

## Full bench of Kashmir High Court hears sex scam case

A full bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Monday heard the sex scandal case that had rocked the Kashmir Valley two years back.

Renowned advocate Zafar Shah appeared before the bench here on behalf of the bar association, which has impleaded itself in the case. The bench fixed the next hearing May 26.

Justices Nisar Ahmad Kakroo, Virender Singh and J.P. Singh comprised the full bench constituted by the state chief justice.

The chief justice had constituted the full bench after Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani and Justice Imtiyaz Hussain delivered conflicting judgments Oct 18, 2007.

Some senior politicians, bureaucrats and police officers were alleged to have been involved in the sex racket that came to light in 2006.

Last month, Congress parliamentarian from Jammu Madan Lal Sharma named former state Congress chief Peerzada Muhammad Sayeed and assembly Speaker Tara Chand as 'alleged to have been involved in the sex scandal' but pardoned by the political leadership. He, however, withdrew the allegation a day later.

The bar association here then filed another public interest litigation (PIL) in the high court, seeking immediate investigations into Sharma's allegations.

The Supreme Court shifted the trial to Punjab after those already accused in the scandal pleaded that no local lawyer was ready to stand for them following a directive by the local bar association.

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