

Maoists blow up police vehicle in West Bengal (India)

Kolkata: Maoist rebels Sunday evening blew up a police jeep carrying five cops, injuring at least two of them, in West Midnapore district of West Bengal.

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State police sources in Kolkata said the Maoists had laid a landmine at Nakrajhora under Belpahari area of the district.

The convoy of senior police officer Ajay Nanda on a combing operation was on its way to Belpahari from Nakrajhora when the incident occurred at around 6 p.m., the sources said.

Maoists in the adjoining districts of West Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura had been laying landmines in recent times. A landmine was detected hours before West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya's visit to the area recently.

The rebels have stepped up their activities in the three districts, and earlier this month they looted a bank in Bankura.

On Feb 8, a fierce gun battle between police and Maoists in the Belpahari forest area had ended with the death of at least two rebels and arrest of two women cadres.

In a late night attack Jan 23, Maoists blew up a forest bungalow under construction at Bandowan in Purulia district.

Earlier on Dec 31 in the district, the Maoists had blown up a police camp and killed Communist Party of India (Marxist) district committee member Rabi Kar and his wife.

The state government is planning to deploy helicopters for aerial vigil on Maoists in the districts where the ultras are carrying out successive operations in the run-up to the coming assembly elections.

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