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PC, SON GET PROTECTION FROM ARREST TILL MARCH 8 IN AIRCEL-MAXIS CASE 8

MALDIVIAN EX-PRESIDENT YAMEEN ARRESTED IN LAUNDERING CASE 22



KIRTI AZAD, SUSPENDED FROM BJP FOR ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES, JOINS CONG 12



3 Jaish terrorists linked to Pulwama attack killed in 18-hour encounter

Gunbattle Claims Major, 3 Jawans, 1 Cop; Brigadier, DIG, Lt Col Injured

Aarti Tikoo Singh & Rohan Dua | TNN

Pulwama: In the first major encounter after the February 14 terror attack on a CRPF convoy, security forces in Kashmir eliminated three Jaish-e-Muhammed terrorists, including Kamran, a senior Jaish commander, in a prolonged gunbattle in Pulwama district on Monday. However,

FULL COVERAGE: P 16 & 17

SEE FLAP OPPOSITE



Flames and smoke billow from a building in Pulwama where terrorists took shelter during the encounter

they also lost five of their own men, including a 34-year-old Army Major.

Police officials said the terrorists were part of a 21-member squad behind the horrific Pulwama bloodbath.

Eleven security personnel, including a brigade commander, a Lieutenant Colonel and a Deputy Inspector General of police were injured in the gunfight.

Confusion prevailed till late night about the identities of the terrorists killed, with media reports saying one of them was the mastermind of the Pulwama attack. Cops said Jaish had created fake identities of all three. Finally, a J&K police statement identified them as Kamran alias Fahad, and Rashid Gazi alias Lukman, both Pakistani, as well as a local terrorist, Hilal Ahmed.

Sources said Masood Azhar's nephew Mohammad

Military-grade RDX used in terror strike

Forensic experts have concluded that the suicide bomber in the Pulwama terror attack used high-intensity "military grade" explosives (RDX), which terrorists procured from Pakistani defence forces. The experts also said that the explosives-laden vehicle used in the attack was an Ecco van. **P 16**

► **POONCH-RAWLAKOTE, SRINAGAR-MUZAFFARABAD BUS SERVICES SUSPENDED, P 16**

Umair, co-leader of the squad along with Kamran, could be hiding in south Kashmir.

The 18-hour-long gunbattle between the security forces and the terrorists erupted in Pinglan, a neighbourhood adjoining Kakpora, the home of Jaish terrorist Adil Ahmad Dar, who had rammed his vehicle into the CRPF convoy.

MHA, J&K admin against joint polls

The Union home ministry and J&K administration have urged the Election Commission to hold Lok Sabha and assembly elections separately in the state, citing difficulty in managing the logistics for simultaneous polls in the terror-hit state, according to sources in the government. **P 12**

TOI had reported on Sunday that while Azhar has been confined to an army hospital for an unknown ailment in Rawalpindi in Pakistan, he sent Umair to recruit three local fidayeen in Kashmir. The operation allowed the forces to avenge the Pulwama bombing to some extent. But the mood was sombre due to

Suicide squad came into Kashmir in Dec

A 21-member Jaish squad, including three suicide bombers, had infiltrated into Kashmir in December 2018 to launch three attacks, including two outside the Valley, intel sources said. Maulana Masood Azhar's nephew, Mohammad Umair, led the squad along with Kamran, who was killed on Monday. **P 16**

the deaths of Major V S Dhondiyal, Sepoys Ajay Kumar, Hari Singh and Havildar Sheo Ram and J&K Police head constable Abdul Rashid. A civilian, Mushtaq Ahmed, was also killed while his home, along with three neighbouring houses, was gutted.

► **Kashmiris at site, P 18**

Time to talk about tackling terror over: PM

PM Narendra Modi on Monday declared that the time for talks was over and India was determined to take "concrete steps" against terrorism. Using a joint appearance with Argentine President Mauricio Macri, Modi said, "The Pulwama attack shows that the time for discussions is over. Now the whole world unitedly needs to take concrete steps against terrorism and its supporters." This is a strong signal to Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is scheduled to arrive in India on Tuesday. **P 8**



Pak using Jadhav case as tool for propaganda: India

At ICJ Hearing, Salve Asks For Him To Be Freed

TNN & AGENCIES



MEAs Deepak Mittal responded with a namaste when Pakistan attorney general Anwar Mansoor Khan extended his hand to greet him

The Hague/New Delhi: Pakistan has failed to satisfy minimum due process in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case and is using the Indian, detained on alleged grounds of terrorism, as a propaganda tool, India said at the latest hearing at the International Court of Justice on Monday.

"Pakistan's story is solely based on rhetoric and not facts," said counsel Harish Salve, arguing India's case. He demanded India be provided consular access and said Jadhav's continued detention be declared unlawful. Pakistan "knowingly, brazenly and willingly" violated

international law, said Salve. Salve attacked Jadhav's trial by a secret military court in Pakistan, which was opaque to the outside world. Pakistan provided no "credible evidence" to show his involvement in any act of terrorism and Jadhav's purported confession clearly appeared to be

"coerced", the counsel said. "There is no manner of doubt that Pakistan was using this as a propaganda tool. Pakistan was bound to grant consular access without delay," Salve demanded in a long submission.

► **Pak military court, P 18**

Prince Salman back in Saudi, will reach India today

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will reach Delhi on Tuesday from Riyadh, a day after his visit to Pakistan — a country India is seeking to isolate internationally for its complicity in the Pulwama terror attack. On Monday, the government said Riyadh's position on terror and J&K had evolved to India's advantage.

The government hoped the crown prince's visit would help it drive home the message that Pakistan needs to check cross-border terrorism. **P 14**

BJP, Sena clinch deal: 25-23 for LS, equal split for state polls

Ambarish Mishra, Clara Lewis & Sujit Mahamulkar | TNN

Mumbai: An extremely reluctant Shiv Sena, whose chief Uddhav Thackeray had recently echoed Rahul Gandhi's "chowkidar chor hai" jibe at PM Modi, on Monday finally agreed to team up with BJP for the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra assembly elections.

According to the pact announced by CM Devendra Fadnis at a press meet he addressed along with BJP chief Amit Shah and Uddhav Thackeray, BJP will contest 25 seats and Sena 23 of the total

HOW THEY FARED

Maha LS seats: 48

Party	2009	2014
Shiv Sena	Contested 22, Won 11	20
BJP	25	18
Shiv Sena	9	24
BJP	23	23

48 LS seats in the state. A 50:50 formula will be applied for the 288-strong legislative assembly.

after accommodating other (smaller) parties".

Also, "posts (in government portfolios and other executive posts) will be shared equally", the CM said. Despite Sena's demand for the CM's post, there has been no decision on who will get it. The state polls are scheduled to be held a few months after the LS elections. Amit Shah said the alliance will help NDA, under Modi's leadership, to return to office and that it "would win 45 of 48 LS seats".

► **BJP's oldest allies, P 18**

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