

"The road to success and the road to failure are almost exactly the same."
—Colin R. Davis

Inking the Truth

2019 Pulwama attack architect gunned down

NEW DELHI: Arjumand Gulzar, alias Burhan Hamza, a designated terrorist and the key mastermind behind the 2019 Pulwama terror attack on a CRPF convoy, has been shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), officials said here on Thursday.

Hamza, who was operating under heavy ISI-vetted security, was ambushed in Muzaffarabad.

He was critically injured and airlifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Rawalpindi, where he succumbed to his injuries, the officials said.

The assailants managed to flee the scene before local security forces could intervene, they added.

Originally from Khar in Pulwama district, Hamza was once associated with Al Badr, moved to Al Baraq, and maintained a close alliance with Pakistan's espionage agency, the ISI, after an acrimonious exit from the outfit.

He was declared a designated terrorist under UAPA for his involvement in ► P11

Sinha lays foundation of Akshaya Patra meal kitchen Every child deserves healthy food; nobody should be left behind: LG



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATRA: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday laid the foundation stone of Akshaya Patra's centralized kitchen facility in Katra. Once operational, this facility will provide 5000 nutritious meals to school children every day. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke about Akshaya Patra's future projects in Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir including upcoming kitchen facility in Jammu.

"I urged stronger collab-

oration between Government and Social Organisations to empower younger generation. We must ensure that school children receive balanced, nourishing meals. Every child deserves access to healthy food and we need to make sure no child is left behind," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke on legacy in ordinary life emphasising that it rests on 3 questions - what are we creating, what are we preserving, and what will we hand over to future generations? He said we must add

another question to that list: what are we feeding our children? He further observed that nutrition of our young generation will shape our future.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that a hungry child cannot learn, and a school that cannot feed its children cannot honestly create equal opportunities for progress. He said that decades of global research and their outcomes have shown that nutrition and education are not separate things; education rests on the foundation of good nutrition.

"Children who eat balanced, nutritious meals concentrate better, retain information more effectively, and participate more actively in class. Protein, vitamins, and a balanced diet supply the basic energy for thinking and understanding of a child. I want every school in Jammu Kashmir to remember, when we provide nutritious ► P11

India slams Pakistan at UN over "heinous aggression"

UNITED NATIONS: India highlighted Afghan civilian deaths and injuries caused by cross-border violence by Pakistani military forces, saying such "heinous acts" of aggression should not come as a surprise from a country that bombs its own people and conducts systematic genocide.

In a strong retort at the UN Security Council the other day, India called out Pakistan's "long-tainted record" of genocidal acts after Islamabad's envoy at the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during a debate held during China's presidency of the Council for May.

"It is ironic that Pakistan, with its long-tainted record of genocidal acts, has chosen to refer to issues that are strictly internal to India," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Harish Parvathani said at the annual UNSC Open Debate on 'Protection of civilians in armed conflict'.

He referred to estimates by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, which documented 750 civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan in the first three months of 2026 due to cross-border armed violence by Pakistani military forces, most of them resulting ► P11

Budha Amarnath Yatra raised Hindu inhabitants, claims VHP

NEW DELHI: The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Thursday claimed that the annual Budha Amarnath Yatra organised by the Bajrang Dal has contributed to a four per cent increase in the Hindu population in Poonch town of Jammu and Kashmir and helped check migration from the region.

Addressing a press conference here, VHP international organising general secretary Milind Parande said the annual pilgrimage located in Poonch district has brought many positive changes to the region.

"One visible outcome of this yatra is that the per-

centage of the Hindu population living in Poonch town has increased by around three to four per cent because of this yatra. Financial stability has also improved because the pilgrimage has generated large-scale economic activity in the region," he told reporters.

Parande said the annual yatra is not only religious in nature but has also played an important role in promoting national integration and boosting the morale of soldiers guarding the borders.

"As a result of this pilgrimage, all Hindu religious sites along the ► P11

Chinese pistol, drugs seized; OGW arrested

JAMMU: Security forces recovered a bag containing arms and suspected narcotics near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said on Thursday.

The material was recovered from the Balakote forward area of the Mendhar sector in the district on Tuesday evening, the officials said.

An area domination patrol party recovered the bag near the LoC during a search operation. The bag was buried near a tree.

The recovery was made after the area was sanitised and cleared of any possible IED or explosives. ► P11

Snow, rain bring down temperatures in Valley

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Some places in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir received fresh snowfall, while the plains were lashed by rain in the early hours of Thursday, bringing down temperatures, officials said.

The frontier Gurez sector in north Kashmir's Bandipora, Zojilla Pass along the Srinagar-Leh national highway and Sonamarg received snowfall. A few other peaks in the higher reaches of the valley were also draped in white. The plains of the valley, including the summer

capital of Srinagar, were lashed by intermittent rains. Heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm late Wednesday night left a road in Bandipora district severely damaged, while water and mud entered several nearby homes, the officials said.

The rain also triggered waterlogging and mudflow in the area, disrupting movement.

The rain and snow brought respite from the heatwave-like conditions in Kashmir.

The meteorological department said there is a possibility of one or two ► P11

Sajad Lone put under house arrest

SRINAGAR: People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone has put under house arrest on Thursday, with the agency's director general telling them that the NEET-UG paper was not leaked through their system and the CBI is probing the matter, sources said.

Abdul Gani Lone was shot dead by terrorists on May 21, 2002, as he left a Hurriyat Conference rally held to pay tributes to Mirwaiz Moulvi Mohammad Farooq, who too was gunned down by militants on the same day 12 years earlier.

"The Jammu & Kashmir People's Conference strongly condemns the house arrest of its ► P11

100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN

DAY 41

The EARTH NEWS joins with the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

Police attaches drug peddler's assets worth Rs 7 Cr in Kathua



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Police on Thursday attached properties worth approximately Rs 7 crore belonging to a detained drug peddler in

Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

The move comes amid police's intensified campaign against drug trafficking networks and their fi-

nanial infrastructure. The attached properties comprises 6 kanals and 18 marlas of land and a single-storey residential house, having a plinth area of 2,107 square feet, situated at Chak Sheikhia area, they said.

The properties belong to Harpaul Singh, alias Balochi, a resident of Kathua, who is detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, officials said.

Investigators said the properties were prima facie, acquired through proceeds generated from ► P11

Police tighten noose, carry multiple Ops

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday said it arrested seven drug peddlers, a terrorist aide and seized several vehicles involved in illegal mining in multiple operations carried out across Kashmir as part of the ongoing "Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan".

A Police official said that huge quantities of contraband substances, including charas powder, heroin and poppy straw, were recovered during separate operations in Baramulla, Anantnag and Kulgam districts. ► P11

DIPR hosts Symposium-cum-Cultural prog at Panjgrain

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Continuing its outreach under the "Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir - 100 Day Campaign" the Cultural Unit Jammu of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) in collaboration with Dogri Sahitya Sabha Kuppad Pargalta, on Thursday organised a Symposium-cum-Theme Based Cultural Programme at Government High ► P11



Sinha opens helipad for better pilgrimage connectivity to SMVD, Shiv Khori shrines Lt Guv dedicates Vaishnavi Bhawan to devotees



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated a newly-constructed helipad in Ka-

tra to streamline helicopter services for pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Shiv Khori shrines.

The facility, built at a cost of around Rs 27 crore, will improve



connectivity and provide major relief to devotees travelling to the twin shrines, officials said, adding that helicopter services from Katra to Shiv Khori will commence soon. Addressing reporters ► P11

Sinha reviews Int'l Museum of Goddess project

KATRA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the establishment of a state-of-the-art International Museum of Goddess at Katra.

The meeting was attended by members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ► P11

Parliamentary panel grills NTA officials over NEET paper 'leak'

NEW DELHI: Several members of Parliament grilled top NTA officials on Thursday, with the agency's director general telling them that the NEET-UG paper was not leaked through their system and the CBI is probing the matter, sources said.

During a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, several MPs questioned the National Testing Agency (NTA) officials on the steps taken by them to strengthen the exam system in order to prevent paper leaks in the future.

The panel had sum-

moned top officials of the education ministry, including Education Secretary Vineet Joshi. The NTA officials, including Chairperson Pradeep Kumar Joshi and Director General Abhishek Singh, gave a detailed presentation on the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Report on reforms in the agency.

The sources said on queries from the MPs on how the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate) paper was leaked, Singh said it was not leaked through their system.

At this, several MPs asked him then how did the paper get leaked and what

was the need to cancel the exam and hold a retest.

According to the sources, the NTA DG said the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is looking into the matter.

Some opposition MPs demanded that the probe report be presented before the panel, but some of their counterparts from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) objected to this, saying the CBI is an independent body and it should be allowed to do its work.

The sources said Singh gave a detailed presentation on the implementation of the steps recommended by the Radhakrishnan ► P11

India, Egypt to boost ties against terror

NEW DELHI: India and Egypt called for concerted global efforts against all UN-designated terrorist entities and their affiliates, proxy groups, supporters, sponsors and financiers.

Both sides reviewed a wide range of traditional and emerging threats and challenges such as terrorist recruitment, abuse of technology for terrorist purposes and financing of terrorism during a high-level meeting held in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The two sides also agreed to bolster bilateral cooperation in combating the threat of terrorism.

"India and Egypt ► P11

J&K Bank enters into 'MoU' with HD Construction Equipment India

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: As part of its commitment to support infrastructure-led development through institutional finance, J&K Bank on Thursday entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HD Construction Equipment India Pvt. Ltd. to facilitate customised financing solutions for Hyundai excavators and wheel loaders under the Bank's Construction Equipment Finance Scheme.

The partnership aims to facilitate easier access to finance for customers intending to procure construction and mining equipment manufactured and marketed by HD Construction Equipment India Pvt. Ltd. Backed by the company's established dealer



and service network, the arrangement will offer added convenience through customised finance for machines used in road construction, quarrying, warehousing, mining, and large-scale infrastructure projects, especially in

J&K. In a simple but impressive function presided over by General Manager (Retail, Agriculture & MSME) Rakesh Magotra here at the Bank's CHQ, Deputy General Manager (RAM) Arjun Singh Rathore signed the ► P11