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## Forest Fire & Landmine Explosions in Jammu and Kashmir | Jammu & Kashmir | 23 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

In **Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district**, a [forest fire](#) along [the Line of Control \(LoC\)](#) triggered the explosion of nearly half a dozen landmines, which were part of an [anti-infiltration obstacle system](#).

### Key Points

- **Explosions Triggered by Forest Fire:**
  - The explosions were triggered by a forest fire that spread to Indian territory in the **Krishna Ghati sector, Mendhar sub-division**.
  - The fire began on the other side of the border before spreading to Indian forward areas.
  - Authorities are **investigating the cause, with speculation** of deliberate attempts from across the border to damage **India's anti-infiltration obstacle system**.
- **Casualties and Control Measures:**
  - No casualties have been reported and efforts to control the flames are actively ongoing.
- **Army Response:**
  - The Indian Army stationed along the LoC is on **high alert to prevent potential infiltration attempts by [terrorists](#)**.

### Line of Control

- The Line of Control (LoC) emerged from the 1948 ceasefire line negotiated by the **United Nations (UN)** after the **Kashmir War**.
- It was designated as the LoC in 1972, following the Shimla Agreement between the two countries.
- LoC is demarcated upto the [Siachen Glacier](#) (Point NJ9842)- the world's highest battlefield.
- LoC is delineated on a map signed by the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of both armies and has the international sanctity of a legal agreement.

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## Investigation into Allegations of “Ill-Treatment” of Civilians | Jammu & Kashmir | 23 Nov 2024

### Why in News?

The Army initiated an investigation into **allegations of “ill-treatment” of civilians** during **search operations for militants in Jammu and Kashmir’s Kishtwar district.**

### Key Points

- **Launch of Operation:**
  - **The Rashtriya Rifles** initiated an operation in the Kishtwar Sector, based on specific intelligence about terrorist movements.
  - The [White Knight Corps](#) confirmed the operation and ongoing monitoring of the terrorist group.
- **Allegations of Civilian Ill-Treatment:**
  - **Allegations surfaced regarding the ill-treatment of four men** from Kuath village, who were reportedly called to an Army camp.
  - Sources suggest the allegations include **accusations of torture in custody.**
- The Army announced an investigation to verify the claims and assured necessary follow-up actions.
- **Past Allegations:**
  - In **December 2023 three civilians were allegedly killed in custody** in connection with a terror attack in Poonch.
  - Following an inquiry, **lapses in personnel conduct were reported**, and the involved Army unit was relocated out of the district.
  - This situation underscores ongoing tensions and challenges in managing [counter-terrorism](#)

[operations](#) while addressing allegations of [human rights violations](#).

## The Rashtriya Rifles

- It is a **counter-insurgency force** in India, **formed in 1990**, to deal with [internal security](#) in the Jammu and Kashmir region.
- They maintain public order by drawing powers from the [Armed Forces \(Jammu and Kashmir\) Special Powers Act, 1990 \(AFSPA\)](#).
- The force operates under **the Ministry of Defence**. The Indian Army describes RR as their "**specialist elite force to combat insurgency**".
- The RR is headquartered at **Northern Command in Udhampur and commanded by an Additional Director General of Rashtriya Rifles (ADG RR)**.

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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/21-02-2022/jammu-&-kashmir/print>

