#### **IMMIGRATION POLICIES**

mmigration policies shape the movement of people across borders, impacting economies, cultures, and societies worldwide. These policies are complex, reflecting political, economic, social, and security consid-

Economic immigration policies prioritize individuals with skills, education, or investments that benefit the host country's economy. Points-based systems, commonly used in countries like Canada and Australia, assess applicants based on factors like education, work experience, language proficiency, and age. These policies aim to fill labor shortages in key industries and stimulate

Family reunification is a cornerstone of many immigration systems, allowing citizens and permanent residents to sponsor family members for immigration. This policy prioritizes the reunification of nuclear families, including spouses, children, and sometimes parents or siblings. It promotes social cohesion by supporting family ties and

Humanitarian and refugee policies address the needs of forcibly displaced people, including refugees fleeing persecution, conflict, or violence, as well as asylum seekers. International agreements like the 1951 Refugee Convention outline the rights and obligations of states concerning refugees. These policies provide protection, resettlement, and asylum processes for vulnerable populations, although they often face challenges related to capacity, funding, and political will.

### **Initiation of democratic** process in J&K

#### OMKAR DATTATRAY

ncouraged by the highest voter turnout in 34 years, the election commissioner of India Rajiv kumar has made a landtion commissioner of findia ragio hands and mark announcement that it will initiate the election process very soon. The home minister Amit Shah has also said that the government of India will start the democratic process before 30th September .It should be remembered that the Supreme Court of the country had directed ECI to conduct the assembly elections before 30th September 2024. The declaration to initiate the election process for assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir is a welcome development .Jammu and Kashmir is under governors rule

After BJP broke its alliance with PDP and chief minister Mehbooba Mufti resigned ,president Ram Nath Kovind has imposed the governors rule in the state.BJP snapped its alliance with PDP in Jammu and Kashmir . This is the eighth time the state has been put under governors rule. Since June 2018 the erstwhile state is under governors rule. Thus there is no popular government in Jammu and Kashmir and so there is big political vacuum in this part of the country and there is no connect between the administration and the people and the region is suffering from political vacuum. Political and democratic process is dormant and there is great need to initiate political process in the union territory. The assembly elections are long overdue and there is need to initiate political process in Jammu and Kashmir.

There was unneeded alienation of the people but the recent Lok Sabha polls has seen unprecedented voter turnout and the people have taken active part in the elections and it in a way is the start of the political resurgence in J &K .It is heartening that the chief election commissioner and the home minister has announced that the democratic /election process will be initiated soon to put an end to governors rule and peoples government will be framed which will end political vacuum and alienation of the people. The alienated people of Jammu and Kashmir and the regional and national political parties are anxiously and eagerly waiting for very long period to hear about the initiation of the democratic process and thus they have welcomed the landmark announcement of the chief election commissioner and the mist have been cleared by the chief election commissioner and the people as well as the political parties are jubilant about the declaration that the election process of the legislative assembly will be started very soon and this decision is of far reaching importance for the people and political parties alike and it is hoped that the people and the political parties will jump in the elections once these will be started. It will be a great day for the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the democratic process will be initiat-

The people of Jammu and Kashmir have been denied of their the election process to chose the government of their choice which will be responsive to the needs , concerns of the people . It is so good that the election process to elect the legislators will be initiated very soon and in this lies the good of the people and the central government .It has come to fore that the prime minister Narendra Modi is very much concerned and interested in initiation of the democrat-

In a democracy, you cannot deny the democratic right to elect a government of the people's choice to the citizens and therefore the ECI which has the monopoly to conduct the elections in the country has declared in no uncertain terms and categorically that the election process will be initiated soon to give a chance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to elect their democratic representatives who can form of government of their choice. It will be a day of great political resurgence that the democratic process will be started soon .Governors rule is no alternative for a popular government .It is an time gap arrangement but in case of Jammu and Kashmir the governors rule has continued for a very long period against the will of the people. Now with the Supreme Courts intervention the ECI has acceded to conduct the assembly elections before the dead line of 30th September.

The active participation of the people and political parties in the recent Lok Sabha elections and the tremendous voter turnout has encouraged the ECI and opened its eyes to announce the initiation of democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir very soon to end the alienation of the people and the end of the central rule. It is hoped that the people in very large numbers will take part in the assembly elections once they are held to pave way for the constitution of a democratic and popular government .People of the Jammu and Kashmir are eagerly waiting for the moment when the elections of the legislative assembly will be held.

All eyes are set on the election commission which will soon announce the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the peoples and political parties long wait will be over soon and this part of the country will have a popular government soon which will be responsive to the concerns and aspirations of the people .The declaration of initiation of the political process by the chief election commissioner has generated hope and expectation among the political parties and the people alike and it is now crystal clear that the assembly elections will be initiated very soon to end the long wait of the people and political parties.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir will have a people's government very soon which will mitigate the sufferings of the people and wipe the tears from the eyes of the alienated and forgotten people . They will have their own government very soon which will address all the issues and concerns of the people . With the assembly elections and formation of the democratic government alienation of the people will end and the wedge between Jammu and Kashmir and New Delhi will also end and the people will embrace the national mainstream and the residual militancy and separatism will die its natural death. Any how it is very heartening and welcome development that the election process in Jammu and Kashmir will be initiated very soon to end the long wait of the people and political

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

### Historic Voter Turn Out in Kashmir

## People of Kashmir Approve the Abrogation of Article 370, Through Ballot



ER P.L KHUSHU

-ighest Voter turn over in Kashmir after decades of exploitation by the dvnastic rulers Kashmir, is a pragmatic indication of the wetting

of the abrogation of Article 370 and removal article 35A, by the people of Kashmir. It is seen as a step for their welfare and development, rather than embarking on the stone pelting and unnecessary boycotts and strikes. People of Kashmir have shown preference over the ballots over bullets. Stone pelting is a dream of the past. The hoax euphoria created by the commercial politicians of Kashmir with dynasty bases for decades, that Kashmir is a disputed territory and has acceded to India conditionally is now rusting under the mat, when it has died its own death perpetually, with the mass involvement of the people of Kashmir in the present elections. It is happening after decades of destruction and devastation of the militancy in Kashmir. There was a time when the poling percentage would never touch double figure in Kashmir and voting in such elections would often be boycotted. The dynastic politicians would make a hav with such low voting turn outs and boycotts, when they would carve out a space for themselves in such elections through proxy, as the wining candidates thus claiming themselves as the representatives of the people of Kashmir, when they were not so. This election has proved it.

The rut of talk to Pakistan, Pakistan is not wearing bangles, Pakistan has superior bombs and the like, often being talked about by a regional politician, belonging to a particular dynasty, having been ruling Kashmir ever since 1947 through the various lord heads of that family, from time to time as heir apparent legacies by birth, has been blunted with a brazen slap on the face of such a politician, by the voters of Kashmir by voting in bulk and in big clusters breaking all the records of the past in such elections. It is writing on the wall for all such politicians with dynasty bases to opt out from ruling Kashmir as their legacy and monarchy. Enough is now enough. Stop exploiting and blackmailing the voters for your personnel gains and benefits.

A major shift in the voting pattern is seen in Kashmir Valley after decades of unnecessary turmoil. The polling percentage has crossed all the previous records. People across the country are viewing it as a big choice of consent on the legality and need of the historic decision to abrogate Article 370.

While some polling booths saw huge and diverse crowds waiting in long queues amid tight security, others had a picnic-

like atmosphere, enjoying as a big festival after a long break of more than four decades, of devastation and destruction with the onset of militancy in Kashmir. After a long wait people have now preferred the use of ballot to the futile use of the gun and that too from another country claiming to be well wishers of Kashmiri Muslims. BJP strategically choose to support regional parties, other than the dynasty based political parties, NC and PDP, with a single aim to afford enough opportunity to the local people of Kashmir to involve themselves in such elections with a full command and force. for deciding their own representatives to represent them in the Parliament of India. Equally BJP is yet to make its debut in the valley in its full form. It will take some time for BJP. National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP), which are still under the delusion of having the restoration of semiautonomy in their campaigns, are the arc rivals in these elections. It magnifies their unholy aims and objectives to continue to exploit the people of Kashmir for their personal interest as dynastic political players claiming Kashmir as their hereditary soil and space to rule. They are still myopic in their visions and are trying to exploit the people again and again with the false catalogues of restoring the Article 370 back in Kashmir when the people have rejected them lock stock and barrel. Should they still not see the writing on the wall, that they are now a perpetual burden on the people of Kashmir? It is incumbent to mention here that these dynasty based political parties formed an alliance called as "Gupkar-Alliance", when its formal name was People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration', when they said that "Our battle is a constitutional battle and we want the government of India to return to the people of the (erstwhile) state the rights they had before 5th of

August 2019," Travesty of destiny, for the politics of Kashmir and its people, when the dynasty rulers have ruined the fate of Kashmir and its people for their dynastic interest, which is evinced again when NC and PDP have been have each other's arch rivals in the present elections, ignoring the people of Kashmir and the promises made by them to the people of Kashmir, particularly in respect of Article 370 & 35A and the restoration of the status of Jammu and Kashmir to its original position, which is pre 5th August 2019 position. What a hypocrisy?. How long will they continue to be fool the people of Kashmir? They are now a rejected lot, with such a hevey voter turnout in these elections.

Now such opportunist dynasty based political parties claiming inheritance over huge voter turnouts. They are with brazen faces attributing it again to the restoration of the Article 370, claiming that such representatives who will come as chosen one's will fight hard for the restoration of Article 370.

Sensing a rebut by the people of Kashmir, for such utterances, a prominent of N.C leader was heard as saying that "I expected the percentage to be 70 per cent. I don't know the reason why it was so low. People are so eager to express themselves and send their representatives to the Parliament." Does it mean that while being in the parliament for the last five years why he failed to get Article 370 revoked, when he had the unholy support of the other political leaders of the I.N.D.I Alliance, of which he is supposed to be a leader of credit.

Oh, Grapes are Sour now for all such dynasty based political stooges who have misused Kashmir politics for their personal benefits and interests. The paradise like location of Gupkar for them is a key example in this regard. It is only a tip of an ice berg in this regard.

What does this increased voter turnout actually signify? Equally like in the past there has been no boycott Call from any side within or outside Kashmir.

These calls used to be a norm till recent times. It shows that the people of Kashmir want development and want to be permanent nationals of India which is vast country with bigger democratic values and opportunities for everyone. People of Kashmir are now feeling that they have wasted a long time with the hoax signals of Huriyat leaders, the fundamentalist elements claiming Kashmir to merge with Pakistan or to remain independent and follow Islamic ideology. The next hoax concept which was sold by the dynasty based political parties often to the people of Kashmir, was that Kashmir is disputed territory where in Pakistan is also a prominent player. They were doing so to exploit it for remaining in power perpetually. Apart from that of late these dynasties based political parties were bragging that they will get reversed the position of Jammu and Kashmir to its pre 5th August, 2019, position, as also get Article 370 restored. They lost their first battle with the Supreme Court of India upholding the validity of the abrogation of the Article 370. All such false inhibitions vastly professed by such elements as mentioned above are now the histories of past, when the people of Kashmir have understood that such hoax testaments are now examples of past.

Prime Minister Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah, praised members of the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency for the high turnout, which he called "sig-

abrogation of Article 370," the constitutional clause granting Jammu and Kashmir special status "has enabled the potential and aspirations of the people to find full expression."

This Lok Sabha Election 2024 has also seen an unforeseen participation of the Kashmiri Pandit displaced community from Kashmir valley. Perhaps for the first time Displaced KP voters in Jammu also ioined this election for their native constituencies with intense passion and a lot of hope, for their rehabilitation back in Kashmir. There were lines at special polling stations from early mornings on polling days in scorching heat where temperatures had crossed 40 degree. This can be one of the major step in the direction of rehabilitation of the KP's the forcibly displaced community of Kashmir, with the land of their ancestors. As such this election can prove a milestone for their return and rehabilitation process.

While the election results to be announced on the 4thJune-2024, the situation is abuzz across the country with the positive vibes and hopes that Modi Sarkar will again rule India, which under the circumstances is the need of the hour, both for national perspective as also for international scenarios. Modi has uplifted the image of India as a global force and India is now reckoned as a major player in deciding the international strategic power centers which otherwise was a monopoly of some countries only. India's role in Russian- Ukraine war has been commendable and appreciated by these warring countries too.

China had to an humble pie while dealing with India during Modi's rule of India, over border disputes with that country. America has forgotten to play a big brother role while dealing with India. India is now reckoned as a well grown economic country, when its position is going to touch the third place in world scenario of the economic growth of various countries, particularly of the west. India's defense prowess is now of international standards and is a competitive player in this filed across the globe. India is now almost self sufficient in almost in all the fields of developments, including in the scientific developments and digital monitoring. This is all a charisma of Modi, when the return of Modi and his government in these elections is badly needed to make India a world power in all respects. It will equally smoothen and accelerate the burning issue of the honorable settlement of the forcibly displaced KP's back to their own mother land Kashmir with honor and dignity. Let us hope that it happens with ease.

(The author of this article is a chartered consultant civil engineer, who loves his mother land the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir).

# Football, a passionate game in Kashmir



MOHAMMAD HANIEF otball is a game that millions of people around the world play and love. It ean be called a universal game because every small and big nation olays it. Moreover, it's a great relaxer, stress

reliever, teacher of discipline and teamwork. Apart from that, it keeps the body and mind fit and healthy. It's a team game that makes it a more enjoyable game as it teaches people the importance of sportsmanship, leadership, and unity.

The football game is gaining popularity among messes in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir division. The emergence of some football players on national scene is a testimony to this fact.

The popularity of football in Kashmir Valley is witness to the passion and love of sports lovers. Despite all the challenges they face, people have embraced football and made it a part of their culture. Historically, Football has remained a popular game in Kashmir. That is the key reason, why the football matches draws huge audiences to the stands.

The history of football can be traced back to the ancient times of the Greeks. Everyone knows that the Greeks were great sportsmen and have invented many

Football happens to one of them. A similar game like football is played in many countries but the latest version of football that we knew originates in England. Likewise, England formulated the first rule of the game. From that day onwards the football has progressed in ways we can't imagine.

It was the autumn of 1891 when Mr Biscoe Tyndale returned from Bombay with Mrs. Tyndale Biscoe that amongst their luggage they brought a 'Football' the first thing boys of mission school had seen with great pleasure. When the Principal Tyndale Biscoe arrived at school at the set time and held up this football in the students view, it was expected it would evoke enthusiasm among students, but 'alas' it did not arose any interest or pleasure or enthusiasm amongst the students.



Biscoe introduced the game to his students and was successful in organising the first ever football match in Srinagar. The sports gained popularity in the region and soon football clubs were made and tournaments were organised across

Back in the day when the maharajas ruled Kashmir, football was a source of entertainment for the people after toiling all day at work. The accessibility of the game made it popular among the massesall that was needed was a ball that they could chase in many fields.

It was all building up to what is considered the golden period of football in the Valley. Between 1976 and 1988, Kashmir hosted Junior and Senior Nationals, the All India University Championship, and tournaments for the civil services and the police, in addition to the Federation Cup.

But, in recent years, football has become even more popular in the valley. With the emergence of professional football clubs, such as Real Kashmir FC, the profile of the sport in the region has risen and Real Kashmir FC has become a household name in Kashmir.

From their warm hospitality to their passion for football, the only thing cold about Jammu and Kashmir is its winters. When you see youngsters practicing their skills tirelessly on cold mornings, you will warm up to the idea that there's a

Kashmir that was hiding in the fog until now. There are no off-sides when it comes to football in Kashmir. It traverses all ideologies, communities, opinions and the shadows of political history. The only lines drawn here are on a green field pitching 11 versus 11 over a common

To become a successful performer in a competitive field like football, players not only need to become players with exceptional skill but to understand football at its core. They have to develop tactical abilities and be highly dedicated to the game, giving an extensive amount of time to practice in order to improve gameplay and to understand the physiological requirements of the professional level of the sport. In the backdrop of rising popularity of football in the Valley and players' interest in sweating out the game, the local authorities of Jammu and Kashmir are focusing on improving soccer facilities in the union territory.

Valley has had a craze for football since the 90s. There were some top football teams at the time, like JK Bank, JK Police, and SRTC. They would always be supported by a huge crowd during their matches.

Before Kakroo, players such as Mohammed Yousuf Dar and Farooq Ahmad Bhat had drawn a lot of attention from the football fraternity. Teams such

(SRTC, later just RTC) and Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) were considered the nursery of Kashmiri football, and enjoyed a lot of success in those days, despite the lack of anything in the way of quality infrastructure.

Since I-League matches are played in Srinagar, many talented youngsters from Kashmir Valley are coming forward and participating in I-League matches, which is a great thing. Such platforms like I-League where local players are getting opportunities to play with foreign players are helping in bringing back the craze of football among the youth of Kashmir Valley.

Breaking out the decades-old taboo, Kashmiri girls are now exploring the prospects of choosing football as a career. Just a few years back, there were no platforms for Kashmiri girls to learn and play football but with some positive change in the Kashmir valley, new football clubs are being opened to harness the raw talent of the young girl footballers.

But footballers from other parts of the world believe that there is a lot more to be done for football in Kashmir. There is a need to build more professional training centers here and invite players from outside to play here so that players from this region can learn and play together to enhance their skills in the game.

The union territory has a strong connection to football having produced many legendary soccer players like Abdul Majeed Kakroo, Mehraj ud Din Wadoo, Ishfaq Ahmed in the past. The improved level of facilities is a step towards inspiring more youths to join football matches and kick it off for a better future in the Valley. Football is an important game from the point of view of the spectator as well as the player. This 90 minutes game is full of excitement and thrill. Moreover, it keeps the player mentally and physically healthy, and disciplined. And this ninety-minute game tests their sportsmanship, patience, and tolerance.

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