

J-K: 2 terrorists killed, 5 security personnel injured in encounter

PTI, JAMMU: A fierce gun battle in a remote forested area of Kathua district has left two terrorists dead and five security personnel injured as the security forces intensified their operation to neutralise an infiltrating group of about five militants, officials said on Thursday.

It was not immediately clear whether it was the same group that had been evading an earlier cordon in Sanyal forest of Kathua region or another batch of freshly infiltrated terrorists.

The encounter triggered intense firing and explosions, the officials said.

The gunfight, centred near Jakhole village in the Ghati Juthana area of Rajbagh, involved a group of approximately five terrorists and an initial exchange of gunfire resulted in injuries to Special Police Officer Bharat Chalotra, who sustained facial wounds.

He was treated at a Kathua hospital before being transferred to Government Medical College Hos-



Security personnel near the site of an encounter which broke out between terrorists and security forces in Kathua, on Thursday

Kathua district on Sunday evening.

Despite a massive search operation, the terrorists managed to escape the initial cordon, the officials said, adding it is assumed that

explosions.

Earlier, a group of terrorists was intercepted on Sunday evening within a 'dhok', a local term for an enclosure in a nursery, in Sanyal vil-

lage near the International Border with Pakistan.

A subsequent massive search operation, involving the police, army, NSG, BSF, and CRPF, utilised advanced technical and surveillance equipment, including helicopters, UAVs, drones, bulletproof vehicles, and sniffer dogs.

The search teams discovered evidence on Monday, including four loaded magazines of M4 carbine, two grenades, a bulletproof jacket, sleeping bags, tracksuits, food packets, and materials for constructing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) near the Hiranagar encounter site.

Police believe the terrorists infiltrated on Saturday, possibly via a ravine route or a newly constructed tunnel from across the border.

Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, and Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, have been overseeing the anti-terrorist operation from Kathua for the past four days, the officials said.

HC nod to dispose of Union Carbide waste

PTI, JABALPUR: The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Thursday allowed the state government to dispose of the chemical waste from the defunct Union Carbide factory in Bhopal at a Pithampur plant after it was told that a trial incineration did not cause any adverse consequences.

The four-decade-old hazardous waste shall be disposed of in a safe manner at the plant in Dhar district within 72 days, said a division bench of Chief Justice S K Kait and Justice Vivek Jain.

The government had asked for 72 days to complete the process.

Some local organisations in Pithampur were opposed to the disposal of the waste near the town, but the government, in its affidavit filed before the court on Thursday, said the three trials of disposal were successful and did not lead to any adverse impact.

4 special needs children die at Lucknow rehab

16 others hospitalised; food poisoning suspected



Children from a government rehabilitation centre being treated at Lok Bandhu Raj Narayan Combined Hospital, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on Thursday

PTI, LUCKNOW: Four special needs children died and at least 16 were taken ill, allegedly after they had their dinner at a government rehabilitation centre in the state capital's Para area, officials said.

On Tuesday evening, more than 20 special needs children residing at the centre fell ill, possibly due to food poisoning, and were taken to Lok Bandhu hospital.

Lucknow District Magistrate Vishak G told PTI, "A total of four children including two girls and two boys of the shelter home aged between 12 and 17 years of age have died. Their bodies have been sent for post-mortem and their viscera will be preserved."

Dr Rajeev Kumar Dixit, Medical Superintendent of Lok Bandhu Raj Narayan Combined Hospital, told PTI Videos that around 20 children were brought to the hospital Tuesday evening from the rehabilitation centre.

"All these children are mentally challenged. They were severely dehydrated when they arrived. Despite our best efforts, two children died," he said.

Two more critically-ill children, who were referred to another government hospital, succumbed, he said. The condition of 16 others has improved, he added.

A medical team has been sent to the shelter home to observe the health of the remaining children.

"Around seven children were under medical observation at the shelter home. The health department team deputed at the shelter home is keeping an eye on the children there," the DM said.

He has formed a committee to determine the cause of the alleged food poisoning. Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Brajesh Pathak visited Lokbandhu Hospital on Thursday to meet the children.

Telangana Assembly adopts resolution opposing delimitation based on population

PTI, HYDERABAD: The Telangana Assembly on Thursday adopted a resolution stating that population should not be the sole criterion for the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claiming that such a measure could result in a six percent drop in the representation of southern states in Lok Sabha seats.

While moving the resolution, Reddy said if delimitation were based solely on population, the representation of southern states in Lok Sabha seats could decrease from 24% to 19%.

Without directly naming the BJP, he accused the party in pow-

er at the Centre of attempting to marginalise southern states in the formation of the central government by reducing their representation in Lok Sabha.

He urged the political parties in Telangana to unite and appeal to the Centre to protect the state's interests. "If the Centre is on the same page (to our cause) fine, otherwise, we need to build a struggle," he said.

Revanth Reddy appealed to the CMs of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka to attend the meeting of political parties and people's organisations to be organised by his government soon on delimitation.

He asked the participants of the

"If the Centre is on the same page (to our cause) fine, otherwise, we need to build a struggle"

— A Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister, Telangana

meeting to unite and work together to resolve the issues with the Centre.

Referring to the comments from some Union ministers that the Centre had not yet addressed the delimitation issue, he clarified that this was only partially true.

While the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014 called for an increase in constituencies in Andhra and Telangana, the Centre had stated it would take up the delimitation of constituencies only after the 2026 Census, he said.

However, the CM pointed out that the union government had carried out delimitation of constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim based on population.

Reddy further alleged that Telangana and other southern states are not receiving funds from the Centre in proportion to the taxes they contribute, while states like Bihar and UP receive more than their fair share. The resolution emphasised that states which have effectively implemented the Centre's population control programme, resulting in a decrease in

their population share, should not be penalised. Therefore, it said population should not be the sole criterion for delimitation.

"It is to be noted that the purpose and intent behind the 42nd, 84th and 87th Constitutional amendments aimed at national population stabilisation are yet to be achieved," it said.

Hence, while continuing with the freeze on the number of parliamentary seats, taking state as a unit, redrawing the boundaries of the constituencies can be taken up, duly augmenting the SC and ST seats as per latest population and also providing reservation for women, it added.

voice of business

Trump places 25% tariff on imported autos, expecting to raise \$100 b in tax revenues

AP, WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said he was placing 25% tariffs on auto imports, a move the White House claims would foster domestic manufacturing but could also put a financial squeeze on automakers that depend on global supply chains.

"This will continue to spur growth," Trump told reporters Wednesday. "We'll effectively be charging a 25% tariff."

The tariffs, which the White House expects to raise USD 100 billion in revenue annually, could be complicated as even US automakers source their components from around the world.

The tax hike starting in April means automakers could face higher costs and lower sales, though Trump argues that the tariffs will lead to more factories opening in the United States and the end of what he judges to be a "ridiculous" supply chain in which auto parts and finished vehicles are manufactured across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

To underscore his seriousness about the tariffs directive he signed,

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Trump said, "This is permanent."

The US president reiterated his willingness to challenge allies by saying Thursday on social media that if the European Union coordinated with Canada, tariffs "far larger than currently planned" would be placed on them in retaliation.

Shares in General Motors tumbled roughly 5% in Thursday morning trading, Ford's stock fell 2%. Shares in Stellantis, the owner of Jeep and Chrysler, dropped 1%. But the stock prices of electric vehicle makers Tesla and Rivian were up.

The American Automotive Policy Council, which represents domestic automakers, said in a statement that "it is critical that tariffs are implemented in a way that avoids raising prices for consumers and

that preserves the competitiveness of the integrated North American automotive sector."

Trump has long said that tariffs against auto imports would be a defining policy of his presidency, betting that the costs created by the taxes would cause more production to relocate to the United States while helping narrow the budget deficit.

But US and foreign automakers have plants around the world to accommodate global sales while maintaining competitive prices — and it could take years for companies to design, build and open the new factories that Trump is promising.

"We're looking at much higher vehicle prices," said economist

Mary Lovely, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "We're going to see reduced choice. ... These kinds of taxes fall more heavily on the middle and working class."

She said more households will be priced out of the new car market — where prices already average about USD 49,000 — and will have to hang on to aging vehicles.

The tariffs on autos would start being collected on April 3, Trump said. If the taxes are fully passed onto consumers, the average auto price on an imported vehicle could jump by \$12,500, a sum that could feed into overall inflation. Trump was voted back into the White House last year because voters believed he could bring down prices.

Foreign leaders were quick to criticise the tariffs, a sign that Trump could be intensifying a broader trade war that could damage growth worldwide.

"This is a very direct attack," Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said. "We will defend our workers. We will defend our companies. We will defend our country."

Par panel flags 'non-contribution' by pvt sector employers in employees' fund

PTI, NEW DELHI: A Parliamentary Committee on Thursday pointed out non-payment of contribution by private sector employers towards their employees' provident fund and asked the government to take up the matter with EPFO in case any such grievances are received.

The observation was recorded by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 146th report, tabled in Parliament on Thursday, on the Demands for Grants (2025-26) pertaining to the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Department of Pension &

Pensioners' Welfare.

"It has come to the notice of the Committee, that in the form of public grievances a large number of employees who work in private sector where funds are under the watch of EPFO, the employer do not pay their share of contribution and even sometimes do not even pay the employees' contribution as well," the report said.

The panel said some of the private sector organisations have made trusts, and deposit their and their employees' contribution in that trusts.

"The money is also not paid to the employees. The hard-earned money of employees which have been mandatorily deducted and

employer's share is not credited to the employee's EPFO account. In such instance when any grievance of such type is received by the Department, the Committee feels that it should take up with EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation)," reads the report.

The Committee appreciated the 10-step CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System) reforms process that was adopted by DARPG for improving the quality of grievance disposal and reducing the time lines.

The CPGRAMS allows citizens to raise grievances against government departments.

CLASSIFIED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

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Wanted Female Assistant with Computer knowledge for General Motor insurance at Chinchinim, Goa. Office duties, good communication. Contact: Celia 9764014268

Required Personal Assistant female age 24 - 35 Konkani English languages to be known WhatsApp resume 6309462223

Swimming Pool Maintenance Assistants (Male) 5 nos required for North Goa. Two wheeler lice, age 20-40. Training provided. salary 18000-20000 monthly, call: 7972664224, 9921903258

1). Urgently wanted senior accountant With 5-6 years experience Proficient in accounting software (In Mapusa. 2). Store helper Freshers can apply, Should have basic computer knowledge and Should have a bike licence in Mapusa. 3). 2 Service staff for Panjim, good communication skills, basic coffee knowledge. 4). Pastry commi 1 and Continental commi 1 for Panjim Contact 93731 63252creamchoc.gelato@gmail.com

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Caro Classic, Gogol requires Sales Staff (M/F) (2Nos) & Accounts Assistant having one year experience for a New Garment Store. Call: 9422444874

Wanted urgently Dishwashers and Waiters (Male /Female) for Furtado Beach Restaurant, Sernabatim, South Goa. 6 kms from Margao Railway Station. Food and accommodation provided. Call: 9604251535

Urgently required front counter sales staff ,expected remuneration is Rs.15,000/- to Rs.25,000/-based on experience. Kindly send resume on 8888346619.

Wanted a nurse at Verna clinic in Verna industrial Estate, preferably from in & around Verna. Whats app your cv on 9822736006

Urgently Required Electrician & AC Technician at Baywatch Resort, Sernabatim At least 1 years Hotel Industry Attractive Salary+ Benefits Contact 9209004362 /7030901619

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Wanted dynamic, English speaking, Female Sales Executives/ Interns for high-end fashion boutique, from in and around Assagao/Mapusa/ Siolim/Anjuna. Prior sales/ admin experience preferable. Shift timings 10am-7pm/ flexible. Tuesdays Closed. Whatsapp: 9823805897

Wanted Female/ Male Restaurant Cashier Admin Executive, for contemporary restaurant in Assagao. Accommodation and food available. Dynamic, English Speaking, for Day Shift 10am to 7pm. Good salary. Previous experience in similar field necessary. Whatsapp 9823805897 with CV, photo, aadhar card.

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Wanted Waiter & Cook for Bar n Restaurant in South Goa, Food & accommodation provided. Kindly contact 9309585128.

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We buy all Car's & Bike's. Maruti, Toyota, Hyundai, Honda (Vintage Car's) etc, even accidental and scrap car's. Spot payment-8381027157

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businessday

I-T dept offices to remain open on March 29-31

NEW DELHI: Income tax department offices across the country will remain open on March 29 to March 31 to facilitate taxpayers in completing pending tax-related business for the fiscal year. The ongoing financial year 2024-25 ends on March 31. The Income tax department offices across the country will remain open despite the weekend and Eid-al-Fitr which may fall on Monday. In an order, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said "to facilitate completion of pending departmental work, all the Income Tax Offices throughout India shall remain open on 29th, 30th and 31st March, 2025."

currency		bullion	
US Dollar	85.68	Silver (Rs/Kg)	1,01,399
British Pound	111.00	Gold (Rs/10gm)	88,445
Euro	92.49	markets	
Russian Ruble	1.01	Sensex	77606.43
Kuwaiti Dinar	277.88	Nifty	23591.95
Bahraini Dinar	227.95		
Qatari Riyal	23.54		
Emirati Dirham	23.33		
Omani Rial	222.63		