

## 15 Naxalites arrested after IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DANTEWADA: Fifteen Naxalites, seven of them women, were arrested following an IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district, police said on Tuesday.

The Naxalites triggered the explosion when the security forces were on a search operation on Sunday, but no one was injured, they said.

The Naxalites were apprehended near Gumalnar village under Geedam police station limits,

Gumalnar and Mustalnar villages, and around 4.30 pm on Sunday, Naxalites triggered an improvised explosive device (IED) blast to target security personnel, she said.

Security personnel were unharmed in the explosion, she said.

After the blast, some suspects were seen trying to escape from the spot, but security personnel chased and rounded up 15 of them, the official said.

During interrogation, they revealed that they were hiding in a forest to target security personnel, Thakur said.

One IED, electric wire, detonator, a steel tiffin box, Maoist pamphlets and literature, Maoist uniform and items of daily use were recovered from their possession, she said.

The arrested Naxalites were produced in court and were remanded in judicial custody, the official added.

its, where a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters, both units of state police, was out on a search operation on Sunday, Dantewada Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Unnati Thakur told reporters.

Most of the arrested cadres were active in frontal outfits of the outlawed CPI (Maoist), she said.

The patrolling team had launched the operation on Saturday in the forest of

## Kerala CM condemns Israeli attacks on Gaza, calls for global protest against 'terror'



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM : Kerala Chief Minister and veteran Marxist leader Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday condemned the continuing Israeli attacks on Gaza and urged anti-imperialist forces and peace lovers around the world to raise their voices against what he termed "terror."

In a Facebook post, Vijayan, citing reports of the recent bombings carried out by Israel on Sunday in refugee camps in Rafah killing 45 people, said the Israeli government's continued imperialist atrocities in Gaza shock the conscience of the world.

"The attack was carried out even after the International Court of Justice ordered an end to the violence in Rafah. About 36,000 people have been killed so far in Israel's atrocities. Huge protests are taking place all over the world against this occupation, which is being supported by American imperialism," he said.

However, Israel pretends not to see all these protests and continues its military offensive, the chief minister said.

"Anti-imperialist forces and peace lovers around the world need to raise their voices against this terror. The people of Gaza must be given the opportunity to return to a natural life," he said.

New moves to oppress the Palestinian people and militarise the region for imperialist occupation interests must be defeated, Vijayan added.

## India announces USD 1 mn for landslide-hit Papua New Guinea



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday announced an immediate financial aid of USD 1 million to provide relief and assistance to people hit by a massive landslide in Papua New Guinea.

A massive landslide hit Enga province of the island nation on May 24 that buried hundreds of people and caused major destruction.

Over 2,000 people were killed in the landslide, according to media reports from that country.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Prime Minister Narendra Modi

expressed deep condolences and conveyed India's readiness to extend all possible support and assistance to the Pacific island country in its time of difficulty.

"As a close friend and partner under the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) and as a gesture of solidarity with the friendly people of Papua New Guinea, the government of India extends an immediate relief assistance of USD 1 million to support relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts," it said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Monday

## TMC govt wasn't adequately prepared for cyclone, people left to fend for themselves: Adhir



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BAHARAMPUR (WB): Alleging that the Mamata Banerjee government was not adequately prepared to handle the aftermath of cyclone Remal, senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Tuesday claimed that the people of the state were left on their own to deal with the natural calamity.

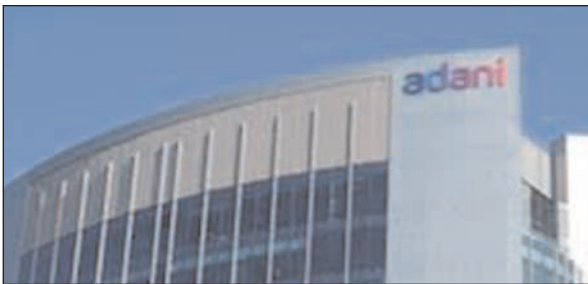
Addressing a press conference in Baharampur in Murshidabad district,

Chowdhury claimed the TMC government was busy with the Lok Sabha elections and did not make adequate preparations to provide help to the affected people.

"The whole of Bengal knows that Mamata Banerjee is always there, except when you need her help," he said.

He alleged the TMC government left the people of the state to fend for themselves in time of need.

Remal made landfall as a



Both the firms secured similar approvals in 2023 but those approvals were set to expire in June, triggering the need for a fresh nod.

In May 2023, the board of Adani Enterprises had approved a fundraise of Rs 12,500 crore via QIPs. That month, Adani Energy Solutions, too, got a board nod for raising Rs 8,500 crore through QIP.

A QIP is, at its core, a way for listed companies to raise capital without having to submit legal paperwork to market regulators.

Raising money from institutions like banks and private equity funds will broaden the two companies' shareholder

count -- one of the key criticisms against the Adani group -- as well as increase their left globally.

It would also result in decrease in promoter Adani family stake in the post-equity capital of the companies.

Adani family holds 72.61 per cent in Adani Enterprises Ltd and 73.22 per cent in Adani Energy Solutions Ltd.

The two firms had not gone ahead with the 2023 board nod to raise funds. The board approvals for fundraising are enabling resolutions so that the companies can act quickly whenever they find the best financing terms. It, however, is not mandatory for them to raise those funds.

## Delhi HC dismisses plea by ex-PFI chairman Abubacker for release in UAPA case



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea by former Popular Front of India (PFI) Chairman E Abubacker seeking his release in the UAPA case being probed by the NIA.

Abubacker, who was arrested by the anti-terror agency during a massive crackdown on the banned organisation in 2022 and is lodged in judicial custody, had approached the high court after he was denied relief by the trial court. He had moved the trial court seeking interim bail on medical grounds. "We hereby dismiss the appeal," said a bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain while pronouncing the verdict.

Abubacker sought his release on both merit as well as medical grounds. According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Popular Front of India (PFI), its officer bearers and members hatched a criminal conspiracy to raise funds for committing acts of terror in various parts of the country and were conducting training camps to indoctrinate and train their cadres for this purpose.

A large number of alleged PFI activists were detained or arrested in several states during the massive raids preceding the nationwide ban on the organisation in September 2022.

In near-simultaneous raids across the country as part of a multi-agency operation spearheaded by the NIA, a large number of PFI activists were detained or arrested in 11 states for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

Abubacker was arrested on September 22, 2022.

The arrests were made in states and Union Territories, including Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Delhi and Rajasthan.

The government banned the PFI and several of its associate organisations on September 28, 2022 for five years under the stringent anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities (prevention) Act (UAPA), accusing them of having links with global terror groups like the ISIS.

In February, the high court had directed the Medical Superintendent of Tihar Jail to ensure "efficacious" treatment to Abubacker for his ailments on a regular basis.

It had also refused to place Abubacker under house arrest and said he would be admitted to a hospital for treatment, if required.

## SpiceJet says claims of KAL Airways, Kalanithi Maran on damages are 'legally untenable'



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In an escalation of the ongoing dispute, SpiceJet on Tuesday said the claims made by KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran for more than Rs 1,323 crore in damages are baseless and legally untenable.

On Monday, KAL Airways and Kalanithi Maran said they will seek more than Rs 1,323 core in damages from SpiceJet and its chief Ajay Singh as well as challenge the recent Delhi High Court order in the ongoing dispute between the two sides.

In a regulatory filing, SpiceJet said it strongly refutes the claims made by KAL Airways and Maran regarding seeking damages of Rs 1,323 crore.

"These assertions are not only legally untenable but also a regurgitation of previously rejected claims by the arbitral tribunal and then the Delhi High

refund Rs 579 crore plus interest to Maran.

The bench allowed the appeals filed by Singh and SpiceJet challenging the single judge's order, passed on July 31, 2023 and remanded the matter back to the court concerned to consider the petitions challenging the arbitral award afresh.

Against this backdrop, Maran and his firm KAL Airways decided to challenge the ruling after consultation with their legal counsel.

The decree holders -- KAL Airways and Maran -- "believe that the aforesaid judgement is deeply flawed and warrants further scrutiny".

"In parallel, they are also seeking damages in excess of Rs 1,323 crore, as determined by FTI Consulting LLP, United Kingdom, a globally renowned firm that specialises in the estimation of losses arising out of breach of contractual

commitments," KAL Airways said in a statement on Monday.

Meanwhile, SpiceJet on Tuesday also said that following the court ruling, it will now pursue a refund of Rs 450 crore.

The case dates back to early 2015, when Singh, who owned the airline earlier, bought it back from Maran after it was grounded for months due to resource crunch.

As part of the agreement, Maran and KAL Airways had claimed to have paid SpiceJet Rs 679 crore for issuing warrants and preference shares.

However, Maran approached the Delhi High Court in 2017, alleging SpiceJet had not issued convertible warrants and preference shares nor returned the money.

On Tuesday, shares of SpiceJet declined 1.68 per cent to Rs 57.29 apiece in afternoon trade on the BSE.

## Dramatics scenes at Delhi airport after bomb scare on Varanasi-bound flight, threat turns out hoax



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: A Varanasi-bound Indigo flight received a bomb threat at the airport here on Tuesday morning but a search of the aircraft found it to be a hoax, officials said.

Dramatic scenes unfolded at the Indira Gandhi International Airport as the 176 passengers onboard the Indigo flight were evacuated via the emergency exits following the bomb threat.

In one of the evacuation videos that went viral on social media, the pilot is seen sliding out of the aircraft using the emergency slides, indicating the tense moments after the threat.

In another video, an elderly passenger is seen coming out through an emergency exit of the aircraft with the help of a crew member.

"At around 5 am, an information was received regarding a paper found in the lavatory of an Indigo flight scheduled to depart for Varanasi, with the phrase "bomb @5.30 am" written

on it," a senior police officer said. A thorough inspection was conducted, the officer said, adding, "No suspicious items were found. It was a hoax threat. Further investigation is underway."

The officials said the threat was found written on a piece of paper in a lavatory by the pilot when the Indigo 6E2211 flight was preparing to leave from the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

A security operation was launched after the pilot informed the control room, they added.

"All necessary protocols

were followed and the aircraft was taken to a remote bay as per guidelines by airport security agencies," an IndiGo spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson said that all passengers were safely evacuated via the emergency exits, adding that an alternate aircraft was arranged later and the passengers were provided with refreshments meanwhile.

"The flight departed for Varanasi at 11.10 am. We regret the inconvenience caused to the passengers," the statement said.

## Sandeshkhali: CBI files charge sheet against suspended TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The CBI has filed a charge sheet against suspended TMC leader Shahjahan Sheikh and six others in connection with the January 5 attack on an Enforcement Directorate team at Sandeshkhali, officials said on Tuesday.

The agency filed its first charge sheet in the case on Monday before a special court, they

said.

The ED team had come under attack from a 1,000-strong mob when they went to raid the house of Sheikh in connection with the multi-crore ration distribution scam in West Bengal.

The team had gone to arrest Sheikh because of his alleged close links with arrested former state food minister Jyoti Priya Mallick under scanner in the scam, they said.

Sandeshkhali, a riverine island around 80 km from Kolkata, has been in the news after local women alleged land-grabbing and sexual abuse by Sheikh and his men, who are involved in fish farming and trading.

The CBI has taken over investigation in three cases related to incidents on January 5, they said.

Sheikh was arrested by the state police on February 29 and the CBI took him under its custody on March 6, they said.