

CRPF relieves two top officers for 'failure of command' in Sukma attack

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PUBLISHED: 03:12 BST, 19 December 2014 | UPDATED: 03:12 BST, 19 December 2014

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Two leading officers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have been relieved from command over the December 1 Maoist ambush in Chhattisgarh's Sukma where 14 security personnel were killed.

Reports have confirmed that there were poor fighting efforts and a command-and-control failure on the part of the security force commanders at the time of the ambush.

However, the decision to act against the officers has raised many eyebrows.



CRPF Officials, Jawans and local people carrying the body of CRPF jawan Muhammad Shafi Bhat who was killed in a Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district. Fourteen force personnel were killed in the ambush

It has also been hinted that the Court of Inquiry (CoI) presided over by a DIG will not be able to scrutinise the role of the Inspector General (IG) of the force who was leading the operations on the field.

Officers relieved

In an order dated December 11, the CRPF HQs "attached" the Commanding Officer (CO) 223 General Duty Battalion, to which all the men who perished belonged, along with a Deputy Commandant who was the officer leading 206 CoBRA battalion - a specialised force.

The order has sought the respective formations to relieve these officers immediately.

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"They will not be given any task and will remain attached with their zonal headquarters in Kolkata," it was learnt.

When asked, CRPF Director General R.C. Tayal said: "While there was a failure of command and control in the case of 223 Battalion and the commanding officer (CO) was not around, in the case of CoBRA battalion we observed that they failed to act and could not prevent the looting of arms despite not being too far from the embattled troops of 223 Battalion."

According to Tayal, these actions emanated from the initial findings.

"Nobody is off the hook yet, including Inspector General H.S. Sidhu who was leading the operations on the ground. I am personally looking into the case," Tayal added.

However, this move has not gone down well with the force.

An officer aware of the entire operation said: "The CO of 223 Battalion had been called by the IG for a meeting when the Maoists began firing.

"He took time to reach the location as the meet was some distance away and had to make his way back while the firing was on."

Hit by bullets

The CO of 223 Battalion, who was leading 90 men from his battalion, was unharmed while his deputy commandant and assistant commandant fell to the Maoist bullets with 12 other men.

In the case of the deputy commandant, his party with specialised weapons claimed they had participated and even rescued some of the injured.

The Court of Inquiry looking into the episode is presided over by DIG Sanjay Kumar who is stationed at Raipur and is administratively under the IG in this case.

"Can you expect the DIG to scrutinise his boss? The IG was personally leading the operations on ground.

"So like others, his actions also need to be scrutinised. With this move, no fault whatsoever of the IG will be found," said a CRPF officer.

Retired additional director general of CRPF D.C. Dey agreed.

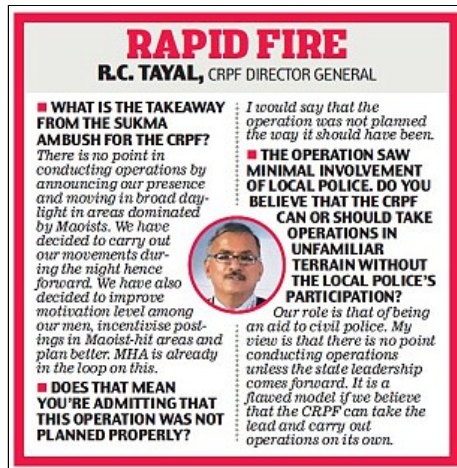
"Someone from outside should have been assigned this task," he said.

Former director general of Border Security Force (BSF) Prakash Singh said: "The force headquarters needs to step in.

"I understand that the IG was on the field and he may not have anything to hide but a senior officer who could have examined the IG's role too."

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Radio personality decided to nix the event

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Meghan's pregnant: 'Delighted' Queen

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Tarek posted a photo to his Instagram

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Going solo

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Friction

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On set

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Christian Carino as she
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Cute couple

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pushes a covered baby
stroller as the actress
arrives on set of her
new action film Eve in
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Filming begins

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Miley spent 20 minutes buying cotton onesies

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Owen welcomed Lyla into the world last week

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Sweet snap

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Khloe's daughter turned six months old last week

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Another hysterical moment

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Made remarks during nightclub gig in London

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▶ The songstress wowed in a white sweater dress

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Walk on the wild side

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She jokingly gave him two lines in her song

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The happy couple began dating about a year ago

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► **Jonathan Cheban of KUWTK leaves Nobu in Malibu where he met up with Kendall and Caitlyn Jenner... after debuting on TOWIE**

► **Khloe Kardashian says she's Middle Eastern and Native American while Kendall claims 'I'm so white' after DNA test on KUWTK**

► **Fit and fabulous! Home and Away star Ada Nicodemou, 41, parades her washboard abs in a tiny bikini and denim shorts
Tanned and toned**

**Made In Chelsea
EXCLUSIVE: Binky**

► **Felstead will RETURN to the E4 reality show for first time in over a YEAR**

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► **Blanca Blanco shows off her figure as she slips into a very plunging bodycon dress as she hits Los Angeles party in style**
Looking good

► **Rami Malek says accepting the role of Freddie Mercury in Bohemian Rhapsody biopic was a 'gun-to-the-head moment'**

► **Mutya Buena claims daughter Thalia-Maya is 'hard to please' as she admits difficulty finding love as a single mum following Celebs Go Dating debut**

► **Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood and professional dancers 'left FURIOUS over Katya Jones and Seann Walsh being saved'**

► **Shakira defends stage stalker as they take a selfie during El Dorado World Tour in Mexico City... seven years after he interrupted her Tijuana show**

► **Kendall Jenner makes a bold statement in metallic gold jacket as she enjoys casual night out**
Kendall was making a bold statement

► **Cardi B flaunts ample bust in VERY plunging jumpsuit on date night with husband Offset just weeks after venting about her post-baby cleavage**

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