

PRESS RELEASE - CRPF

NAXALS NEUTRALISED IN JOINT OPS IN CHHATTISGARH

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A joint operation was conducted involving troops of **CRPF** and State Police of Chhattisgarh on the Bijapur-Dantewada axis. Forces were inducted from Jagargunda and Chintalnar in Dantewada Distt and from Basaguda in Bijapur Distt to raid the naxal stronghold at Silger. This is an area where the forces had never gone before and is a prominent naxal stronghold. The CRPF forces were led by a DIG and two Commandants of CoBRA while the State Police in sufficient strength was led by ASP Sukma.

The naxals were taken by surprise near a village about 03 Kms from Basaguda and started heavy firing on the CRPF troops. The encounter which started at around mid night was followed by heavy gun fire from naxals' side. The CRPF and the State Police forces retaliated and tried to counter the naxal attack in a tactical manner.

In the initial burst of fire which came from naxals, six CRPF personnel sustained serious bullet injuries of whom 02 are still very critical and they have been evacuated to Raipur by helicopter. Two injured naxals who were apprehended from the spot, also been evacuated by same helicopter to Raipur for medical treatment.

The exchange of fire continued for a long time and later on when searches were conducted, **16 dead bodies have been recovered** from this location which also includes that of a female and two prominent naxals of that area identified as Nagesh, r/o Kotaguda and Somulu, r/o Korsaguda.

Some other forces had moved in the same area from another axis namely Chintalnar, were also ambushed by the naxals in the early hours this morning. They, however, countered this ambush very effectively. A fierce gun battle ensued. Detailed searches this morning revealed the bodies of 02 prominent naxals of that area namely, Sodhi Gurla and Malkan Lachha. Factory made weapons, live rounds and IED were also recovered from their possession.

PRO, CRPF.