

Greater Jammu

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2014

ALLOW SAC TO FUNCTION

Stuck between devil and deep sea situation because of recent debacle in Lok Sabha polls and forthcoming assembly elections of the state, the coalition government did another blunder by missing deadline of appointing Chairman and Members of State Accountability Commission (SAC) whose term is expiring on August 18, 2014. A job which the government should have done long back has once again been taken up by the state high court directing authorities to consider continuation of present incumbents until regular appointments of Chairman and Members of State Accountability Commission (SAC) are made. There are several other such cases of importance and which fall in the domain of state government but are being looked after by the courts. Be it parking, laying of sewerage lines, fixation of school fees of children, health care facilities in the state, illegal constructions, land use violations and matters relating to public convenience, the government had always failed and forced courts to interfere in these affairs. This was what the government did with local bodies and Municipal Corporations of both capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu. It first allowed them to lapse and then couldn't do much about it to hold their elections. Now if government fails to appoint chairperson of the SAC or its members within the stipulated time period, this institution of importance will virtually be rendered headless and finally become defunct. This amply shows sincerity of government towards its resolve to fight corruption in the state. Had the government been sincere in fighting corruption and nailing corrupt it could have way back in the beginning of this year, instituted a collegium to appoint SAC members and its chairperson. Now that government failed in performing its constitutional duties people had to come forward, file Public Interest Litigations and seek directions from the court to allow chairperson and members of SAC to continue till further arrangements are made. This is not judicial activism but sheer failure on the part of government. There already is a case going on in the state high court wherein PIL activists are fighting for sanction in corruption cases against IAS/IFS/KAS officers for their alleged involvement in corruption cases but lack of adequate staff/infrastructure in State Accountability Commission (SAC), State Information Commission and State Vigilance Commission (SVC) are proving to be hindrance. Regrettably even the newly created seven Additional Anti-corruption Courts lack adequate staff due to which the real purpose of creating such facilities or institutions is not being served. The Division Bench of State High Court comprising Justice Virender Singh and Justice Tashi Rabstan has finally come to the rescue of these anti-graft bodies and asked government to allow the existing chairpersons and members of SAC to continue till further arrangements are made. The government without delaying must adhere to the direction for the simple reason that it is already left with very less time in hand and anytime from here on Model Code of Conduct can come into force for coming assembly elections. Ideally the outgoing government must not take any decision in haste and allow this institution to remain functional with the given infrastructure and manpower. It must also allow this leftover time to lapse and allow new government to make these appointments sensibly. Any rush through the move would also prove detrimental and jeopardise the functioning of such an important institution. Hardly a few months from here on the new government is likely to take over and even if this coalition retains power, it must make fresh appointments then and there itself after holding consultations with the collegium. That way the government will get enough time to make right appointments but till then the incumbent chairperson and members must be allowed to continue by all means and as directed by the Division Bench.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Don't turn water bodies into sewers

Dear Editor,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper I would like to bring to the notice of all the environmental groups, the total disregard shown by the industries situated near the Rivers in Jammu towards environmental pollution.

A whole range of industries from tanneries, chemicals, electronics and heavy machinery discharge their effluents into the rivers and other water bodies. They are ignoring the guidelines set by the pollution control authorities under the law as on date regarding the discharge of the liquid and solid waste into the water bodies. Even the butchers can be seen openly slaughtering the livestock along the bank of River Tawi as well as along Ranbir Canal on Akhnoor Road. As a concerned citizen, I feel quite sorry to find that there is no local effluent

treatment plant in the region despite funding crores for the industries in this region. Even the Industries have not set up their own plants for the purpose which is quite shocking. At present discharge of liquid and solid waste into the river is not only killing all the aquatic life forms but also affecting the people who use the water of these water bodies for bathing and washing clothes. If the government as well as the people fail to act as responsible components of the society then undoubtedly even the mighty water bodies shall turn into large sewers. Therefore I appeal to all the stakeholders to realize that a clean river will bring good health for one and all and if some urgent steps are required to be taken, let these be taken with all seriousness.

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Please send your valuable responses at editorgreaterjammu@gmail.com

TRIALS OF A CRICKET FAN

For the Indian cricket lover, there is no place to hide in England

RUCHIR JOSHI

It's not a good time to be an Indian cricket fan in England right now. I miss the first Test but the trouble already starts with the second Test at Lord's, the match we 'win'. The slips are wrong, standing too far back and too close together, with catches dropping in front of them — which can happen, but then you compute the bounce and carry, and you adjust, except here no one does. Already things are going besur, a Test wicket-keeper (no matter that he's also the captain and the captain who's won us the World Cup in another form of the game eons ago), is standing back to a spinner, as in halfway between the stumps and his normal position for the pacers, and flanking him are a slip and a leg slip, all in a straight line, as if they're in some provincial rock band deep in the Gangetic belt. This bizarre move doesn't yield any master-stroke wickets, merely the derision of the gora commentators and also Michael Holding. The worst thing is the spinner, an 'Indian' spinner, is bowling, smacking them down with no thought of flight or loop or, well let's just say it, actually spinning the ball, of allowing it to talk to the air and conspire with it. Besides Ishant showing some spark of old, the unsatisfying saving grace is that this England team is a) not very good, and b) still spooked by the Australian mauling and even by the mini-series with the Sri Lankans, and they do a very good impression of kids in a nursery playing 'All Fall Down'. You know, even as Dhoni speaks second in the post-match jaw-billiards, that this ride isn't going to stay so smooth, not in a five-Test series. Watching and listening to the commentary on Sky is mostly fun though. There's hilarious ribbing between Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly of the kind they would probably never do on an Indian channel, there's semi-serious rub between Nasser Hussain and various other Ingrej, then there's Warney with his twanging delivery, actually making a lot of common sense and giving us good insight. The irritating part of this is that every time an Indian batsman gets deep-fried by a bad decision or an English one escapes, the chirping starts, "Well... no sympathy there! Them's the breaks! If you don't agree to having DRS, you can't review it!" The first few times this is understandable, but then the crowing grates, not least because it reminds me exactly of last time, which

was the hellish 2011 tour. By the time the Southampton Test starts, someone in the back room has clearly sent instructions for the commentary gang to cool it about the DRS and they do. Instead, as the extremely thin India balloons start bursting you get these stifled yelps of Pom-ecstasy: "Well, well, we-ell! Now had they agree—... well, he'll feel hard done by that decision, but there it is!" "You're right Bumble! There it is!" And there, as they say in these parts, it

wild bouncers down the leg side and take catches and so on, which feels like it should be illegal when playing Dhoni's India.

As the match progresses it gets worse and worse, and before long the whole thing seems to mutate without pause into an eight-day mega-test mauling, one that somehow begins at the Rose Bowl, with its beached cruise liner doubling as a stand, and ends at Old Trafford, with its ancient and familiar



b****y is. The moment Cook and a couple of other English batsmen get going, Dhoni's band-baja party lower their instruments and tap their feet to the rhythm of runs being piled on. Suddenly there is no sense that anyone is trying to contain the runs or take wickets. Watching the fielding, you can almost hear the desi egos calling to each other, "Arre yaar, what to do? Anyway, we'll just make more than them!" Which, of course, is not how it works. Besides the clever ruse of getting us to refuse the DRS, England seem to have broken another, unwritten, code: this time they've dropped their Dhoni counterpart (or he's bailed out) and they've instead deployed a proper Test-class wicket-keeper, a chap who can collect

spires. On the way, as India are wont to do, we have resurrected the failing careers of several opponents. We have also helped birth a deadly off-spinner in the shape of one Moeen Ali. In between, on what seems like it must have been a rest day, we have also conceded an enquiry called Andersongate where El Jimmy is found to be not particularly guilty for having (or not quite having) pushed Ravindra Jadeja who may or may not have also behaved badly in the surveillance-less tunnel at Trent Bridge. For the Indian cricket fan, there is no place to hide. It's bad enough that local Pakistani friends are sympathetic — not that unusual nowadays — what's worse is the English friends who normally get quite sharp about the cricket now doing

the equivalent of patting you sympathetically on their Facebook statuses. In footballing terms, as an Arsenal supporter, my standard reaction to defeat from a big opponent is, "Go to hell! You've spent all these billions to buy all these stars..." but in this case, I realize that the over-expensive team of prima donnas is us, and we are being flash-barbecued by a team of jobbing county second-raters plus Buttler, Anderson, the ghastly Broad and Cook.

Even as the debacle-tamasha starts again at the Oval, you realize a few things: barring some serious surgery of our cricketing system, India is done with the game we knew and loved as Test cricket. Suddenly, all those unspectacular Indian batsmen of yore who battled it out in English conditions for draws against top-notch swing and pace re-appear as true heroes. The monetary corruption may be what it is but the BCCI's expansion into the game's one super-power has brought with it the deepest spiritual corruption of cricket in this country. Barring the dismantling of the industry and repeated defeats and dismembersments in all forms of the game, or at least the T-20 form, there will be no rejuvenation, no resurrection.

Being in London when things aren't going well for India on an England tour, one can usually take refuge in all the other wonderful things that makes this such a great place in summer. This time, however, the unrelentingly grim international news claws one's attention: the second Malaysian Airlines plane goes down, Gaza is ablaze, Syria suppurates, Iraq is being over-run by Islamist butchers, ebola is spreading and the police shoot down an unarmed black man in Missouri. In all this awfulness there is a news item that says some people have shot at a convoy led by Imran Khan, possibly a group from Khan's own beloved Pakistani Taliban. I remember Imran giving the annual Pataudi Lecture in Calcutta in 2012 and crowding about the consistency required for India to be hammered 0-4 twice, in two consecutive tours of England and Australia in 2011-12. IK squarely laid the blame on a surfeit of T-20 cricket, probably knowing full well that no one on this side of the border would take heed. Wherever he is, no matter how much his political idiocies are being exposed by Kalashnikov bullets, I know Imran Khan is grinning right now as he watches the Test cricket being played in England.

MTTS PROGRAMMES IN J&K - NEED OF THE HOUR

DR. RAJ SHREE DHAR

"Mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty—a beauty cold and austere, like that of sculpture, without appeal to any part of our weaker nature, without the gorgeous trappings of painting or music, yet sublimely pure, and capable of a stern perfection such as only the greatest art can show."

-Bertrand Russell

Modern world, with its achievement in Mathematical Sciences, has made our life easy and comfortable. For nearly 5000 years, man has been acquiring vast knowledge about his existence and cosmos. Jammu and Kashmir has produced doyens of Science, Philosophy and Literature. In Engineering, our ancient monuments have been extraordinarily praised and classed as distinct architectural quality.

The step of Higher Education Department of J & K Government to establish J & K Institute of Mathematical Sciences (last year in 2013) is of immense significance as it will give an accelerated push in producing men and women of Mathematics, Science and technology which are the basic components of the modern technology. The main aim of the institute is to promote the study of Mathematics and Sciences, and prepare students for teaching, research and corporate world.

The Mathematics Training and Talent Search (MTTS) Programme is an intensive training programme for undergraduates and post graduates in India. These programmes are being organized under the directorship of Prof. S. Kumaresan, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Hyderabad. The first programme was held in the summer of 1993. Since 1993, this programme has been conducted at various centres in India except J & K with funds from NBHM (National Board for Higher Mathematics), an apex body of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.

It was only this year since 1993, that Mini- MTTS(Mathematics Training and Talent Search)

Programme was conducted in Jammu and Kashmir. It was organized by J and K Institute of Mathematical Sciences(JKIMS), Higher Education Department, J & K Govt. at its campus at A.S.College,

courses. As a rule each course is taught by a single expert. This paves the way for better interaction between the faculty and students and also imparts a perspective of the field among the students. The facul-



Srinagar from 2nd - 11th Aug., 2014 and inaugurated by Minister for Higher Education Jenab Mohammad Akbar Lone. The participants in the programme were the students from Jammu and Kashmir Division and mathematics teachers from colleges.

MTTS Programmes channelize mathematics talent by exposing bright young students to rigorous mathematics, creating numerous opportunities for students and motivating them to choose their careers in Mathematics, propelling students towards research careers, influencing Mathematics teachers and above all, nurturing talented young mathematics students. It also promotes independent thinking, improves teaching methodology for Mathematics, and induces excitement in solving problems of Mathematics.

The faculty is from various leading institutions of the country and is not confined to the institute of the venue. People who are experts in the field, who are known for their teaching and who have a commitment towards betterment of mathematics in India are chosen to give the

ty is requested to be present for all the sessions --- not for their sessions alone. In the problem sessions all students are asked to do problems. All the four teachers of a level will actively help the students during the problem sessions. The teachers identify the difficulties of individual students. Giving individual attention is one of the unique features of this programme which makes the programme successful. There are no tests at the end of the programme to make it clear that the students should learn mathematics for the pleasure of doing it and not for the sake of examinations.

The aims of this programme are to teach mathematics in an interactive way rather than the usual passive presentation. To promote active learning, the teachers usually ask questions and try to develop the theory based on the answers and typical examples. At every level the participants are encouraged to explore, guess and formulate definitions and results to promote independent thinking in mathematics, to provide a platform for the talented students so that they can interact with their peers and

experts in the field. This serves two purposes: i) the participants come to know where they stand academically and what they have to do to bring out their full potential and ii) they establish a rapport with other participants and teachers which helps them in shaping their career in mathematics.

Mini-MTTS Programme in Srinagar went off rather well and it was highly appreciated by the participants, teachers and parents. The success of the programme was mainly due to the resource persons Dr. G. Santhanam from Department of Mathematics, IIT Kanpur, Dr. S. Reddy from Shivnadar University, Dr. D. Rishi from Punjab University and Dr. Vikram Aithal. The students were trained in Level O Programme and offered courses in Basic Real Analysis, Linear Algebra, Geometry, Logic, Graph Theory. The deliberations revolved around four sessions of one and an half hour each starting at 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. with breaks for discussions and refreshments. All sessions were highly interactive and students were encouraged to think and come up with a definition or arrive at a proof. The Programme has been spirited and useful and provided platform for young students and mathematicians from leading institutes of the country to have fruitful discussions.

The students were given an outline or idea of proof and were asked to work out the details after discussing among themselves before writing the final proof. The students were given a feedback form at the end of first week.

The most important contribution of MTTS is that it brings out a significant change in the student's perspective about learning Mathematics. It was evident among the students of J & K by the eagerness, keenness and openness of their minds in learning the concepts of Mathematics which can prove to be a good omen for the future of Mathematics in Jammu & Kashmir.

(The author is Nodal Officer, J&K Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Jammu and was Co-ordinator in the programme)