

**03 HC imposes Rs 1 lakh as cost on DGP, SSP Jammu in premature retirement of cop**

**Jammu Bar to suspend work today**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, would suspend work on April 21, 2017 in view of the call given by Bar Council of India against the recommendations of Law Commission of India.

President J&K High Court Bar Association Senior Advocate B.S. Salathia appealed all Bar Associations of Jammu and Kashmir to suspend the work as the recommendations are against the advocates and also decided to hold a protests at 11:00 AM in J&K High Court complex, Janipur.

**Army orders Court of Inquiry into 'human shield' incident**

**AGENCY**  
NEW DELHI: The army has ordered a Court of Inquiry into the controversial "human shield" incident in Kashmir in which a man was tied to an army vehicle purportedly as a shield against stone pelters.

Army sources said the CoI has been given one month's time to complete the probe.

A video, showing the man tied to an army vehicle as a shield against the stone pelters during polling in the Srinagar Lok Sabha by-election on April 9, triggered a public outcry.

The CoI will look into the circumstance that prompted an army major to tie the Kashmiri youth to the jeep's bonnet as a "human shield".

The CoI has been given time till May 15 to probe the incident, the sources said.

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat had visited Jammu and Kashmir following

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**Amit Shah to visit J&K from April 29**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: BJP National President Amit Shah will visit Jammu and Kashmir on a two day tour from April 29.

"Shah will be visiting J&K state for two days on April 29 and 30", Arvind Menon, BJP's all departments and projects national in-charge told reporters here on Thursday.

State General Secretary (Org) Ashok Kaul said that during the two days visit of the party president, meetings at different levels would be held.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 41.7°C Min: 28.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 39 Min: 26

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 26.1°C Min: 13.1°C

Humidity  
Max: 75 Min: 45

Sunset : 19:05 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:55 Hours

**BLUNT BUTCHER**

A day after Chandra Prakash Ganga spoke his heart out on how to tackle stone-pelters in Kashmir, evoking widespread condemnation from the Kashmir-centric politicians; the solitary bold voice from the Duggarland and the BJP was made to retract. The minister had pleaded for bullets to stone-pelters and gone a way ahead, saying "Laaton Ke Bhoot Baaton Se Nahii Mante". This is something many across the country think the solution to stone-pelting or Intifada menace in the turbulent Valley, especially after the video humiliating, kicking and heckling a CRPF jawan went viral.

## BJP minister triggers row, says bullets only way to tackle stone pelters

**PDP slams, Ganga retracts; BJP distances**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A senior minister in the ruling BJP-PDP coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir has triggered a massive row by saying that bullets are the only way to deal with stone-pelters in Kashmir.

BJP Minister Chandra Prakash Ganga said that all the 'anti-national' forces could be made to mend their ways by use of bullets.

The ruling PDP hit out at Chander Prakash Ganga, terming it a "conspiracy" to keep the pot boiling in the Valley.

"Such detestable remarks not only reflect the nauseous mentality of some extremist politicians in the state, but also expose the larger design of certain elements to provoke fresh trouble in Kashmir so that Kashmiris are pushed into perpetual educational and economic dis-empowerment," senior PDP leader Peerzada Mansoor said in a statement.

He said such provocative utterances "smack of a larger



conspiracy" to keep the pot boiling in Kashmir.

Ganga, who is the Industries Minister in the PDP-BJP coalition government, had reportedly called stone-pelters as traitors.

"There is only one remedy for them and that is bullets. And if not bullets, they should be given punishments like the youths who are beaten with sticks by forces. Take my word that next time they (the youth) won't throw stones," Ganga was quoted as saying by the local media.

Mansoor said the BJP leaders should understand that any devious effort to flare up passions in Kashmir would end up in spreading

the poison of hatred across the length and breadth of the state and put it on fire.

"Such an undesirable situation would serve nobody's purpose except bringing destruction to the state and its people," he said, adding it is because of the lunacies of same breed of politicians that the Kashmir situation has reached such an impasse today.

Instead of indulging in ludicrous rhetoric, the political leadership, both in New Delhi and within the state, should work through tangible measures towards resolution of the issues to ensure peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Mansoor said the Centre must engage with the people of the state to find a lasting solution to the issue.

"The Centre must address issues concerning J&K with a sense of urgency, sincerity and seriousness by resuming the dialogue process not only with Pakistan but with all the stakeholders, within the state as well, including the sepa-

ratists," he said.

We hope the Government of India will take necessary measures to address the causes of alienation and trust deficit in Kashmir and work towards finding a long-lasting solution to the problem plaguing the region for the past more than six decades, he added.

The business organizations in Kashmir also hit out at the BJP minister for his outpouring.

A joint meeting of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and industry (KCCI), Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) and Federation Chamber of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) was held on Thursday, a spokesman of the KCCI said here.

He said the trade bodies vehemently condemn the irresponsible statement made by Ganga with a warning to the BJP leadership to restrain their leaders and cadres from

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## Military can't be subjected to FIR for its operations: Army

**AGENCY**

NEW DELHI: Operations against militants or insurgents may be affected if FIRs are lodged against the Army, the Supreme Court was told on Thursday.

The Army also told the apex court that it cannot be subjected to FIRs for carrying out anti-militancy operations in insurgency-prone areas like Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur, while alleging local bias in the judicial inquiries conducted against it in these regions, which have tarnished its image.

"Judicial inquiries which are biased due to local considerations have tarnished the image of Army. Military operations cannot be dissected in a particular way. Army cannot be subjected to FIR otherwise military operations cannot be carried out," Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi told a bench of Justices M B Lokur and U U Lalit.

Rohatgi, appearing for the Army and the Assam Rifles, said it cannot be subjected to

investigation by the State police with regard to its operations against militants in strife-torn areas.

"Whether it's Jammu and Kashmir or Manipur, we are facing the same local bias. Why doesn't any judicial inquiry ever exonerate the Army? These inquiries (have) never said that Army did the correct thing. Army is facing problems due to bias in such inquiries," he said.

Pointing out that Army was working in very difficult situations in these areas, Rohatgi said it has its own system in place, has its own approach and is governed by different set of rules.

"In every military operation, Army cannot be disbelieved.

Every judicial inquiry cannot be against the Army. The alleged extra-judicial killing cases in Manipur are not cases of massacre, rather these are cases of military operations," he said.

He said the petitions under Article 32 of Associations of Widows from Manipur, seeking FIR into alleged extra-

judicial killings and SIT probe, should not be considered and the court should not embark into it.

During the hearing, the bench also questioned the Army over its Court of Inquiry, a fact finding proceeding.

"Court of Inquiry is for the benefit of the Army. It is not for the satisfaction of public which has the right to know the truth behind any incident," the bench said after Rohatgi alleged bias in the judicial probes conducted by district judges.

The bench also pulled up the Manipur government for not taking action on such alleged fake encounters by armed forces and asked was it "not supposed to do anything".

Senior advocate V Giri, appearing for Manipur, accepted the lapse on the state government's part but said even the High Court never asked it to register FIRs in such cases.

The court then asked the Manipur counsel

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## Rigorous imprisonment for brothers in murder case

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: First Additional Sessions Judge Jammu Mohd Akram Chowdhary on Thursday awarded rigorous life-imprisonment to two real brothers namely Tirath Ram and Bali Ram who were involved in murder case over a dispute of land.

Prosecution case against the aforementioned convicts was that on 4th October, 1996 at about 9:00 AM, they were raising construction/repairs of their house which they had already constructed forcibly on a disputed piece of land measuring five Marlas at Gangoo Chak, Tehsil Jammu, claimed to have been purchased by the complainant Bua Ditta from one Chuni Lal brother of the accused Des Raj.

Accused, however, were alleged to have forcibly occupied the said land and the complainant filed a civil suit against the accused which was subjudice in the court of Sub-Judge Jammu.

The complainant alongwith his son Shiv Kumar and daughter Shakti Devi went to the place of occurrence and protested/ objected to the ongoing construction work; that accused hurled abuses and thereafter went inside their house and came back armed with weapons. Tirath Ram with his service pistol and Des Raj (now dead) and Bali Ram with 'Kehies' attacked them causing multiple grievous injuries to the complainant Bua Ditta, as well as his son

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## SSB camp office, 18 houses, 25 shops gutted in Doda; relief announced

**Guv, CM, Azad, others express grief**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: At least 18 houses, 25 shops and a Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB) camp office were gutted in a devastating fire which broke out in a residential area of remote village in Doda district.

"Major fire broke out during midnight in residential area of village Bhatyas in tehsil Gandoh," Vinay Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police, Doda said.

He said that around 25 shops and 18 houses were completely gutted in the fire. "Initially short circuit has been ascertained to be the reason behind inferno," he asserted.

The SP further said that two fire tenders from Thathri and Gandoh were immediately pressed into service.

"No loss of life or injury was reported in the incident," he maintained. A case has been registered and investi-



A building under fire at village Bhatyas in tehsil Gandoh.

gation started, he added.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Bhupinder Kumar took stock of the damage caused by the fire incident and later announced Rs 10,000 each to the affected families besides asked the

forest department to provide sleepers for construction of houses and shops.

He further announced relief out of SDRF and Red Cross fund. The DDC constituted a SIT to investigate the cause of incident

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## Cobra found in CM's residence, panic

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Panic gripped the security staff and officials when a cobra was spotted on the lawns of high profile Chief Minister's Residence here.

"On April 18, when Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti had to leave for a function in the morning, a cobra was spotted by the staff in the lawns of the residence," police sources said.

They said that Mehbooba Mufti had to delay her movement for a brief period.

"As the CM was ready to move out, the SSG passed a message to her not to come out as snake has been spotted in the lawns" sources said. They further said that Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department was informed following

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## Setting up AIIMS not an aim?

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The aim of the Health and Medical Education Department may have been improving health care infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir but it appears prestigious AIIMS project for Jammu does not figure high on their agenda.

AIIMS was sanctioned for Jammu by the Union Government at the end of long struggle and indefinite strike by the AIIMS Coordination Committee in August 2015.

Despite making an announcement on setting up of AIIMS work on ground zero is not moving at all.

It is so because the state government agencies have till date failed to acquire the land earmarked for the prestigious project.

At present only a sign board is standing tall on the selected piece of land near Vijaypur in Samba district.



According to official sources, the focus of the State Government agencies is on rehabilitating 204 nomadic families who are currently occupying portion of the forest land shortlisted for the project.

Till the time these families vacate from the major portion of land no forward

movement can be achieved.

Despite according high priority and constantly reviewing the progress of the major infrastructure projects the State Health Minister is not taking keen interest in expediting the work on the project to ensure its timely completion.

The state of affairs of existing health care facilities in the Government Medical College and other associated hospitals is not up to the mark. Ironically, very little effort has been made in the recent years to enhance capacity building of these health care institutions.

These institutions are not only grappling with shortage of manpower but also lack visionary and able administrators who could really make sincere efforts towards improving health care facilities. Patients often suffer in the absence of expert doctors and also face the brunt of

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## Under 'protest', PDP MLC Yasir Rishi skips oath-taking

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: While as the recently elected five MLCs of BJP, Congress and National Conference on Thursday took oath of office and secrecy from Chairman of Legislative Council Haji Innayat Ali, PDP's MLC-elect Yasir Rishi returned to his home without taking oath.

Rishi, who is the only one among the five who retired earlier this week but was re-elected for another term, was present when the swearing-in ceremony commenced in presence of senior PDP leader and Minister Abdul Rehman Veeri. However, he

moved out immediately after he received a phone call which is believed to be from his party leadership.

After Rishi disappeared from the Legislative Council and reportedly went to a senior PDP leader and Cabinet Minister and another senior party leader, media persons failed to take his comment. However, he is said to have told a television correspondent that he was "on protest" against BJP's "ditching" of the PDP.

Due to manipulation, BJP won three seats while as its coalition partner, PDP, got only one. During the election for two vacancies of Jammu,

Haji Baqir Rizvi, an independent MLA from Zanskar and PDP's associate member, voted for BJP instead of PDP's Abdul Qayoom Dar. Dar was eliminated in the draw of lots as both he and BJP's Randhawa got 29 votes each. This has led to fissures within the coalition.

Meanwhile, according to an official spokesperson, Chairman of Legislative Council, Haji Innayat Ali administered oath of office to five newly elected Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) at a ceremony held in the Council Lobby here. The Members who took

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## Madhav's Friday visit forces Jammu's bold BJP voice chew his words

zealots, who have held the entire Valley to ransom. They are the people who have pushed Kashmir to a morass, escape from which appears to be difficult, if not impossible.

Ganga is perhaps right in the approach he has suggested for tackling the anti-national brats, who have not understood the language of compassion and concession granted from time-to-time in terms of packages and amnesties. He may be denounced by his own colleagues saying those 'clarified' words to be personal and not that of the view of the BJP but Ganga certainly spoke the heart of many Indians.

Having said that, the question arises as to what has forced the Industries Minister to chew his own words. Obviously, lust for power

is the appropriate answer. The BJP doesn't want to give up loaves of power, no matter how brazenly India is bruised and abused on Kashmir turf. To save the chair and to escape the snub of the party National General Secretary Ram Madhav, who will be in the town sometime today, Chandra Prakash Ganga has made a big U-turn. He has saved the coalition, at least, for the time being. But the blow he has inflicted to the North Pole, South Pole alliance will see rumblings, if not today, tomorrow or day after but the happening cannot be averted for a long.

Ganga's remorse might have smoothened red-faces in the PDP but the emerging scenario in the Valley is going to make both the partners pale. It is just a matter of time.

after finding himself in the dock over some remarks which snowball into a controversy.

The Industries and Commerce Minister is on tape having stated what he has awkwardly denied now. He might not have been bullied by the strongest words by coalition partner PDP leaders' threats like 'nauseous mentality of some extremist politician' or 'disgusting utterances being perilous'.

Who says the stone-pelters are 'heroes' or 'misguided youth'. They are certainly anti-national elements, being paid and abetted by Pakistan and its lackeys in the Valley. They are on a mission to destabilise institutions and democratic way of life in Kashmir. They are being pushed to trample Indian symbols and belittle its valiant soldiers. They are ruthless

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