

No threat to Alliance, resignations forwarded to CM

Ministers not pro-rapists, showed indiscretion: Madhav

Crucial PDP meet debates alliance with BJP, to go ahead with core agenda

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Apr 14: A day after completely surrendering the interests of Jammu by succumbing to "misleading" national media coverage and pressurizing tactics of its Alliance partner, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the BJP said today that there was no threat to the PDP-BJP

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coalition Government as it forwarded resignations of Forests Minister Choudhary Lal Singh and Industry & Commerce Minister Chander Prakash Ganga to Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti for further submitting them to Governor NN Vohra for acceptance.

Majority of the people here were of the view that they wanted justice to be done to the family of eight year old minor Rassana girl, who was raped and brutally murdered and it was in

this context that they were asking for CBI probe so that the real culprits could be brought to book. However, they asserted that the BJP national as well as



BJP general secretary Ram Madhav addressing a press conference in Jammu on Saturday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

State unit leadership has completely let down the people of Jammu by compromising with the demand of CBI probe and instead asking its two Ministers to resign, who had supported the demand voiced by the people of Rassana in Hiranagar tehsil of

Kathua district, for such an inquiry.

"The resignations will turn out to be last nail in the coffin of BJP, which has been making

people, interviewed by the Excelsior on resignations of the Ministers, said. BJP national general secretary and party's pointman on Jammu and Kashmir, who separately met Lal Singh and Ganga and then chaired party's Legislature Party meeting, told a press conference that there was no pressure or ultimatum given to the BJP by its coalition partner PDP on the resignations, and declared that the PDP-BJP coalition Government was not facing any problem and will continue to work.

"The PDP-BJP Government is not being dictated by anyone. The Government is working on Agenda of Alliance (AoA). We are taking developmental agenda forward. Lot of development has taken place in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh during last three years," he said.

He also announced that resignations of Lal and Ganga will be forwarded to Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti this afternoon (Contd on page 11 Col 3)

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Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Apr 14: Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said today that the PDP will not compromise with its "core agenda" and will do everything to win trust of the people even as she asked the party leaders to initiate "internal dialogue" by being accessible to the people.

Mehbooba did some plain speaking at the meeting of PDP Legislature Party and senior party leaders at her official Gupkar Road residence this afternoon, which was given a miss by Dr Haseeb Drabu, who was unceremoniously removed as the Finance Minister last month over his remarks on Kashmir situation.

Insiders in the PDP told the Excelsior that Mehbooba called for even PDP-BJP dialogue at regular intervals as both the parties were coalition partners.

"We may be criticizing our

Alliance partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for not initiating dialogue but at the same time we are not even talking to each other," Mehbooba is reported to have said, adding that the way Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended hand of friendship to Pakistan (by visiting the neighbouring country) showed that the Union Government wanted peaceful relations with the neighbour but what happened thereafter is known to all, a reference towards Pathankot terror attack.

Calling upon the party leaders including the legislators to maintain close liaison with the people, Mehbooba told them that they should open dialogue with the people by remaining accessible to them. She directed the party Ministers, Legislators and senior leaders to remain present at least in their respective district headquarters no matter how the situation develops.

"The PDP will not compromise with its 'core agenda' and

do everything to win trust of the people. While the BJP has to be persuaded to talk to stakeholders, there was also a need to ensure that there was positive response to the offer," the Chief Minister said in her address to the senior party leaders.

According to sources, some of the PDP legislators took the party Ministers to task for not reaching out to the party cadre. They lamented that the legislators were being ignored.

Insiders said Mehbooba's brother and Tourism Minister, Tassaduq Mufti was critical on how things are being dealt with. He said that killing of civilians was being attributed to the situation.

"If we can't even protect and talk to our own children, what we are doing here?", Tassaduq asked.

Senior PDP leader and party's lone Lok Sabha member, Muzaffar Hussain Baig narrated how Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to Pakistan personally and tried

to establish peaceful relations with the neighbouring country. He said the Central Government is desirous to extend political outreach but the situation was not permitting.

On rape and killing of minor girl at village Rassana in Hiranagar tehsil of Kathua district, the Chief Minister said it should serve an eye opener for all including the PDP and BJP. She said the things may not be conducive but the way nation supported her stand on the little girl showed that all is not lost.

However, Mehbooba said there was need for the nation to take cognizance of the pain of people in similar way, which will boost confidence of the people.

Insiders said some of the speakers were critical of PDP's continued alliance with the BJP saying the party was losing ground due to persistent stand of BJP over Kashmir and failure to curb the civilian killings.

(Contd on page 11 Col 5)

Wish to see culprits hanged: Victim's family

UDHAMPUR, Apr 14:

As the Bakerwals make their way to the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir with their belongings, she trudges along burdened by the weight of her eight-year-old daughter's death.

"She was so beautiful and intelligent. I wanted her to be a doctor when she grew up," the biological mother of the girl reminisces.

The grief-stricken mother wishes for death penalty for the guilty.

"My only wish is the culprits should be hanged for the heinous crime, so that no other family has to go through it," she says.

The girl was adopted by the (Contd on page 11 Col 3)

Pak violates ceasefire

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 14: Pakistani troops today violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked and indiscriminate firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district, prompting retaliation from this side, officials said.

Sources said there was no report of any casualty in the skirmishes, which continued for several hours.

Pakistani troops started the unprovoked and indiscriminate firing from across the border in Nowshera sector around 8.30 am, sources said.

They added that the Bhawani area was targeted by the Pakistani troops with small and medium weapons and mortar guns, causing panic among the residents.

(Contd on page 11 Col 7)

CM, 'some others' should also resign: Lal

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Apr 14: Senior BJP leader and MLA Basohli, Ch Lal Singh, who tendered his resignation on Friday as Forest Minister along with Minister for Industries, Chander Parkash Ganga, today said that he has resigned

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on the moral grounds and Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, being Minister Incharge Home Affairs and 'some others' in the party, should also resign on moral grounds in connection with case of 8-year-old girl's rape and murder in Kathua.

Lal Singh, who is considered an outspoken leader, apparently appeared as 'free bird' today and replied all the queries of the

We were sent by party chief to defuse tension: Ganga



media-persons at his Gandhi Nagar official residence after coming straight from the party meeting at BJP headquarters here, chaired by BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav this afternoon.

Speaking to the Excelsior, Ch Lal Singh cleared his stand and fully supported the three main issues raised by Jammu civil society and Jammu High Court Bar Association with regard to CBI probe into Kathua rape and murder case and severest punishment to the accused

involved in the case; deportation of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis from the State and on new Tribal policy issue with regard to Forest/State land. He said no body can be allowed to encroach Government land this way and no body is above law of the land.

"I am prepared to face any consequences or damage. I respect the sentiments and aspirations of Jammu people. CBI probe is also for seeking justice for the victim's family. Irrespective of any religion, we

will never support the criminals. If for infamous Kashmir sex scandal and recent UP rape case under Yogi Govt, CBI inquiry can be ordered, what is the problem in holding CBI probe in Kathua rape and murder case pertaining to 8-year old girl? It means there is some thing fishy," Lal Singh asked.

"Earlier, three investigations failed to move in right direction and then inquiry by Crime Branch was ordered. And that too, involving police officers from Kashmir including one of them having shady credentials. Is Kashmir police so competent and those in Jammu region are incompetent? What they want to prove?", a furious Lal Singh maintained.

The people of Rassana and entire Kathua, Samba and (Contd on page 11 Col 1)

'Previous Ministers at Centre, State ignored Doda' Separatists can't succeed in creating wedge among different communities: Dr Jitendra

Avtar Bhat

DODA, Apr 14: Lashing out at separatists and terrorists, Union Minister of State in PMO with independent charge

of North Eastern States, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that separatists and terrorists will never succeed in their designs to divide the people of different faiths for their vested interests.

Addressing a massive gathering at Dharaman

Jodhpur near here on the eve of Baisakhi Mela today, Dr Jitendra Singh said the erstwhile Doda district has been a symbol of pluralism and it has always been on forefront in fostering

Hindu Muslim brotherhood. "There can be no better example than this that on the eve of Baisakhi mela a sizable number of Muslims have also been (Contd on page 11 Col 5)



Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a public gathering at Dharaman Draman in Doda on Saturday. —Excelsior/Rakesh

Court has no powers to direct sanction for prosecution: HC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 14: High Court today held that the Court has no powers to direct the competent authority to accord sanction for prosecution of a particular person.

Justice MK Hanjura while hearing a petition, challenging therein an order of trial court, has held the Court has no power to direct the competent authority to accord sanction for the prosecution of a particular person.

Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu, in case arising out of case FIR No. 10/2013 of Police Station, Crime Branch, Jammu, under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B RPC and 5(2) Prevention of Corruption Act, had directed to proceed against the petitioner by holding that there is sufficient evidence on record which revealed the involvement of the petitioner in the offences like the other members of the Purchase Committee with a further direction that sanction for the prosecution of the petitioner be obtained.

The petitioner, Lotika Khajuria, Deputy Drug Controller Jammu, pleaded in her petition that the order passed by the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Jammu is a sheer abuse of the process of law.

"The existence of a valid sanction accorded by the competent authority is a condition precedent to the institution of the prosecution against a public servant", Justice Hanjura recorded in his judgment.

Court said it is the Government or competent authority who has an absolute discretion to grant or withhold the sanction to assess and evaluate the material placed and produced before it and to find out whether a prima facie case against the person sought to be prosecuted is made out.

It is well within the domain and area, Court added, of the sanctioning authority to refuse the grant of sanction against a person sought to be prosecuted.

The aim and object, Court said, behind inserting and engrafting this provision appears to be that it works as a salutary safeguard to ensure that no false or malicious prosecution can pierce into the portals of the court of justice.

Underscoring various citation of Apex Court, Justice Hanjura said that no court of special judge can take cognizance of an offence except with the sanction of the competent/appropriate authority.

"Grant of sanction is not an acrimonious exercise, but a solemn duty which enforces protection to the Government servant against false prosecution and must therefore be strictly complied with before any prosecution can be launched against the public servant concerned", (Contd on page 4 Col 1)

Rehabilitation plan for mule operators of Vaishnodevi track

Govt again fails to meet deadline fixed by NGT, to receive rap on the knuckles

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Apr 14: Government has once again failed to meet the deadline fixed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for finalization of rehabilitation plan for large number of operators of mules and horses on Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine track, who have been affected or likely to be affected in near future due to green panel's orders.

The slackness is prevailing despite imposition of Rs 50 lakh fine on last date of hearing and keeping in view the prevailing situation concerned authorities of the Government will receive rap on the knuckles from the

Slackness prevails despite imposition of Rs 50 lakh fine

Tribunal when the case will come up for hearing within next few days.

In a petition titled Gauri Maulekhi Versus State of J&K and others, the National Green Tribunal had last year directed that a new path to Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine should exclusively be used for pedestrians and battery-operated cars and horses or mules should not be allowed and these animals should be

removed slowly from the old path as well.

As livelihood of large number of mules and horse operators was going to be badly affected due to these orders, the NGT had directed the State Government to immediately finalize rehabilitation plan for operators of these animals and put the same in public domain. However, instead of preparation of rehabilitation plan the Government made a submission for recall of this

order but the plea was declined by the green panel.

On February 20, 2018, the NGT had rapped the Government over its failure to submit a plan and directed the Chief Secretary to file an affidavit stating the reasons for delay. While granting two weeks time to Government, the green panel had asked: Why can't the officers sit

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

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RH-II (Evening): 22.0 per cent
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Mainly clear
TEMPERATURE
Max: 23.4 Degree C
Min: 5.9 Degree C
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