



## **NIA ARRESTS 2 ACCUSED IN MASSIVE CRACKDOWN ON BANNED PLFI IN 4 STATES**

### **SEIZES INDIAN ARMY UNIFORM, ARMS, AMMUNITION, DIGITAL DEVICES, ETC. IN TERROR FINANCING CASE**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday arrested two accused, and seized an Indian Army uniform, along with arms, ammunition, incriminating devices & documents, cash and jewellery, during raids across four States in a People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) extortion and levy collection case.

The accused and suspects against whom the NIA cracked down today were all cadres and sympathizers of PLFI, a banned terror organization in Jharkhand. They were involved in a conspiracy to carry out violent acts and commit terrorist activities.

A total of 23 locations connected with the banned outfit and the accused were searched across Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and New Delhi as part of the NIA action today. These included 19 locations in Jharkhand (Gumla, Ranchi, Khunti, Simdega, Palamu, & West Singhbhum districts), one location each in Bihar (Patna district) and Madhya Pradesh (Siddhi district), and two locations in New Delhi.

The two persons arrested during the raids were identified as Raman Kumar Sonu @ Sonu Pandit of Bihar and Nivesh Kumar of south-west district of Delhi. Both the accused are named in the FIR registered by NIA in the case (RC-04/2023/NIA-RNC), relating to extortion / levy collection by the leaders, cadres and sympathizers of PLFI in various states of India.

During the searches, two Pistols, live rounds (7.86 mm), Rs. 3,00,000 in cash, incriminating materials, including digital devices (mobile phones, SIM cards, Pen drives, DVR) and documents (diary and a bunch of papers), as well as gold and silver jewellery were seized, in addition to the Indian Army uniform.

NIA had registered the case suo moto on 11th October 2023 under various sections of IPC and UA(P) Act, 1967, following information about financing of terrorist activities through extortion by PLFI cadres.

NIA investigations so far have revealed that cadres of the banned organization were involved in generating funds through extortion from various coal traders, transporters, railway contractors and businessmen in Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. They were also conspiring to commit various terrorist activities, including attacks on the security forces, murder, arson, and use of explosives/IEDs to create terror in the society.

As per the investigations, the PLFI cadres were also involved in other nefarious activities, such as recruitment and procurement of arms and ammunition, apart from collection of levy.

Investigations in the ongoing case have further revealed that the leaders, cadres and sympathizers of PLFI were conspiring to revive and expand the organization in Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and other PLFI affected states.