

THE HINDU

Dated: 29.08.2024

EC notice to BJP for using child in Haryana poll video

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Taking a serious view of a social media post by the BJP using a child in a Haryana campaign video, the Election Commission on Wednesday issued notice to the party's state president.

The post on X features Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini interact-

ing with children in various social events and begins with a child saying "Apki Baar Saini Sarkar (this time Saini government)."

EC sources said that using a child in any campaign video violated EC guidelines prohibiting use of children in election-related activities and campaigning. A show-cause notice has been issued by the

Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana to the BJP State president. He has been asked to submit a response by 6 p.m. on Thursday. In a communication to all political parties in February in the run up to the General Elections, the commission had conveyed "zero tolerance" towards use of children in the electoral process by parties and candidates.

EC transfers SSPs, SPs in J&K ahead of elections

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New Delhi: Election Commission Wednesday ordered the transfers of senior J&K police officers including the senior superintendent of police (SSPs) of Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara and the superintendent of police (SP) of Handwara in poll-bound Jammu & Kashmir.

The commission has directed the J&K administration to send a panel of names of IPS officers for filling up the vacant posts SSP/SP of Srinagar, Baramulla, Handwara and Kupwara by 5pm on Thursday (29.08.2024).

Nomination of jailed cleric, 25 others rejected, most of them from banned Jamaat-e-Islami

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Srinagar: Election officials in J&K rejected Wednesday the nomination papers of imprisoned cleric Sarjan Ahmad Barkati and 25 other candidates, most of whom are former members or affiliates of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami. These candidates had intended to run as independents in the first phase of the J&K assembly elections scheduled for Sept 18.

An official said out of the 280 candidates who filed nomination papers, 168 were accepted while 26 were rejected during scrutiny. The absence of explanations has sparked controversy, particu-

larly as these are the first assembly elections in the region in a decade.

Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti criticised the lack of transparency in the rejection process. "Sorry to hear about the rejection of the assembly nomination form of Sarjan Barkati from Zainapora. The election commissioner must make the reasons public for this decision. Democracy is a battle of ideas, and everyone should be given a chance to participate in it," she wrote on X. Social activist Aadil Nazir, who accompanied Barkati's daughter Sugra to file the nomination papers Tuesday, announced that they plan to challenge the rejection in court.

Barkati, a prominent cleric and political figure from Zainapora in south Kashmir's Shopian district, is also known as the "Kashmiri Pied Piper" for his separatist slogans. He has been imprisoned since Aug 2023 on charges related to anti-national activities, including organising stone-pelting protests in 2016 after the death of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani.

Kashmir's political landscape is recording a major shift since the three-phase assembly elections were announced, with several former militants, separatists, and their relatives forming a new political group named Tahreek-e-Awam to contest the elections as independent candidates.



**BATTLEGROUND
JAMMU &
KASHMIR**

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வேலூர் லோக்சபா தொகுதியில் ஓட்டு இயந்திரங்கள் சரிபார்ப்பு

வேலூர், ஆக. 29-
கடந்த லோக்சபா
தொகுதியில், வேலூர்
தொகுதியில் போட்டி
யிட்ட, தி.மு.க., வேட்
பாளர் கதிர் ஆனந்த்,
5,68,692 ஓட்டுகளும்,
பா.ஜ., வேட்பா
ளர் ஏ.சி.சண்முகம்,
3,52,990 ஓட்டுகளும்
பெற்றனர்.

இதில், 2,15,702 ஓட்
டுகள் வித்தியாசத்தில்,
கதிர் ஆனந்த் வெற்றி
பெற்றார்.

இந்நிலையில்,
பா.ஜ., வேட்பாளர்
சண்முகம், வேலூர்

லோக்சபா தொகு
திக்கு உட்பட்ட, ஆறு
சட்டசபை தொகுதி
களிலும், ஓட்டுப்பதிவு
இயந்திரங்கள் சரியாக
செயல்படவில்லை
என, சென்னை உயர்
நீதிமன்றத்தில் வழக்கு
தொடர்ந்தார்.

அதன்படி, நீதிமன்
றம், ஆறு சட்ட
சபை தொகுதி
களிலும், தலா ஒரு
ஓட்டுப்பதிவு இயந்தி
ரத்தை தேர்வு செய்து,
அதிலுள்ள பதிவுகளை
அழித்து விட்டு, அதில்
மீண்டும் ஓட்டுப்பதிவு

செய்து இயந்திரங்கள்
சரியாக செயல்படு
கிறதா என, பா.ஜ.,
ஏஜன்டுகள் முன்னிலை
யில், சோதனை செய்ய
உத்தரவிட்டது.

அதன்படி நேற்று,
2வது நாளாக ஓட்டுப்
பதிவு இயந்திரங்களில்,
ஏற்கனவே பதிவு
செய்யப்பட்ட ஓட்டு
கள் அழிக்கப்பட்டு,
அந்த இயந்திரத்தில்
புதிதாக ஓட்டு போடப்
பட்டு சரிபார்க்கும்
பணி நடந்து வருகிறது.
இன்றுவரை இப்பணி
நடக்கிறது.