

**4 SC Judges attend court**

NEW DELHI, Jan 15: Four top Supreme Court Judges today resumed work like always, belying the simmering tensions sparked by their accusations against the Chief Justice, while the Attorney General described the unprecedented crisis as "a storm in a tea cup".

The four Judges -- Justices J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph -- took up their respective business on the first working day of the top court after the January 12 press conference.

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**CM to chair**

**UHQ meet today**

JAMMU, Jan 15: Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has called meeting of the Unified Headquarters at her official residence here at 11.30 am tomorrow to discuss overall security situation in the State including in the context of Government decision to hold Panchayat elections.

Sources said the Rural Development Department could issue notification for the Panchayat elections anytime now.

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**Assembly session extended**

JAMMU, Jan 15: Ongoing budget session of the Assembly was today extended up to February 12 in view of four-day recess on the occasion of Republic Day.

The Assembly session, which was scheduled to adjourn on February 10, has been extended by two days and will now end on February 12.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

**Cold wave in Kashmir, -20 in Kargil**

SRINAGAR, Jan 15: Kashmir valley and Ladakh region remained in the grip of cold wave due to dry weather conditions with mercury dropping down to minus 20 degrees Celsius last night.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius, one degree up from previous night's 4.3 degrees Celsius. The maximum day temperature was recorded at 13.7 degrees Celsius, which is 7.3 degrees Celsius above normal.

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**2 killed in truck mishap**

RAMBAN, Jan 15: Two persons were killed, while another was rescued, when the vehicle they were traveling in, skidded off the road and plunged into the river Chenab at Khora Pani near Koral bridge, here today.

\* Pic on page 6. Video on www.excelsiornews.com

As per police sources, a driver was reversing the truck, when he lost control over it and the vehicle plunged into river Chenab at Khora Pani near Koral bridge.

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**5 Pakistani posts, 4 bunkers razed to ground**

**Major Army offensive on LoC: Pak Army officer among 7 killed, 5 hurt**

■ As tension escalates, cross-LoC bus again suspended

**Sanjeev Pargal**  
JAMMU, Jan 15: Indian Army today undertook major offensive against Pakistan to silence their guns, which were targeting forward Indian posts on the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar sector of Poonch district, killing seven Pakistani soldiers including an officer and critically wounding five others. Five posts and four bunkers of the Pakistani army were destroyed in massive retaliatory action of the Indian troops.

As tensions escalated on the LoC, authorities immediately recalled cross-LoC peace bus, which had left Poonch for Rawlakote in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), leaving people from two parts of the divided State, stranded.

Sources told the Excelsior that Indian action against Pakistani troops, which came on the occasion of 'Army Day' was

necessitated as the Pakistani posts continued to engage in heavy shelling in Mendhar sector targeting forward posts of the Indian Army and were also planning to strike at civilian areas, which was anticipated as the enemy was dumping large quantity of mortar shells on their side.

\* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Also, according to sources, there was hectic activity on Pakistan side of the LoC and some militants could be seen moving across with a view to infiltrating into the Indian territory with the help of Pakistani troops.

"Indian troops undertook major action against the Pakistani troops this morning in which seven Pakistan army personnel including an officer were eliminated while five others seriously injured," sources said, adding there were inputs

that five posts and four bunkers of Pakistan were razed to ground in the hour long action.

Major damage was suffered by Pakistan in Jandrot area of Kotli sector, which was being manned by 801 Mujahid battalion of Pakistan army under 3 PoK Brigade.

Pakistan's DG (SA & SAARC) Dr Mohammad Faisal summoned Indian Deputy High Commissioner J P Singh and lodged protest over killing and injuries of Pakistan army personnel.

Hectic activity was observed in Pakistani camp after the Indian action and nearly half a dozen ambulances and Army trucks and jeeps were seen shifting dead and injured jawans of Pakistani troops to the hospital. Some officers of PoK Brigade could be seen visiting forward posts to assess the damages.

Pakistani troops from their left-out posts fired at the Indian side using mortar shells and

heavy weaponry between Deri Dabsi and Sabra Gali in Mendhar trying to hit forward posts of Indian army and some civilian areas but failed to cause any casualties or damage.

A day before, an Indian Army jawan was martyred in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district in ceasefire violations by Pakistan. Six Army soldiers including a Major and a BSF jawan have been martyred during fresh ceasefire violations by Pakistan Army on LoC and International Border (IB) during past about 20 days while Pakistani troops have suffered huge casualties, at least two dozens, apart from massive infrastructural losses across both LoC and IB in retaliation by the Indian troops.

Pakistani troops violated ceasefire in some other areas also, prompting the Indian side to retaliate effectively, leading to exchanges.

(Contd on page 6 Col 1)

**Infiltration by JeM Fidayeen foiled, 5 killed**

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Jan 15: In a major success for the troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of North Kashmir, five heavily armed militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), who were crossing the river Jhelum to carry out Fidayeen attack in the area, were shot dead early today.

\* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Sources said that Army was alert in the area for last two weeks after intelligence inputs about a possible Fidayeen attack in Uri near the LoC by the JeM. They said that the Army was particularly alert since last evening as they had inputs of infiltration by heavily armed JeM group in Par Dulanga area of Uri near Uroosa near Bhim Post.

Sources said that at around 1 a.m. Army saw movement from across in Pakistani village Udhm on the banks of river Jhelum. They said that Army waited for the group of Fidayeen to cross over and as four of them

crossed in a boat, Army challenged them. One who was rowing the boat crossed over to the other side, while four others took shelter under the culvert

during the searches and they also saw the fifth body lying near the boat on the other side of river Jhelum. They also recovered four AK-47 rifles,



Security forces taking position during anti-militant operation at Uri in Baramulla district on Monday. Another pic on page 6. -Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

and were shot dead by the Army. The other one was shot dead on the Pakistani side of the river Jhelum near the boat. Three of their accomplices, who were on the other side, ran away as Army engaged the group.

Army, in the morning, recovered four dead bodies

19 AK-47 magazines, 480 AK-47 rounds, 3 UBGLs, 38 UBGL grenades, 23 hand grenades, nine IEDs, 4 pouches, four life jackets, 23 Chinese grenades, batteries and four wrist watches.

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

**Won't allow anti-India activities in Kashmir: Gen Rawat**

'Army may escalate military action'

NEW DELHI, Jan 15: In a stern message to Pakistan, Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat asserted today that the Army will not allow anti-India activities to succeed in Jammu and Kashmir and it was ready to escalate military offensive to combat cross-border terrorism if Islamabad forces it to do so.

\* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Addressing Army personnel on the occasion of Army Day, Rawat also said that disputes along the Line of Actual Control with China were continuing and the Army was trying to stop the Chinese transgressions.

"Ensuring security along the

Line of Actual Control (with China) is our main duty," he said without elaborating further.

Talking about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he said the Pakistan army has been continuously trying to help terrorists sneak into India along the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K.

"We will not let these anti-national elements to succeed at any cost. If we are forced, then we may escalate our military action and carry out (the) 'other action'," he said.

The Army has been adopting a

'tit-for-tat' approach in dealing with ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops as well as foiling infiltration bids by terrorists.

"The Army is using its might (Contd on page 6 Col 1)



Chief of Army Staff Gen Bipin Rawat paying tribute to martyrs at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate on the occasion of Army Day, in New Delhi on Monday. (UNI)

**Kichloo marshalled out, entire Oppn walks out**

■ Uproar in LC on Chairman's action

**Gopal Sharma**  
JAMMU, Jan 15: Upper House of the State Legislature today witnessed uproar and noisy scenes as mark of strong protest, after Chairman Legislative Council Haji Anayat Ali directed the watch and wards staff to marshal out senior NC member and former Minister Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo from the House.

The NC member was seeking reply from the Government regarding rehabilitation plan of the Government for the people who are being asked to vacate the area in view of construction of seven hydel power projects in district Kishtwar and also pressing for constitution of a House Committee on the issue. He also sought reply as to why for the last four years, no progress



NC member Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo being marshalled out of Legislative Council on Monday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

could take place on four hydel power projects including 8 MW Hanswar, 10 MW Bhutt Nallah and 7 MW Aapan Nallah projects of Kishtwar.

On the question of Sajjad Kichloo, Minister of State for

and his subsequent supplementaries. Kichloo said on four small hydel power projects, even 10 % work could not be executed on them, then in how many years their completion could be expected. "Why on Rattle project, where work was going on smoothly earlier, after coming of new Government, it was stopped? Give proper reply," he said.

The Minister replied that work of contractor was not satisfactory, therefore work was stopped on Rattle. She, however, said it was not under the control of State Government. She also said the matter was sub-judice in case of another project and "we can not discuss it here in the House."

(Contd on page 6 Col 3)

**Mohinder Verma**

JAMMU, Jan 15: Noisy scenes were witnessed in the Legislative Assembly over ill-equipped Trauma Hospitals and lack of basic facilities in other health institutions in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. While two Opposition MLAs staged walk-out while alleging absolute non-seriousness on the part of the Government in overcoming the shortcomings, the PDP-BJP MLAs expressed concern over continuous shortage of doctors in their respective areas.

While participating in the question regarding health care

**PDP-BJP MLAs express concern over shortage of docs**

facilities, Independent MLA from Udhampur Pawan Gupta said, "Whenever the issue of Trauma Hospital in Udhampur is raised in the House the Government claims that the hospital is complete but the facts are contrary to that".

He brought to the notice of the Speaker that last month seven people lost their lives and he personally shifted four injured persons to the Army's Command Hospital because of poor facilities at the Trauma Hospital.

"There is no facility in the

Trauma Hospital. Even there is acute shortage of doctors and para-medical staff but the Government claims that Trauma Hospital is functional", he regretted and wanted to know from the Health Minister as to when the Trauma Hospital at Udhampur would be provided all the facilities and requisite manpower.

As there was no reply from the Health Minister Bali Bhagat, Udhampur MLA first entered the Well of the House to lodge protest over non-serious

approach of the Minister and thereafter staged walkout.

Even a number of MLAs of ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) expressed concern over acute shortage of doctors in the health institutions in their respective constituencies.

"The situation in the health institutions in my constituency is worst as majority of the posts of the doctors are lying vacant during the past quite long time", said PDP MLA Abdul Majeed Padder. Another PDP MLA Mohd Yousuf Bhat also raised the similar issue and said that Government should fill up the vacant posts of the doctors on war footing basis.

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

**Uproar over Army chief's statement in Assembly**

Omar-led NC stages walk-out

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 15: Entire National Conference led by former Chief Minister and party's working president Omar Abdullah today staged a walk-out in the Legislative

\* Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

Assembly during Question Hour seeking statement from the Government on Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat's



Omar Abdullah-led NC members staging walk-out in the Assembly on Monday. -Excelsior/Rakesh

recent remarks on Kashmir. The Government, however, didn't react.

As soon as proceedings of the House began, National Conference MLA and former Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar

was on his feet referring to Gen Rawat's statement that operations will be shifted to North Kashmir and that separate maps in Government schools of the Valley were cause of concern.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)

**Minister's remarks create stir in Assembly, MLAs demand debate on their privileges**

Sports Council has become PDP's Youth Wing: NC

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 15: The remarks of the Sports Minister that consultation of MLAs before starting developmental works was not imperative today created stir in the Legislative Assembly with MLAs cutting across party lines demanding thorough debate on their privileges and protocol.

Even the Speaker Kavinder Gupta disapproved the comments of the Minister and said that MLAs being representatives of the people have every right to be informed about the developmental works in their respective constituencies.

While raising supplementary question about construction of Indoor Sports Hall in Samba, BJP MLA Dr Devender Kumar Manyal said, "I was consulted on the Indoor Stadium about one year back and thereafter I received no message from the Sports Council about start of the work", adding "it is only through the Minister's reply that I have come to know that construction work has been taken up by the Council".

He stressed that concerned departments should inform the MLAs about initiation of developmental works in their respective constituencies as legislators are more aware of the developmental needs of the people.

However, the Minister for Youth Services and Sports Imran Raza Ansari said, "it is not necessary to inform the MLAs...it's purely the prerogative of the concerned department and the Minister Incharge".

These remarks of the Minister created stir in the House with BJP MLA from Jammu City Rajesh Gupta seeking clarification vis-à-vis privileges and protocol of the elected representatives of the people.

"Not only in respect of Indoor Stadiums the MLAs are not consulted by majority of the departments before initiating developmental works in their

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**WEATHER**  
JAMMU : Mainly clear  
**TEMPERATURE**  
Max: 20.7 Degree C  
Min: 4.7 Degree C  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
RH-I (Morning): 75.0 per cent  
RH-II (Evening): 51.0 per cent  
Sunset on Tuesday: 05.50 p.m.  
Sunrise on Wednesday: 07.33 a.m.  
SRINAGAR: Mainly dry  
**TEMPERATURE**  
Max: 13.7 Degree C  
Min: -3.3 Degree C  
**RELATIVE HUMIDITY**  
RH-I (Morning): 92.0 per cent  
RH-II (Evening): 42.0 per cent  
LEH: **TEMPERATURE**  
Max: 6.8 Degree C  
Min: -10.9 Degree C

**Bill introduced in Assembly Higher Education Council being established in J&K**

Step aimed at holistic evolution of sector

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 15: To ensure proper planning, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance in universities and other higher educational institutions of the State, the Government is going to establish State Higher Education Council with the approval of the State Legislature.

A bill in this regard was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Minister for Horticulture Syed Basharat Ahmad Bukhari on behalf of Minister for Education Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari.

Under the guidelines prescribed by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, the State needs to set up Higher Education Council through an executive order to begin with but must be converted into statutory bodies by Acts of the State Legislature within two years for enforcing planning, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance in the universities and other higher educational institutions

of the State, the Minister said in the statement of objects and reasons.

The Council will render advice to State Government, State Universities, Private Universities and other institutions of higher education in the State and to coordinate the role of the State Government. Moreover, the Council will provide common facilities in higher education without impairing the autonomy and promote research by encouraging coordination between State Universities and other Universities of the country and abroad.

(Contd on page 6 Col 7)