

**'Directions shouldn't have been passed'**  
**SC sets aside NGT order on restrictions on Amarnath devotees**

NEW DELHI, Apr 16: The Supreme Court today set aside a National Green Tribunal order that had created a controversy by putting restrictions on devotees asking them to maintain silence while standing in front of the 'Maha Shivalinga', a natural formation inside the Amarnath cave in South Kashmir Himalayas. The top court said that the December 14 last year's order should not have been passed by the NGT on a petition which did not concern the Amarnath cave shrine. Observing that due procedure needed to be followed, a bench of Justices M B Lokur and Deepak Gupta asked petitioner Gauri Mulekhi to file an appropriate petition with regard to the pollution at the Amarnath cave. The 'shivalinga' is a stalagmite formed by freezing of water drops falling from the roof of the cave and growing up vertically from the cave floor. During the hearing, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi,

appearing for the Amarnath Shrine Board, said the tribunal had "jumped the gun" and imposed certain restrictions on chanting of religious hymns, carrying of devotional offerings (prasad) and use of mules to ferry devotees. The bench asked an official of the Board why the devotees who cannot walk the distance to the cave, not be dropped by helicopters. The official said about 1000 people could be dropped by helicopters at a distance of four kilometres from the cave, but they have to walk the remaining part. Rohatgi said that every day over 15,000 people visited the cave and the NGT had erred in putting the restrictions on them. "You (devotees) can't carry prasad, you can't go in palanquin, you cannot have 'darshan' properly and you are to be frisked at such and such points. In other words, I may say the NGT jumped the gun in passing the order," he said. The bench asked senior

advocate Krishna Venugopal, appearing for petitioner Gauri Mulekhi, why a proper application cannot be moved on the issue. It observed that devotees can get 'prasad' at the cave instead of carrying all along to the shrine cave. Venugopal said the NGT had not declared the entire area a silence zone and its only concern was the use of mules, due to which pollution was being caused in the area. Rohatgi said the petition also did not specifically talk about pollution at Amarnath cave but about Vaishno Devi near Jammu also. "There is a procedure which needs to be followed. You file a fresh specific petition with regard to Amarnath shrine," the bench said and set aside the order of green tribunal. The green panel had on December 14 had clarified it had not imposed any restriction including the chanting of mantras and singing of bhajans (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

**Porter killed in Pak firing; cop, civilian injured in militant attack**  
**Missing soldier joins Hizb**

**Fayaz Bukhari**  
SRINAGAR, Apr 16: An Army porter was killed today in shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Khurshid Ahmad, 37, son of Mohammad Shareif of Nawa Runda who was working as a porter with Army 4 Madras unit, received a bullet injury in the neck near Chaukas in Pakistani troop firing. Sources said that Army Engineers were repairing LoC fence when he was shot at from across. He died on the spot. A Special Police Officer (SPO) and a youth were injured after militants opened fire at Bungam area of South Kashmir's Shopian district today. Militants fired upon the SPO Bilal Ahmad at Bungam at around 4:22 pm. He was critically injured in the firing and was

removed to District hospital Shopian for treatment. He was shifted to Srinagar for treatment. One of the bullets also hit a pedestrian identified as Rafiq Ahmad Lone son of Bashir Ahmad Lone of Vehil, Shopian. He was also shifted to the nearby hospital from where he was referred to Srinagar in critical conditions. Soon after the attack, the security forces reached the spot and cordoned off the entire area. However, militants had fled after carrying out the attack. Bilal, a resident of Babapora Zainapora village is said to be security guard of the former district president of National Conference Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kulley and is presently posted in District Police Lines Shopian. A police spokesman said: "Today afternoon terrorists opened fire in Shopian which resulted in the injuries to a civilian identified as Rafiq Lone and a policeman identified as" (Contd on page 6 Col 7)

**Sanji Ram's daughter hits out at media**  
**Pleading innocence, Rassana case accused demand narco test**

**Avtar Bhat**  
KATHUA, Apr 16: Pleading innocence and not to guilty, the eight people accused of raping and killing an eight-year-old girl appealed the District and Sessions Judge, Kathua before whom they were produced for trial today, for a narco analysis test. As the trial in the case began here, the District and Sessions Judge Kathua, Sanjeev Gupta asked the State Crime Branch to give copies of the chargesheet to the accused and fixed April 28 as the next date of hearing. \*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

ing in the Sessions Court, the seven accused were shifted back to the jail under heavy security. According to the conspirator behind the crime. Immediately after the brief hearing in the Sessions Court, the seven accused were shifted back to the jail under heavy security. Sanji Ram care taker of the Devasthan in Rassana village 60 kms from Jammu has been named main conspirator in the case by Crime Branch. He was allegedly joined by Special Police Officers, Deepak Khajuria and Surender Verma, friend Parvesh Kumar alias Mannu, Ram's nephew, a juvenile, and his son Vishal Jangotra alias "Shamma". The chargesheet also named Investigating Officers, Head Constable Tilak Raj and Sub-Inspector, Anand Dutta, (Contd on page 6 Col 3)



Sanji Ram being produced in the court by police at Kathua on Monday.

**NGT order on cost to Govt also stayed**

NEW DELHI, Apr 16: The Supreme Court today stayed an order of the National Green Tribunal imposing a cost of Rs 50 lakh on the Jammu and Kashmir Government for not finalising a rehabilitation plan for the owners of horses and mules, who have been barred from playing from Katra to the Vaishno Devi temple. (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

**Army Comdrs' debate internal, external security challenges**

**LoC tension, J&K militancy top agenda**

**Sanjeev Pargal**  
JAMMU, Apr 16: The top Army Commanders' Conference got underway in the Union capital this morning with Minister of State for Defence Dr Subhash Bhamre and Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat calling for synergy and operational readiness on the frontiers especially with Pakistan and strict surveillance on Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China



MoS Defence Dr Subhash Bhamre and Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat interacting with Army Commanders on Monday.

even as focus remained on the borders as well as militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, where Army has been playing key role to thwart ceasefire violations in the hinterland. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is also scheduled to address the six-day long

Conference, which will conclude on April 21. An official handout issued by the Army Public Relations Officer (PRO) Col Aman Anand said Dr Bhamre stressed upon the need for Army for being prepared for highly dynamic internal and external security challenges. Asserting that the Government was fully seized of the requirements of the Indian Army regarding capability development, force modernization and above all, infrastructural development, the Minister of State for Defence reiterated the need to optimize the fiscal resources through synergized capacity building within the (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

**Resignations accepted**

**Excelsior Correspondent**  
JAMMU, Apr 16: Governor N N Vohra has accepted the resignations of two BJP Ministers Choudhary Lal Singh and Chander Prakash Ganga with immediate effect. An official order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) this evening said the Governor has accepted resignations of Industry and Commerce Minister, Chander Prakash Ganga and Forest, Ecology and (Contd on page 6 Col 5)

**Lack of infra, facilities creates impediments in attracting tourists**  
**Surinsar-Mansar, Billawar-Duggan areas remain victim of Govt apathy**

**Mohinder Verma**  
JAMMU, Apr 16: Contrary to the tall claims of the present regime about paying due attention towards the tourist spots of Jammu region, Surinsar-Mansar and Billawar-Duggan areas have remained victim of Government's apathy and slackness is prevailing on strict and timely implementation of decisions about creation of recreational facilities and other infrastructure at these places. Official sources told

**No progress on Rs 54 cr project for Parmandal, Utterbehni**

EXCELSIOR that Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, while chairing the Governing Body meeting of Surinsar-Mansar and Billawar-Duggan Tourism Development Authorities on July 8, 2017, had issued directions for pacing up of works at the tourist destinations of Surinsar and Mansar as these places are central to the tourist circuit of Jammu and could easily be co-opted into Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism given their close proximity to the winter capital of the State. However, ongoing developmental works could not be completed in all respect within the stipulated time-frame for one or the other reason as a result of which promoting these places for MICE tourism has remained a dream, sources said while disclosing that Surinsar doesn't have budgeted accommodation even for a small group of tourists what to talk of promoting MICE tourism there. "At Surinsar there is only three-bed Dak Bungalow, which too lack all the facilities required for the comfortable stay of tourists", sources said, adding "in the year 2013 a proposal for making available budgeted accommodation was mooted under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme but due to dilly-dallying approach of the concerned authorities no progress could be made till the Union Government concludes the scheme". In the Governing Body meeting of Surinsar-Mansar Tourism Development Authority it was informed that Surinsar Park would be ready by December 2017 while as the Amphitheatre would be ready by March 2018 in all respect. However, neither park nor Amphitheatre could serve the purpose behind their planning, sources said. "There are no amusement (Contd on page 6 Col 1)

**Petition filed for CBI probe in case**  
**SC asks J-K Govt to protect victim's kin, lawyer**

NEW DELHI, Apr 16: The Supreme Court today directed the Jammu and Kashmir Government to provide security to the family of the eight-year-old Kathua gangrape and murder victim, their lawyer and a family friend assisting them in prosecuting the case. The Apex Court also took note of a plea of the victim's father seeking transfer of the trial of the case from Kathua, preferably to Chandigarh and sought response of the State Government. During the hearing, the victim's father expressed satisfaction with the probe so far, conducted by Jammu and Kashmir Police and opposed the plea for CBI investigation demanded by

others. "Be that as it may, we do not intend to enter into this sphere (transfer of case to CBI) at this stage," a bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A K Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud said, while taking note of the submission that the victim's father was satisfied with the police probe so far. The bench also took note of the apprehension with regard to the security and asked the State to provide adequate security personnel, in plain clothes to the victim's family, their lawyer Deepika Singh Rajawat and family friend Talid Hussain. "As an interim measure, it is directed that the Jammu and Kashmir Police to beef up the security and provide adequate security personnel to the family, (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

Deepika Singh Rajawat and family friend Talid Hussain," the bench said. It also sought response of the State Government by April 27, the next date of hearing, to the specific prayer that the trial in the case be transferred out of Kathua court to Chandigarh in view of the communally surcharged atmosphere prevailing in Jammu town. The bench also directed the State police to provide adequate security to the juvenile delinquent, who has been picked up in relation to the case at the observation home under the law. It said that it will only hear the persons related to the case. During the hearing, it was clarified that the petition was (Contd on page 6 Col 3)

**CHANDIGARH GROUP OF COLLEGES**  
Building Careers. Transforming Lives.  
Toll Free: 1800 200 3575

**LEADER in CAMPUS PLACEMENTS**

492 COMPANIES VISITED | 5134 PLACEMENT OFFERS | 31.77 LACS PA HIGHEST PACKAGE OFFERED

**PROGRAMS OFFERED**

**B.TECH | M.TECH**  
Electronics & Comm. Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Computer Science & Engineering  
Information Technology  
(B.Tech Lateral Entry available)

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**  
MBA | BBA | B.COM (P) | M.COM (P)  
BMS - Service Industry

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**  
BCA | MCA | MCA (Lateral Entry)

**OTHER COURSES**  
Hotel Management  
Airlines & Tourism  
Pharmacy  
Biotechnology  
Education (B.Ed)

For online registration logon to [www.cgc.edu.in](http://www.cgc.edu.in)  
CAMPUS: Landran, Mohali | Helpline: 09592104444  
JAMMU ADMISSION HELPLINE: 8725024518

follow us on f

**A FULL BRIDAL JEWELLERY EXPERIENCE**  
ON THIS AKSHAYA TRITIYA

**RAKESH Jewellers**  
Apsara Road - T 2432121 & Lakhdatta Bazar - T 2544015-16

**FLAT 15% OFF**  
DIAMONDS AND WATCHES

www.tanishq.co.in A TATA PRODUCT

**TANISHQ PRESENTS MANGALAM**  
CELEBRATE AKSHAYA TRITIYA

WITH UPTO **25% OFF\***

ON MAKING CHARGES OF GOLD JEWELLERY & DIAMOND JEWELLERY VALUE

OFFER VALID FROM 11TH TO 18TH APRIL 2018.

**HDFC BANK** EXTRA 5% CASHBACK\*  
We understand your world on HDFC Bank Debit & Credit Cards \*Min. Trn: ₹35,000; Max. Cashback: ₹4000 per card account Validity: 13th - 22nd April 2018. T&C Apply.

Shop now at [www.titan.co.in/tanishq](http://www.titan.co.in/tanishq) • Follow us on: f t w i n s • Give a missed call on 1800 30 105001 to know more.  
\*Conditions apply • Flat 2.5% off\* on Studded Solitaires below 70 cents • Flat 5% off\* on Studded Solitaires above 70 cents • Flat 10% off\* on making charges of studded colour stones and Plain Platinum Jewellery • Up to 20% off\* on Mia Jewellery • No offer on coins, bars and loose Solitaires • Two or more offer cannot be clubbed.

**City Plaza, Maharaja Gulab Singh Road, Next To Hotel Fortune Riviera, Jammu.**  
Tel : 0191-2560258, 2569995  
38, Dr. Ali Jan Plaza, Maulana Azad Road, Srinagar. Ph. : 0194-2481881