

Serial bombings crack Assam: over 60 killed, more than 300 injured



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Nanda Kirati Dewan 31 October 2008 17678 views

After a prolonged lull, once again terrorists have capitalized their angers on Thursday in Assam with a biggest ever bombings that left over 50 killed besides hundreds injured.

At least nine blasts have cracked the state in between 11.30 to 12 noon powerful in several places. Despite an elaborate security scenario to avert any untoward incident, serial blasts ripped apart the city areas on Thursday like Fancy Bazar and Ganeshguri, Panbazar while these areas were teeming with people in the busy hours.

Not only that. The tragic blasts were followed by some other blasts in Barpeta, Bongaigain, Barpeta Road and Kokrajhar districts leaving at least 47 people dead . Injured have been shifted to Guwahati Medical College Hospital (GMCH) and Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital (MMCH).

Well placed sources informed this correspondent that the four blasts in Guwahati city occurred simultaneously at Ganeshguri, Kachari DC Court , market hub Fancy Bazaar and educational institution hub Paan Bazaar between 11.30-11.35 am. Of the four bombs, one at the Ganeshguri was planted in a car.

The entire grim scenario has forced the authorities to clamp curfew in the three city areas but towards the evening it was lifted. Schools, colleges and offices were left in disarray while the curfew was clamped. Even the mediamen were not allowed to move to the blast site. Red alert has been sounded across the state while the Kamrup district slipped into the Section 144 CPRC.

The scenario after the blast became grimmer. While screaming of those left injured, wailing by the relatives of those killed in the blast made the scenario more than described, an angry mob was quick to set on fire a police vehicle and a fire tender. As the situation was spanning out of control, a section of these people started attacking media people as well. This has forced police personnel on duty to open fire to disperse the mob.

Panic struck as all phone lines were jammed. The city has a wear and tear look now. Most of the blasts took place in busy marketplaces. Being the festival of Bhai Dooj, the markets were quite crowded which caused more casualties.

Photo: Ranjan K Barua

Nanda Kirati Dewan

Nanda Kumar Dewan is our Senior Journalist covering Community Development & International Relations. He is a Mass Communication & Journalism graduate from Sikkim Manipal University (SMU). He started his journalism career with UB Photos News agency in 2006 as News Photo Caption Editor and Photojournalist. He has been associated with Assam Times since its inception and today is a part of our editorial team.

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