

SHORT TAKES
TWO JAWANS KILLED, 1 HURT IN NAXAL ATTACKS

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 24

In three separate incidents on Wednesday, Maoists killed two jawans and injured another in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Narayanpur.

According to Bastar range inspector general of police P. Sunderraj, a jawan of district reserve group (DRG), identified as Kaner Usendi, was killed in an encounter with Maoists in the forested village of Kukur under Sonepur police station at around 10 am.

In another incident, a jawan of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), L. Balchandra, was killed in a pipe bomb explosion, triggered by Maoists, near a bridge around one km from Sonepur at around 11 am.

Similarly, a jawan of Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF), identified as Bankeswar Paikra, was injured when he stepped on an IED, planted by Maoists at Karel Ghati under Kukrajhar police station.

He was airlifted to Raipur for treatment. His condition was stated to be stable.

Scenes in Kashmir reminiscent of early '90s

Securitymen abruptly and unexpectedly set up makeshift checkpoints and conduct random searches

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, FEB. 24

Security across Jammu and Kashmir has been stepped up exceptionally with local cops and members of Central armed police forces conducting surprise cordon-and-search and frisking operations in cities and towns particularly summer capital Srinagar at intervals. The Army is also launching sensitisation and area domination operations in select Valley areas quietly.

The scenes witnessed particularly in some crowded areas of the Valley's main town including at and around historic Lal Chowk over the past few days are reminiscent of the early 1990s when the Kashmiri separatist campaign was at its peak. The adequately equipped uniformed men, abruptly and unexpectedly arrive in an area, choose a location, set up makeshift checkpoints and roadblocks and conduct random searches which include frisking of pedestrians after making them wait in lines. They also stop vehicles and then subject passengers to body search and check their



Security personnel check identity card of a youth during a search operation at Kawdara in downtown of Srinagar on Wednesday.

— PTI

evoked sharp criticism by political activities and netizens. Counter-militancy strategists and policing experts also disagree with such actions and call for tactical changes towards dealing with the emerging situation by the security forces effectively. Former Director General of Police, Shesh Paul Vaid, said, "In 1990s also several incidents took place wherein militants used weapons hidden beneath their pheran to target security forces yet the garment was not banned. I don't think banning a particular dress is a solution."

He added, "Pheran and Kangri (traditional firepot) are part and parcel of the Kashmiri culture and lifestyle rather centuries' old wisdom to beat the biting cold in winters. As said, banning pheran is not the way out. The solution is, be alert, stop the person you suspect, subject him to frisking and if you find him hiding an illegal weapon beneath his garment take action as per law. That is what we would do during the heyday of militancy to minimise such gory acts".

2 militants killed in Anantnag

DC CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, FEB. 24

about the presence of four militants including an IED 'expert'.

Initial reports quoting unnamed local police officials had said that all the four militants have been killed but later the police officially clarified that only two of them have been "neutralised" and that the operation was still underway. Local sources said that the Army also used a helicopter and drones for the surveillance of the area during the operation.

A statement issued by the police here said when, during the jointly launched cordon-and-search operation, the presence of militants was established they were given an opportunity to surrender.

"However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter."

Didi: Modi is the biggest rioter'

RAJIB CHOWDHURY | DC KOLKATA, FEB. 24

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday branded Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the "biggest rioter" of the world who is waiting to face even a "worse fate" than that of former US president Donald Trump. The Trinamul Congress supremo cast aspersions on Mr Modi at her party rally on Dunlop Ground at Chinsurah in Hooghly to counter his attack on her at a BJP rally on the same venue only two days ago.

"Mr Modi is the biggest rioter, liar, cheat and the most vindictive. There is no parallel of him in the whole world. You saw what happened to Mr Trump. But Mr Modi went to ensure his victory. How could he dare to do that when he himself does not have any capability? His fate will be even worse than Trump. Violence never gifts anything good," she said.

Without taking the names of Mr Modi and his deputy Amit Shah, Ms Banerjee also taunted them in Bengali. She mocked that only two leaders Kimb-hootki-makar (grotesque) and Hodolkootkoot (pot believed man) have been calling all the shots in the country.

"There are only two leaders in the country. One of them is Hodolkootkoot. I do not what it is called in English or Hindi because it is a typical Bengali

classical word. Another leader is Kimbhootki-makar," she claimed.

A wise BJP IT cell in charge Amit Malviya later attributed her jibe to the PM and the union home minister respectively. "Sensing an inevitable saffron surge across West Bengal, Pishi is clearly jittery and resorting to name calling, something culturally evolved people of WB had never witnessed in public discourse," he tweeted.

A day after the Central Bureau of Investigation grilled her MP nephew Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rujira Banerjee Narula at her home for her suspected link to overseas financial transactions in the high profile coal smuggling case, Ms Banerjee also asked the PM, "How can you, after entering my house, call a Bachcha Meye of 22-23 years who is also Ghorer Bou a coal thief when you are roaming with coal thieves in your lap? Don't you feel ashamed of yourself to call our daughters and sisters at home coal thieves? You have dirt all over you."

Film producer Raj Chakraborty, actress Shayomi Ghosh, actor Kanchan Chakraborty and cricketer Manoj Tiwari joined the TMC in front of Ms Banerjee at the rally. Later the CM urged the PM to help her government to purchase the vaccines from designated points on top priority basis and offer them to the common people as part of a rapid drive in the poll-bound state.

President's Rule imposed in Puducherry

DC CORRESPONDENT PUDUCHERRY, FEB. 24

With the Union Cabinet approving of the proposal to impose President's Rule in Puducherry, days after a Congress-led government in the union territory lost power during a vote of confidence, polls seem imminent.

Announcing the Cabinet decision in New Delhi, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar had told reporters that the decision was taken as no party was coming forward to stake a claim to form the government in the UT.

He also noted that the model code of conduct was expected to come into effect soon after the Election Commission announces the dates for elections in the UT, along with the four states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and West Bengal.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Physical nature is known to be endlessly mutable. The universe is the cosmic form of the Supreme Lord, and I am that Lord represented as the Supersoul, dwelling in the heart of every embodied being.

- Bhagavad Gita Chapter 8, Verse 4 -



Smt. Tikkavarapu Urmila Chandrasekhar Reddy

W/o Late Shri. Tikkavarapu Chandrasekhar Reddy

18/03/1936 – 25/02/2016

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