

Anti-Naxal operation along Chhattisgarh-Telangana border enters fifth day

PTI, RAIPUR: A massive operation against Naxalites involving about 10,000 security personnel along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border continued for the fifth day on Friday, with the Maoists reportedly issuing a statement in which they called for halting the exercise and holding "peace talks".

The statement by Maoists being circulated on social media also says that despite the possibility of solving the problem through peace talks, the government was using repression and violence.

It is believed that some 500 cadres of the banned CPI (Maoist), including top leaders, are holed up in the area, and Telangana Police are assisting in the exercise, said the official who

is monitoring the action on the ground.

The operation, one of biggest counter-insurgency actions launched in the Bastar region, involves personnel of different units including the District Reserve Guard, Bastar Fighters and Special Task Force of the Chhattisgarh police, the Central Reserve Police Force and its elite Commando Battalions for Resolute Action (Co-BRA).

On Thursday, three women Naxalites were killed on Karregutta hills, and a huge cache of weapons, explosives and other materials was recovered.

The operation was launched on Monday in the densely forested hills of Karregutta and Durgamgutta along the inter-state border. Parts of the area

fall in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, over 450 km away from state capital Raipur.

It is believed to be the base of the PLGA (People's Liberation Guerilla Army) battalion No. 1, the strongest military formation of the Maoists, an official said.

Intelligence inputs suggest more than 500 Naxalites belonging to PLGA battalion No 1, Telangana state committee and Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee of Maoists led by senior Maoists such as Hidma and Damodar are holed up in the area, he said.

"It is a crucial operation because it would be a battle to finish off the military strength of outlawed CPI (Maoists) by targeting PLGA battalion no 1 and the Maoist think tank in Danda-

karanya special zonal committee (DKSZC) and Telangana state committee," the official said.

Though the bodies of three Naxalites were recovered on Thursday, many more might have been killed or seriously injured in the gunfight, he said, adding that the entire area has been cordoned off.

"This operation is like a Test cricket match. It would last long and we would not get very exciting news in every session. But at the end of the match, we are hopeful of a very favourable result," the official said.

All stakeholders of the Centre, Chhattisgarh government and neighbouring states are directly or indirectly involved in this operation, he said.

"So far, all our troops are

safe. No problems except for the hardship of tough terrain and summer heat. But the morale of the troops is high," he said.

Helicopters and drones are being used in the operation, the official added.

As per the sources, some jawans involved in the operation were shifted to a hospital after they suffered dehydration and heat-stroke.

Meanwhile, the purported statement issued by Rupesh, in-charge of North-West sub zonal bureau of CPI (Maoist) on Friday, stated, "Everyone wants the problem to be resolved through peace talks. Our party is always ready for peace talks. Our party's central committee had also issued letters (recently) regarding peace talks."

Heightened security alert prompts joint Indo-Nepal border patrol in UP

PTI, BAHRAICH: Amid heightened security concerns, Indian and Nepalese security forces conducted a joint patrol along the Indo-Nepal international border here on Friday, officials said. The initiative was part of a high alert issued in sensitive border regions to ensure robust security and prevent any cross-border threats, they said. According to police officials, a high alert has been declared along the Indo-Nepal border due to prevailing sensitivity in the area.

In Bahraich district, the police jurisdictions of Rupaiddiha, Motipur, Nawabganj, Sujauli, and Kotwali Murthi share a border with Nepal.

"Joint patrolling and extensive checking were conducted on Friday by local police forces, the Central Paramilitary Force (SSB),

Authorities confirmed that during the operation, special attention was given to sensitive areas along the border. Individuals and vehicles moving through the region were thoroughly checked, and communication was established with residents to encourage reporting of suspicious activities

and senior police officials in coordination with Nepal's Armed Police Force (APF)," said a senior police official.

"This was aimed at strengthening border vigilance and deterring any suspicious activity," the officer said.

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vehicles moving through the region were thoroughly checked, and communication was established with residents to encourage reporting of suspicious activities.

"The police and SSB are fully alert and prepared to act swiftly against any threat," officials assured the public. Residents were urged to remain vigilant and report any anti-social or unusual activity immediately.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural), Durga Prasad Tiwari, Circle Officer of Mhipurwa, Harshita Tiwari, and SSB Assistant Commandant Badal Parihar were present during the intensified checking operation around the Chitalhwa post near the Nepal border in the Mhipurwa region, along with other police officers and personnel.

Congress to organise Save Constitution rallies across Odisha

PTI, BHUBANESWAR: The opposition Congress in Odisha on Friday announced that it would organise 'Samvidhan Bachao' (save the Constitution) rallies across the state from April 28 to May 30. Addressing a press conference, state Congress in-charge Ajay Kumar Lallu said a series of rallies will be organised at the district, division and assembly segment levels to seek "social, political and economic justice".

The state-level 'Samvidhan Bachao' rally will be held in Bhubaneswar on April 28, followed by district-level rallies from May 3 to 10, he said.

The campaign would then move to the assembly level, between May 11 and 17, he added.

Lallu said the final phase will involve door-to-door campaigns from May 20 to 30.

He alleged that as Rahul Gandhi has been demanding a caste census to ensure that the rights of SCs, STs and OBCs are protected,

the Centre has framed him and his mother Sonia Gandhi in the "fabricated" National Herald case to divert people's attention.

"Though the total OBC population of Odisha is 54 per cent, they are getting only 11.25 per cent reservation in government jobs and no reservation in education," he claimed.

"Even though Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan belongs to Odisha and he is an OBC, the OBC students are not getting any reservation in education here," he said.

Lallu said the rallies have been organised to make people aware of "threat to the Constitution" under the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam, who was present at the press conference, slammed the BJP government for not implementing the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996, in the state. PTI

FROM PAGE 1 INDIA VOWS NOT TO ALLOW 'SINGLE DROP OF WATER' INTO PAKISTAN

The sources said the Indian Army effectively responded to the firing and there were no reports of any casualties.

A security review meeting was held in Srinagar during which Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said every perpetrator of the attack must be hunted and made to pay a heavy price for the dastardly act. Chief of Army Staff General Uppendra Dwivedi was among those who attended the meeting.

The LG asked the Army Chief to take effective steps not only to bring those responsible for the Pahalgam attack to justice but also to intensify efforts to crush infrastructure of terrorism and its ecosystem. Sinha posted his comments on X.

Security forces, meanwhile, were on high alert after inputs suggested that terrorists are "actively planning" an attack on vulnerable railway infrastructure, Kashmiri Pandits and non-locals working in the Valley, officials said.

Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting to discuss the future course of action on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960 with Pakistan, which has been kept in abeyance by India following the Tuesday attack.

After the meeting, Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a slew of directives, and that the meeting was held to follow up on them and Shah made several suggestions at the meeting for their effective implementation.

"We will ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan from India," he said in remarks seen as tightening the screws on Pakistan.

Sources said the government is working on a long-term plan to ensure the effective implementation of its decisions.

After Shah's telephonic conversations with the chief ministers, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan held a video conference with the chief secretaries of all the states and asked them to ensure that all Pakistani nationals whose visas were revoked must leave India by the fixed deadline.

The government has revoked 14 categories of visas, including those of business, conference, visitor and pilgrim, given to Pakistani nationals following the terror attack. The multiple deadlines end on April 29.

Special teams of National Investigation Agency (NIA) have also started reaching out to eye-witnesses including tourists who survived the attack carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists.

A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander, Altaf Lali, was killed and two security personnel were injured in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora on Friday. Acting on specific intelligence, the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police launched a joint search operation, which led to a fierce exchange of fire.

Meanwhile, as the massive hunt for the Pahalgam killers were underway in the dense forest near the meadow where the attack took place, officials said the house of two LeT terrorists, including the prime suspect, were destroyed when explosives believed to be stored there went off.

The incidents took place during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, when the residences of Aadil Husain Thokar and Asif Sheikh were being searched by security forces at Guree village in Bijbehara and Tral respectively in south Kashmir, the officials said.

Explosives were believed to have been found at the premises during the search operation, prompting the security forces to evacuate the occupants of the houses as well as neighbours to safety, the officials claimed.

Both the houses were damaged in the explosions, the officials said.

While Thokar, a resident of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, is one of the key accused, Sheikh, a resident of Tral in Pulwama district, is suspected to be involved in the terror plot.

The family members of both men have claimed they are not aware of the whereabouts of Thokar and Sheikh.

Security agencies on Tuesday released the sketches of three of the five to seven men suspected to be involved in the terror attack. They are all Pakistanis, officials said, identifying them as Asif Fauji, Suleman Shah and Abu Talha.

They had code names - Moosa, Yunus and Asif - and were earlier involved in terror-related incidents in Poonch.

As part of the anti-terrorist operation, security forces have mobilised Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), drones and sniffer dogs.

A two-minute silence was also observed at the Friday gathering at the historic Jama Masjid in Srinagar to mourn the Pahalgam killings.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who led the prayers, later described the terror attack as 'beyond belief' and 'totally unacceptable'.

"The killings have pierced our hearts. We heard that these people were first asked about their religious identities and then murdered in front of their families. This is an act beyond belief," the Mirwaiz said in his address to the congregation.

Senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) briefed New Delhi-based envoys of around 45 nations on the Pahalgam attack and its link to cross-border terror-

ism, people familiar with the matter said.

Diplomats from Latin America, Africa and West Asia attended the briefings, the people cited above said.

On Thursday, India briefed senior diplomats of most of the G20 countries and several of its close strategic partners on the terror attack.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan was the 'most unfair document' to the people of the Union territory and they have never been in favour of it.

"Government of India has taken some steps. As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, let's be honest we have never been in favour of the Indus Water Treaty," Abdullah told reporters after a meeting with various tourism, trade and industry bodies in Srinagar.

After reaching Srinagar, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the idea behind the Pahalgam attack was to divide the people of the country and it was imperative that India stood united to defeat terrorism once and for all.

3 PAKISTANIS ORDERED OUT OF GOA AS STATE RAMPES UP SURVEILLANCE

Sawant urged Kashmiri students and businesspersons residing in Goa to register with local police stations for their own security, adding that the government is committed to ensuring their safety while maintaining communal harmony.

On coastal security, the Chief Minister said Goa's 826 fishing trawlers and 1,206 canoes will be placed under stricter checks. Plans are underway to implement biometric identification for crew operating these vessels. Enhanced surveillance will also be enforced at all six landing jetties and 28 boat ramps along the coast.

Weekly markets will also see heightened checks, with visiting migrants required to carry identification at all times. Failure to present valid documentation will result in immediate custody for questioning.

To ensure tighter monitoring of foreign guests, hoteliers and other accommodation providers have been instructed to compulsorily submit Form C - a document notifying the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) about the stay of international visitors.

"The safety of our citizens is non-negotiable. We are acting decisively and swiftly to ensure Goa remains secure and peaceful," Sawant concluded.

ED BUSTS RS 1,600 CRORE LAND GRAB SCAM IN GOA

Additionally, original documents of immovable properties worth more than Rs 600 crore were seized during the search," the statement said.

The searches were based on intelligence inputs and a subsequent financial investigation which, according to the ED, identified Rohan Harmalkar as "a key mastermind, who along with other associates resorted to a large-scale conspiracy to illegally appropriate land belonging to rightful owners through fraudulent means including impersonation, creation of fake documents, tampering with revenue records, etc."

The ED further stated: "It was further unearthed during the search that the proceeds of crime generated were further laundered through various individuals and benami entities and finally invested into real estate, luxury vehicles and other high-value assets. Further investigation is ongoing to trace the money trail, identify other beneficiaries, and the roles of other persons including government officials connected with the process of illegal property transactions."

In 2023, a Special Investigative Team (SIT) probing land grabbing cases had booked Rohan Harmalkar and 13 others for allegedly preparing forged documents, cheating, and grabbing land in Anjuna from the rightful owner. Last year, Harmalkar was also arrested in connection with a cheque bouncing case.

INTERIM STAY WILL BE JUDICIAL LEGISLATION: CENTRE IN SC

In a 1,332-page preliminary counter affidavit, the Centre's Ministry of Minority Affairs referred to the provisions of old waqf laws and said the registration of waqf properties, including the waqf-by-user has been mandatory since 1923.

"If the effect of the section saving only registered 'waqf by user' is interfered with either directly or indirectly by any interim order, it will not only defeat the object and provision itself, it will result in the following anomalies which the order of any court cannot lead to... it will amount to creation of legislative regime by judicial order (and that too an interim order) wherein Parliament has by law, consciously taken it away," it said.

Any interim order will not only cause public mischief but also harm Muslims, it added.

"Despite there being a regime of mandatory registration of all kinds of waqf including 'waqf by user' making registration mandatory almost since a century, i.e., since 1923, individuals or organisations used to claim private lands and government lands as waqf including under 'waqf by user' which not only lead to deprivation of valuable property rights of individual citizens but similarly unauthor-

ised claims over public properties," the Centre argued.

The ministry went on, "Waqf by user provision was also criticised by the stakeholders since it allowed properties belonging to the government to be wrongfully claimed as waqf."

There has been a clear and mandatory legislative regime, which has sought to enforce and implement registration requirements on all kinds of waqfs since at least 1923, it added.

The Centre termed the submissions of petitioners on the issue as "unsustainable and purposefully misleading" as "waqf by user" which are registered would have no impact and continue to operate.

The affidavit said it was not open for anyone to rationally, logically, honestly and statutorily say that we could not get "waqf by user" registered because we did not have waqf deed since it never been requirement for registration of "waqf by user".

The only mandatory requirement for being protected under the proviso is that such "waqf by user" should be registered as on April 8, 2025 since the registration has always been mandatory as per the statute governing waqfs since last 100 years, it added. "Those, who deliberately evaded or avoided to get 'waqf by user' registered (despite non-registration being punitive under the statute) cannot claim the benefits of the proviso," the Centre said.

Therefore, the Centre said, it is "too late in the day for anyone to claim" that though it calls itself a genuine waqf, it is still not registered.

GOVT UNDER FIRE FOR HANDING OVER PUBLIC PROPERTIES TO CASINOS

Sabina Martins, convenor of Bailancho Saad, condemned the government's move to permit excessive FAR in violation of the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Act. "The ODP 2031 clearly marks Quarterdeck as a recreational space and does not allow 300% FAR. It is a flood-prone area. We cannot let public land be sold off for private profit," she stated.

Dr Odette Lobo, another Panjim resident, warned of the irreversible damage to the city's heritage and infrastructure. "There are plans to hand over the old Directorate of Accounts building to set up onshore casinos. Government assets are being mismanaged, and Panjim's charm is being lost. The Smart City works are incomplete, and roads are repeatedly dug up right after being resurfaced," she alleged.

The growing discontent reflects widespread concerns about the unchecked expansion of casino interests at the cost of public welfare and urban planning norms.

RETURNED TO THE LORD



Pedro Francisco Afonso
Marivel - Dona Paula

Son of Late Antonio Afonso and Late Regina Camelo. Husband of Annie Pegado. Father/Father-in-law of Ashley/ Anna Lea, Freena / Shashank. Brother/Brother-in-law of Filomena / Jose, Maria/Agnelo, Ana Rita, Elizabeth/ Paschal, Adv. Omega/ Armando. Uncle of Valencia/Sofan, Ignatius/Nayshir, Velron/ Melisha, Daryl, Carolynne, Anoushka, Presley, Elaine, Avaron. Grand Uncle of Aurelia and Nizanne.

Funeral cortege will leave his residence at Marivel, Dona Paula, on Sunday 27th April 2025 at 3:30 pm for the Eucharistic Celebration at Our Lady of Rosary Church, Caranzalem, followed by burial at St. Michael's Church Cemetery, Taleigao Goa.

Relatives, Neighbours and Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

RETURNED TO THE LORD



MARIA AMASINHA ALVARES
(Angod, Mapusa)

Wife of Albino Alvares.

Mother/ Mother in law of Fr. Paul Alvares OFM Cap., Edward/Teolinda, late Leo/Virginia & Cedric/Verena. Loving Grandmother of Michelle/Adolf, Audrey and Stephanie. Sister/Sister-in-law of Bernadete/late Agnelo Mendonca, late Agnelo/late Joan Mendonca, Fatima/Joaquim Viegas & Jacinta/Merrick D'Silva. Sister-in-law of late Thomas/late Alba Alvares, Philomena/late Alex Castelinho, late Constancio/late Alina Alvares, late Diogo/Bernadette Alvares and Gabriel Alvares.

Funeral cortege will leave from her residence Poonam Co-op. Housing Society on 27.04.2025 Sunday at 3.45 p.m. to St. Jerome Church, Mapusa for Eucharistic celebration followed by burial.

Relatives & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

80th Birthday Remembrance

Diogo Sebastião das Dores Miranda
(Loutolim / Margão)

Died on 31st January 2025

In life we loved you dearly, In death we do the same

There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of Diogo Miranda at 10:00 am on Sunday, 27th April 2025 (TOMORROW) at the Don Bosco Shrine, Fatorda, offered by his sorrowful wife: Lumen Gomes Souza; daughter / son-in-law: Dr. Diana / Camilo do Carmo Pinto; grandsons: Diogo Manuel and Luís Filipe and family.

Relatives and friends, kindly accept this as the only intimation.

Comp. Adv. & Funeral Service, Margão 9823022194

CONDOLENCES



NEVES ANTHONY REBELLO
Founder former President of Chinchinim Citizens Committee and President of Chinchinim Citizens Forum

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

A Tribute of love from: Chinchinim Citizens Forum

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE