6 MILITANTS, SOLDIER KILLED IN 2 ENCOUNTERS IN NORTH KASHMIR

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SRINAGAR, May 27: Six militants and an army soldier were killed in two separate encounters in north Kashmir.

Giving details, an army spokesman said that two Hizbul Mujahideen militants were gunned down in a swift operation by security forces at Kunchpura village, near Tangmarg area of Baramulla District. “While in another major success of Army, four unidentified terrorists were eliminated in the forward area of Naugam Sector foiling an infiltration bid,” he added.

The spokesman said that based on information about the presence of militants in Kunchpura village, near Tangmarg, a joint operation was launched by the army and police last night. “As the security forces closed in, the militants hiding in the buildup area opened fire following which a gun battle ensued which continued intermittently resulting in elimination of two militants,” he said.

The slain militants were identified as Mehrajudin Bhat of Pattan, active in the Kunzar area of Baramulla. He was BSc, BEd and joined Hizbul Mujahideen outfit in 2014. The other slain militant was identified as Adil Ahmed Mir from Barat village, near Sopore.

“After being surrounded, several appeals and announcements were made by prominent citizens asking the militants to surrender but they responded every time with intense fire on the security forces. The militants were involved in many incidents. An AK-47 rifle, a pistol with ammunition and other war like stores were recovered so far. The search operation was still in progress at the time of filing this report,” he said.

Reports said that the army blasted the house in which the two militants were hiding

and engaged the security forces in firing. The house was extensively damaged in the blast, triggered by two IEDs. The explosion, according to locals, not only razed the house to ground but it also caused damage to adjacent houses. According to CNS, both the trapped militants were found alive even after the mine blast creating deafening sound.

“Shortly after the mine blasts, a JCB was used to retrieve the bodies of militants from the damaged house. However, the driver of the JCB fled from the spot after spotting both the militants alive in the debris. Security forces in a bid to neutralize both the wounded militants resorted to indiscriminate firing resulting in the death of duo,” reports CNS.

Reports said that a group of youth tried to pelt stones on troopers near the encounter site, however, CRPF chased them away.

The killing of these two militants sparked protest in Palhalan and Pattan area. Reports said large number of people participated in the last rites of these militants. A youth, Rafiq Ahmed Hajam, was electrocuted while on way towards local grave yard when a HT line suddenly fell upon him. He was shifted to Srinagar hospital in a critical condition. Meanwhile, the encounter and subsequent death of these militants disrupted normal life in Kunzar, Tangmarg, Palhalan, Pattan and other adjacent areas of North Kashmir.

The army spokesman said that in another “successful operation an infiltration bid was eliminated when militants attempting infiltration were engaged in the forward area of Naugam Sector.”

According to him four heavily armed militants were eliminated by the troops operating in the area during an 18-hour long operation. “Bodies of these militants were recovered from the site along with four AK-47 Rifles, ammunition and other warlike store,” he said.

The spokesman said that troops deployed in the forward area of Naugam sector observed the movement of a group of militants early yesterday morning. “The counter infiltration grid was reinforced while the militants were kept under constant surveillance till they could be effectively engaged. Braving all odds of extremely harsh weather and difficult terrain the Army troops successfully eliminated four militants and

foiled the infiltration bid. A non-commissioned officer of Rashtriya Rifles, Hangpan Dada, who led his team and brought effective fire on the militants were profusely injured while fighting with indomitable courage during the gun fight. After personally ensuring elimination of three militants while being evacuated to base hospital, the brave heart succumbed to his injuries and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty," he added.

Search of the area was undertaken this morning and four dead bodies along with four AK-47s, ammunition and other warlike stores were recovered. Identity of the militants is yet to be ascertained.

"The army was continuing to search and sanitise both the areas of operation to ensure safety and security of the locals," he said.

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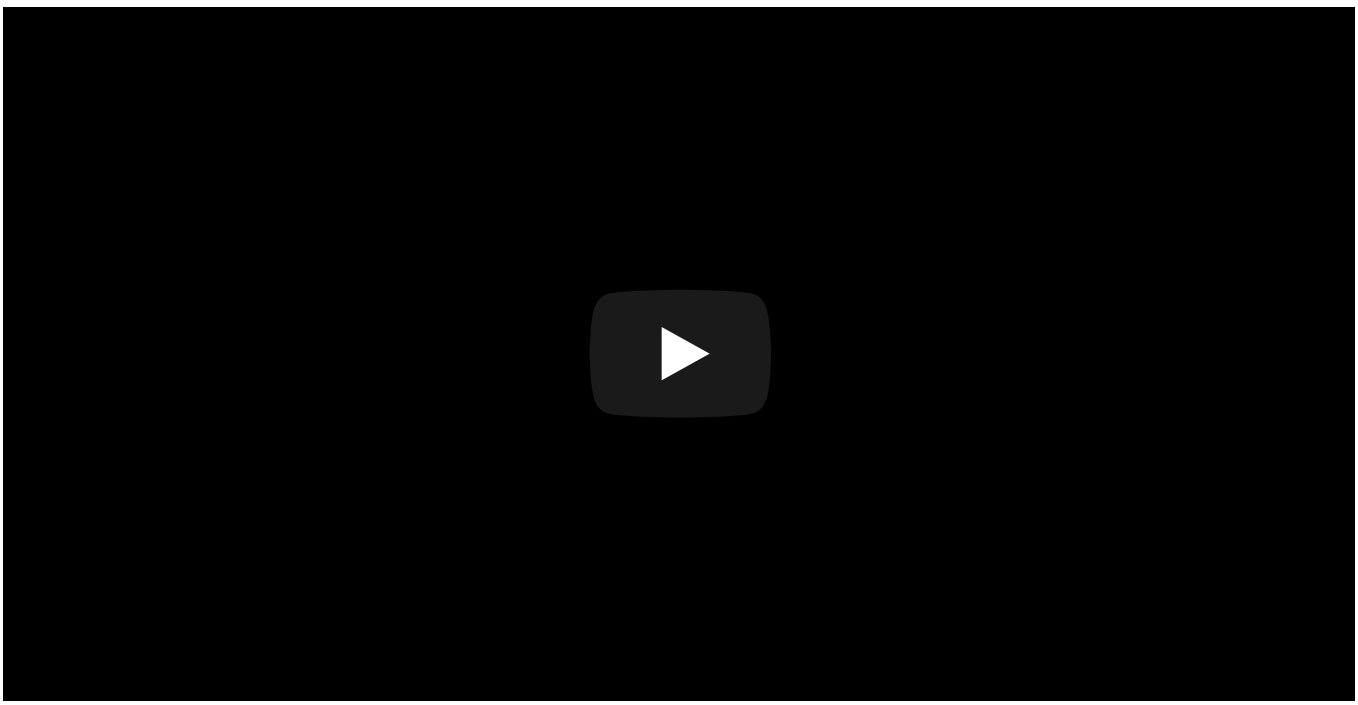

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