



Investigation into Allegations of “Ill-Treatment” of Civilians

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)**.

