

Hizb attack kills 10 soldiers in Kashmir (India)

Militants attacked an army convoy by triggering a landmine blast at Narbal crossing - 16 km north of Srinagar - on Saturday. At least 10 soldiers died while 17 others were injured in the blast, seven of them critically.

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Defence spokesperson Captain Neha Goyal confirmed the death of nine soldiers and injuries to more than 10. The Hizbul Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Police sources said the militants had planted an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on the main Srinagar-Baramullah highway and set it off at 4.50 p.m. when an army convoy was on its way to Srinagar from Uri. Eyewitnesses and police sources said the army bus carrying 30 soldiers was hit. The bus overturned and rolled over several yards under the impact of the blast, which damaged it completely. Parts of the bus and windowpanes had flown yards away from the site.

A police officer on the spot said at least 27 soldiers were injured. Eight of them died on the spot and two others succumbed to their injuries on the way to the army hospital in Pattan, police sources said. Some of the injured soldiers have been rushed to army's Badami Bagh base hospital in Srinagar, where the condition of seven is reported to be critical.

In separate incidents, the army and BSF engaged two groups of militants, who were infiltrating to this side of the Line of Control in the Kupwara sector. Five militants are reported to have died so far in the ongoing clashes.

Police sources said that troops of 7-PARA and 45-RR have engaged a group of militants, reported to be numbering around 10, at the Gulab Post at Haihama near the LoC. Police sources said that five infiltrators have been killed. They said the infiltrators have been trapped and all escape routes have been plugged.

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