issue, then the entire north Kashmir region was secessionist as they have voted for him.

"I want to make it clear that we are neither enemies of India, nor agents of Pakistan. We are agents of our conscience. Modi has snatched everything from us on August 5, 2019 -- illegally and unconstitutionally," he said.

He said Article 370 will not be restored by making statements inside the comfort of homes.

"How will 370 come back? You will have to protest at Lal Chowk and be ready to be hit by batons. But they (National Conference and PDP) cannot do it. When Amit Shah said no one can give back the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir except the BJP government, they did not even dare to say we will fight for it. It does not mean one has to be violent. Gandhiji did it through non violence," he added.

He expressed pity over PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's statement against him, saying she was deposed from the chair of the chief minister through a tweet by BJP leader Ram Madhav.

"Had Mehbooba resigned to protest the BJP plans to revoke Article 370, I would have said that she is a lioness. But she did not even know when Ram Madhav tweeted that the (PDP-BJP) government is no more," he said.

He also claimed that National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah was aware in advance that the Centre is going to revoke Article 370.

Rashid hit out at those who tried to project that he won the Lok Sabha elections due to sympathy vote.

"The vote for me was not emotional outpouring. It was against Modi's Naya Kashmir. It was a vote for work that I had done in Langate (assembly segment) on human rights and development," he said, adding he had secured only 600 votes less than the runner up candidate in the 2019 assembly elections.

Rashid claimed that in the run up to the Lok Sabha polls, he was pressured to support "the BJP proxy in north Kashmir" but he refused and paid the price for it.

"I don't want to add bitterness to the discourse... I was denied basic facilities available to (jail) inmates because I

refused to support the BJP proxy, the candidate who came third (Sajad Lone). I was put in the ward of mental patients for one and half months. I have no regrets if this is the price to pay for truth," he said.

Rashid also took potshots at National Conference leader and former chief minister Omar Abdullah.

"Had you (Omar) talked about people's issues, you would not have needed to lower your cap in Ganderbal and contest from two seats," he said.

The MP also predicted that both Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone and Omar Abdullah will lose the assembly elections from both seats that they are contesting.

While Lone is contesting from Handwara and Kupwara segments, Abdullah is a candidate from Ganderbal and Budgam seats.

Asked why is his detention any different from the incarceration of other mainstream politicians post abrogation of Article 370, Rashid said "comparing my five years in Tihar to (their) detention at SKICC is an injustice to my sacrifice".

"All politicians were put in SKICC and I was singled out for Tihar. I would not wish even my enemy to see the door of that jail," he added.

Rejects Sympathy

with Hurriyat leaders and the youth of Kashmir cannot be suppressed by jailing us," he said.

The AIP chief rejected claims that his election success was based on sympathy votes. "The votes were not cast out of pity but were instead a powerful rejection of the Indian government's policies in Kashmir," he said.

Criticising the central government's approach to Kashmir, Er Rashid referred to PM Modi's "Naya Kashmir" narrative as a "drama" and said it had failed to address the real concerns of the Kashmiri people. "It was not a 'New Kashmir'; it was a Kashmir of oppression, misery and draconian laws like UAPA," he remarked, adding that the people of Kashmir will not compromise their faith or dignity. "Kashmir wants peaceful resolution, not continued oppression," he added.

The Baramulla MP also dismissed allegations made by former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, who had questioned AIP's funding sources. "This gathering is a response to her accusations. AIP is not funded by external forces. Our supporters spend their own money to back our cause," he asserted, as the crowd raised their hands in solidarity.

He said Mufti should have apologized to the people, as it was the PDP that facilitated the BJP's entry into Kashmir.

In a direct message to Home Minister Amit Shah, Er Rashid refuted claims that the situation in Kashmir had improved. "Kashmiris are not stone-pelters by choice, but we will not be silenced by any tactic," he warned, urging the government to engage in meaningful dialogue with the people of Kashmir.

He cautioned that if the Government of India continues to ignore the "genuine aspirations" of Kashmiris, there will be "serious repercussions".

The AIP chief said he will not bow to the policies "imposed" on the region, adding that responding to the remarks made by Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti would be a "dis-service to the sacrifices of the people".

"AIP's cause is far removed from the pursuit of power and that engaging in such political discourse would undermine the people's struggles," he said. (KNO)

LG Lashes Out

voter turnout in the recent Lok Sabha polls, Sinha said it was due to the people understanding the conspiracy of Pakistan and realizing that their future was with India.

The Election Commission of India's statistics showed that in the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, 58.46 per cent voter turnout was recorded, which was the highest in a Lok Sabha poll in the last 35 years in J&K.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the people of the Valley, have expressed faith in the democracy of India," Sinha said.

Rahul Gandhi, during his recent visit to Kashmir, criticised Sinha's leadership, likening it to the rule of a king. Gandhi had said, "A king is sitting in J&K who is taking your wealth and giving it to outsiders by bringing in contractors."

The Assembly elections are being held in three phases in J&K and it is because of the largely people-participative Lok Sabha elections that various political parties are vigorously carrying out their poll campaigns.

The participation of people in these poll campaigns, election rallies, meetings and roadshows indicates that the people have decided to express themselves through the ballot and that the bullet has lost its relevance in Kashmir.

Sajad Lone Files

defeated in the Lok Sabha polls by former MLA and Awami Ittehad Party supremo Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid.

While the People's Conference chief stood third in the polls, National Conference (NC) vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah came second.

Speaking to reporters, Lone exuded confidence of his success, saying he has full faith in the people of the Kupwara district.

He also criticised Abdullah for framing political opponents as agents -- a reference to the NC leader accusing Rashid of being a proxy of the BJP.

Phase 3: 483 Candidates

nominations in Jammu district, followed by 111 in Baramulla district, 80 in Kupwara district, 50 in Bandipora district, 47 in Kathua district, 40 in Udhampur district, while 33 candidates have filed nominations in Samba district.

Similarly, in Kashmir Division, for the six ACs in Kupwara district, a total of 12 candidates have filed nomination from 1-Karnah AC; 13 from 2-Trehgam AC; 9 from 3-Kupwara AC; 13 from 4-Lolab AC; 11 from 5-Handwara AC; while 22 candidates have filed nomination from 6-Langate AC.

For the seven ACs in Baramulla district, 23 candidates have filed nomination from 7-Sopore AC; 14 from 8-Rafiabad AC; 7 from 9-Uri AC; 26 from 10-Baramulla AC; 14 from 11-Gulmarg AC; 13 from 12-Wagoora- Kreeri AC; while 14 candidates have filed nomination from 13-Pattan AC.

In Bandipora district, 22 candidates have filed nomination from 14-Sonawari AC; 23 from 15-Bandipora AC; while 5 candidates have filed nomination from 16-Gurez (ST) AC.

Similarly, in Jammu division, for the four ACs in Udhampur district, a total of 13 candidates have filed nomination from 59-Udhampur West AC; 11 from 60-Udhampur East AC; 9 from 61-Chenani AC; while 7 candidates have filed nomination from 62-Ramnagar (SC) AC.

For the six ACs in Kathua district, 9 candidates have filed nomination from 63-Bani AC; 5 from 64-Billawar AC; 7 from 65-Basohli AC; 10 from 66-Jasrota AC; 6 from 67-Kathua (SC) AC; while 10 candidates have filed nomination from 68-Hiranagar AC.

In Samba district, 7 candidates have filed

nomination from 69-Ramgarh (SC) AC; 15 from 70-Samba AC; while 11 candidates have filed nomination from 71-Vijaypur AC.

For the eleven ACs in Jammu district, a total of 13 candidates have filed nomination from 72-Bishnah (SC) AC; 14 from 73-Suchetgarh (SC) AC; 14 from 74-R.S.Pura - Jammu South AC; 12 from 75-Bahu AC; 10 from 76-Jammu East AC; 8 from 77-Nagrotta AC; 13 from 78-Jammu West AC; 17 from 79-Jammu North AC; 6 from 80-Marh (SC) AC; 5 from 81-Akhnoor (SC) AC; while 10 candidates have filed nomination from 82-Chhamb AC.

The notification for the 3rd Phase was issued on 5 September, 2024 and the last date for filing the nominations was today, i.e. 12 September, 2024 till 3:00 pm.

The nomination papers will be scrutinized by the respective Returning Officers on 13 September, 2024, while the candidates can withdraw their nomination paper by or before 17 September, 2024 upto 3:00 pm in the office of Returning Officer. Thereafter, validly nominated candidates will be in the electoral fray.

The polling day for these 40 Assembly constituencies in 3rd Phase is scheduled for October 01, 2024, and the voting will be conducted from 07:00 AM to 06:00 PM.

Over 7.22 Lakh Voters

Assembly Constituency comes next with 1,12,793 total registered voters, of which 55,990 are males and 56,803 are females and notably, no voters are registered under the third gender category in this constituency.

To ensure thorough voter access, 129 polling stations have been established across the constituency to ensure a smooth and hassle free voting process.

Similarly, 09-Uri Assembly Constituency has registered 1,04,813 electorate, among which 53,872 are males and 50,941 are females and no third gender voter are registered in this constituency.

A total of 147 polling stations have been set up in the constituency by ECI.

Likewise, 13- Pattan Assembly Constituency has 1,03,161 electorate among which 51,251 are males and 51,908 are females while 02 are third gender voters. To facilitate the voters of this constituency, 119 polling stations have been set up.

11-Gulmarg Constituency has a total of 90,376 voters, of which 45,524 are males and 44,851 are females besides 01 third gender voters are also registered here.

In order to ensure participatory voting, 108 polling stations have been established in the constituency.

Similarly, 12-Wagoora-Kreeri Assembly Constituency has registered 72,448 electorate, among which 36,782 are males, 35,663 are females and 03 transgender voters.

Cyber Police

Cyber Police added special responsibility on WhatsApp group admins to ensure that the news being circulated in their groups was correct and verified, failing which legal action would be initiated against them under the IT Act.

Also, the public is requested to stay informed and act responsibly while using social media platforms. This advisory shall help in arresting the spread of rumors and make the online world safer for one and all.

Under GPS Tracker

leaders of the banned Jel have fielded candidates as independents for assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Witnesses

Ghulam by Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, along with countless attacks on other political figures, discouraged open political participation. This time, however, there is a stark contrast—people who once boycotted elections under the influence of separatist groups are now actively engaging in the political process.

For the first time since the removal of Article 370, the region is witnessing Jamaat-e-Islami members, long associated with boycotting elections, entering the political mainstream. Although the organization remains banned by India's Home Ministry, its leaders are contesting the elections as independents.

The anticipation for these elections is high, with many predicting a bumper turnout, active campaigning, and strong political engagement. Political analysts expect a higher voter turnout than in past elections, where percentages have fluctuated dramatically. In 1989, voter turnout dipped to a mere 5-10 percent, but by 1996, security forces played a role in raising it to 50 percent. This time, without any coercion, enthusiasm is building across the state.

New faces are emerging in this political renaissance. Iltija Mufti, the third generation of the Mufti family, is making her debut in the political arena, while Omar Abdullah's son is campaigning for the first time. Alongside established parties like the BJP, several smaller groups are contesting the elections—(KNO)

3 Choudharys Vie

Conference (NC), has a long-standing political lineage, as his father, Choudhary Mohd Shafi, was a senior Congress leader and legislator. Zaffar began his political career in 2008 with NC but switched to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in 2014, serving as Minister of State during the PDP-BJP coalition government. He resigned from PDP in 2018 and rejoined NC. He is considered one of the main contenders for the seat.

Haroon Choudhary

Choudhary Haroon Khatana, a prominent tribal leader from Kokernag, recently resigned from the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and joined the PDP. He had previously been affiliated with the National Conference before moving to DPAP. Khatana enjoys a solid vote share in his area and is emerging as one of the key contenders for the seat.

Choudhary Gulzar

Choudhary Gulzar is contesting the election as an independent candidate and has garnered support from prominent individuals in the area. Recently, Talib Hussain Choudhary, who was previously associated with PDP, extended his support to Gulzar, making him a serious contender who could upset the other candidates.

The role of non-ST voters

Political analysts believe that the role of non-ST voters is crucial, as non-ST votes may determine the outcome of the election. Peerzada Mohammad Sayed, the NC-Congress alliance candidate for the Anantnag main seat, is a voter in the Kokernag constituency, and his support for the NC candidate could be instrumental in garnering non-ST votes.

Similarly, PDP leaders like Ab Salam Reshieh and others could play a vital role in securing non-ST votes for the PDP candidate.

According to analysts, the candidate who successfully attracts non-ST voters is more likely to emerge victorious.

Out of around 92,000 registered voters, only 28,000 are ST voters, while over 63,000 are non-ST voters, underscoring the critical importance of non-ST votes in the upcoming election—(KNO)

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Don't Want Division, But Unity In J&K: MP Ruhullah

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Member of Parliament (MP) from Srinagar constituency and senior National Conference (NC) leader, Syed Aga Ruhullah Thursday expressed hopes that Engineer Rasheed will target the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) with the same intensity as he has targeted the National Conference (NC).



Speaking at a public rally in Waterhal, Budgam, Ruhullah told the reporters that Er Rasheed, who had criticized NC and PDP harshly, is expected to address the BJP in a similar tone. "We hope he will use the same words for BJP leaders as he used for us," Ruhullah said.

He emphasized the need for unity against what he described as the BJP's oppression in Jammu and Kashmir. "We don't want division; we want unity in this State. Whoever wants to fight against BJP's tyranny and save this state from division is welcome to join us. These two conditions are enough for us. Our doors are open to those who want to come along."

Ruhullah also reiterated that the struggle is to restore the identity of Jammu and Kashmir and reclaim what has been taken away. "Our fight is for the identity of Jammu and Kashmir and against the oppression that BJP has inflicted on our people," he said—(KNO)

J&K Polls: Nizamuddin Bhat Files Nomination Papers For Bandipora Seat

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Former legislator and senior Congress leader Nizamuddin Bhat on Thursday filed his nomination papers for Bandipora seat for the upcoming assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir.



After addressing a massive workers gathering at his official residence, Nizamuddin Bhat reached mini secretariat Bandipora to file his nomination papers for Bandipora seat that will vote in the third phase of J&K polls on October 1.

Nizamuddin Bhat is contesting the election as an alliance candidate of the National Conference and Congress, as the constituency has been allotted to Congress in the seat sharing pact. Bhat on

Wednesday joined the Congress after hectic deliberations with the alliance partners.

Bhat joining the grand old party is seen as a major boost with the seat being jointly contested by the National Conference and Congress.

Bhat was already seen as a major contender for Bandipora constituency with mass following that has been growing over the weeks—(KNO)

Electricity Generated In J&K Should Be Provided To People At Lower Tariffs: Tarigami

Agencies

SRINAGAR: CPI (M) leader Mohamad Yousuf Tarigami on Thursday said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a fair share of the electricity generated from local rivers, provided at low tariffs.

Addressing multiple rallies as part of his election campaign in the Kulgam constituency, Tarigami spoke at gatherings in villages including Sangas, Kahoot, Tangsargam, Shalipora, Khandipora, Mohdpora, Aki-pora, Kheejogipora, Vesbatpora, Such, and Katrasoo.



In addition to the electricity issue, Tarigami called for the formation of a commission to investigate the killings of innocent individuals in the region, specifically naming two former Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), Abdul Razzak Buchru and Ghulam Nabi Dar of Kulgam. He urged people to collectively demand an investigation to ensure the culprits are brought to justice.

"We need the rule of law," he said, criticizing the government's treatment of job-seeking youth, who are often harassed during verification processes. He said that many are unfairly punished for hav-

ing distant relatives allegedly linked to unlawful activities, even if they were not born during those times. "This government is alienating us. If I am elected to the assembly, I will make it clear that this country belongs to us, and it will be ours," he added.

Tarigami further added that it is important to integrate youth rather than marginalize them, as exclusion hinders their employment prospects. Embracing the younger generation, he said, would foster fam-

ily well-being and guide the country in a positive developmental direction.

Reflecting on the changing political landscape, he said, "What was once considered a sin—casting a vote—has now become a virtuous act. The shift in attitude and tone reveals a story people should understand. The power lies in the hands of the people, and they are the decision-makers in a democratic process. They must choose wisely."

He pointed out that the ruling dispensation had no interest in conducting them, but the Supreme Court's intervention and the parliamentary mandate left no other option but to proceed with the polls—(KNO)

Muslim Clerics Unite Against Waqf Amendment Bill, Demand Withdrawal

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU) Jammu & Kashmir and Muslim personal law board convened an extraordinary meeting to discuss the controversial Waqf Amendment Bill 2024. The gathering, chaired by Grand Mufti Nasir Islam Faruqi, brought together prominent scholars who unanimously rejected the bill, calling for its immediate withdrawal.

The council expressed strong opposition to the government's attempts to legalize the bill, emphasizing that Waqf properties are owned by Allah Almighty and are an integral part

of Islamic beliefs. They argued that any governmental interference undermines the fundamental concept of Waqf, making such efforts unacceptable to Muslims.

The MMU has already submitted a detailed letter to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), outlining their concerns and labeling the bill as anti-Muslim. They have offered to present their position directly to the JPC, if necessary.

The council appealed to Imams and religious scholars to support their resolution during Friday prayers, promoting unity amidst ongoing challenges in Kashmir. [KNT]



SUPPORTERS OF ER RASHID listening to him at his maiden election rally in Baramulla on Thursday after his release from more than five years imprisonment on an interim bail.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Expedite Saturation Of 4G Network In JK: Atal Dulloo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Flagging the slow pace of progress over saturation of 4G connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Thursday directed the officers to work in a coordinated manner to expedite the pace of work on the project for its timely completion.

He passed these directions during a review meeting at Civil Secretariat here during which several issues hampering the progress were ironed out.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary Public Works (R&B) Department, Secretary Revenue Department and other officers. Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, Secretary Rural Development Department, Additional Secretary IT Department, General Manager, BSNL and others attended the meeting through video conferencing.

While chairing the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the service provider to complete the work on all the handed over sites without any further delay.

"There is no scope for any leniency and things should not be kept lingering around without any justifiable reasons. Pendency should be cleared expeditiously by prioritising uncovered areas" he said.

The objective of the project is to provide 4G mobile services in uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas.

Regarding the electricity connection to the towers, he asked the Principal Secretary,



PDD to speed up the process of providing electric connection to the towers. He said that a mechanism should be developed so that electricity is provided to the towers as soon as they get completed.

He also directed the authorities to identify alternate land where the earlier proposed site was not found feasible as per the quality standards.

During the meeting CGM, BSNL gave a powerpoint presentation on 4G saturation project regarding sites and land allotment details, tower erection and highlighted the challenges which impede 4G saturation project. He said that work is in progress at different stages and is being continuously monitored.

He gave out that they have been allotted land at 711 sites and civil work has started on 563 sites (Jammu-279, Kashmir-284) and tower erection has been completed on 355 sites (Jammu-149, Srinagar-206). He also said that 122 4G sites have been made ON-Air and 200 more sites will be made ON-Air by the end of September 2024 as per the target.

Atal Dulloo also reviewed the progress on BharatNet and

directed the officials to expedite the initiative.

He stressed on smooth implementation of BharatNet for providing high speed broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats across Jammu and Kashmir.

He also called for carrying out a study of all the services to check their utilisation location wise and the uptake by the users.

CGM BSNL gave a presentation about the BharatNet and said that in Jammu and Kashmir a total of 1119 Gram Panchayats have been covered under phase I & II, out of which 427 GPs have been covered on Optical Fiber Cable and 692 covered on VSAT. He said that broadband utilization under BharatNet has shown greater uptake over the past two years with 8502 Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections provided to the people in rural areas and 427 FTTH to government institutions.

He also informed that 660 GPs which were having power related issues has been resolved by the Power Development Department in consultation with BSNL and Rural Development Department.

Sopore: Aijaz Guru Files Nomination Papers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Aijaz Ahmed Guru, brother of Parliament attack convict Mohammad Afzal Guru, on Thursday filed his nomination for the upcoming assembly elections from the Sopore assembly constituency.

However, the move has not been welcomed by the family of Afzal Guru.

In a statement, Tabasum Guru, wife of the late Mohammad Afzal Guru, clarified that Aijaz's decision to contest the elections is entirely personal and has no connection to the Guru family or her late husband.

"The decision to fight assembly elections of Aijaz Ahmad Guru is personal and has nothing to do with Shaheed Afzal or the whole Guru family. It pains me and the whole family when photographs of my husband and Aijaz are aired simultaneously," Tabasum Guru stated, while requesting the media to refrain from linking her husband's image to Aijaz's political actions.

Tabasum further revealed that her husband, Afzal Guru, had instructed her in 2005 to cut ties with Aijaz. "Hence, all his actions are completely personal," she said.

She also made it clear that she would not speak or respond to any media inquiries in the future, as the situation caused her and the family great distress.

It's worth mentioning that Aijaz earlier said that he will contest elections to fight for those who have been arrested in fabricated cases by the police, including his son Shoaib.

He also aimed to address local issues, including employment, infrastructure development and youth rehabilitation. "I will prioritize Sopore, which has been neglected since long", Aijaz had said—(KNO)

ADGP Kumar Chairs Security, Election Review Meeting In Shopian

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In preparation for the upcoming Assembly Election, the Additional Director General of Police (SPNO) J&K, Vijay Kumar accompanied by IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi & IG CRPF G.K Verma, conducted a security and election review meeting at Conference Hall DPO Shopian.

The meeting was attended by DIG SKR Anantnag Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG CRPF Awantipora, DIG BSF, DIG ITBP, DIG SSB, SSP Shopian, SSP Pulwama, SSP Awantipora, CO's of CAPF and other senior officers. The meeting aimed to review the overall security arrangements put in place in District Shopian for the upcoming Phase-1 elections.

SSP Shopian Anayat Ali Choudhary gave a detailed outline of the security arrangements, camping locations for CAPF Coys, location of polling booths & strong rooms and the security measures undertaken in the district.

The induction of CAPF Coys and the logistic arrangements made for CAPF Coys were also reviewed. Special focus was laid on security of polling booths and strong rooms.



SSP Pulwama & SSP PD Awantipora and officers of CAPF gave their feedback and appreciated the chairing officer regarding the arrangements put in place in their respective areas of responsibility.

While briefing the officers, Vijay Kumar stated that "we are committed to ensure that every aspect of the electoral process is handled with the utmost professionalism and efficiency."

He further emphasized the need for close coordination with all the security agencies and directed that proactive measures may be taken to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the electoral process.

Kumar urged upon all the participating officers to remain vigilant and proactive in addressing any potential threats from the ANEs and to maintain close vigil on anti-national elements.

NC-Congress Alliance Superficial, Untrustworthy: Mehbooba

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Stating that the National Conference and Congress alliance is untrustworthy and superficial, People's Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said that both parties are competing against each other despite claims of unity.

Mehbooba said that her ongoing campaign in South Kashmir, covering areas like Pulwama, Shopian, and Anantnag, has been met with a strong response. "The love and respect I am receiving from the people of these regions, alongside my late father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's legacy, energizes me to continue", she added.

She also said that people still remember 2002 when the People's Democratic Party (PDP) came to power and transformed Jammu and Kashmir, leading to major development initiatives such as the opening of the Muzaffarabad road and the establishment of educational institutions.

She further said that PDP's agenda remains unmatched as it emphasized dialogue and ending oppression.

Mehbooba daid that despite

challenges from political rivals and efforts to divide the vote, PDP continues to represent hope for resolving Jammu and Kashmir's issues, including matters of land, jobs, and youth.

She said that PDP remains focused on achieving its agenda, which includes restoring Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy,

ensuring dialogue, and addressing local grievances. The party has learned from past experiences and stands ready to reclaim its position, she said.

Mehbooba said that attempts by rival parties to break up PDP and divide votes in its strongholds like South Kashmir will not succeed, as the people understand the importance of supporting PDP to bring about meaningful change.

On being asked about friendly contests of NC-Congress alliance on some seats, Mehbooba said that the so-called "friendly contests" is mere political posturing.

She said that PDP's focus is on addressing real issues faced by Jammu and Kashmir, such as land rights, youth employment, and economic development, and the party will only align with those who accept its agenda for resolving these problems. (KNS)

BJP Set To Win Gurez, Karnah Seats: Ravinder Raina

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Ravinder Raina Thursday declared that the party is poised to win the upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir with a full majority. Speaking at the Panchayat AajTak event in Srinagar, Raina confidently asserted that the BJP will form the government, with the next Chief Minister hailing from the party.

Raina highlighted the transformative impact of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in the re-

gion, citing the restoration of peace and development. He dismissed allegations of the BJP backing proxy candidates, terming it "propaganda" from rival parties.

The BJP leader emphasized the party's growing presence in Kashmir, with a focus on crucial constituencies like Habakadal and Anantnag West. He noted that the party has given tickets to Muslim candidates, showcasing its commitment to inclusivity.

Raina claimed that BJP is going to win the assembly seats from Gurez and Karnah.

Private School Faces Hefty Fine for Defying FFRC Orders

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC), Srinagar, has levied a substantial penalty of Rs 16 lakh on the Minto Circle English Medium Senior Secondary School, Aloochei Bagh, Srinagar, for non-compliance with regulatory fee guidelines and repeated disregard of the committee's orders.

This development follows the school's failure to deposit an earlier penalty of Rs 9.60 lakh imposed on August 19, 2024, which was due by September 2, 2024.

The dispute between the school management and the FFRC began when the com-

mittee, after reviewing the school's fee structure, ordered that fees be charged as per the rates prevailing in August 2014. The school had challenged this directive in the High Court, which temporarily stayed parts of the committee's order dated December 29, 2021. However, the stay was specific to the portion regarding the takeover of school management, while the penalty imposed remained unaffected," FFRC said in an order issued here.

Despite this, the school continued charging higher fees in violation of the FFRC's regulated structure. On August 19, 2024, the FFRC imposed a 3% penalty amounting to Rs 9.60 lakh un-

der Rule 12, after finding that the school had defied the committee's previous instructions. The school was initially given ten days to deposit the penalty, with a final deadline of September 2, 2024.

In the interim, the school management filed an application seeking the recall of the August 19 order, citing a previous committee ruling from December 2021 and relying on the Supreme Court's TA PAI case judgment. However, the FFRC found the application misleading and misconceived. According to the FFRC, the TA PAI judgment does not give schools the right to fix their own fee structure but rather allows them to propose

a structure, which must then be regulated by the committee.

The FFRC also referenced a ruling from the Supreme Court in the Islamic Foundation case, which mandated the creation of a fee fixation committee to regulate private school fees. Based on these legal precedents, the FFRC underscored its authority to regulate the fee structure of private schools in Jammu & Kashmir and reiterated that Minto Circle English Medium School had violated this regulation.

"After giving the school an additional opportunity to explain its position by appearing before the committee on September 5, 2024, the school management

once again failed to comply. The school only follows orders that align with its interests and disregards those that do not, further reflecting the school's lack of respect for the regulatory body," the FFRC order reads.

In light of the continued defiance and failure to deposit the penalty of Rs 9.60 lakh, the FFRC has now escalated the fine to Rs 16 lakh, representing a 5% penalty as per the applicable regulations. The school has been directed to pay this amount within 15 days of the issuance of the order, failing which the committee will refer the matter to the Tehsildar for recovery as an arrear of land revenue under Regulation 12, Sub-Clause (i).

Legends League Cricket Announces Srinagar Schedule, Final On October 16

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Legends League Cricket, a professional league featuring former international cricketers, announced the schedule for its Srinagar games on Thursday during a press conference at Hotel Radisson in Rajbagh here.

The league is set to kick off its Srinagar leg on October 9, with seven matches, including the finals to be played at Bakshi Stadium. The 2024 edition of the tournament starts on September 20 at Barkatullah Khan Stadium in Jodhpur.

Former India batter, Mohammad Kaif, who plays for Gujarat Greats, was also present during the press conference and expressed his excitement at playing in Kashmir.

"All of us at Legends League



Cricket are extremely excited to be coming to Kashmir this season," Kaif said. "It will be extremely special to play at this

wonderful stadium and in front of our wonderful fans that are yet to watch us play live. I look forward to a packed stadium and we will do our best to put on a show for the people of Kashmir."

Raman Raheja, Co-Founder Legends League Cricket, also expressed his excitement about Srinagar hosting the league's finals.

"Legends League Cricket is back for another season and we are very excited to also be playing in Kashmir this season," Raheja said. "This is a huge opportunity for the people of Kashmir to come to the stadium and watch live cricketing action for the first time in almost 40 years. It also presents a unique opportunity for the cricketers to experience the beauty of Kashmir and enjoy the hospitality and love of the wonderful people of

Srinagar."

Cricketers like Mohammad Kaif, Shikhar Dhawan, Dinesh Karthik, Harbhajan Singh, Suresh Raina, Chris Gayle, Ross Taylor, Ian Bell and many others are expected to be a part of the action when the league begins in Kashmir

Final Fixtures for Srinagar:

- October 9: Hyderabad Team vs Southern Superstars
- October 19: India Capitals vs Manipal Tigers
- October 11: Konark Surya Odisha vs Gujarat Team
- October 12: Qualifier (Position 1 vs Position 2)
- October 13: Eliminator (Position 3 vs Position 4)
- October 14: Semi Final (Loser Qualifier vs Eliminator Winner)
- October 16: Final (Winner Qualifier vs Winner Semis)

Short TAKES

Afghanistan-New Zealand Test: Rain Washes Out Day 4

The fourth day of the one-off Test Afghanistan between Afghanistan and New Zealand was abandoned due to rain in Greater Noida on Thursday.

The toss was scheduled to take place at 9am but persistent rain continued to play spoilsport as the match officials called off the day's play for the fourth day in succession.

Not a single ball has been bowled across four days with the wet outfield preventing any action on the opening two days.

Rashid Khan Returns For Afghanistan's ODI Series Against SA

Afghanistan all-rounder Rashid Khan will return from a back injury in this month's three-match one-day series against South Africa. However, batter Ibrahim Zadran will be sidelined due to an ankle sprain, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced on Thursday.

Khan, who missed the one-off test against New Zealand due to his injury, is set to rejoin the squad for the upcoming series.

Afghanistan will host the ODIs against South Africa at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the United Arab Emirates on Sept. 18, 20, and 22.

Head, Short Fire Australia To Easy T20 Win Over England

Travis Head struck a remarkable 19-ball half-century, including 30 off one over, as Australia beat England by 28 runs in the first match of their T20 series in Southampton on Wednesday.

Head clobbered four sixes and eight fours in an explosive innings of 59 off 23 balls as Australia put up 86 without loss in 5.5 overs.

Opener Matthew Short also struck two sixes in his knock of 41, as Australia made 179. Sean Abbott took three wickets and Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa two apiece as England were all out for 151.

Mikel Arteta Signs New Contract, To Stay At Arsenal Until 2027

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta inked a new contract on Thursday, extending his tenure at the club until 2027. "I feel very inspired, I feel challenged, I feel supported and I want to do much more than what we've already done together," Arteta stated.

Since joining Arsenal in December 2019, the 42-year-old Spanish coach has transformed the team into Manchester City's main rival for the English Premier League title, finishing runner-up in the last two seasons.

PSG Ordered To Pay Kylian Mbappé €55 Million In Unpaid Wages



The French league's legal commission has directed Paris Saint-Germain to settle the €55 million in unpaid wages claimed by Kylian Mbappé, the league announced on Thursday.

The confirmation came a day after Mbappé, France's superstar, rejected a mediation proposal from the commission regarding his dispute with his former club. Following this, PSG officials and Mbappé's representatives convened in Paris on Wednesday. Mbappé had requested the commission's intervention after transferring to Real Madrid on a free transfer this summer.

UT Level Badminton Tournament Begins In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports is hosting the Inter-District/UT Level Badminton Competitions for boys and girls of all age groups at Indoor Sports Complex here. This event has young badminton enthusiasts from across J&K competing, with teams from all 20 districts of the region participating.

The tournament, which is being held in phases, kicked off on Thursday, with the Under-14 boys' category. The action continued as the competitions for the Under-17 boys began, showcasing the talent and

sportsmanship of young players from various districts. The tournament will culminate on September 28.

The event was formally inaugurated by Mohammad Rashid Kohli, Joint Director Kashmir of the Department of YSS, in a ceremony held at the venue. Senior officials from the Department of Youth Services and Sports were also in attendance, adding to the significance of the occasion.

As the tournament progresses, attention will soon turn to the upcoming matches for girls and the Under-19 category, where more young players will get the chance to compete for the advanced competitions.

Kupwara Wins Divisional Under-19 Cricket Tournament

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Kupwara lifted the title of Divisional Under-19 Cricket Tournament by defeating Kulgam by 28 runs in the final match on Thursday at BHSS Ground Bijbehara, Anantnag.

Battling first, Kupwara set the target of 128 runs, in which Shoib Ahad scored 33 runs. From Kulgam, Waris Zargar clinched four wickets. In reply Kulgam failed to chase the target and lost the match by 29 runs. Waris Rashid was the highest scorer with 26 runs for Kulgam. For Kupwara, Zubair Sultan and Danish Ali took three



wickets.

In the post match presentation, DYSSO Kulgam Mush-taq Ahmad Pampori was the chief guest along with other officials of YSS Department from Anantnag and Kulgam respectively. The DYSSO Kulgam gave away the winners, runner up and best performers trophies.

The Tournament was organized on league cum knockout format basis, which ensured equal opportunity to all 16 players of every participating team of the tournament to showcase their cricketing talent. The tournament witnessed the participation of players from nine districts of Kashmir.

Prime Minister Modi Meets India's Paralympic Medallists

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met India's trailblazing Paralympians at his residence on Thursday to congratulate them for their record-smashing haul of 29 medals at the recently-concluded Paris Games.

In a 43-second video shared by the Sports Ministry, the PM can be seen congratulating the medal winners before an interaction with them.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) head Devendra Jhajharia were also present during this interaction.

India gave its best-ever



performance in the Paralympic Games by winning 29 medals, including an unprecedented seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze medals.

The 84-strong contingent surpassed the previous best of 19 medals that was achieved in the Tokyo Games three years ago.

Cristiano Ronaldo Says Manchester United Need To Rebuild Everything

Agencies

Cristiano Ronaldo said his former club Manchester United must rebuild everything from the bottom up if they are to compete for the top titles again.

The 39-year-old Portugal forward won three Premier League titles, the Champions League and a Club World Cup crown during his first stint at United from 2003-2009 and said he still loves the club, who finished eighth in the league last season.

Speaking on the 'Rio Ferdinand Presents' podcast set to air on Thursday, Ronaldo said he was happy with the way the club's administrators, led by INEOS boss Jim Ratcliffe, were investing in infrastructure.

"They need to rebuild everything, in my opinion ... the club needs time to rebuild because it's still one of the best clubs in the world, but they need to change. They understand that this is the only way," British media quoted him



as saying.

"I believe that the future will be bright. I believe, but they don't depend only on the talents. They have to rebuild from the bottom. If not, they cannot compete. It will be impossible."

United manager Erik Ten Hag has come under

pressure already after two defeats in their opening three games and Ronaldo said he should lean on his former United teammate Ruud van Nistelrooy, who was hired as an assistant coach.

"You cannot rebuild a club without knowledge,"

he said. "I believe that Ruud is going to help because he was inside the club. He knows the club, he knows the fans. If the coach listens to him, I think they can improve a little bit the club."

United, who are 14th in the league, visit Southampton on Saturday.

Man City Hearing On Breaches Of Financial Rules On Monday: ESPN

Agencies

The hearing into Manchester City's 115 alleged breaches of Premier League financial regulations will begin on Monday, according to ESPN.

City were referred to an independent commission over the alleged breaches, which go back to the 2009-10 campaign, in February 2023. The club are alleged to have breached rules relating to the provision of accurate financial information.

City are also charged with failing to comply with Premier League rules requiring clubs to follow UEFA's Financial Fair Play regulations from the 2013-14 to 2017-18 seasons and failing to follow Premier League rules on profit and sustainability (PSR) from the 2015-16 to 2017-18 seasons.

The club, who won an unprecedented fourth successive top-flight title in May, said at the time of the referral to the commission that they were surprised by the league's "issuing of these alleged breaches".



"The club welcomes the review of this matter by an independent commission, to impartially consider the comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence that exists in support of its position," City added.

Sources told ESPN the

hearing is set to begin on Sept. 16 and is expected to last about two months with a final verdict, including any appeal, to be reached by the end of the season. City could face penalties such as a points deduction or relegation if found guilty.

Everton and Nottingham Forest had points deducted last season for breaching PSR regulations.

Manchester City were not immediately available to comment, while the Premier League declined to comment.