

Expelled MP faces 'trial' by Maoists

Dipankar Bose in Ranchi

Dec. 30. — The expelled RJD MP of Palamau, Mr Manoj Kumar (see photograph), has received messages from Maoists summoning him to a public hearing they would control.

He is among those accused in the MPs' cash-for questions case.

Residents of the district and officials say that if declared guilty he will be sentenced to death. Palamau, hotbed of Naxalite activities in Jharkhand, is waiting for another "major showdown".

Locals say that Maoists would not spare him when he returns to Palamau from New Delhi. An attack by Maoists is not unlikely.

The state Intelligence department is aware of the Maoists' messages to the MP. Posters have been put up and Maoist meetings held for the bribery case to be discussed in detail.

A meeting was held in the Chattarpur area earlier this week with Maoist area commander Ajay Ji describing the

MP as one who had failed to honour the faith people reposed in him.

He demanded exemplary punishment for those people's representatives who accepted bribes, according to a senior state Intelligence officer.

The officer added that a warrant against the expelled MP had been issued by the area commander during the meeting.

The extremist leader also warned the district administration and the police that the Naxalites in Palamau were capable of the sort of "operation jailbreak" recently reported from Jehanabad.

The Maoists have declared that Simdega district will be a "Red zone" in the New Year.

The announcement was jointly made at a meeting close to Simdega town by sub-zonal committee secretary Kartik Ji and commander Pankaj Ji.

This implies that the extremists will run a parallel administration.

The Maoists have threatened the police with dire consequences if they are not allowed to do their job.



Maoist test for police

5/1 2012
Statesman News Service

PURULIA, Dec. 25. — Senior police officers feel that Maoists carried out a mock drill yesterday by placing coiled wires along the route of the chief minister's convoy at Para in Purulia apparently to test police preparedness.

Two coiled wires were found protruding from a heap of boulders on the side of the road at Para last night, hours before Mr B u d d h a d e b Bhattacharjee's convoy was to pass by.

"It may have been a mock drill by the extremists," said a police officer inquiring into the incident.

The route of the chief minister's convoy was not changed and he reached Para today to address a rally of the Krishak Sabha, the peasant's wing of the CPI-M.

While addressing the rally at a place considered a Maoist stronghold, Mr Bhattacharjee held neighbouring Jharkhand responsible for failing to control the extremists.

"Maoists are taking shelter in Jharkhand and as the state government there has failed to curb the activities of the extremists, Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore are having to pay," he said.

However, the chief minister once again kept faith on the "recent success stories" of the state to counter the extremists. He said that the state was now on the path to progress. Even backward Purulia was on the industrial map.

Naxalite attack, page 4

THE STATESMAN

Maoists pledge to raise suicide squad

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Patna/Jehanabad: The possibility of the CPI (Maoist) raising 'suicide squads' has sent shivers down the spine of the Bihar cops.

According to intelligence reports, the celebrations held recently by the Maoists in Nepal —just 20 km from Sheohar district in Bihar—to mark the 25th foundation day of People's Guerrilla Army (PLA) saw 12 PLA members taking an oath to "lay down our lives in the battlefield for the poor".

During the celebrations, the outfit's central committee member Praveen pledged to take their military offensive to "a new height". He also hailed the "vast growth" of the organisation in Bihar. The attack on Jehanabad jail, during which over 200 Maoists were forcibly freed on November 13 midnight, was referred to as a "great achievement", the sources said.

"The motivation level of extremists, specially youth among them, is as high as that of Islamic terrorists. If the Naxalites carry out their threats, it can be as damaging as the fidayeen attack," said an IG-rank official.

If reports originating from the Maoist circles are to be believed, they are planning to launch another attack on government establishments which could be of a far greater intensity than the Jehanabad operation.

The CPI(Maoist), currently active in almost all the blocks of Jehanabad, Arwal and Patna districts, has spurned all the feelers for a dialogue with the government, highly-placed sources said. Jehanabad has in fact emerged as the Naxalite capital of Bihar with three of the top-ranking functionaries of Bihar-Jharkhand regional committee of the outfit—Arvind, Pawar and Ajay Kanu alias Ravi—hailing from the district.

19 DEC 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

NAXALS ■ 'Tamil Tigers had trained our cadre, but we have no links with them now'

No talks with govt, war at higher stage: CPI (Maoist)

J P YADAV

INDO-NEPAL BORDER,
DECEMBER 15

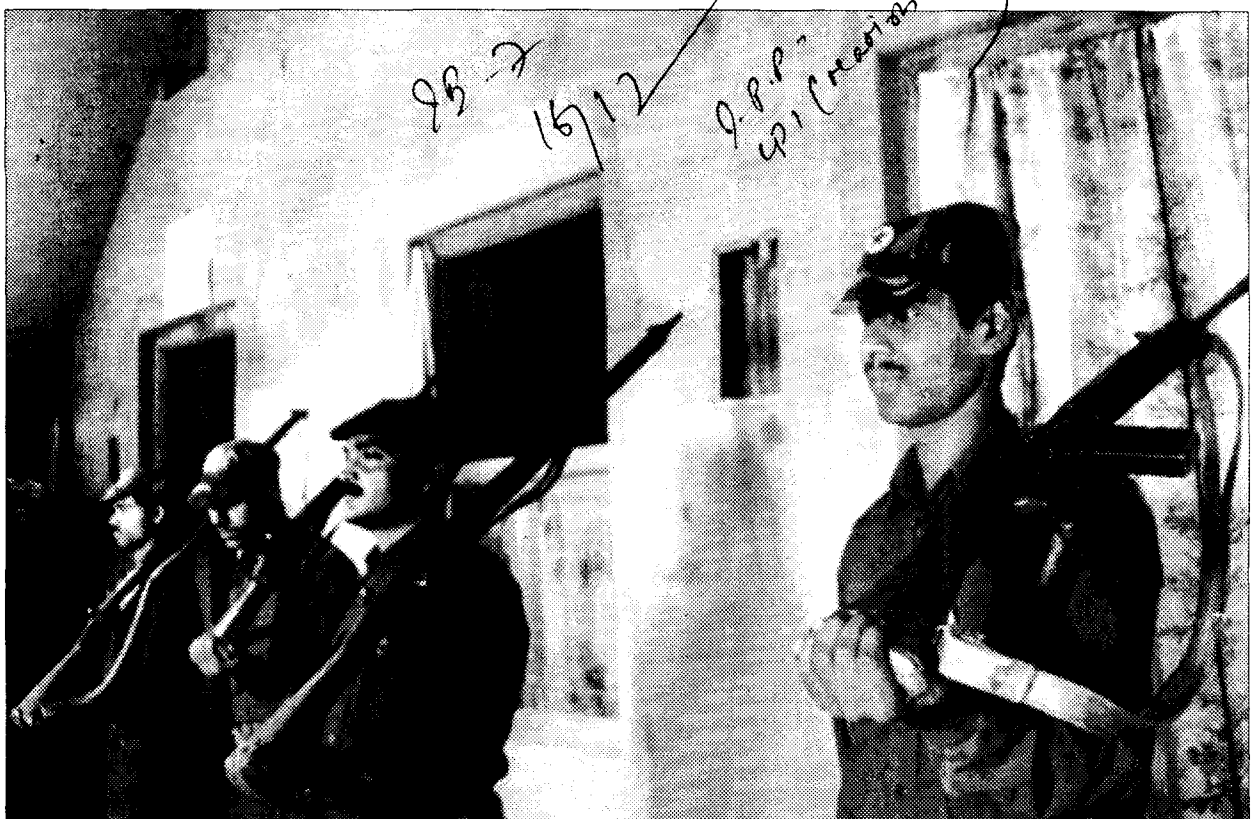
THE CPI(Maoist) has ruled out any kind of negotiation with any state government, saying it would pursue the path of violent retaliation with more vigour. The outfit, for the first time, acknowledged its association with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of Sri Lanka.

The announcement came at a press conference in a Bihar village along the Indo-Nepal border by the banned outfit's central committee spokesman Azad and member Praveen.

Sounding a warning against the multinational companies that have signed MoUs with the Jharkhand government and pledged huge investments, the spokesman said that their outfit would act strongly against them.

"Multinational companies are eyeing to plunder the rich mineral resource of the state. Local people have the right over *jal*, jungle, *zamin* (land) and we will go to any extent to stop its loot by these companies," Azad said, adding the "war" would now be taken to a "higher stage".

This is the first time a top member of the Naxal outfit has talked to the media after the jailbreak in Jehanabad. On the night of November 13, the Maoist outfit had stormed Jehanabad sub-jail to free their imprisoned cadres and



Members of the CPI (Maoist)'s guerrilla outfit stand guard at the venue of the press conference in a Bihar village—Express

killed some members of the Ranvir Sena.

Altogether 14 people, including two Maoist attackers, were killed in the incident. The attack jolted the state government's security set-up and showed the influence of the Naxalites in at least half a dozen states of the country.

On the LTTE, the spokesman said the outfit did not have any link now but the Tigers had initially imparted training to its cadre. On the Nepali Maoists, however, he differed: "We help each other in all ways". But the two outfits have not carried out a

'Multinational companies are eyeing to plunder rich mineral resources of the state. Locals have right over *jal*, jungle, *zamin* and we will go to any extent to stop its loot by these companies'

joint attack in Bihar, he pointed out.

The press conference by leaders of the outlawed outfit is an indication of the intensifying hold of Naxals in north Bihar, particularly along the Indo-Nepal border. The meet was held in a village only a few kilometres from a local police station. Despite the congregation of

more than 100 heavily armed Maoists in the village, the police had no inkling about it.

The guerrilla wing of the outfit—People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA)—was also present in large numbers in the village to ensure the security of their leaders. It was the same group which a day earlier

(Sunday night) had attacked and killed a *Mukhiya* of the Patahi panchayat in East Champaran. *Mukhiya* Jeetendra Singh's throat was slit by a sharp weapon and his vehicles were set on fire.

"Yes, we killed the *Mukhiya* since he was an oppressor. He had murdered poor people and raped their womenfolk. He deserved to be killed brutally and more such *mukhiyas* are on our hitlist," said, Rajan, a subzonal commander of the armed wing.

In the last five years, the Maoists have killed 10 *Mukhiyas* in north Bihar.

RED FOR DANGER

Maoist warning to foreign investors

MAMMEN Matthew
Indo-Nepal border, December 14

THERE IS bad news for big corporate houses venturing into Naxalite-hit states. In a warning to the administration in those states, the extremists have said they would "step up activities" against the transnational companies (TNCs) that are being set up by forcibly displacing people.

Members of the CPI (Maoists) central committee (provisional) — the all-powerful body of the extremist group — on Tuesday said it planned to target the state-backed transnational companies in the mineral rich belts of Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, MP, AP and Maharashtra.

Talking to a select group of reporters in a remote and "secure location", the committee members said they also intended to target police armoury all over to arm the tribals along the Red corridor — from Nepal to down south — to fight displacement.

"TNC interests have triggered state-aided brutal area domination exercises to sanitise tribal-held land so that industries can be set there. We intend to hit back strongly. The Dandakaranya-Vishakhapatnam pipeline is a target," the committee members told HT.

"The counter-strikes could coincide with the silver jubilee celebrations of the People's War in Dandakaranya where the police have resorted to a scorched earth policy to force our supporters to leave."

Asked about the wherewithal, they did not rule out raids on banks — a shift from their policy — if it was needed to replenish the coffers. The option of raising it through "levies" is also open.

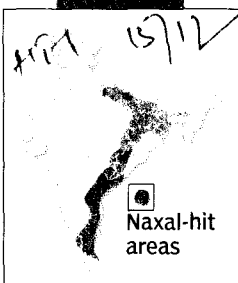
The committee members, who included Pravin (the second-in-command) and Azad, said tribals in Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh fear alienation from their *jal, jungle, jameen* because of the recent MoUs. They said MoUs worth Rs 3 lakh crore had been signed by these states with the Jindals, Tatas, Posco and Essar-Ruia and Reliance among others.

This was an opportunity the Maoists couldn't lose. "We aim to turn this into a Red tornado by converting lakhs of sympathisers into action-oriented squads of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army. The TNC incursion has brought thousands into our ranks," they added.

The Maoists said though several NGOs had voiced concern over the displacement, the state governments were not ready for a re-think. And in areas where the people had raised their voice, they had been brutally suppressed.

Pravin said, "The escalation of violence by Maoists to the next level is needed to tackle state-sponsored violence." He alleged the Chhattisgarh administration was spreading violence through the Salwa Judum (Campaign for Peace) and Jan Jagran Abhiyans in Dandakaranya.

HT
EXCLUSIVE



15 DEC 2005

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“Anti-naxalite operations displace 15,000 villagers in Chhattisgarh”

Government using vigilante groups, charge civil rights organisations

Staff Correspondent

NEW DELHI: A fact-finding team from civil liberties organisations has found that the Salwa Judum, touted as a spontaneous uprising against Maoists in Dantewara district in Chhattisgarh, rather than being a ‘peace mission’, had worsened the violence.

The team alleged that the ‘Salwa Judum’ was actually a ‘State-managed’ vigilante enterprise and its raids had led to many deaths and the displacement of people in the Bhairamgarh, Gerdam and Bijapur areas in Chhattisgarh. The 14-member team

included members of the People’s Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) Chhattisgarh, PUCL Jharkhand, People’s Union of Democratic Rights (PUDR), Delhi, the Association for the Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), West Bengal, and the Indian Association of People’s Lawyers (IAPL).

The team said around 15,000 people from 420 villages were now living as refugees in temporary camps. Repeated raids by Salwa Judum forces, the district security forces and the paramilitary Naga battalion stationed in Dantewara, on villages that refused to participate in Salwa Ju-

dum meetings, had resulted in entire villages being ‘cleared’ and people having to move to ‘camps.’

There is no official record of the number of people killed in the Salwa Judum ‘operations’, but Binayak Sen from PUCL Chhattisgarh said: “These killings are not reported, and therefore hard to corroborate. Some reports suggest that the Salwa Judum has killed 96 people from 34 villages.”

The civil liberties organisations demanded that the government stop using people as shields and desist from creating armed vigilante groups in villag-

es as part of its anti-naxalite operations. Calling upon the State Government and the naxalites to stop killing non-combatants in Chhattisgarh, the organisations said all paramilitary forces in the area be withdrawn, that the authority of the civil administration be restored, and that the government initiate a dialogue with the naxalites.

The organisations demanded a judicial enquiry into the alleged killings by the Salwa Judum and the security forces. They asked the State Government to dismantle ‘camps’ and assist displaced people in regaining their livelihoods.

HD-12
19/12

Warning signals from Jehanabad

The Jehanabad type of raid is significant because the Maoists laid siege to the town with the help of people who are not hardcore cadres.

K. Srinivas Reddy

JEHANABAD MAY be a turning point for the naxalite movement in the country on two counts. For one, the Maoists have proved beyond doubt that they can mobilise civilians in their struggle areas. Secondly, the November 13 raids indicate that the guerrilla war waged by the Maoists has reached a decisive stage — of 'mobile warfare.' Coming as they do after the unification of the naxalite forces barely 14 months ago, the developments are certainly cause for concern.

Leave aside the attacks on security forces, mine blasts, and attacks on police stations, where hardcore rebel fighters are involved. The Jehanabad type of raid is significant because the Maoists laid siege to the town with about 1000 people, only one third of whom could be People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) fighters. Jehanabad was not the lone incident.

The November 11 attack on a Home Guard training centre in Giridh of Bihar also saw more than 300 people participating in the raid that fetched the PLGA 185 rifles and countless numbers of bullets. Or take the case of Madhuban attack, also in Bihar, on June 23. More than 200 Maoists attacked a police station and a block office to loot arms after killing five people. In all these cases, the guerrilla forces were actively assisted by civilians called the People's Militia or the Base Force.

Such incidents involving civilian population may be few for now, but they do point to the capabilities of the Maoist leadership in mobilising the masses and coordinating the movement of assault teams. More such actions can be anticipated. The Central Committee has called for another round of the Tactical Counter Offensive Campaign (TCOC). The success of each raid will strengthen the Maoists and expose the state.

The killings of 24 CRPF personnel in an ambush in the Bastar forests of Chhattisgarh, the gunning down of IPS office K.C. Surendra Babu in Munger of Bihar, seizure of arms in Gadchiroli and Gondia, killing of a sub-inspector in Mahabubnagar, an abortive attempt on the life of Mahesh Chandra Laddah, SP of Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh, the attack on an armed outpost in Sambalpur and near the house of a Minister in Malkangiri of Orissa are part of the TCOC. This campaign the Maoists say is an answer to the 'encirclement-suppression campaigns' launched by the security forces.

Faced with such intensified guerrilla activity, the official line is that such attacks are always repulsed. At most scapegoats are found, like Jehanabad Superintendent of Police Sunil Kumar.

The Jehanabad 'politico-military' raid served three purposes for the Maoist party. It managed to free its State committee leader Ajay Kanu. Secondly, a powerful message was sent to Ranvir Sena activists that the Maoists can attack anyone and anywhere.

Thirdly, the Maoist guerrillas managed to snatch weapons and ammunition. The State Government has not yet conceded losing weapons; the Maoists maintain that hundreds of rifles and thousands of rounds were seized.

More dangerous is employing of the "mobile warfare tactics" in these raids. Mobile warfare is a decisive stage in guerrilla war and if allowed to continue, Maoists will in a short time 'liberate' pockets of influence. Mobile warfare is a stage where the guerrilla force is in a commanding position and the State forces find themselves on the defensive.

The importance of mobile warfare, sometimes called positional warfare in Maoist terminology, can be better gauged if one were to take a macroscopic look at the revolutionary movement. The Maoist presence is felt in almost 125 districts of 13 States.

In some areas, it would be in the 'Organisation' stage, where the revolutionary would only organise partial struggles on local issues and try to mobilise people. Self-Defence is of top priority for the revolutionary and violence is only 'need-based' in such areas. This is the situation in Kerala, parts of Karnataka, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu or Madhya Pradesh. The revolutionary movement is in a nascent stage and, typically, the law enforcement agencies underestimate the impact without realising that the organisation stage soon develops into 'guerrilla warfare' stage.

This stage, according to Maoist strategies, is the one where the revolutionary and the State are on an equal footing and whoever fights will have the areas brought under their domination. In this stage of revolution, 'shoot and scoot' guerrilla attacks are focussed on security forces. By the time the forces react, the small guerrilla bands would have melted into forests. The Government would typically dump forces in these 'critical' areas only to find the guerrilla vanishing. Attacks would then be stepped up in 'non-critical' areas leaving the security forces confused and tired.

As battle fatigue sets in among the security forces, the guerrilla forces would be further emboldened. Then the civilian population, which would have been neutral hitherto, would swing towards the guerrillas and this is where the 'mobile warfare' stage begins.

This is the current scenario that is being witnessed in some pockets under the influence of Maoists.

If this is the field situation in at least 13 States, the response from the Central and State Governments is far from satisfactory. More often, solutions are being tried out on a trial and error basis in the face of area specific strategies employed by the Maoists. Incorrect application of counter strategies, especially when the Maoists know what they are doing, can only spell doom for the democratic institutions and that is what is happening now.

9.8.8 (Maoist)
CRIC (Maoist)
10-11

NSG commandos for anti-naxal operations

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: The Centre is sending two squadrons of the National Security Guards commando force to Patna on Thursday to undertake "specific operations" in naxal-infested areas in Bihar.

The Home Ministry move to send the crack commando force, for the first time to take part in anti-naxalite operations in the State, comes three days after the raid on the Jehanabad district jail and police lines by Maoists who freed more than 300 prisoners, mostly their cadres.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Ashish Kumar Mitra, Special Secretary (Internal Security), said 280

commandos would be stationed in Patna and they would undertake operations only on "specific inputs." To a query, he said there were "specific" intelligence inputs on the movements, hide-outs and cells of naxalites and the NSG, being a strike force, would be involved in tackling them. "There is inflow of information on naxalites but it is not as good as we would like it to be."

The Ministry chalked out a short-term strategy, involving the arrest of those who stormed the jail, recovering the abducted persons to avoid any communal backlash and tracing the escapee prisoners. Two helicopters were stationed in Patna for reconnaissance.

Maoist nightmare

Jehanabad should send out wake-up call

The Bihar administration cannot pretend to be taken by surprise by the ghastly assault at Jehanabad; this newspaper itself has commented extensively, and recently, on the spread of Maoism. Jehanabad is one of the prime centres of excesses committed by both Naxalites and landlord armies, and has claimed many lives. There was no reason to ease security arrangements to concentrate on the third phase of polling. It is well known that Maoists are firmly against the parliamentary system despite one faction having an alliance with the RJD. It is equally shocking that the convergence of hundreds of Maoists for Sunday's jailbreak either went unnoticed by the district authorities or was ignored. Bihar has never been known for a competent intelligence network and the police have been at the receiving end for several years during which arms have been looted and scores killed. Lalu Prasad had his own reasons for ignoring the Naxalite menace and Buta Singh is perhaps too concerned with the Supreme Court verdict on the dissolution of the Bihar assembly to discharge administrative responsibilities during President's Rule.

The security lapse was glaring. The more crucial question is what can be done to spare innocent citizens from the Maoist nightmare. It has been clear they are hellbent on emphasising that the town has been "liberated" with the moral support of those who suffer from a sense of neglect. Operation Jailbreak may serve to underline the fact that even the jail administration at Jehanabad is not competent enough to withstand the might of the Maoists. In the circumstances, it is strange that their leader, Ajay Kandhu, who had masterminded the merger of the Maoist Communist Centre with People's War and belongs to the extremist think-tank, was shifted from the more secure Beur jail in Patna to Jehanabad, his stronghold. It suggests a dangerous kind of thoughtlessness and confusion in the administration that spells disaster for the people. The BJP has been quick to blame the Centre and has suggested that no political understanding is possible without first disarming the Naxalites. Mr LK Advani needs to explain what the NDA government had done during its years in power when innocent citizens were butchered. The threat has spread alarmingly with suspicions of support coming from Nepal as well. It is a social and national problem whose solution needs to rise above political rivalries. The safety and security of the citizen must come first.

OPERATION JAILBREAK

They knew it was coming

By Abdul Qadir/TNN

Gaya: The Maoist attack on the Jehanabad jail on Sunday night has not come as a surprise to Magadh watchers as everyone, including officials, apprehended a major outburst after the withdrawal of the Central forces deputed during the elections.

The only unknown ingredient of this gory drama was the time and the place. On the evening of poll day in Gaya on October 21, a police

officer deputed in Gaya told TOI that the real problem will begin once the Central forces would be withdrawn.

The operation bears the typical Maoist stamp all around. The most distinguishing marks of any Maoist operation include the element of surprise, news value and least risk.

The Jehanabad operation, like its previous misadventures, contains all these ingredients in adequate measure as few could have foreseen such a daredevil operation conducted in a district HQ very close to the state capital.

Like its other operation, the Jehanabad jailbreak was meticulously planned and executed with almost military precision.

Moreover, the Jehanabad operation has given the outfit unprecedented publicity mileage, the much-needed elixir for its survival.

The Maoists have also succeeded in queering the pitch for the fourth round of elections as some of the districts, including Patna and Nalanda, going to the polls in the fourth phase have a common border with Jehanabad.

The incident has revived the nine-year-old memory of the Naxal invasion of the Tekari police station where,

NO JAIL SUPDT FOR 8 MONTHS

The Jehanabad sub-jail has been without a head for the last eight months as the superintendent is on a prolonged medical leave after undergoing an open heart surgery.

ASST JAILOR SUSPENDED

The authorities have placed the assistant jailor under suspension after the jailbreak on Sunday night.

685 IN PRISON MEANT FOR 140

The Jehanabad jail, till last night, was housing around 685 prisoners against a capacity of 140.



TAKING STOCK: Armymen survey the area from where Naxalites entered the Jehanabad jail on Sunday night

REVOLUTION

The October Revolution, also known as the Bolshevik Revolution, was the second phase of the Russian Revolution of 1917, the first having been instigated by the events around the February Revolution. The October Revolution was led by Bolsheviks under the leadership of Vladimir Lenin and marked the first officially Communist revolution of the twentieth century, based upon the ideas of Karl Marx. The crucial revolutionary activities in Petrograd were under the command of the Petrograd Soviet's Military Revolutionary Committee.

The revolution would culminate in a communist overthrow of the Russian provisional government, leading to the creation of the Soviet Union.

The prominence to the event was ascribed later. Initially, the event was referred to as October uprising or Uprising of 25th, as seen, for example, in the first editions of Lenin's complete works. With time, the October Revolution was seen as a hugely important global event, the first in a series of events that lay the groundwork for an epic Cold War struggle between the Soviet Union and Western capitalist countries, including the United States.

The Great October Socialist Revolution was the official name for the October Revolution in the Soviet Union since the 10th anniversary in 1927. Today this name is used mainly by communists. The term Red October has also been ascribed to the events of the month; this name has in turn been lent to both a tractor factory made notable by the Battle of Stalingrad and a fictional Soviet submarine.

'The whole system supports corrupt'

they get bail... The whole system supports the upper caste and the corrupt...," he murmured.

He, however, refused to disclose his rank in the party. "I am a comrade," he said, adding "but we also have a chief minister."

Kanu said the decision to attack the Jehanabad jail was taken by the 'military commission' of the or-

ganisation. Comrades were taken to Hazaribagh jungles about two months back and given rigorous military training by a person called Gautam. "We used to have mock drills of the whole operation which we executed on Sunday night," Kanu, a Gaya native, said.

Even the abduction of Ranvir Sena supporters from the Jehanabad jail was pre-planned. "Some Ranvir Sena supporters were to be eliminated inside the jail and others outside," Kanu said. Asked about the possibility of retaliatory attack by the Ranvir Sena, a banned private army of landed gentry, an unfazed Kanu said, "Let them attack."

He said he was with a group of around 150 armed extremists during the attack. There were several other groups. "We snatched arms and ammunition from our enemies." He kept mum about future attacks by Naxal outfits but repeatedly declared with a sense of pride "it was the first historic event in India."



Kanu undergoing treatment at Patna medical college on Monday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Patna: Manoj Kanu, the CPI (Maoist) comrade who actively participated in the operation jailbreak on the Bolshevik Revolution anniversary night in Jehanabad on November 13, described it as the "first historic event in Naxal history of India."

Seriously injured in an explosion of bomb, which went off accidentally during the operation, Kanu was brought to Patna Medical College & Hospital here on Monday under heavy police escort. The bomb's remote control, he said, was in his pocket and was pressed by accident. While his electrician friend Hemant died in the explosion, Kanu had his left arm and leg severely wounded.

Though in a drowsy state after a surgical operation, Kanu kept uttering Maoist ideologies when this correspondent visited him. "All the corrupt scammers are moving scot free... The unemployed and the poor are kept in jails even after

I am a comrade, but we also have a chief minister... We used to have mock drills of the whole operation which we executed on Sunday night

Red writing was in blood, but cops slept

Naxals' motive was to make their presence felt

ANIRBAN Guha Roy
Patna, November 14

THE STATE administration might find it difficult to buy it. But Sunday night's Maoist siege on Jehanabad jail — a hotbed of Naxalism — was not a bolt from the blue. It was in the air. Despite a steady flow of intelligence inputs, the administration could not see the writing on the wall.

The timing and strategy of the attack was not just an attempt to free some top Naxal leaders, including Ajay Kanu, from Jehanabad jail. The motive was larger. The Naxals wanted to make their presence felt on their home turf — the Gaya-Jehanabad belt — where sustained crackdown by security forces in the run-up to the polls had loosened their stranglehold. The district went to the polls in the first phase.

With the poll boycott call falling flat, pundits say, the raid was a bid to whip up fear psychosis — especially among the upper castes, emboldened by the EC's crackdown on the terror brigade.

Narrow escape for passengers

IT WAS touch and go for the passengers of Hatia-bound Patna-Ranchi Express on Sunday night. For, the train was standing at the Jehanabad station when the Maoists were carrying out the jail break operation.

"We got panicky when reports were flashed that the Naxals had blasted a culvert on Patna-Gaya line. They could have done anything to the train", said a rail official. The train was not allowed to move ahead on the advice of the state government and was brought back to Patna Junction at around 3 a.m. "It finally left for Ranchi via Jhajha at 5 a.m.", said DRM, Danapur division of the East Central Railway, KBL Mittal. Meanwhile, train movement on the Patna-Gaya section of the Danapur rail division, suspended since Sunday night has been restored, informed the railway officials.

PTI, New Delhi

"After Ranvir Sena's gradual loss of base in central Bihar, the Naxals managed to consolidate in a big way over the past two years. But the crackdown came as a blow", said a senior police official.

The Naxals also probably wanted to send a message that they were capable of striking with ease anywhere in central Bihar, including the state capital, if the whip-lashing continued.

Moreover, the Naxalites were 'frustrated' that two of their top ideologues — Ajay Kanu, and Kameshwar Baitha — and strategist Arvind were behind bars. The arrest had taken the wind out of the movement's sails. "There were inputs that the Naxals were planning to free Kanu. But at the time, the police strength in Jehanabad was minimal," said an official. Baitha was arrested last year.

But what does the attack, after a relative period of lull, signify? Perhaps a red resurgence — a return of sorts to the bloody old days of caste and class war. The magnitude of the strike has not only thrown up new security challenges for the administration, but also opened the old caste schisms.

"One should not forget that the economic blockade by CPI-ML (Liberation) in the late eighties had spawned the private armies. Sunday's attack can again trigger off caste wars in central Bihar, reminiscent of the Eighties and the Nineties," said a social analyst.

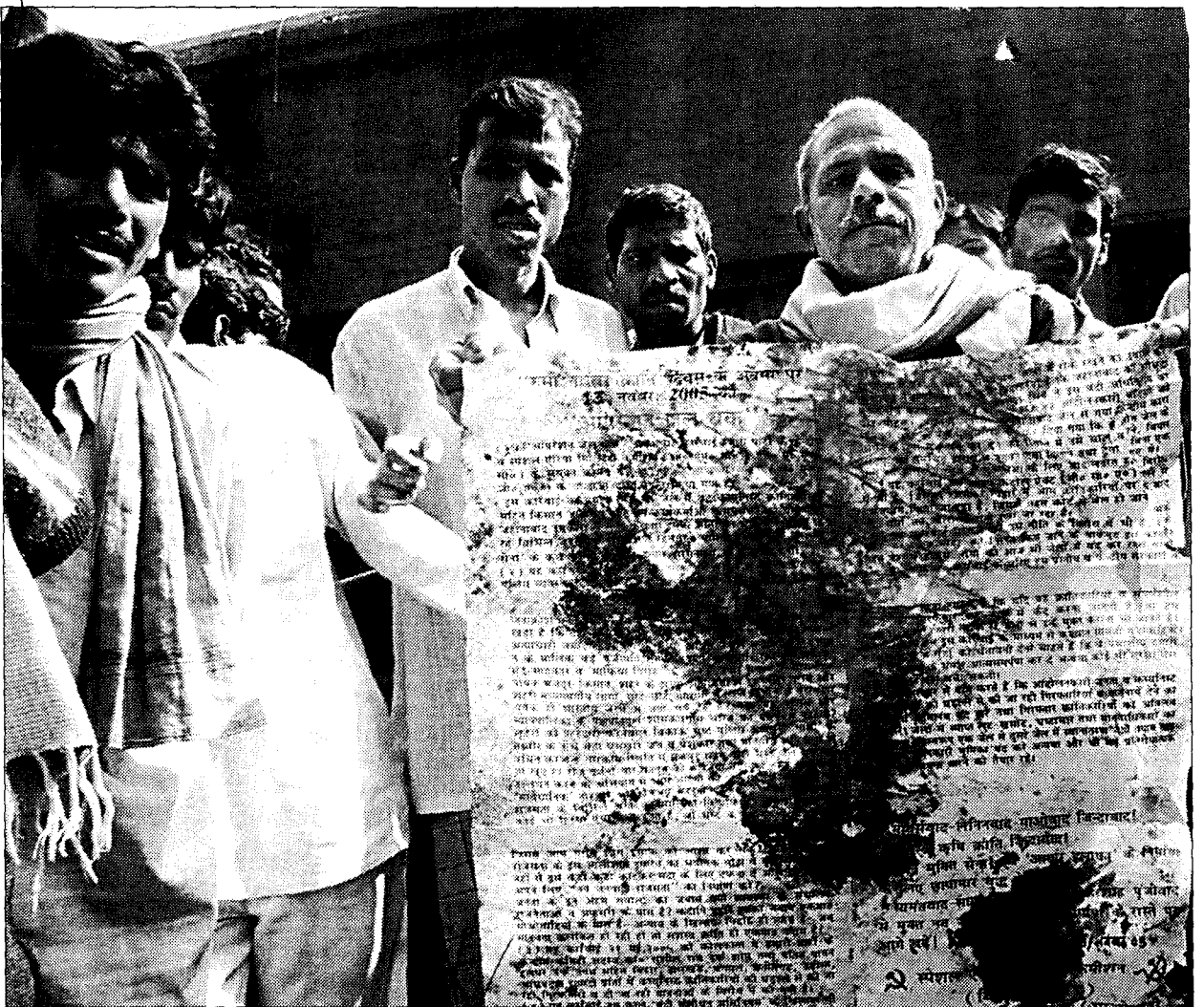
That apart, the government's attempts to bring the Naxals back to the mainstream might once again be relegated to the backburner. The reds could use the new-found 'fear factor' to their advantage.

State police in the dock

The manner in which more than 500 armed extremists marched through the Jehanabad town — catching the police unawares on Sunday night — has put the state machinery in the dock, especially when there was prior intelligence input about the attack.

Why did the state administration not take adequate preventive steps to ward off such a big Naxal strike, is something that haunts everyone.

Though it was for the first time the Naxalites mustered the courage to attack the police lines, it speaks volumes of their growing strength.



Jehanabad Jail officials display posters written in blood by the Naxals.

PTI

Red Corridor: Safe route

VIJAY Swaroop
Patna, November 14

THE CPI (Maoists)'s area of operation, known as 'Red Corridor' starts from Nepal and extends up to 156 districts of 14 states of the country. Besides Nepal, the Naxal outfit has connections with their counterparts in countries like Peru, Philippines, Turkey, Bangladesh and Bhutan.

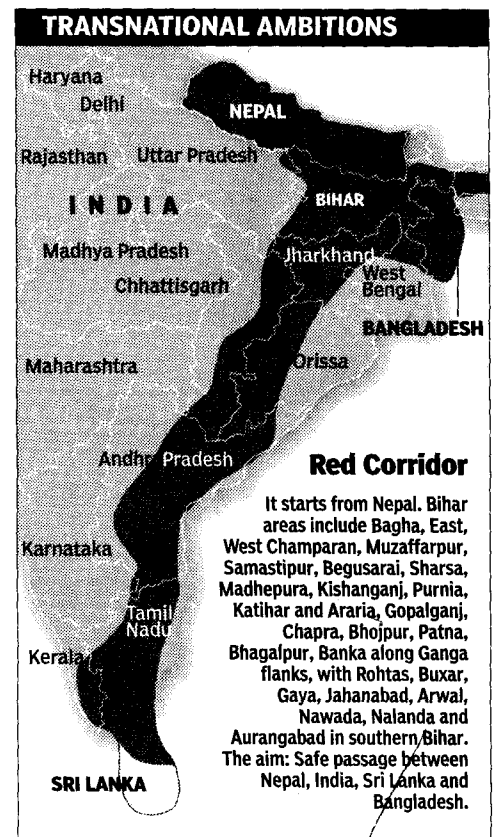
It has come to light that the Nepali Maoists have links with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of Sri Lanka, as well. Starting from Nepal, its area of operation has expanded into the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Kerala and Assam.

The basic idea behind 'Red Corridor' is to form a safe passage between Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. While the Maoists of the southern region are using the sea route to enter Sri Lanka, those from the areas of central and eastern India use Assam route to enter Bangladesh and Burma. Prior to

merger as the CPI (Maoists), the Naxal outfit was divided into separate groups like Maoists Communist Centre (MCC), People's War (PW) and Party Unity.

In 1980, the three groups initiated talks for a joint group. This was mainly because of the fact that all these Naxal groups had lost a large number of their members in offensive launched by the state governments. On August 11, 1998, PW and Party Unity merged. In 1993, PW, MCC and Party Unity formed All India People's Resistance Forum. Finally, all the three outfits and some other smaller organisations joined hand on October 14, 2004, to be called CPI (Maoists).

In Bihar, these Left wing outfits had been waging war against upper caste to claim hegemony in the field of politics as well as the economy with a larger goal for ruling in the state. The game of supremacy between PW, MCC and Party Unity men on one side and the upper caste armies represented by the Diamond Sena, Sunlight Sena and Ranvir Sena on the other side has led to a dozen of massacres, resulting in death of hundreds of innocent people.



Panic pull as 9 die in Jehanabad joust

Manoj Chaurasia
in Jehanabad

Nov. 14. — Well might Maoists have been recalling Russia's Bolshevik Revolution last evening when running riot for some two hours here, taking over the district headquarters and reducing the police to helplessness.

The toll, with four deaths today, was said to have risen to nine, with some of the Ranvir Sena members abducted during the raid on the district jail, having been killed. Three of the bodies were claimed to have been found.

Bombs, remote-control devices and bullets litter the petrified town's sullen streets and its prison is spattered with blood. If the Operation Jailbreak by the Maoists' so-called special area military committee had been aimed at freeing some comrades and issuing a threat to the Ranvir Sena, as the rebels' leaflets suggest, it turned out to be a job very successfully done.

Some 350 prisoners, including Ajay Kandou, who had schemed the Maoist Communist Centre's merger with the People's War group, escaped and a Ranvir Sena activist came to be gunned down in his cell. Nine Ranvir

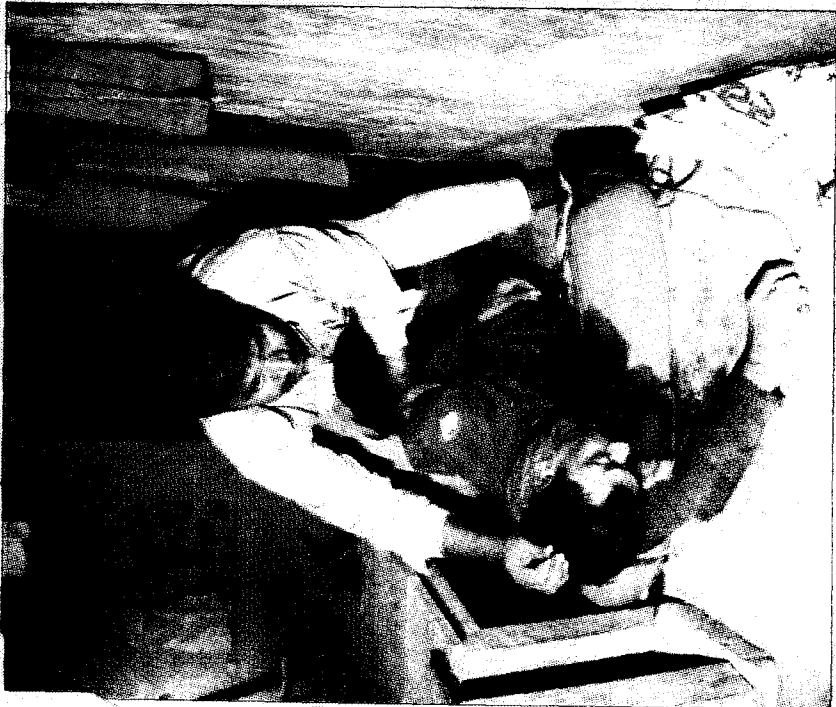
Sena members were said to have been abducted.

Kandou, instrumental in forming the Communist Party Of India (Maoist), was in the jail for three years. Locals recall with horror high-decibel explosions and being told by the raiders, targeting only the police, to stay indoors as they went on the rampage.

Five persons, including two policemen, a civilian and a Ranvir Sena activist came to be killed and one of the rebels died when the bomb that he carried exploded. Eye-witnesses said that the guerrillas had sealed the town, climbing a bamboo ladder, which they later left behind, to drop into the jail. They had come in around 9 p.m. and left by 11 p.m. The district magistrate and the superintendent were allegedly ensconced in their bungalows, "monitoring the police response by telephone."

The DM, Mr Rana Awadhesh, fuming at journalists gathered around the prison today, lathicharged them besides threatening to shoot a television reporter refusing to be cowed.

Three rebel groups engaged the police in attention-diverting, separate encounters while a core group swooped



A TALE OF TWO STRIKES A Jehanabad jail guard checks on a colleague presumed dead on Sunday night. (Right) A CRPF jawan leans on another for support after he was injured during a terrorist strike in Srinagar on Monday. — PTI & AFP

down on the jail. The Maoists revealed it all in their leaflets, sticking one of these to the body of Bade Sharma, the slain Ranvir Sena activist

A jail employee said the extremists had read out the names of about 12 Ranvir Sena activists, asking them to give themselves up. On being

told that all except Bade Sharma had been shifted, they asked him to surrender. Refusal resulted in about 12 bullets being pumped into

him.

Police, though, congratulated themselves that no arms were stolen in the raid.

More reports on page 4



Four killed, 13 injured in Srinagar attack

SRINAGAR, Nov. 14. — Militants today struck at Lal Chowk, the nerve centre of the city killing two CRPF men and two civilians besides wounding 13 others, including a foreign journalist, an official source said.

The rebels threw a grenade at the CRPF company headquarters in Palladium Chowk and then fired at the security forces posted there and at the clock tower nearby, triggering a gun-battle around 3.15 p.m., he said.

While four persons have been killed in the attack so far, 11 civilians, including a Japanese scribe, Takeshi, and two CRPF jawans, were injured, the source said. Very quickly, Lal Chowk turned into an untenanted area with panic-stricken people and shopkeepers running for cover.

All the business establishments and shops downed their shutters and vehicular traffic came to a standstill.

Security forces have cordoned off the area, the source said, adding, so far, no militant outfit had claimed responsibility for the attack. — PTI

Maoists lay siege to Jehanabad

Manoj Chaurasia in Patna

Nov. 13. — A large number of CPI (Maoist) activists laid siege to Jehanabad town, some 50 km from the state capital, tonight and attacked the police lines, town police station and the jail located in the heart of the town.

A major gun-battle was on between the police and the Naxalites — said to be over a thousand in number and armed with sophisticated weapons — till reports last came in. Sources said four persons, including a sentry and two inmates belonging to the Ranvir Sena, were killed.

The DGP, Bihar, Mr AR Sinha,

said the extremists attacked the jail around 9 p.m. and freed a large number of Maoists after killing some inmates belonging to Ranvir Sena. They also looted the armoury. Several companies of the CRPF, from the adjoining districts, were rushed to Jehanabad, even as Mr Sinha held an emergency meeting with top police officers.

The chief secretary, Mr GS Kang, said adequate reinforcements had been sent to the area.

According to reports received from police sources, the Maoists, several of them women, raided Jehanabad town shortly after state officials claimed peaceful

polling in the third phase.

The Maoists urged local residents over the public address system to stay indoors saying their

The extremists attacked the jail and freed a large number of Maoists after killing some inmates belonging to the Ranvir Sena. They also looted the armoury

fight was against the administration. After entering the town, the extremists split into groups and targeted government buildings.

Reports reaching the state capital said the entire town resembled a battlefield with the police and the Maoists locked in a bitter gunfight.

All the important installations targeted by the extremists are in densely-populated areas.

According to local residents, several explosions were heard from parts of the town. According to unconfirmed reports, the attackers blew up a railway bridge. The Maoists even used hand-grenades.

What was worse, a woefully inadequate police force was having to take on the Maoists in the darkness of the night. Most of

the policemen have been sent to north Bihar on election duty.

It was a failure on the part of the Intelligence agencies as they did not get any wind of the attack and alert the administration.

Neither the SP, Mr Sunil Kumar, nor the DM, Mr Rana Awadhesh, could be contacted for their comments. Reports suggest the extremists were angry over the way the Central paramilitary forces were used to launch a crackdown on them on the eve of the Assembly elections as their poll-boycott campaign fizzled out.

The attack by the Maoists tonight was the fiercest in recent years in Bihar.

Maoist raid on Bihar town

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Patna, Nov. 13: Hundreds of Naxalites swept into Jehanabad town tonight and raided a jail, freeing several prisoners and taking 35 hostage.

At least three deaths have been reported but the toll could go up as those taken captive belong to the upper caste private militia, Ranbir Sena, the sworn enemy of the Naxalites.

A source in Jehanabad, 50 km from the Bihar capital, said suspected CPI (Maoist) extremists also attacked the police lines and exploded bombs in the town.

Security reinforcements have been rushed from Patna and Gaya and top officials were holding a meeting in Patna late into the night.

"The attack began around 9 pm. The extremists announced on loudspeakers that people should remain indoors. They said they had no enmity with the common people and the police were their sole target," the source said.

Jehanabad district magistrate Rana Awadhesh told a television channel around 10.45 pm that the attack had been repulsed.

But another source in Jehanabad said the Naxalites pulled back with the hostages after freeing at least 100 prisoners. The jail, with a sanctioned capacity to hold 600 inmates, is usually three times full.

The source said the attack appears to have had three objectives — loot arms and ammunition from the police lines armoury, free comrades lodged in the jail and send a signal to the authorities that they were still capable of carrying out big raids.

A few months ago, the extremists had targeted a police station in the Madhuban area of East Champaran, close to the Nepal border.

A senior police officer said he had not heard of Naxalites attacking a town before.

"This is a new phenomenon. Perhaps they wanted to send a bigger message by sticking to their classical theory of attacking a city after increasing their influence in the countryside. The administration has been caught off guard," he added.

The attack comes two days after a similar raid in Giridih district of Jharkhand where Maoists stormed a home guard training centre and looted arms and ammunition. Eight home guard cadets died in the attack.

Despite the customary boycott calls given by the extremists, elections in Jehanabad and other Naxalite hotbeds passed off peacefully.

জহানাবাদ দখল করে জেলবন্দি নেতাকে ছাড়াল মাওবাদীরা

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, পটনা, ১৩ নভেম্বর: এমন মাওবাদী হামলা স্বরণকালে দেখেনি বিহার।

রবিবার রাতে কয়েকশো সশস্ত্র মাওবাদীর হামলায় জহানাবাদ শহর তো বটেই, স্তম্ভিত গোটী বিহার প্রশাসন। হতে পারে এই এলাকায় নকশালসভা ভোটের জন্য পুলিশ বাহিনীর একটা বড় অংশকে অন্যত্র নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়েছে। তবু মাওবাদী জঙ্গিরা যে-ভাবে জহানাবাদ শহরের প্রায় পুরোটাই দখল করে নিয়েছে, পুলিশ লাইন ঘিরে ফেলে অস্ত্র লুণ্ঠন চেষ্টা করেছে, জেল ভেঙে উদ্ধার করে নিয়ে গিয়েছে বন্দি নেতাকে, তাতে পুলিশ-প্রশাসনের কর্তব্যজ্ঞদের চোখ

কপালে ওঠার জেগাড়। জঙ্গিদের কেশাঘ্র পর্বত স্পর্শ করা যায়নি। নিজেদের কাজ সেরে রাতের অন্ধকারে মিলিয়ে গিয়েছে তারা। তাদের গুলিতে তিন জেলকর্মী-সহ সাত জন মারা গিয়েছে বলে খবর।

রীতিমতো আট ঘাট বেঁধেই হানা দিয়েছিল মাওবাদীরা। রাত সওয়া নটা নাগাদ এক সঙ্গে শহরের পাঁচ জায়গায় বিক্ষোভ ঘটায় তারা। উড়িয়ে দেয় পটনা-গয়া সংযোগকারী রেলপথের সেতু। সভকের উপরে পেতে রাখে মাইন। কেটে দেয় শহরের বিদ্যুৎ ও টেলিফোন সংযোগ। তার পরে রীতিমতো মাইকে ঘোষণা করে, “সাধারণ মানুষ ঘরের বাইরে আসবেন না। আমাদের লড়াই পুলিশের সঙ্গে।

আপনাদের ভয় পাওয়ার কারণ নেই।” বস্ত্রত, যে-জায়গায় আক্রমণ কেন্দ্রীভূত রেখেছিল জঙ্গিরা, সেখানে জেলাশাসক, পুলিশ সুপারের বাংলো। এসপি'র বাংলোর বাইরেও বিক্ষোভ ঘটানো হয়। হামলা হয় পুলিশ লাইনে।

পুলিশ লাইন ঘিরে ফেলে গুলি চালাতে শুরু করায় প্রথমে মনে হচ্ছিল, অস্ত্র লুণ্ঠন করাই তাদের মূল উদ্দেশ্য। যেমন গত শুক্রবার ঝাড়খণ্ডের গিরিডিতে হোমগার্ড ট্রেনিং সেন্টারে হানা দিয়ে ১৮৩টা রাইফেল আর গুলি নিয়ে গিয়েছিল তারা। কিন্তু, জেলের একটা অংশ বিক্ষোভক দিয়ে উড়িয়ে দেওয়ার পরে বোঝা যায় আটক সঙ্গীদের ছাড়ানোও তাদের লক্ষ্য। জেলের এক কয়েদিকে মেরে

তার গায়ে লাটকে দেওয়া চার পাতার ইস্তেহারে ‘জনমুক্তি ছাপামার সেনা’ বলেছে, নভেম্বর বিক্ষোভের স্মরণে বন্দি কমরেডদের মুক্ত করতাই তাদের এই ‘অপারেশন জেল ব্রেক’। জহানাবাদ জেলেই বন্দি ছিলেন মাওবাদী এরিয়া কমান্ডার রবি কান্ত। জঙ্গিরা তাঁকে ও আরও পাঁচ জনকে উদ্ধার করে নিয়ে গিয়েছে বলে খবর।

প্রশাসন অবশ্য মানতে রাজি নয় যে, হামলাকারীরা পুরোপুরি সফল। বিহারের মুখাসচিব জি এস কংগের দাবি, পুলিশ ভাল ভাবেই পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলা করেছে। তাঁর কথায়, “সকালই খবর মিলেছিল, বেশ কিছু মাওবাদী ওই এলাকায় ঘোরাফেরা করছে। পুলিশ সতর্ক ছিল বলেই ওরা

পুলিশ লাইনে ঢুকতে পারেনি। অস্ত্র লুণ্ঠন চেষ্টা ব্যর্থ হয়েছে।” পুলিশ লাইন থেকে বন্দুক লুণ্ঠন হয়নি ঠিকই, আইন থেকে কিন্তু ১৬টি রাইফেল ছিনতাই করেছে জঙ্গিরা। এবং অনেকে মতে, পুলিশ লাইনে হানা দেওয়াটা ছিল নিছক কৌশল। যাতে জেল ভাঙার কাজে বাধা না পড়ে।

বিধানসভা ভোটের জন্য পুলিশের একটা অংশ অন্যত্র সরানোর ফলে নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থায় বড়সড় ফাঁক তৈরি হয়। মাওবাদীরা সেই সুযোগটাই নিয়েছে। তাদের শক্তি জুগিয়েছে গিরিডিভর সফল অপারেশন। সেখান থেকে লুণ্ঠন করা অস্ত্র নিয়েই তারা জহানাবাদে হামলা চালিয়েছে বলে পুলিশ মহলের ধারণা।

টেলিফোন লাইন কেটে দিয়েছিল জঙ্গিরা। জহানাবাদের পুলিশ লাইন থেকে অয়ারলেনে কোনও মতে খবর আসে পটনায়। রওনা দেয় পুলিশ ও আধা-সামরিক বাহিনী। যদিও পটনা থেকে জহানাবাদের দূরত্ব মাত্র ৫০ কিমি, তবু পৌঁছতে বেশ বেগ পেতে হয় নিরাপত্তা বাহিনীকে। সেতু উড়িয়ে দেওয়ায় রেলপথ বন্ধ। আটকে রয়েছে হাওড়া-হাতিয়া এক্সপ্রেস। সড়কপথেও মাইলের ভয়ে সাবধানে এগোতে হয়েছে তাদের। শুধু পটনা নয়, গয়া থেকেও নিরাপত্তা বাহিনী পাঠানো হয় জহানাবাদে, কিন্তু তারা যত স্ক্রানিগিয়ে পৌঁছয়, তত ক্ষণে অপারেশন সেরে, বন্দি সঙ্গীদের নিয়ে চম্পট দিয়েছে জঙ্গি দল। যে-পথ ধরে তারা পালায়েছে,

সেই পথে রওনা হয়েছে পুলিশ। গত জুনে নেপাল সীমান্তবর্তী মধুবনে দিনাদুপুরে হানা দিয়েছিল মাওবাদীরা। থানা থেকে লুণ্ঠন করেছিল বন্দুক। হামলা চালিয়েছিল ব্যাঙ্ক, বিভিন্ন অফিসে। সেই ঘটনার কথা মনে রেখেও জহানাবাদে অপারেশনকে এক কদম এগিয়ে রাখছেন প্রশাসনের কর্তারা। তাঁদের মতে, যে-রকম সংগঠিত এবং বেপরোয়া ভাবে হামলা চালানো হয়েছে, তা নিজেরবিহীন।

এ দিনের ঘটনায় উদ্বেগ ছড়িয়েছে দিল্লিতেও। কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক থেকে বিহার সরকারের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করা হয়। পরিস্থিতি মোকাবিলার উপায় খুঁজতে রাত পর্যন্ত পটনায় দফায় দফায় বৈঠক করেছেন প্রশাসনের কর্তারা।

JOB, HOUSES FOR JHARKHAND NAXALITES

New surrender policy for Maoists

Dipankar Bose in Ranchi

Oct. 20. — The police brass in Jharkhand has prepared a new surrender policy for Maoists in the state. Senior police officers said it is an effort to muster confidence among the extremists to leave the guns behind and return to the mainstream.

The proposal has already been forwarded to the state home department and would soon be sent to the chief minister's secretariat for its final seal, before being placed before the Cabinet for its nod. The groundwork on the draft of the surrender policy gained momentum after the Belwaghata massacre in September, when fifteen villagers were gunned down by the ultras in the Giridih district.

Both chief minister Mr Arjun Munda and former chief minister Mr Babulal Marandi expressed the need to evolve a proper surrender policy for Maoists over the years. It is learnt that the new draft policy has been prepared under the direct supervision of the state DGP Mr VD Ram. Mr Ram invited suggestions from all SPs of Naxalite violence-affected districts. The draft policy says that extremists surrendering would be offered jobs in the police forces. But those to be offered the jobs have to be literate.

Attractive rehabilitation packages for surrendered extremists are also on the cards. It has been dealt with elaborately in the draft. Agricultural land would be offered to all who surrender; Houses under Indira Awas Yojna for all who surrender and are homeless; as for those who surrender with arms, there is direct financial assistance. Legal aid would be provided to contest cases for hardcore Naxalites, if they decide to lay down arms along with their

Netarhat alert after tourists robbed twice

RANCHI, Oct. 20. — A virtually egg-on-the-face Jharkhand administration took strong steps after two consecutive incidents of loot of tourists near the Netarhat hill resort on Tuesday. State home secretary Mr JB Tubid today summoned the DGP, Mr VD Ram, and discussed the incidents. Mr Abhijit Mukherjee, an employee of Howrah Improvement Trust, and two of his friends, along with their families, were looted twice while they were on their way to Netarhat from Betla near Chipadohor village in Latehar district. "It is a very unfortunate incident. We had informed the district police authorities to take adequate steps and patrol the stretch of the road regularly after information reached us about some stray incidents in the area. But, after this incident, it is clear that there was laxity on the part of the district police in manning the stretch," Mr Tubid said. Mr Ram later said the Latehar SP has been asked to personally visit the area and man the stretch in between Betla and Netarhat. "The SP has been asked to make arrangements for round-the-clock patrolling and track the miscreants," Mr Ram said. Mr Mukherjee and his family with their friends were brought to Ranchi today by the tourism department and housed in the state guest house. They are scheduled to leave for Kolkata tomorrow. — SNS

groups of armed cadres.

A separate proposal has also been sent to the home department by the police, for providing direct assistance to persons who sustained permanent disabilities due to Naxalite related violence.

A change of guard

The CPI (Maoist) State Committee in Andhra Pradesh has a low profile leader as part of a process begun in 2001.

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K. Srinivas Reddy

BURRA CHINNANNA aka Madhav taking over as leader of the CPI (Maoist) State Committee in Andhra Pradesh from Akkiraju Haragopal alias Ramakrishna may not result in any radical change in the Maoists' activities in the areas under their control. But it may have made at least two senior leaders unhappy.

The change is not surprising as the Maoists have been in the process of effecting a shake-up in all the four special zonal com-

mittees since 2001.

Mattam Ravi Kumar alias Sreedhar and Sakhamuri Appa Rao alias Ravi, members of the State Committee, were serious aspirants for the top post.

However, Madhav, a member of the secretariat within the State Committee, was preferred. Known to be extremely good in field craft, Madhav has not even been "sighted" by the police in over two decades of underground life, while most of the heavy losses to the naxalite movement by way of arrests or killings, took place in the State Committee

area. The Andhra Pradesh police do not even have a photograph of Madhav.

The State Committee oversees the revolutionary movement in the districts of Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Rangareddy, Hyderabad city, Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapur, Chittoor, Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, and West Godavari.

Naxalite documents indicate that the secretaries of Special Zonal Committees of North Telangana (NT), Andhra Orissa Border (AOB), Dandakaranya (DK) and the State Committee (SC) were made members of the Central Committee (CC) in 2001.

It was then decided that within a year, these four leaders should become full time CC members after appointment of new secretaries. Accordingly, Lanka Papi Reddy, heading DK, was replaced by K. Satyanarayana Reddy alias Kosa, and Vackapur Chandramouli alias Devanna of AOB by Modyem Balakrishna.

A severe leadership crisis forced the Maoists to retain J. Narasimha Reddy alias Jampanna in NT. Ramakrishna too had to continue in the SC because of the talks proc-

ess initiated in 2002 by the Telugu Desam Government.

He remained there the next year too because of the severe police crackdown, and then the process of talks was resumed with the Congress Government.

Madhav, police records say, mostly worked in Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts and was said to be "extremely cautious."

This enabled him to survive the police onslaught when most of his colleagues were either arrested or killed.

Priority to self-defence?

Given this background, police believe he will accord top priority to self-defence rather than carrying out any sensational attacks that can spark a violent retaliation by the Government.

He can also count on the support of Ramakrishna, who will continue to guide the movement and also "shield" him from the pressures most likely from colleagues such as Sreedhar, known to be more of a military man than an ideologue.

'Maoist violence is no threat to status quo'

DIPANKAR Bhattacharya is the general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)-Liberation. The largest ML faction, Liberation is as much a product of the Naxalbari uprising as any other existing ML group, including the Maoists. It is one of the few Naxal outfits that has joined the democratic mainstream. He spoke to **Pothik Ghosh** and **Amrith Lal** on issues ranging from Maoist insurgency to his party's role in Bihar's electoral politics. Excerpts:

Your party has been overground since 1992. Do you think it was politically wise to take to the parliamentary path?

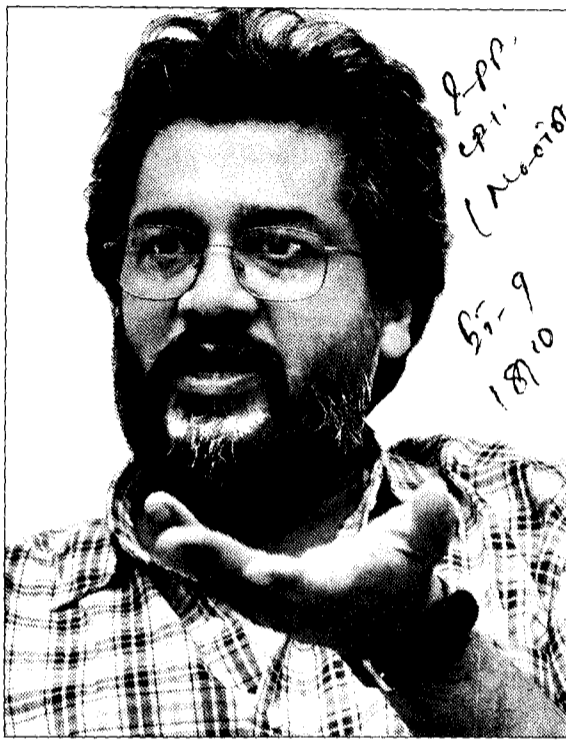
We have not taken to the parliamentary path. Parliamentary path has a specific connotation in communist parlance, where people think that Parliament is the ultimate in democracy. We, however, don't consider Parliament, as it exists today, as the pinnacle of democracy in India. We are here participating in whatever avenues are guaranteed or offered by the Indian Constitution. We want to explore all those avenues to carry forward the battle for social transformation and real democracy for the overwhelming majority of the people. The overwhelming majority of our people — especially the rural poor, the toiling masses — do not really enjoy the democracy that is supposedly enshrined in Constitution. By coming overground, we have been able to expand the horizon of our battle. We've been able to reach out to larger sections of society. Today, we are in a position where we can intervene in the political discourse more effectively.

Should the Maoists learn from you, and join the political mainstream?

I'm in no position to offer any advice to the Maoists. I'm not their political consultant. But the thing is, if you look at the evolution of the Maoist movement or phenomenon in India, you'll see that in the '80s in Andhra Pradesh as well as in Bihar, they had a kind of mass following. They had an appeal among students and radical sections of the intelligentsia and the rural poor. Organisations like the Radical Students' Union, Raythu Coolie Sangam (in Andhra), Mazdoor Kisan Sangram Samiti (in Bihar) of the Party Unity faction of the CPI-ML — which is today just a component of the CPI (Maoists) — played a role in mass politics. So, in the '80s, they were not really looking at armed struggle as the only form of political articulation. But over the years they have reached a situation where they think that they can only speak through the gun. That has probably not helped their cause. In Andhra Pradesh, they explored this possibility of negotiations with the state. That has not delivered. Probably, it would be a good thing for them to evaluate their own experience critically.

You say parliamentary politics is not an end in itself for you. But you are a serious player in the Bihar assembly elections. What would your agenda for the state be if you came to power?

To implement at one go all those long-awaited reforms that Bihar has been denied all these years. For example, land reforms. Bihar was the first state in the country where legislation for land reforms was enacted, and which created a national debate on the issue. But the implementation of land reform has been the most tardy and flawed in Bihar. Secondly, Bihar is one state where all notions of Constitution and the rule of the law has just been thrown to the winds. So, establishment of the



All those parties, which harp on non-violence, are the real purveyors of violence. The Maoists' problem is not the degree of violence they practise, but that they ignore other forms of protest.

rule of law is another of our chief concerns. Corruption and criminalisation of politics, which has assumed such alarming proportions in Bihar, can only be countered through people's assertion. We have to mete out exemplary punishment to all political and economic offenders, and criminals. I think if we ever come to power the first things that we are going to do are land reforms and industrialisation in Bihar. Dignity of the rural poor, which in a way we personify, will definitely be championed and established on a much bigger scale.

Both the NDA and UPA have made it clear that they have a common minimum programme, vis-a-vis Bihar. And that is subjecting Bihar to permanent backwardness. It's retarding Bihar's economic development for decades to come, subjecting the state to all kinds of feudal remnants. Against this common minimum programme we are trying to unleash common maximum protest. This has been our manifesto, our signature in Bihar, and we'll carry this forward if we come to power. **What obstructs the implementation of progressive legislation in the region comprising east UP, Bihar and Jharkhand?**

It's acknowledged by almost all sections of the academic community and bureaucrats that the political will to enforce such legislation has been lacking in the region. We don't really have a situation where we can generate political will and implement it. Basically as they put it in

Bihar, the judiciary, the bureaucracy and the political parties in power were all heavily dominated by feudal landed interests, who had a stake against land reform. They formed an unholy trinity that militated against any implementation of land reform. And this stranglehold of feudal forces continues even now in other forms, through other actors. Politically, it continues in the form of private armies. It has reached such a stage where the state is now aware that it can only rule through legalisation of private violence. Private armies have come to acquire a kind of legitimacy.

Our understanding is that it's the rural poor who can really provide this political will. Generating the political will, sustaining it, backing it up with all the might of the people, and then implementing it through legislation, through concrete official steps, calls for a massive transformation in the region. Even for small changes we have to wage big battles and make big sacrifices. Take the example of the right to vote. People take it for granted — it's there, universally acknowledged and part of our Constitution's basic structure. Yet in Bihar, in 1989, when, for the first time, Dalits really ventured out, gathered the courage and the organisation to go to the booths and exercise their franchise, they had to pay heavily. Even today, they have to pay heavily for very small changes — small amounts of dignity and recognition, small increment in wages.

Violence is a function of a primitive social order. Why have the Maoists, despite their mission to modernise backward social formations, failed to give up violence?

This whole debate over violence is a little overstrretched and misplaced. Basically what is sought to be established is some kind of a tacit monopoly over social violence. As long as the rural poor were at the receiving end and old society and its feudal lords knew that they could do anything with the help of violence, there seemed to be no problem with violence. It's only when people started resisting this violence, started defending their own existence and rights that violence became a cause for concern. I always say that CPI(ML) is the party that engages in the least amount of violence. And all these parties, which talk about non-violence, are the real purveyors of violence. In my view, the problem of the Maoists is not the degree of violence they practise, but that they ignore other forms of protest. The thing is to organise people as a political force. The question is to change the political complexion, social texture of the country.

And if we have to do that, we have no option but to reach out to the people. The fire-power of the Maoists does not in any way threaten the entrenched interests of the real perpetrators of social violence. It has been proved that the Maoists can be bought, notwithstanding their fire-power and poll boycotts. They can be persuaded to capture booths and deliver votes to the ruling parties. It follows, therefore, that this is a threat the ruling classes are perfectly comfortable with. But if we are really to put up a challenge to the status quo, it has to be more comprehensive. The challenge has to acquire multifarious forms. Marxists should be able to master all forms of political struggle, and challenge the existing order both from within and without. We can't afford the luxury of imagining that we can invent social order. The battle for a new social order will have to be carried forward from within the existing social order. Relying exclusively on violence will only weaken our position.

18/10

শীর্ষনেতা কিয়ানজি গ্রেফতার, জান্নাতুল মাওবাদীরা

গৌতম বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় • চুচুড়া

সিপিআই (মাওবাদী) দলের অন্যতম মুখ্য সংগঠক কিয়ানজি ওরফে বিমলাজিকে পুলিশ গ্রেফতার করেছে। পুলিশ এই গ্রেফতারের কথা স্বীকার না করলেও দলের তরফে জানানো হয়েছে, চলতি মাসের দ্বিতীয় সপ্তাহে কলকাতা থেকে ছদ্মসংগঠ যাওয়ার পথে রায়পুর স্টেশনে দুই সহকর্মী সহ তাঁকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়।

পুলিশ বা প্রশাসনের তরফে কিয়ানজির গ্রেফতারের কোনও নির্দিষ্ট খবর সোমবার পর্যন্ত স্বীকার করা হয়নি। তবে দলের এক মুখপাত্র বলেন, “ওই গ্রেফতারের ঘটনা পুলিশ গোপন রাখতে চাইছে।” দলের আশঙ্কা, তাঁকে মেরে পুলিশের সঙ্গে সংঘর্ষে মৃত্যু বলে দেখানোর চেষ্টা হতে পারে। দলের ঈশ্বারি, “আমরা প্রশাসনকে সতর্ক করে দিতে চাই, তেমন কোনও চেষ্টা হলে

আগুন জ্বলবে।”

দলের পলিটব্যুরো সদস্য মাওবাদী নেতা কিয়ানজিকে গ্রেফতারের জন্য বিভিন্ন রাজ্যের পুলিশ চেম্বার ছিল। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ, বিহার, ঝাড়খণ্ড এবং ওড়িশার পুলিশ দীর্ঘদিন ধরেই তাঁকে ধরতে মরিয়া চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছিল। বাংলা-বিহার-ঝাড়খণ্ড-ওড়িশায় দলের দায়িত্বে ছিলেন তিনি। এমসিসি এবং জনযুদ্ধকে সংযুক্ত করে নতুন দল গড়াতেও কিয়ানজির গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা ছিল। ঠিক এক বছর আগে এমসিসি এবং জনযুদ্ধ মিলে যায়। নতুন দল আশে এমসিসি এবং হওয়ার পর সারা দেশে মাওবাদী যোঁষিত হওয়ার পর সারা দেশে মাওবাদী আন্দোলনকে জোরদার করতে উঠেপড়ে লেগেছিলেন কিয়ানজি। দু’টি নকশালপন্থী দল এক হয়ে যাওয়ায় শুধু বিহার বা ঝাড়খণ্ড নয় পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকারও প্রমাদ গোলো। কারণ ঝাড়খণ্ড লাগোয়া ওই রাজ্যের তিনটি জেলায় মাওবাদীরা রীতিমত সক্রিয়। সম্প্রতি ঝাড়খণ্ড এবং পুরুলিয়ায়

দু’টি ভিন্ন ঘটনায় একই রাতে মাওবাদীদের নাশকতায় এক পুলিশ অফিসারসহ মোট তিনজনের মৃত্যু হয়।

কলকাতা-সহ রাজ্যের বিভিন্ন জেলায় মাওবাদীদের সংগঠন ক্রমে জাল বিস্তার করলেও গত কয়েক মাসে পুলিশ সংগঠনের নেতাদের গ্রেফতারের ক্ষেত্রে বড়সড় সাফল্য পায়। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের দায়িত্বে থাকা মাওবাদীদের পলিটব্যুরো নেতা সুবীল রায় এবং কিয়ানজি আপাতত পুলিশের জালে। সুবীলরায়কে মাস কয়েক আগে হিন্দমোটরে তাঁর গোপন ডেরা থেকে গ্রেফতার করে পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর পুলিশ। এরপর কলকাতা থেকে রাজ্য স্তরের কয়েকজন নেতাও গ্রেফতার হন। পর পর বর্তমান এবং নদিয়া থেকেও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কয়েকজন নেতাকে ধরা হয়। পুলিশের দাবি, ওইসব গ্রেফতারের ফলে রাজ্য থেকে মাওবাদীদের বিষদাঁত অনেকটাই উপড়ে

দেখা দিয়েছে ‘কমরেডদের’ বিশ্বাসযোগ্যতা নিয়ে।

দলীয় নেতারা পর পর ধরা পড়ায় দলে বিতর্ক সংগঠনের অনেকে প্রশ্ন তুলতে শুরু করেছেন, দলের মধ্যে থেকেই পুলিশকে কেউ নেতাদের গতিবিধির খবর দিচ্ছে কিনা। সম্প্রতি প্রকাশিত দলের বিভিন্ন সাক্ষাৎকারেও কমরেডদের আরও বেশি সতর্ক হওয়ার পরামর্শ দেওয়া হয়েছে। সংগঠনের এক নেতা অবশ্য বলেন, “দলের মধ্যে কোনও অবিশ্বাসের জায়গা তৈরি হয়নি। তবে একথা ঠিক আমাদের আচরণবিধি কোনও কোনও ক্ষেত্রে শিথিল হয়ে পড়ছে।” ওই নেতা আরও বলেন, “কোনও কোনও ক্ষেত্রে আমাদের অজান্তেই দলীয় নেতাদের ‘কুরিয়ররা’ কোনও ভাবে পুলিশের চোখে পড়ে গিয়ে থাকতে পারে। তাদের গতিবিধির উপর নজরদারি করেই নেতাদের ধরতে পারছে পুলিশ।”

Jharkhand alert after Maoist blast

Statesman News Service

RANCHI, Sept. 25. — It could have been anyone. The Jharkhand rural development and transport minister, Mr Enos Ekka, the AICC member and in-charge of the affairs of Congress in Jharkhand, Mr Harikesh Bahadur, or Mr Pradip Kumar Balmuchu, the Congress state president. A little later, the district commissioner, along with the district superintendent of police, were scheduled to pass along the road too.

There was a flurry of VIP movement along the Simdega main road yesterday, where Naxalites blew up a portion of a culvert, badly damaging a police vehicle meant for escorting Mr Ekka from Simdega to Ranchi. Six police officers were injured in the attack, but the minister escaped unhurt. Mr Harikesh Bahadur's convoy had passed barely fifteen minutes before the attack.

A day after the incident, that rocked the police top-brass as well as the administration, facts revealed that there was prior infor-

mation with the district police about the assembly of around two dozen hardcore extremist leaders in the villages and jungles of Kolebhira and Simdega. Most of them had assembled in the Sangrapani forests of Kolebhira to celebrate the outfit's foundation day on 21 September.

Yesterday's attack, police said, was led by Manoj Nageshia, the Simdega-Gumla border area commander of CPI (Maoist) and a resident of the Biru Bhudhapahar area.

At least fifty extremists participated in the attack. Most of them were stationed at vantage points atop hills lining the Simdega main road. All of them were armed with assault rifles.

Mr Vinay Pandey, Simdega SP, said that after a close inspection of the area, including the jungles on both sides of the road, he felt that at least one of the extremists was hit by a bullet fired by the police in retaliation as blood marks could be seen on the forest floor. Mr Pandey added that the extremists had not used any remote control device to trigger the blast.

"We have found a long coil of telephone wire and some other materials used for the detonation. These indicate that the can bomb device was detonated manually.

"A combing operation is on in the area and we will scan all the bridges along the road," the SP said. The SP added that contractors involved in the construction of the bridge would also be questioned.

Special combing operations are to begin soon in Saraipani, Sangrapani, Gobardhansha and Besrajara areas in Kolebhira and Kushkela and Japkakona, Sarlonga, Bilangabira and Bhelwadiah areas of Simdega.

Police have learnt that the extremists involved in the blast ahead of Mr Ekka's convoy's passing the area had come from the Besrajara area and they had fled along the same route. Interrogation of four persons — Benedict Toppo, Nelson Toppo, Shankar Pradhan and Marianus Lakra — who were taken into custody from the nearby Thikpani village, soon after the blast on Saturday morning, is on.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

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For a two-track response to naxalism

The first meeting of the Standing Committee of Chief Ministers of naxalite-affected States has tried to come to grips with the enormity of the challenge posed by various naxalite or Maoist groups. That seven Chief Ministers plus the Governor of Bihar participated in the meet is itself significant progress in the effort to evolve a joint strategy to deal with what has become a major national problem. Significantly, most of the nine States involved seem to appreciate the need for a twin-track response — firmly tackling the security threat and simultaneously implementing socio-economic development programmes in the vulnerable areas. This is the only way any government can respond effectively to the naxalite challenge, and the gamut of socio-economic issues it has succeeded in bringing to the fore. The high-level New Delhi meeting became a political imperative following the failure in Andhra Pradesh — the State most deeply and extensively affected by naxalism — of the peace talks initiated by the Congress Government with the Maoists. That the process collapsed before substantive issues could be addressed points to the near-intractability of the problem. When hardcore naxalite groups break away from talks, they tend to return to their violent ways, as if there is a need to prove their destructive capabilities all over again. No Government can allow such violence and ruination of lives, property, livelihood, and welfare.

Two key decisions have been taken at the New Delhi conclave: (a) to set up joint task forces to combat naxalites and (b) to get the States to utilise the special component plan for the development of naxal-affected districts. The States have been asked to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate action against naxalites, and the Centre will assist them in raising India Reserve Battalions for more effective operations. The scheme to modernise the police forces in the States holds part of the key. However, no State can afford to approach naxalism as a mere law and order problem. Meaningful welfare and development programmes must be taken, as a socio-political priority, to the doorstep of the affected people, mostly tribal folk, in whose name the naxalites raise various issues. Only when States break out of the insensitive conventional mould and the bureaucratic mindset to transform the lives of people eking out a living in jungle and edge of forest under conditions of extreme deprivation, will they succeed in snapping the bond on which naxalism thrives. In fact, it is important not just for the nine States officially categorised as “naxalite affected,” but also for others facing socio-economic unrest to take serious steps to meet basic needs, invest substantial resources in socio-economic development, and, towards this objective, decentralise governance and empower local bodies. If they succeed, there will be greatly reduced space for naxalism and other forms of extremism to grow.

THE HINDU

CMs appoint joint task forces to curb Naxal terror

Bharti Jain

NEW DELHI 19 SEPTEMBER

COORDINATED special operations against the Left-wing extremists across state boundaries may begin soon. The chief ministers of affected states, on Monday reportedly endorsed a rotational command structure for inter-state joint task forces, proposed to conduct such crackdowns.

In the first meeting of the standing committee of chief ministers on Naxalism here on Monday, the Centre and the affected states agreed to operationalise "at the earliest", the June 2005 decision of the coordination centre on Naxalism, to set up joint task forces comprising police personnel of contiguous states for "coordinated and synergised anti-Naxalite operations across state boundaries."

Though the ministry of home affairs had, subsequent to the coordination centre meeting, proposed two such joint task forces — one, comprising police personnel from Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh and the other having forces drawn from Jharkhand, Bihar, UP, West Bengal and Orissa — differences among the states regarding the modalities, particularly their command structure, had been delaying their operations.

Anti-Naxalite raids intensify in Jharkhand

Statesman News Service

RANCHI, Sept. 17. — Jharkhand Police, along with their counterparts in Orissa, have launched one of the biggest offensives against Naxalites in and around Saranda forests in Chaibasha. The move comes after the bloodbath in Belwaghati in Giridih where fifteen people were gunned down by the Maoists.

According to information from the state police, a detailed plan has been formulated by the police top-brass about the operation, which has begun since early this morning. The entire operation is being led by IG (Ranchi Range) Mr DK Pandey. The DIG of Kolhan, Mr Ramchandra Ram, has also left for the destination along with a large contingent.

The movement of forces started since last evening. Around 10 companies of CRPF have been assembled from across the state in Jamshedpur. Three more companies of the state's Special Task Force and Sengel (indigenous force developed by the state police to com-

bat Naxalites) were asked to report at Jamshedpur.

Sources said that after a late night meeting of top police officers, it was also decided to form a team of doctors who would be taken to nearby locations to treat injured jawans and policemen.

Police officers said Saranda forest will be surrounded from three strategic corners and the entire force would be split into three groups.

The first attack would be led by Mr Navin Kumar, SP Chaibasha, from Barajumda. ASP Chaibasha Mr Saket Kumar Singh has been asked to lead the second group from Bundgaon. Finally, the Kolhan DIG will lead the offensive from Monoharpur.

A separate police team will co-ordinated by Orissa Police from inside Sundergarh district in that state, sources said, to back-up the offensive of Jharkhand Police against the Naxalites.

Sources said the raids had already begun inside Saranda forest, but there was no information about any arrest.

A Maoist threat and the political implications

The Maoists in Andhra Pradesh hold out a severe threat to the Congress but go soft on the Telangana Rashtra Samithi. 16/11

K. Srinivas Reddy

THE HARDENING stand of the Maoists against the ruling Congress in Andhra Pradesh is likely to have the political fallout of widening the rift between the ruling party and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

Opposing the ban on the CPI (Maoist) and seven of its front organisations, the Maoist leadership has called upon its cadres to attack ruling party leaders and asked Congress workers to quit by October 2 any official post they may hold. The warning issued on September 7 through a statement has queued the pitch since the Maoists have clearly adopted a "soft" attitude towards the TRS.

The Maoist stand, on the eve of the municipal polls, in which the TRS is contesting on its own, has led to uneasiness among the ruling party leaders, although for obvious reasons they are not openly speaking about the Maoists' soft approach towards the TRS.

But much political heat is being generated and leaders of both the parties are sparing no words in criticising each other.

In his statement, the official Maoist spokesman, Janardhan, announced that his party was imposing a ban on the Congress and called upon the "revolutionary forces" and the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) to enforce it. However, he indicated that physical attacks would be carried out only on ruling party leaders and decision makers, while common workers would be spared.

The naxalite party also criticised other political parties in varying degrees. Mr. Janardhan asked his cadres to "chase away" the Telugu Desam Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party, "question" the Communist parties and "pressure" the TRS to launch an agitation for a separate Telangana.

The Maoists' hard-hitting statement came at a time when political equations

were changing in Andhra Pradesh. The TDP had parted ways with the BJP, and the TRS and the Congress have been making 'belligerent' statements against each other.

When the Maoist party was proscribed by the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Government on August 17, the TRS opposed the imposition of the ban and demanded that the Government revive the talks process. In the preceding month, TRS Ministers had quit their Cabinet posts in protest against the treatment meted out to them by the Congress and the injustice meted out to the Telangana cause. But the unstated cause, however, was the "encounter" killing in Karimnagar district of Riyaz, a naxalite leader who participated in the talks with the Government.

However, never did the Congress publicly express its displeasure over the TRS' friendly overtures to the naxalites. But the decision of TRS chief and Union Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao to visit the Chanchal-

guda prison where Varavara Rao of the Revolutionary Writers Association was detained under the newly enforced A.P. Public Security Act, created a mini-storm. Incidentally, Mr. Rao was also in the Union Cabinet when the Centre banned the erstwhile People's War and the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCCI).

Another worrying aspect for the Andhra Pradesh Government is the floating of the Telangana Jagarana Sena (TJS) by the TRS, where volunteers are to be trained in martial arts and are expected to 'canvass' for a separate Telangana. But sparks are already flying in the political arena with Mr. Chandrasekhara Rao announcing that the TJS would teach anyone a lesson if it is provoked. The veiled message has been delivered successfully and now the cause of concern for law enforcement agencies is what would happen if the Maoist cadres infiltrate the TJS.

Govt eyes joint body to fight Naxals

Bharti Jain

NEW DELHI 15 SEPTEMBER

AT THE meeting of the chief ministers of Naxalite-infested states, to be held on September 19, the Centre will try to evolve a consensus on the modalities of proposed joint task forces for undertaking cross-border special operations.

The anti-Naxal strategists have decided to get tough with the Left-wing extremists bent on violence. The operationalisation of these joint task forces, which will comprise police personnel from the affected states and would have the ready mandate to go in for a barrier-free crackdown against the Naxals, is seen as crucial to "facilitate direct intelligence sharing and operational planning among the affected states." The Union home ministry and the nine affected states had agreed to form these joint task forces comprising police personnel of contiguous states at a meeting of the coordination centre on Naxalism in June.

Though the MHA immediately followed up the decision by proposing the formation of two such joint task forces, the modalities of



which were to be worked by Andhra Pradesh DGP and Jharkhand DGP, the plan got stuck due to different opinions on the command structure of these forces.

The MHA feels that if an agreement is reached among the chief ministers on details of the command structure — on whether they should be headed by the seniormost police officer irrespective of the state to which he belongs or by officers of different members states on a rotational basis — the task forces

can be immediately operationalised. Sustained special operations can then be undertaken against the extremists crossing state boundaries while on the run. As of now, special operations are undertaken by special task forces of individual states, although joint operations have recently been launched by Orissa and Andhra Pradesh as well as Bihar and UP. Among other items on the agenda is promotion of village defence mechanisms.

The MHA has been working on this new phenomenon by including security reimbursement expenditure (SRE) scheme, items like the Rs-1,500 honorarium for the SPOs of the village defence committees (VDCs), a Rs 2-lakh annual allocation to each VDC, Rs 5 lakh to each SP for community policing and another Rs 2 lakh for anti-Naxal publicity activities. In fact, the MHA has increased the outlay towards SRE for Naxal-affected areas to Rs 40 crore this year. The states will also be asked to reinforce the VDCs by setting up mobile patrols and locating police pickets in the villages having these VDCs. The raising of IR battalions from the affected areas is likely to be emphasised at the September 19 meeting.

গিরিডিতে মাওবাদী হামলায় গ্রামরক্ষী বাহিনীর ১৫ জন হত

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, রাঁচি, ১২
সেপ্টেম্বর: জঙ্গিদের ঠেকাতে রাজ্য
সরকারের গড়া গ্রামরক্ষী বাহিনীর
উপরে হামলা চালান মাওবাদীরা। বাড়ি
থেকে টেনে হিচড়ে বার করে মাওবাদী
জঙ্গিরা গুলি করে হত্যা করল ১৫ জন
গ্রামবাসীকে। জখম হন আরও ৫ জন।
কাল গভীর রাতে ঘটনাটি ঘটে, বিহার
সীমানায় গিরিডি জেলার দেউরি থানা
এলাকার বেলুয়াঘাট গ্রামে। জঙ্গিরা ওই
গ্রামরক্ষী বাহিনীর নেতা মকসুদের ঘর
জ্বালিয়ে দিয়েছে। গ্রামরক্ষী বাহিনী যে
স্কুলে বৈঠক করেন, সেটি জ্বালিয়ে
দিয়েছে জঙ্গিরা। ঝাড়খণ্ডের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী
অর্জুন মুন্ডা প্রত্যেক নিহতের
পরিবারকে ৫ লক্ষ টাকা ক্ষতিপূরণ
দেওয়ার কথা ঘোষণা করেছেন।
১৫ জনের মৃতদেহ উদ্ধার করা
হলেও গ্রামের মহিলারা এই দিন দুপুরে
পুলিশকে বলেছেন, “আরও ৫-৬ জন
গ্রামবাসীকেও জঙ্গিরা মেরেছে। তাঁরা
গ্রাম ছেড়ে জঙ্গলে পালাচ্ছিলেন।” এই
খবর ঠিক হলে ওই ঘটনায় সব মিলিয়ে
২০-২১ জনের মৃত্যু হয়েছে। পুলিশ
এখনও জঙ্গলে তল্লাশি চালায়নি। তাই
বাকি ৬ জনের মৃত্যুর খবরটি সরকারি
ভাবে এই দিন সন্ধ্যা পর্যন্ত মেনে নেওয়া

হয়নি। ২০০৪ সালের ৭ এপ্রিল পশ্চিম
সিংভূম জেলার গুয়া গ্রামে জঙ্গি
হামলায় ৩০ জন পুলিশের মৃত্যু হয়।
রাজ্য পুলিশ সূত্রের খবর, ২০০১ থেকে
কাল রাত পর্যন্ত জঙ্গি হামলায় ১১০
জঙ্গির মৃত্যু হল।
ঘটনার খবর পেয়েই আজ দুপুরে
মুখ্যমন্ত্রী অর্জুন মুন্ডা হেলিকপ্টারে
ঘটনাস্থলে যান। স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রি জে বি
টুবিড, রাজ্য পুলিশের ডিজি বি ডি
রাম ও ঘটনাস্থলে গিয়েছেন। বিহারের
লাগোয়া পাহাড়-জঙ্গল পরিবেষ্টিত
বেলুয়াঘাট গ্রামে পৌঁছতে পুলিশ
বাহিনীর বিস্তার সময় লাগে। ওই
এলাকার পাশেই গুডপা জঙ্গল। যেখানে
কয়েক মাস ধরেই জঙ্গি নেতারা ৫০০
আদিবাসী তরুণ-তরুণীকে অত্যাধুনিক
অস্ত্র চালানোর প্রশিক্ষণ দিচ্ছিল বলে
রাজ্য স্বরাষ্ট্র দফতর সূত্রের খবর।
মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বলেন, “ঝাড়খণ্ডের
পাহাড়ে-জঙ্গলে জঙ্গিদের সমর্থন দ্রুত
কমছে। তাই ওরা হতাশ। এই হতাশার
প্রকাশ ঘটছে নির্বিচারে গণহত্যার
মাধ্যমে। ওই সব গ্রামের মানুষ জঙ্গিদের
উৎপাত ঠেকাতে রাত পাহারার ব্যবস্থা
করেছেন। সরকার তাঁদের মদত করছে।
তাতে জঙ্গিদের ‘তোলা’ আদায়,

যাতায়াতে সমস্যা হচ্ছে। সেই
আক্রোশেই এই গণহত্যা।” এলাকাটি
বিহার সীমানায়। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বলেন, “দু’টি
রাজ্যের পুলিশ যৌথ ভাবে তল্লাশিতে
নেমেছে। জঙ্গিরা পালাতে পারবে না।”
দেউরি থানার ওসি দিবাকর সিংহ
বলেন, “জঙ্গিদের দৌরাঙ্গ্য ঠেকাতে ওই
সব এলাকার গ্রামগুলিতে গ্রামরক্ষী
বাহিনী গড়া হয়েছে। কাল রাতে যাদের
পাহারা দেওয়ার কথা ছিল, তাঁরা
বাড়িতে খেতে যান। খাওয়া-দাওয়া
সেরে ওঁরা বিশ্রাম নিচ্ছিলেন। সেই
সময় প্রায় দু’শো সশস্ত্র জঙ্গি গ্রাম ঘিরে
ফেলে। মহিলা জঙ্গিরাও ছিল। গ্রামরক্ষী
বাহিনীর লোকদের বাড়ি থেকে টেনে
বার করে এনে গুলি করে জঙ্গিরা।”
ওসি জানান, গ্রামের মহিলাদের কথা
মতো জঙ্গলের মধ্যে মৃতদেহগুলি
রয়েছে কি না, তল্লাশি করে দেখা হবে।
গোটা এলাকা জুড়ে এখন শাস্তানের
সুত্রতা। কেন্দ্রীয় বাহিনী নিয়ে রাজ্য
পুলিশের কর্তারা ব্যাপক তল্লাশি
চালাচ্ছেন। তবে রাত পর্যন্ত কাউকেই
ধরা যায়নি। তারা আরও গভীর জঙ্গলে
ঘাঁটি গেড়েছে বলে রাজ্য পুলিশের এক
পদস্থ কর্তা সন্ধ্যায় ওই এলাকা থেকে
মোবাইল টেলিফোনে জানিয়েছেন।

Politics alone can tackle Naxalism

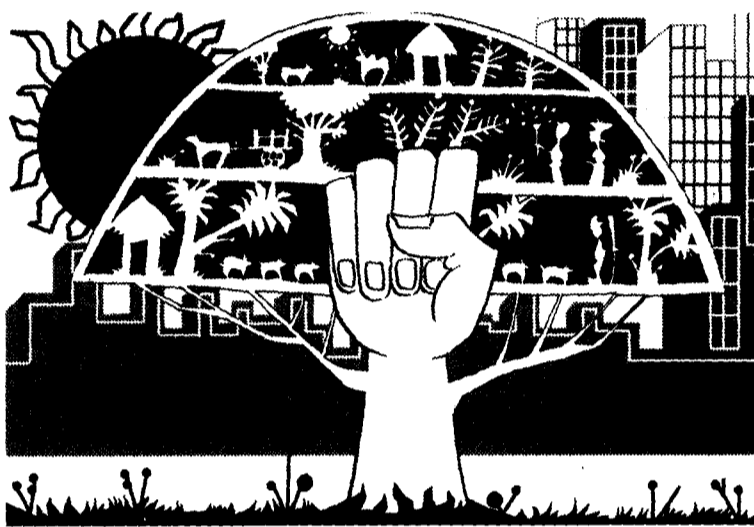
Violence by the state breeds more violence by weak and helpless groups. Only a state sensitive to society and prepared to intervene proactively can tackle the Naxal problem, says C P Bhambhri.

INDIA is witnessing an armed struggle against the State in 150-odd districts spread over 14 states. The response of the State to such an armed struggle has been episodic and ad hoc because the state functionaries have treated this large-scale social unrest as a mere law and order problem.

Naxalism is quite active in states like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa and Maharashtra, while some elements of it can be found in West Bengal, UP, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Kerala, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. The Naxal phenomenon of armed struggle against the State began in the '60s and was confined only to West Bengal and the Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh. But today, the practitioners of armed struggle have spread their network in 14 states and more than 150 districts of India. Significantly, they are very active in the tribal areas and districts suffering from acute agrarian crisis.

The BJP-led coalition government at the Centre, from 1998 to 2004, followed a policy of ruthless suppression of Naxals. Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandra Babu Naidu implemented this policy of suppression as advocated by then Union home minister L K Advani. But home minister Shivraj Patil of UPA, unlike his predecessor, clearly stated on September 23, 2005 that the government in Naxal-infected states should reduce dependence on arms by these groups and encourage "conditional or unconditional talks with them."

Mr Patil further elaborated: "Orissa was willing to do it. Jharkhand said some consensus should be evolved and if the Centre took the lead, it would be useful. Others thought that some principle could be followed. We told them they should spearhead the peace dialogue. We can come in whenever they feel they need us." In other words, every political party which has an agrarian social base, including the Congress, has recognised that the Naxal problem is not merely a law and order problem and has social reasons which need to be addressed on



the basis of a "dialogue" with the People's War groups. The UPA government's policy of "dialogue" with Naxals was practised by the Congress government of Andhra Pradesh for full one year and it has been reversed on August 17, 2005 after the assassination of a state minister by the Naxals.

It deserves to be clearly stated that the ideologues of Naxalism were absolutely wrong in characterising the Indian State as "neo-colonial and unpopular". This faulty theoretical formulation led them to launch an "armed struggle" against the 'anti-people' State on the Maoist model. Naxals were absolutely wrong when they proclaimed "chairman Mao is our chairman." Charu Majumdar and others did not recognise the strong democratic social essence of the bourgeois Indian State and they failed to launch popular democratic struggles in support of agrarian restructuring of India. This led the Naxals to challenge the armed might of the State through the power of gun. This faulty ideology and strategy of armed struggle against the State failed and democratically-elected West Bengal government completely marginalised Naxalism by undertaking large-scale land reforms.

Actually, the genesis of Naxal problem lies in the "unfinished agenda of land reforms" and the Indian State's insensitivity to tribal exploitation by contractors, bureaucrats and politicians in the remote tribal belts. Naxalism in India has a social origin. Gunnar Myrdal in his classic *The Asian Drama* — an inquiry into the causes of Indian poverty — had alerted the Indian State, as early as the '70s, that it has not been able to implement basic land reforms in many parts of the Indian states. But it does not mean that land reforms have not been on the agenda of the Indian State.

INDIA has abolished traditional rent seeking "absentee landlordism" but surplus land has not been distributed to the landless. Moreover, the backward caste — middle peasantry — which has been the beneficiary of the much-maligned land reforms are behaving like "neo-landlords" and are ruthlessly dealing with the Scheduled Caste, landless agricultural workers. The Yadavas of UP and Bihar, the Jats of Rajasthan, Haryana and western UP or Khammas and Reddys of Andhra Pradesh have captured the state machinery and they

are hardly interested in undertaking any land reform. It is not a question of land reforms alone, even minimum statutory wages are not paid to the landless workers. However, state governments, controlled by the backward caste, middle peasantry, are not at all committed to implement the policies concerning the amelioration of the living conditions of tribals and Dalits. The government of Bihar (and its successor Chhattisgarh) has turned a blind eye to private armies of high caste landlords, like Ranveer Sena, which are inflicting private vendetta against the oppressed and struggling landless. The Naxals have to face the bullets of the armed constabulary and the landlord's armies in these states.

The agrarian crisis has become more pronounced in the '90s. Government data clearly show that capital formation in rural India is declining and unemployment in rural areas is increasing at an alarming rate, affecting not only the landless but also millions of marginal and small-holding farmers. Rural industrialisation can provide new opportunities to the surplus army of the rural unemployed but the state governments do not have any agenda for creating rural employment opportunities. But the new National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme adopted by the UPA government could help tackle this problem, albeit in a gradualist manner.

It deserves to be stated that Naxal method of armed struggle against the well-armed Indian State will not succeed. At the same time, the state managers should know that the Naxal problem is the result of serious acts of omission and commission by those who have been elected to serve the masses. A social problem like Naxalism can be resolved only if the Indian State follows social welfare policies. For, violence by the State breeds more violence by the weak and helpless groups. A socially activist and interventionist State can tackle the Naxal problem. Fanon's 'Wretched of the Earth' need succour and not suppression by the state.

RED TERROR

Maoists Formulate Strategy And Tactics Of Revolution

Handwritten: P.P. CPIML

The Naxalite uprising in 1971 failed primarily because it was divided and was not wholly prepared. The fact that Mao's China at that time was India's arch enemy made them a public enemy. There was also a concerted political will to put them down as the nation was to go to war with Pakistan shortly thereafter. With the Maoists going underground, they clandestinely set about re-establishing themselves in their base areas with a great deal of popular support, as none of the causes of discontent were addressed by successive governments.

Forty groups

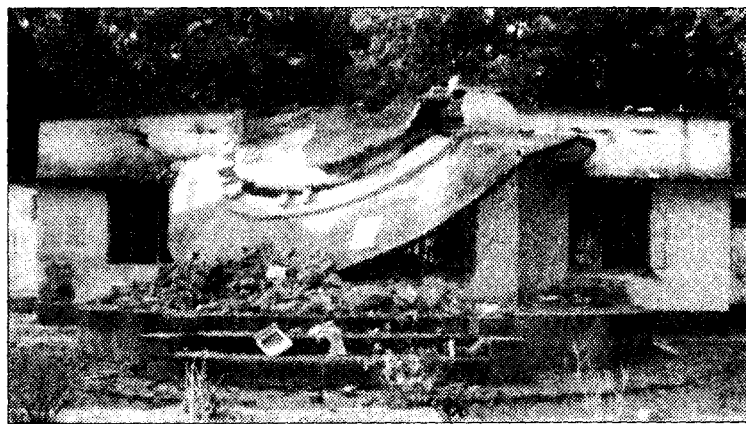
The Maoists were earlier split into groups. Some believe there were as many as 40 groups. The main ones were called the Maoist Communist Centre of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), People's War Group, Revolutionary Communist Centre of India, Revolutionary Communist Centre of India (Maoist), Communist Party of India (CPI-ML). All these groups allied themselves to each other and to the Maoist parties of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal to form a joint organisation called the coordinating committee of the Maoist Communist Parties and Organisations of South Asia. They also formed part of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM) set up in 1984 to coordinate Maoists efforts all over the world. Interestingly the RIM headquarters was in the USA.

Indian Maoist groups largely merged on 21 September 2004 to call themselves the Communist Party of India (Maoist) along with a statement that "we declare that the guerrilla armies of the CPI (ML), PW and MCCI, the People's Guerrilla Army and the Peoples Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) have been merged into the People Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA). Hereafter the principal task of the party is to develop the PLGA into a full-fledged Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) and transform the existing guerrilla zones into base areas,

The author is a retired Lieutenant-General, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, of the Indian Army

Handwritten: 5-6 thereby advancing towards the New Democratic Revolution.

The statement included promises of support for the "Struggle of the Nationalities" for self-determination including their right to secession (implying support for the North-east insurgent groups and terrorists in J&K). The Maoists would expose, isolate



and defeat all forms of social repression, particularly untouchability and casteism and the more dangerous Hindu fascist forces whilst exposing other fundamentalist forces.

Strategy of struggles

It would direct its struggles against the central and state governments and their allies including the CPI and CPI-M and their allies. The communists in Bengal have been proclaimed to be guilty of unleashing a "white terror" against the downtrodden people and capitalism in having given total support to businessmen from outside the state, who are looting it. The Maoists proclaim that they will counter them through "Red Terror". The Maoists also state that they will resist expansionist designs of imperialists all over the world and support the Iraqi and Afghan people against US imperialist designs.

In a document on the "Strategy and Tactics of the Indian Revolution", the Maoists stated that "the character of Indian society is semi-colonial, semi-feudal. The Indian Revolution would have to pass through two stages. The first must change the semi-colonial, semi-feudal society into an independent New Democratic Society. The targets of the revolution would be the imperialists, bour-

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geoisie and landlord classes...The motive forces for the revolution are to be the peasants, workers and petty bourgeoisie, with the national bourgeoisie being vacillating allies. The immediate aim is to be achieved through the path of a protracted people's war starting from the rural areas".

The document amplifies that

ment. There have been further incidents in a number of places since then. It, however, needs to be noted that Maoist activities have been carried on for quite some time by the two erstwhile Left extremist factions and there is now a re-emerging Naxalite threat in Bengal.

Proxy war

The situation is now also beginning to pose a serious threat particularly when considered in conjunction with the activities of Maoists in Nepal. This activity can now be considered to be part of the proxy war against India. There are indications that the Maoists are supported through Bangladesh and Nepal by Pakistan, China and Bangladesh as part of their proxy war effort (though this is denied by China).

The Maoists are waging a people's war in 13 states — Andhra, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan (minimal), Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal (minimal) and West Bengal. According to the ministry of home affairs, in 10 of these states in 2004, a total of 420 civilians and 98 security forces men were reportedly killed in Maoist terrorist-related violence. State-wise figures of those killed are: 155 in Bihar, Jharkhand 150, Chattisgarh 75, Andhra 74, Uttar Pradesh 23, Maharashtra 15, West Bengal 14, Orissa 8, Madhya Pradesh 3, Karnataka 1. The casualty figures are not necessarily indicative of the degree to which the states are affected. In reality in the affected areas of certain states, the writ of the government simply does not run. Hence there are no reports of casualties/deaths.

The under-developed hill regions in these states are the worst-affected. This is where most of the mineral and forest wealth is located and is primarily inhabited by the tribal people.

The only exceptions are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh where the lower caste belts are primarily affected in addition to the hill areas. In a nutshell, the affected areas and people are the under-developed, poorly governed areas, inhabited by economically and socially deprived people.

07 SEP 2006

THE STATESMAN

Chhattisgarh all set to ban Naxalites

PRESS Trust of India
Raipur, September 5

FOLLOWING SPURT in violent activities by the Naxalites in Chhattisgarh, that claimed the lives of 24 security personnel in Bastar region, the state government on Monday decided to ban the Naxalite organisations.

"The state Cabinet, in an emergency meeting decided to ban the Naxal organisations in the state through an ordinance," chief minister Raman Singh said here.

The draft Ordinance was approved by the Cabinet and would be sent to the Union home ministry for approval, after which, through Governor Sushilkumar Shinde, it would be sent to the President for his approval, Singh said.

After the Presidential nod, the Naxal outfits would be banned through a notification, Singh said after the Cabinet meet, which also reviewed Saturday's landmine blast. Terming the situation in Bastar as "war-like", home minister Ram Vichar Netam told reporters that at many places the police and para-military forces were engaged in on-to-one fight with the Naxals. "Any organisation or group of individuals, involved in illegal activities or terrorist activities, will be initially banned for one year through this ordinance and after examining their activities the period of ban can be extended," Netam added.

Stating that the government needed more forces and sophisticated weapons to fight the situa-

all banned organisations, Netam said. The people or organisations, which are involved in directly or indirectly helping the banned organisations will also attract provisions of the Ordinance, he said.

"The members of the banned outfits or their associates would face a maximum of three years' imprisonment and in a notified area the sentence would be up to seven years for those involved in any such illegal activities," he said. When asked if mediapersons would come under the Act for interviewing the leaders of such banned organisations, he said, "anyone involved in helping these organisations will be come under this Ordinance".

"However, the rights of the media will remain intact despite this



Raman Singh

tion, the chief minister had on Sunday sought the assistance of Union home ministry.

Under the Ordinance, the state government can confiscate the moveable properties and funds of

Ordinance," he clarified.

The state government has also proposed to make a three-member advisory board, headed by a serving or retired High Court judge, before whom any organisation can appeal for consideration of lifting of the ban within 15 days of notification of the ban, Netam said.

The advisory board would have to give its opinion to the state government within three months of the submission of the organisation to lift the ban, he added.

The state government has also made a provision to seek prior approval of the district collector before filing of challans by police before a court and all the offences coming under this ordinance would be cognisable and non-bailable, Netam added.

24 security men killed in Chhattisgarh mine blast

Raipur

4 SEPTEMBER

THE Chhattisgarh government considered imposition of a ban on Naxalites on Sunday, after they triggered a powerful land mine in Bijapur police district, killing 24 security men, including 22 central reserve police force (CRPF) personnel.

Twenty-two personnel belonging to the 87th battalion of CRPF and two from the district force of Bijapur police travelling in an anti-land mine vehicle were killed in the blast near Padedda village, about 12 kms from Bijapur, last evening, chief minister Dr Raman Singh said. The incident took place when the vehicle — carrying the CRPF personnel from Bijapur to Padedda camp — was negotiating a turn at Ponjar rivulet, home minister Ram Vichar Netam said.

"The impact of the blast was so strong that the vehicle, in which the security men were travelling, was blown to pieces," Mr Singh commented. He added that, he had convened a high level meeting in the evening to consider clamping a ban on the CPI (Maoist) among other things.

Three injured persons, including commander BK Toppo have been airlifted to the state capital and though their condition is serious they are out of danger, Mr Singh said. All the bodies have been recovered. "Bodies of 16 security men were taken to the divisional headquarters at Jagdalpur," Mr Singh added. — PTI

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The Economic Times

Centre plans steps against naxalites

Landmine blast death toll 24; 5/9
Chhattisgarh may ban outfits

NEW DELHI: The Centre said on Sunday that it would make a comprehensive review of the situation in Chhattisgarh and decide on counter measures against naxalites. This comes in the wake of Saturday's landmine attack near Bijapur in which 24 security personnel, including 22 CRPF personnel, were killed.

"The Home Ministry will make a comprehensive review of the naxalite situation in Chhattisgarh with senior State Government officers and decide on appropriate counter measures," a spokesman said.

The Centre condemned Saturday's incident and conveyed its sympathies to the bereaved families.

High-level meeting

In Raipur, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh told PTI that his Government was considering imposing a ban on the group.

Twenty two personnel be-

longing to the 87th battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force and two from the District Force of Bijapur Police travelling in an anti-landmine vehicle were killed in the blast near Padedda village, Mr. Singh said.

"The impact of the blast was so strong that the vehicle was blown to pieces," Mr. Singh said, adding that he had convened a high-level meeting to consider clamping a ban on the CPI (Maoist).

Three persons, including Commander B.K. Toppo, who were injured, have been airlifted to the State capital. All the bodies have been recovered.

To a question, Mr. Singh said the incident would not change his plan to visit the naxalite-affected area in the near future.

The 'Salwa Judum' or the peace campaign by the villagers of Bijapur area and also the anti-naxalite operation by the police would continue, he said.

- PTI

Naxalites kill four in Jharkhand

Statesman News Service

RANCHI, Aug. 31. — Four persons were killed late last night by Naxalite ultras in the Latehar district of Jharkhand. All four were first kidnapped from the neighbouring Lohardaga district.

According to police officers, the killing was masterminded by the ultras of the banned Naxalite outfit Jharkhand Sangharsh Janamukti Morcha.

Police sources of Latehar and Lohardaga said that around 2 a.m. today, a gang of 15 to 20 heavily armed extremists entered Bariatu village in Kisko police station area of Lohardaga. After surrounding the village, they kidnapped Ramswarup Lohra (38), Burul Lohra

(20), Firingi Lohra (18) and Sayed Ansari (16) from a particular house. After the abduction, the four were brought to the end of Turudi village area in neighbouring Latehar district after a trek through the jungles and hilly tracks. The four were beheaded with swords and choppers thereafter and their mutilated bodies left there. Soon after the killings, police said, the gang went back inside the deep forest after raising slogans.

Latehar SP Mr PS Kendaswami said today: "All four who were murdered had started construction business and the Naxalites had demanded huge amounts of "levy" from them. When denied their share of the levy, they killed the four."

The bodies of the four

were recovered from the Turudi village by police. An intense combing operation was also started after cordoning off the entire area. However, there were no reports of any arrest till reports last came in.

District police officers in both Latehar and Lohardaga have started separate investigations into the massacre. After an intense round of questioning, some villagers of Bariatu told the police that the Lohras were into a dispute over a land with another family in the village, who have connections with Naxalites. "In all probabilities, the ultras had murdered the Lohra family members because both sides could not come to a mutual understanding on the control of the property", the villagers reportedly pointed out.

Maoists train guns on Andhra CM

Statesman News Service

HYDERABAD, Aug. 28. — The Andhra Pradesh Intelligence unit has sounded an internal security alert after coming to know that the outlawed Maoists have deployed a team to attack chief minister Dr YS Rajashekar Reddy right in Hyderabad.

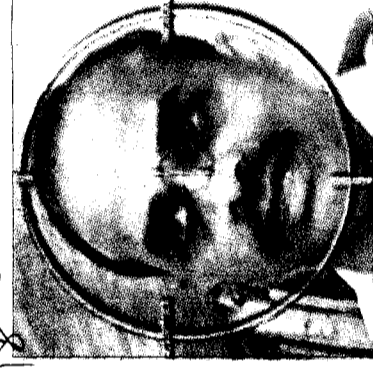
The four to five-member "action team" is believed to be headed by Naxalite leader Takkalapalli Vasudeva Rao, alias Ashanna, who allegedly master-

mind²⁵ed the claymore mine attack that nearly killed former chief minister Mr N Chandrababu Naidu at Tirupati in October 2003. The Maoist is also believed to have planned the landmine blast that killed the then panchayat raj minister A Madhav Reddy in March 2000.

"We have reason to believe that he (Ashanna) is heading the team. We have had no clue to his whereabouts in the recent months. Similarly, there was no information about the other three who are known to be

Reddy had increased after the recent ban on Naxalites. The officer conceded that the police were unable to specify the place and mode of attack despite being aware that the Maoist team was on the prowl. "In the weeks before the attack on Mr Naidu, we issued a number of alerts. But in none of the circulars could we specifically mention that he would be attacked in Tirupati," the officer said.

He said the Maoists had made all possible preparations during the period of peace talks to target political leaders and police



Maoist hitmen," a senior police officer told The Statesman.

The perception of threat to Dr

officers. At that time, land mines were discovered on state highways and roads. "They did not plant the explosives keeping in mind a particular individual. The mines were there to be detonated if a minister, a Congress leader or a sub-inspector took the road," he said.

The police, however, rule out a suicide attack — something the Maoists have never attempted. Sleuths say such a method is against the tenets of guerrilla warfare as it would cost the militants the life of a painstakingly-reared revolutionary.

Should Naxalites contest elections?

Will only help them to serve people better

They can't stay insulated from polls

THE election process is the most powerful weapon in a democratic system for policy-making, one of the ultimate means to eradicate social poverty and inequality and, thereby, for the country's overall development. Different political parties are contesting elections with their own ideologies, and the party that wins the majority forms the government and frames policies in which the losing majority — as opposition — also plays an equally critical role to air their views in the parliamentary process.

It is very evident in recent years that small parties, regional representations and social groups can play a crucial role in policy-making in coalition politics. For instance, the Left parties are influencing policy-making in line with their ideologies in the present central coalition. And many of the regional parties and social groups that participated in the election process got an opportunity to represent their views and ideologies.

The Naxalites and other extremist groups are fighting on behalf of landless labour and tribals against different forms of exploitation, through armed struggle; they are also aiming towards a classless society. In doing that they mainly ostracised themselves by moving on to isolated terrain and rural areas, and in attempting to destabilise state institutions and the elected representatives. But although these movements are cynical about the electoral process, they play an important role in power politics during poll time. They can acquire added space to deliver services to the people (and particularly for those for whom they are struggling) if they themselves now participate in the poll process. So they should take their ideology to the people and mobilise popular support through the electoral process instead of keeping at bay; that would be a better way to deal with the dynamics of society, and for the cause of the oppressed.

In short, participation in the electoral democratic process is inevitable if Naxalites are to execute their ideology. History also shows that armed struggle always ends up with the loss of lives but offers no lasting solution to social problems.

**Centre for Economic and Social Studies*

ANY movement that seeks to radically transform an existing system must first learn the task of exposing and challenging it from within. Indian Maoists cannot claim immunity, or exemption, from this iron law of revolutions. But, ironically, our Maoist friends do not mind negotiating with a Congress government and treat election boycotts as axiomatic. Yet, in real life, they cannot stay insulated from elections, and, as they refuse to utilise elections, elections have been using them.

The boycott they so religiously advocate at election time has now degenerated into just a smoke-screen for indirect participation in the hustings. Is it not well known that either helping the Congress to wrest power from TDP, or vice versa, has become the Maoists' electoral destiny in Andhra Pradesh, their strongest bastion?

The formative years of AP's Maoist movement had, however, revealed much potential. The movement held strong appeal for the rural poor and students in the '80s. But its insistence on poll boycotts, no matter what, imparted an exclusively militarist orientation to it. The Marxist praxis of combining, and mastering, all forms of struggle was rejected in favour of exclusive, one-sided emphasis on isolated armed acts. The biggest casualty of this was the movement's mass potential, especially the possibility of mobilising vast sections on a radical political basis.

So it is against a critical self-evaluation of this experience, and not as part of any deal with the powers that be, that our Maoist friends must today consider the question of contesting elections.

Using elections for radical mobilisation, and independent assertion, of the oppressed is no easy task however. That is borne out by the CPI-ML's experience. The combination of money-, and muscle-, power, the wrath of the government of the day and, increasingly, the Election Commission's fiat (in the name of stopping the criminalisation of politics), are all factors heavily loaded against the use, by the oppressed and radicalised, of the vote as a weapon of struggle against the ruling elite's policies and domination. But, then, revolution is all about determined encounters with existing reality.

FACE-OFF



V SARAVANAN
Fellow/Reader
*CESS, Hyderabad



D BHATTACHARYA
General Secretary,
CPI-ML

25 AUG 2005 The Economic Times

Mainstreaming naxalites and other extremists

There can be no condonation of violence in a democracy. What stands in the way of violent extremist movements taking to the path of persuasive advocacy of genuine causes and becoming the democratic representatives of the people they claim to take up arms for?

V. Jayanth

PRIME MINISTER Manmohan Singh's appeal, in Hyderabad, to naxalite groups to join mainstream politics and contest elections has come not a day too soon. It may be clichéd to say there is as much power in the ballot as in a bullet, but this is an important point for these groups to realise. Unfortunately, they have taken the wrong route to highlight issues that are real and affect the lives of an oppressed section of people. If they are sincere about raising those demands that they have voiced for years, there can be nothing wrong in asking them to become elected representatives of the people they claim to represent.

What has happened in Andhra Pradesh is tragic. Less than a year ago, there was an air of expectancy. A Congress Government assumed power with a mandate to talk to the naxalite groups and find a negotiated, peaceful solution to the problem of violence in the State. There was a general acceptance of the fact that the problems raised by the Maoist group were genuine and the Government was prepared to hear them out and act. The two sides set up a panel to "talk about talks" — a euphemism militant groups and governments have got used to prepare the ground

for political negotiations on "substantive issues." As in comparable talks in other parts of the country and the world, the initiative did not get very far.

Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy must be commended for his bold, progressive initiative in initiating the peace talks. However, the Communist Party of India (Maoist) was not convinced about the genuineness of the exercise. Although the Government gave the naxalite leaders and cadres freedom of movement and let them organise public meetings, there was concern that most of the extremists were moving about with arms.

The naxalites for their part wanted an end to all police action. Similarly, despite the pressure, the Government did not insist on a laying down of arms, but put restraints on police law and order operations in vulnerable areas.

It did not take long for the talks to collapse and for the violence below the surface to resurface. The police resumed their intensive combing operations and the naxalites returned to their killing ways. At least 150 people have perished in this low-intensity conflict during the past year, many of them innocent citizens who happened to be at the scene of explosion or killing. A grisly incidence was the recent Independence Day

rampage in which a ruling party MLA and his family appeared to be the main target.

As a result of these developments, the Government has re-imposed a ban on the naxalite groups that was allowed to lapse last year. The police may be given a free hand to deal with the violence and take into custody not only known militants but also their sympathisers. A part of the problem are the police themselves. They have always been a key target of extremist attack. The naxalites have not even spared the local level government staff at the mandals. Whatever the intentions of the Government, it is the behaviour and functioning of the police force that can make or mar the peace process. When the Government is on a sticky wicket owing to the violence of the naxalite groups, the active police lobby will work on the political leadership to hit back and revive the cycle of violence. This is a factor any elected government must guard against.

There cannot be a more significant example of extremist intransigence than the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of Sri Lanka. This terrorist organisation has managed to prevent any serious discussion of the substantive issues that sparked the ethnic violence in the island nation. Despite the serious provocations, the Chandrika Kumaratunga Government has managed to ad-

here to the ceasefire in force for three years now — notwithstanding the recent fiendish assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar. The Government is still willing to talk to the LTTE, which consciously tries to confine the talks to interim governance and development.

The major question then is the one the Prime Minister posed, by implication, in Hyderabad: why are the naxalite groups afraid of the democratic process? Is it because they are not sure of the people's confidence? Having got used to ruling with the gun, they are determined not to let that power and hegemonic hold weaken. In the case of the LTTE, it has always claimed to be the "sole representative of the Tamil people."

It has systematically eliminated leaders of other groups. As for the naxalites, they evidently fear that if they act on Dr. Singh's advice, they could end up as a small caucus of legislators who cannot make a decent fraction of the impression they are making now. But that is the only way forward in a democracy. That State legislators and parliamentarians have their own constituency development fund and a say in local projects may not be incentive enough. We need more Lalthanhawias to renounce arms and join the democratic mainstream.

10-11
26/8

Maharashtra keeps eyes peeled for Maoists

SATISH NANDGAONKAR

Mumbai, Aug. 24: The Maharashtra government has beefed up its security and intelligence network in Naxalite-affected areas bordering Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

The move follows intelligence reports that Maoists fleeing after last week's crackdown by Andhra could enter the state through the forest areas of Gadchiroli, which borders the two rebel-hit states.

"We expect this as a short term fall-out. It is likely that Naxalite leaders could flee either to Bastar or into Gadchiroli. We have scaled our operations accordingly," Gadchiroli superintendent of police Shishir Jain said.

Violence erupted in Gadchiroli on Sunday when a group of 20-25 uniformed Maoists torched a state transport bus near Kosmi, a village on the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border, after forcing the 20-odd bus passengers to alight. Though no one was hurt, officials fear the incident could affect the skeletal state transport service to the region.

"Two state transport offi-

cers who visited the spot under police escort to survey the damage were fired at. This group was what we call the Area Raksha Dalam or the local *dalam* (armed groups)," Jain said over telephone.

Senior officials involved with anti-Naxalite operations in Mumbai said incidents of this kind could harm the cause of the Maoists as they could erode the sympathy of local residents. "This was the only bus that connected that region. The local population will suffer because of the impact of this incident," a senior police officer said.

Officials have welcomed the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy government's decision to reimpose the ban on the CPI (Maoist) after fruitless talks with rebel leaders. "During the ceasefire, the Naxalite activity had increased considerably in Gadchiroli. Arms supply had multiplied. Several training camps were set up," an official said.

The teams handling anti-Naxalite operations hope that quick implementation of a surrender policy announced by the Vilasrao Deshmukh gov-

ernment could curb the rebel influence in Gadchiroli, where 22 police personnel have been killed in the first six months of 2005, the highest in the past five years.

The policy proposes cash incentives and rehabilitation of rebels willing to say farewell to arms, education for children of *dalam* commanders, land and withdrawal of pending criminal cases.

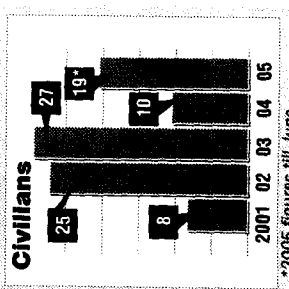
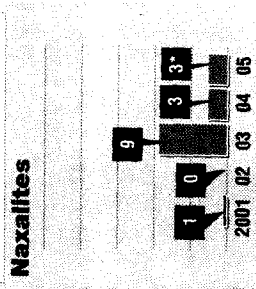
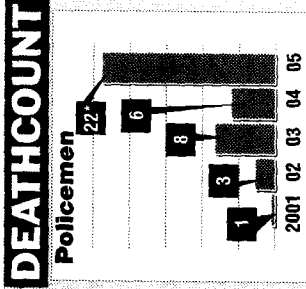
"Our intelligence shows that fence-sitters and women and children would be eager to

surrender. In fact, a group of 20 to 25 Naxalites are waiting for the policy to be implemented, and they would be willing to surrender immediately," said a police officer.

At a meeting in June, senior officials, who have been grappling with problems like lack of weapons and unwillingness of policemen to be posted in Gadchiroli, convinced deputy chief minister R.R. Patil about the urgent need for rehabilitation policies. The government then sanctioned four anti-mi-

ne vehicles, filled up at least one of the two posts of additional superintendent of police and framed a surrender policy.

Last December, state police discovered an arms-manufacturing factory in the heart of Nagpur. Among the weapons seized were light machine guns and two-inch rocket launchers. "Our investigations showed that Naxalites had enrolled people in ITIs to provide them with advanced technical training," said an intelligence source.



*2005 figures till June
Source: State home ministry

25 AUG 2005 THE HINDU

Maoists call ban 'thought policing'

ASHOK Das
Hyderabad, August 23

TRUE TO its tradition of reacting late, the CPI-Maoist slammed the state government on Monday for banning the outfit and seven of its front organisations. The ban — imposed five days ago — was a move to convert Andhra Pradesh into a "police state", accused the outlawed body.

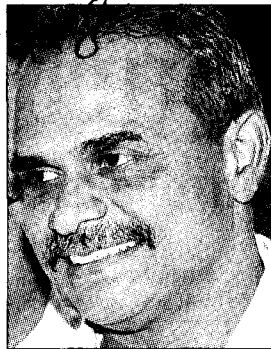
Maoists usually don't respond instantly on any major issue. They take their own time to make a calibrated statement only after discussing it in politburo meetings. As most of the top leaders live in hiding or are on the move, an official response usually takes time.

This time too the country's largest Naxalite group came out with the statement — issued in the name of three top leaders Ramakrishna, Jampanna and Sudhakar — only after such a top-level deliberation that reviewed the ban and its implications.

These leaders had also represented the group in the peace talks with the government last year.

The statement charged chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy with deliberately scuttling the peace talks last year to create the alibi for re-imposing the ban on the Maoist movement. The government was outlawing the mass organisations, which were seeking to protect the interests of different sections of the people, it said.

It came down heavily on the Congress government for imposing the ban on



YSR Reddy

Striking back

Maoists accuse YSR of deliberately scuttling peace talks

Criticise state for banning Revolutionary Writers Association

Seek immediate revocation of ban on Virasam and other organisations

the Revolutionary Writers Association. "No government in the past had banned this organisation comprising intellectuals and revolutionary poets and writers. The government was trying to impose thought policing," it said.

The statement asked the government to clarify to the people under which law of the land the police had eliminated 110 Naxalites since January. It sought immediate revocation of the ban on Virasam and other mass organisations, release of Varavara Rao and Kalyan Rao from jail, scrapping of the AP Public Security Act and criminal action against policemen involved in the killing of Naxalites in fake encounters.

24 AUG 2005 THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Test of democracy

The prime minister has thrown a challenge to Naxalite groups

AN important question about the legitimacy of the Naxal movement has been raised by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. He has punctured the basic pretension that Naxalites in this country have long held, that theirs is a popular movement. He has asked them to prove their popularity by joining the electoral process and not through violent and intimidating acts. In doing so, the prime minister has also drawn attention to a paradox that lies at the heart of so many violent movements which claim to represent the people. These movements can do everything but face the people in an open contest.

The political process is often full of shortcomings, and does not unambiguously express the will of the people. But it does not follow from this fact that any group can claim the mantle of representing the people, their needs and aspirations, simply by trumpeting loudly that they are fighting for the people. Even if the grievances that the Naxals draw upon truly exist, their means, methods and policies need to be subject to some test to ascertain their legitimacy. For all its infirmities, electoral

democracy is one of the few means of adjudicating any claims to represent the people. If a movement shies away from testing its own legitimacy, it becomes merely self-serving. Its own claims to be fighting for justice, or for the rights of the people, simply become self-confirming assumptions, with no accountability to anyone.

The prime minister is challenging a movement, that claims to be fighting for justice, to subject itself to the test of democracy. In doing so, he is also displaying great confidence in an open political process, by suggesting that the media should be allowed to interact with any political group. But no democracy can and ought to tolerate its own subversion. The subversion is all the more insidious when done in the name of the people. Participating in the democratic process comes with some unavoidable conditions. It requires abjuring violence, it requires respecting the integrity of a political process. The prime minister's call to the Naxals, therefore, is both a warning that they have to give up violence, and a challenge to them to prove what they claim for themselves — popular support.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Naxalites

'ban' Cong

HYDERABAD, Aug. 22. — The outlawed CPI (Maoists) announced that it was banning the Congress and said chief minister Dr YS Rajashekar Reddy had caused this situation by his dictatorial attitude.

"The Congress leadership has to take the responsibility for the consequences that would follow. If the government's dictatorial regime is not reined in, the entire Congress leadership would be held responsible", the rebels said in a statement. The letter was signed by the Andhra Pradesh state committee secretary, Ramakrishna, the north Telangana special zonal committee secretary, Jampanna, and the Andhra-Orissa border zonal committee secretary, Sudhakar.

They alleged that the state Cabinet was spineless as it had given full authority to the chief minister, who, in turn, gave all powers to the DGP, Mr Swarnjit Sen. "This is nothing but licence to impose a police raj on the state," the letter added. — SNS

NEW DELHI, Aug. 22. <

Taking a diametrically opposite view to that of the Attorney-General, the Central Vigilance Commission today, in a report to the Supreme Court, recommended prosecution against former UP chief minister Ms Mayawati in the Rs 175-crore Taj Heritage Corridor scam case.

The report was given to a Bench of Ms Justice Ruma Pal,

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21 AUG 2004

PM dares Maoists to fight polls

Statesman News Service

H Y D E R -
ABAD, Aug. 21. — The Prime Minister today warned Maoists that their violence cannot be tolerated and if they claim to represent the interests of the people they should test their strength in elections.



"No society can pardon those who kill innocent people. Faced with such terror tactics, the government will have no other option than to fight such groups and their ideology of hatred. Extremism of any form based on any divisive ideology, cannot be tolerated in any civilised, democratic society," Dr Manmohan Singh said.

Dr Singh's stern message comes four days after the Rajashekhar Reddy government banned the Maoists. He was participating in the CPI-M daily, *Prajashakti's* silver jubilee celebrations.

"Every political group that claims to represent the interests of people, or of a section, must test the popularity at the hustings, in the polling booth", he said. "Go ask the people to vote for you and support you. Come

to the legislature and enact the laws that you wish to see in place. By all means, use the media to convey your views. By all means, use the legislature to convert them into policies. In a democracy, the power of the people flows through the ballot, not from the barrel of a gun."

The Prime Minister referred to pro-Maoist balladeer Gadar stating that killing innocent people does not help win a cause. "This is an important liberal principle. Our democracy allows us the freedom to espouse our cause and win people over to our point of view. I have said this to the Hurriyat in Kashmir and to the UlfA in

Assam and now I say this to the Naxalites in Andhra Pradesh, that there is no grievance that cannot be redressed through democratic means and through dialogue," he added.

Upholding media freedom

Dr Singh today made it clear that any political group could use the media to convey its views.

The Prime Minister's assertion comes close on the heels of chief minister Mr YS Rajasekhhar Reddy's criticism of the media for carrying statements of extremist outfits and interviews of their leaders.

Manmohan sees a poverty-free India

MEDAK, Aug. 21. — The Prime Minister today said eradication of rural poverty is a priority of the UPA government and the scourge would be eliminated within five to 10 years through the implementation of various beneficial schemes. Dr Manmohan Singh said this after launching the second phase of the Andhra Pradesh government's ambitious land distribution programme here. He also announced a financial package for all the beneficiaries of the scheme to help boost agricultural production.

"Along with this (land documents), a special financial package will also be provided to all the families to cover the schemes designed to increase agricultural production," Dr Singh told a public meeting here. Under the first phase of the programme, the state government had distributed 1.50 lakh acres of land to the poor on a single day on 26 January this year. The second phase of the project envisages distribution of over one lakh acres to the rural poor, a majority of them farmers. Launching the second phase by handing over land *pattas* (land lease documents) to 10 women beneficiaries chosen from 10 Assembly constituencies of Medak district, the Prime Minister assured the state government of all support in implementing irrigation projects and tackling drought conditions. — PT

Flip-flop on Naxals

gk/s/ Confusing signals from Andhra m/s

It took the brutal killing of a Congress legislator, Chittan Narsi Reddy, and eight others in Mahbubnagar on Independence Day to stress the need to reimpose the ban on the CPI (Maoist) and seven other Naxalite organisations in Andhra. The persons killed, by all accounts, are not big landlords involved in what the Naxalites would call anti-social or anti-people activity. The killings were a reprisal for the killing of Yadanna, secretary of the Khammam and Warangal division of the CPI (Maoist), in an encounter with the police two days earlier. The ban on the Naxalite organisations comes into effect after a lapse of 13 months. When the Congress received a massive mandate in last year's assembly election which it fought in an unprincipled alliance with the People's War Group, since merged with others to form the CPI (Maoist), it adopted a liberal policy towards the extremists. Sonia Gandhi had also affirmed her commitment to talk to the Naxalites. The government of Rajasekhara Reddy wanted to act differently from the Naidu regime that had banned the organisation.

The breakdown of the Reddy-initiated peace talks was not unexpected for the Maoists had their own agenda. The government failed to assess their true intentions or the full ramifications of adopting a liberal attitude. It directed the police to call off operations against them, allowed them to hold public meetings, put up martyrs' memorials, undertake recruitment and extort money. The Naxalites made full use of the respite from the constant fear of imminent death at the hands of the state police in real or staged encounters. During the Naidu regime, they suffered severe body blows. They had almost been wiped out of the northern Telangana region, considered their "flagship guerrilla zone". The peace process the Reddy government initiated came as a godsend. The Maoists' ultimate goal is to form a People's Liberation Guerrilla Army and establish a Compact Revolutionary Zone extending from Nepal and running across contiguous parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and ending somewhere in Andhra Pradesh. Maoists in India have been operating in these areas where they have a significant presence. The success of Maoist insurgents in Nepal in achieving their objectives should be a warning not only for the government of Andhra Pradesh and other states through which the CRZ runs but also for the government of India.

THE STATESMAN

Ban timed to please World Bank: Naxals

ASHOK Das
Hyderabad, August 20

EVEN AS the jet carrying World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz was approaching Hyderabad airport to a lavish state reception on August 17, the government issued an order banning the CPI-Maoist and seven of its front organisations.

The government couldn't have timed the ban order better, say Naxal sympathisers. After all, they say, the World Bank tops the hate list of Maoists and the Congress government was desperate to please the Bank, which is the biggest lender to the state.

"It is the government's way of repaying the World Bank," said Maoist emissary Varavara Rao. Chief Minister Rajsekhar Reddy was no different from Chandrababu Naidu, he said.

The ban has altered a few ground realities in Andhra Pradesh. The Naxalites and the Congress, which were on the same side in the run up to the 2004 assembly election, are now pitted against each other.

Hours after the ban, Maoist spokesman Janardhan issued a statement on their line of action: "There is no longer a peace zone in the state. We are going to attack wherever possible and wherever possible."

This is a clear departure from the earlier Naxal strategy, when the erstwhile PWG would only target 'class enemies'.

The ban is a big victory for the police, which hated playing second fiddle while the political leadership went ahead with peace talks. The police gradually won the government over to its line that 'bullet for bullet' is the only solution to the Naxal menace.

Not everyone's happy with the ban, though. Many in the ruling party, including home minister Jana Reddy, were unhappy with the idea. They are afraid that police atrocities in the name of checking Naxals would send rural people running to the Naxals — throwing all government calculations awry.

The ban hasn't caught the Maoists unawares. Since withdrawing from the peace talks on January 15, they have been preparing for the ban by equipping themselves with more cadres, cash, weapons and new hideouts.

So now, the state is expected to witness a lot of bloodshed in the coming months. For the common man, particularly in the 16 Naxal-infested districts, it will be back to nightmarish midnight knocks by police and Naxalites.

21 AUG 2004

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Varavara Rao arrested for Naxalite-links

9.8.19
2/15/2
5/5
Statesman News Service

YSR advises restraint

HYDERABAD, Aug. 19. — Two days after reimposing the ban on Maoist groups, Andhra Pradesh police today launched a crackdown on Naxalite sympathisers and arrested former emissaries Varavara Rao and Kalyan Rao and warned of similar action against “revolutionary” balladeer Gadar.

Amidst high drama, police went to Varavara Rao's residence at Malakpet here in the wee hours and took him into custody under the provisions of AP Public Security Act which was invoked by the Congress government to re-impose ban on CPI (Maoist) and seven of its front organisations.

Rao, who had played a key role as a Naxalite emissary in the first round of peace talks, was taken to Chadarghat police station. Later in the

HYDERABAD, Aug. 19. — Chief minister Dr YS Rajashekar Reddy warned the police against harassing innocent people even if they provided food or shelter to the Maoists.

The AP Public Security Act has provisions where the police can act if they find that villagers hosted armed Maoists. In most cases villagers extended facilities out of fear and therefore should not be victimised, Dr Reddy told the police top brass. Following Dr Reddy's order, DGP Mr Swaranjit Sen held a video conference with district Superintendents of Police. “Action should be taken against sympathisers who willfully and intentionally support the Maoists in violent activities. Police officers on search operations should not subject innocent people to any kind of harassment. The government is not committed to creating hurdles for the common man,” he said. — SNS

evening, he was shifted to Chanchalguda prison after a local court remanded him to 10-day judicial custody.

President of the now banned Revolutionary Writers' Association, Kalyan Rao, too was arrested soon after he emerged from the Press Club at Basheerbagh after addressing a press meet. “We can also

take Gadar into custody if his statements amount to encouraging violence,” DGP Mr Swaranjit Sen said. Gadar was one of the emissaries of the Maoists during the negotiations. He today met the chief minister and demanded the immediate release of Varavara Rao and lifting of the ban on the RWA.

20 AUG 2005

THE STATESMAN

অন্ধ্রে আটক ভারভারা কল্যাণ রাও

হায়দরাবাদ, ১৯ অগস্ট:
অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশে মাওবাদীদের উপরে
নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারির পরে দু'দিন কাটতে
না কাটতেই নকশালদের প্রতি
সহানুভূতিশীল লেখকদের গ্রেফতার
করল রাজশেখর রেড্ডি সরকার।

মাত্র দশ মাস আগেই সরকারের
সঙ্গে প্রথম দফা শান্তি আলোচনায়
কল্যাণ রাও, ভারভারা রাও আর গদর
নকশালদের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করেছিলেন।
আজ ভোরে তাঁদের মধ্যে ভারভারা
রাওকে নাটকীয় কায়দায় নিজের বাড়ি
থেকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়েছে।
বিকেলে গ্রেফতার হয়েছেন কল্যাণ
রাও ও বেশ কিছু নকশাল সমর্থক।
গদরকেও যে কোনও মুহূর্তে ধরা হতে
পারে বলে হুঁশিয়ারি দেওয়া হয়েছে।
একাধিক মানবাধিকার সংগঠন দুই
নকশাল দুতের গ্রেফতারির তীব্র
সমালোচনা করেছে।

সাদা পোশাকে বিশাল পুলিশ
বাহিনী আজ ভোর সাড়ে তিনটে
নাগাদ মালাকপেটে ভারভারা রাওয়ের
সাইদাবাদ রোডের বাসভবনে হাজির
হয়। রাও বলেন, গ্রেফতারি পরোয়ানা
না দেখিয়ে পুলিশ তাঁকে ধরতে পারে
না। পুলিশ জানায়, জননিরাপত্তা
আইনে রাওকে গ্রেফতারের নির্দেশ
দেওয়া হয়েছে। তুমুল বাগবিতণ্ডার
মধ্যেই রাওকে চাদেরঘাট থানায় নিয়ে
আসা হয়। ২৯ অগস্ট পর্যন্ত তাঁকে
বিচারবিভাগীয় হেফাজতে রাখা হবে।

বিকেলে বসিরবাগে একটি
সাংবাদিক সম্মেলন শেষ করার পরেই
কল্যাণ রাও গ্রেফতার হন। গদর
উস্কানিমূলক বিবৃতি দেওয়া বন্ধ না
করলে তাঁকেও গ্রেফতার করা হবে
বলে জানিয়েছেন রাজ্য পুলিশের
ডিরেক্টর জেনারেল স্মরণজিৎ সেন।

গত সোমবার মেহবুবনগরে
ক্ষমভাসীন দলের বিধায়ক সি নরসি
রেড্ডি-সহ আট জন খুন হওয়ার পরেই
সরকার শান্তি আলোচনার পথ ছেড়ে
নকশালদের উপরে নিষেধাজ্ঞার
সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়। ভারভারা রাও ছিলেন
বিপ্লবী লেখক সংগঠনের (বীরাসম)
প্রতিষ্ঠাতা। আর কল্যাণ রাও তার
সভাপতি। ১৫ অগস্ট ৬টি মাওবাদী
সংগঠনের সঙ্গে ওই সংগঠনকেও অন্ধ্রে
নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা করা হয়।

রাও গ্রেফতার হওয়ার পরেই
গদরের নেতৃত্বে নকশাল সমর্থকেরা
চাদেরঘাট থানার সামনে ধর্মীয় বসেন।
পরে গদর বেগমপেটে মুখ্যমন্ত্রী
রাজশেখর রাওয়ের 'ক্যাম্প হাউজে'
গিয়েও প্রতিবাদ জানিয়ে আসেন। তাঁর
কথায়, "মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বলেছেন, আইন তাঁর
নিজের পথে চলবে। এক দিকে তিনি
আমাদের একসঙ্গে খাবার খেতে
ডাকছেন, অন্য দিকে গ্রেফতার করার
নির্দেশ দিচ্ছেন।" — পি টি আই

20 AUG 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

Andhra brings back ban on Maoists

ASHOK Das
Hyderabad, August 17

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government on Wednesday reimposed the ban on Maoists, hours after getting the go-ahead from the Centre. Union home minister Shivraj Patil reportedly conveyed the Centre's green signal during the telephonic conversation with chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy.

The chief minister rang up the Union minister on Wednesday morning to inform him

about the state Cabinet decision authorising him to exercise all options, including re-imposing the ban, to deal with the escalating Maoist violence.

Reddy urged the Centre to ban the Maoists since the left-wing extremist menace affected more than a dozen states. The Union home minister reportedly turned down the suggestion saying that maintenance of law and order was a state subject and it was for individual states to decide on the issue.

He informed Reddy that the

Centre had no objection if AP government decided to reimpose the ban on Maoists or any other Naxalite groups.

Soon after the chief minister held a meeting with home minister K. Jana Reddy and senior police officers to discuss various issues relating to the ban.

A section of ruling party leaders and Telangana Rashtra Samithi (a poll ally of Congress) are opposed to imposing the ban, as they felt such a move would further escalate violence and hinder development process in

the backward regions. The Congress government had allowed the ban on People's War Group and its frontal organisations to lapse in July last year, in pursuit of the peace initiative launched in May 2004.

On Tuesday, amidst public outrage over the killing of the septuagenarian MLA, the state Cabinet had authorised chief minister to take a decision on reimpos-

ing ban on Naxalite groups. After the Centre gave the go-ahead for re-imposing the ban, Reddy held discussions with home minister K. Jana Reddy, director-general of police Swaranjit Sen and chief secretary Mohan Kanda to formulate government's response to the growing Naxalite violence.

Though the chief minister had initially favoured a nationwide ban on Maoist groups in view of their presence in several states, he later decided to ban the Maoist groups operating in

the state.

The ban was first imposed in May 1992 when Congress was in power, coinciding with the first death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. Former chief minister and TDP patriarch late N.T. Rama Rao had announced relaxation in 1995 on the condition that extremists refrain from violence, extortion and acquisition of weapons.

A year later, the Chandrababu Naidu government had reimposed ban in the face of growing extremist violence.

STATE'S WAR

নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা, অক্রে হামলা তীব্র করার হুমকি মাওবাদীদের

হায়দরাবাদ, ১৭ অগস্ট: বিধায়ক হত্যাকাণ্ডের জেরে অক্রে নিষিদ্ধ হল মাওবাদীরা। কেন্দ্রের কাছ থেকে সবুজ সঙ্কেত পাওয়ার কিছু ক্ষণের মধ্যেই রাজ্যে শান্তি প্রয়াসকে আপাতত দূরে সরিয়ে রেখে এই সিদ্ধান্তের কথা জানিয়ে দেয় অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশ সরকার।

শান্তি আলোচনার মধ্যেই হামলা চালানায় নকশালদের সঙ্গে দূরত্ব বাড়ছিল কংগ্রেসের। স্বাধীনতা দিবসের দিনে হামলায় সম্পর্ক তিক্ততায় পৌঁছয়। কাল রাজ্য মন্ত্রিসভার বৈঠকে অনেকে নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারির দাবিতে সরব হন। কিন্তু নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারি হলে হামলা তীব্র হতে পারে, এই আশঙ্কায় বাকিরা বিরোধিতা করেন। তাঁদের দাবি, শুধু রাজ্যে নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারি হলে অবস্থার বিশেষ পরিবর্তন হবে না। কেন্দ্র সারা দেশেই নকশালদের উপরে নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারি করুক। শেষমেশ রাজ্য মন্ত্রিসভা নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারির সিদ্ধান্ত নেওয়ার দায়িত্ব দেয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী

ওয়াই রাজশেখর রেড্ডিকে।

মুখ্যমন্ত্রী এ ব্যাপারে অনুমতি চেয়েছিলেন কেন্দ্রের কাছে। কেন্দ্রের পক্ষ থেকে আজ সবুজ সঙ্কেত দিয়ে বলা হয়েছে, মাওবাদীদের সন্ত্রাস ঠেকাতে অক্রে সরকারকে সব রকম সাহায্য করতে প্রস্তুত কেন্দ্র। এর পরেই নকশালদের উপরে নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারির অর্ডিন্যান্সে সই করেন মুখ্যমন্ত্রী। তবে রাজ্যে মাওবাদীদের নিষিদ্ধ করার পাশাপাশি মুখ্যমন্ত্রীও ফোনে কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী শিবরাজ পাটিলকে বলেছেন, নকশালদের বাগে আনতে হলে অবিলম্বে সারা দেশে তাদের নিষিদ্ধ করা প্রয়োজন।

তবে নিষিদ্ধ হলেও তাদের হামলা চলবে বলে হুমকি দিয়েছে মাওবাদীরা। বিভিন্ন সংবাদপত্রের অফিসে পাঠানো বার্তায় ১৫ অগস্ট হামলার দায় স্বীকার করে নিয়ে মাওবাদীরা জানিয়েছে, সরকারের জনবিরোধী নীতির প্রতিবাদেই হামলা চালানো হয়েছে।

সরকার এই নীতি থেকে সরে না এলে ভবিষ্যতে ফের হামলা চালানোর হুমকিও দেওয়া হয়েছে। মাওবাদীদের মুখপাত্র জনার্দনের পাঠানো ওই বার্তায় বলা হয়েছে, হামলায় কয়েক জন নিরীহ মানুষ প্রাণ হারানায় খুবই দুঃখিত। পরবর্তী কালে পুলিশ এবং রাজনৈতিক নেতাদের উপরে হামলা চালানোর সময়ে তারা এই বিষয়টিকে গুরুত্ব দেবেন বলে জানানো হয়েছে।

রাজ্য পুলিশের ডিজি-র অফিসেও একই বার্তা পাঠিয়েছে নকশালারা। তাদের দাবি, এই হামলার পরে পরেই পুলিশ চার জনকে আটক করেছে। যদিও ডিজি অস্বীকার করেছেন। তিনি বলেন, “আমরা এখনও কাউকে আটক করিনি। করতে পারলে তো খুশিই হতাম।” মাওবাদীরা অবশ্য এ কথা মানতে নারাজ। তারা জানিয়ে দিয়েছে, আটক কমরেডদের ক্ষতি হলে এ বার তাদের লক্ষ্য কংগ্রেসের আর এক বিধায়ক জে কৃষ্ণা রাও। — পি টি আই

CPI(Maoist) banned again

Crackdown in Andhra Pradesh

W. Chandrakanth

HYDERABAD: The Andhra Pradesh Government on Wednesday imposed a ban on the CPI (Maoist) and seven other frontal organisations. The action came two days after the major naxalite outfit gunned down the senior Congress MLA, C. Narsi Reddy, and eight others in Mahbubnagar district.

Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, who was authorised by his Cabinet on Tuesday to take a tough stand against naxalites, signed an order banning the eight organisations for one year under the Public Security Act. Sources in the Chief Minister's office said Dr. Reddy took the decision after informing Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil on Tuesday.

Mr. Patil telephoned the Chief Minister after Monday's killings and assured him of the Centre's full support to the measures initiated by his Government to contain naxal violence.

The banned outfits

At a press conference here, State Home Minister K. Jana Reddy named the banned organisations: The CPI (Maoist), the Radical Youth League, the Rythu Coolie Sangham, the Radical Students' Union, the Singareni Karmika Samakhya, the Viplava Karmika Samakhya, the All-India Revolutionary Students' Federation and the Revolutionary Writers' Association (RWA). This is the first time the RWA has been banned.

Although there is no ban on other armed outfits such as Janashakti, "the law enforcement agen-

• Chief Minister informs Shivraj Patil

• Stern warning

• Hopes belied: Jana Reddy

cies shall deal with them sternly", the Minister said. "Any member of these organisations or anyone aiding or abetting in their unlawful activities through whatever medium shall attract the provisions of the Public Security Act. The law enforcing agencies will deal with them accordingly."

The ban on the naxalite organisation comes into effect after a lapse of 13 months. After the Congress received a massive mandate in the Assembly elections, the Rajasekhara Reddy Government adopted a liberal attitude to the then People's War to pave the way for peace talks as promised in the party manifesto.

On July 22, 2004, the Government decided against renewing the ban, originally clamped on the first death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr. Jana Reddy said, "the Maoists have misused the opportunity given by the Government and resorted to mindless killings, extortions and kidnap. They have killed 157 political activists, policemen, home guards and civilians in the last 13 months."

The Government's hopes that the naxalites would lay down arms and join the mainstream were belied.

14.0.10 18/8 The renewed Y.P.P. CRIML challenge of naxalism

The dastardly killing of a Congress legislator and eight others at Narayanpet in Mahbubnagar on Independence Day has shocked the popular conscience and holds several messages for the Government and the people. The fact that the outrage took place on August 15 at the very venue where an official function was held speaks volumes of the ease with which the Maoists "action team" executed its design and how the security cover provided for politicians can hardly provide protection against such a determined assassination bid. Though the legislator, Chittam Narsi Reddy, was described as "non-controversial," people in the area would be led to believe that somebody among those killed was involved in what the naxalites would call "anti-social or anti-people" activity. This was the kind of "punishment" their kangaroo court would hand down to people on their list. The unfortunate part of the killings seems to be the escalation in violence that is taking the lives of so many innocent people. It is significant that the Maoists chose to carry out this killing on Independence Day and that too at 1.30 p.m. at a public function. Aside from the MLA and his relatives, several officials were gunned down and at least 17 people were injured in the indiscriminate firing by the naxalites. There are also disturbing reports from neighbouring Chhattisgarh about the intensification of naxalite activity and clashes with the police.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy has responded the way any other responsible head of Government would have done. He has reimposed the ban on the naxalite groups, a ban which he allowed to lapse last year. The Government is now taking the line that there can be no talks until the Maoists lay down arms. He wants to intensify the combing operation of the police and track down the "action teams." There is a real danger of slipping back to the past and setting in motion a renewed cycle of violence involving the police and the naxalites. It is true that Dr. Reddy made a sincere bid to get the Maoists to the negotiating table, but the talks could not make much headway. Whether or not he is able to persuade the naxalites to return to the dialogue, the Chief Minister has a duty to his people — especially those in the tribal pockets where the naxalites hold sway. It is up to the Chief Minister, his Government, the local administration, and the private sector together to draw up a plan of action for the development of these backward areas — the basic cause for the growth of the naxalite movement and the support it draws from the people. There needs to be a clear commitment to social justice and a thrust for the development of neglected areas, especially in the spheres of health, education, employment, transport and communications. The naxalites must be made to realise that the problems they have supposedly focussed on are being addressed and the administration is responsive to the people's needs. They will then see the senselessness of their violent course.

মাওবাদীদের নিষিদ্ধ করা নিয়ে বিমত অন্ধ্রে

হায়দরাবাদ, ১৬ অগস্ট: বছর ঘুরতে না ঘুরতেই শান্তি প্রয়াসের ছবিটা আচমকাই পাল্টে গেল অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশে।

স্বাধীনতা দিবসের দিনে নকশাল হামলায় বিধায়কের মৃত্যুর ঘটনাই পাল্টে দিল ছবিটা। রাজ্যে শান্তি ফেরাতে নকশালদের সঙ্গে আলোচনা আপাতত দু'রে সরিয়ে রেখে কড়া মনোভাব নেওয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশ সরকার। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী ওয়াই রাজশেখর রেড্ডি আজ বলেছেন, "সরকারকে কড়া হতে বাধ্য করছে নকশালোরা। তারা যদি ভেবে থাকে বশুকের নলের সাহায্যে ক্ষমতা দখল করবে, তা হলে ভুলই করেছে।"

রাজ্য মন্ত্রিসভা আপাতত মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর

বিধায়ককে হত্যার ঘটনা এই প্রথম। কাল নারায়ণপেটের পান্না হাইস্কুলে স্বাধীনতা দিবসের অনুষ্ঠানে যোগ দিতে এসেছিলেন বিধায়ক সি নরি রেড্ডি। আচমকাই ওই অনুষ্ঠানে এসে চার জন

বিধায়ক খুন

মাওবাদী একে-৪৭ রাইফেল থেকে এলোপাথাড়ি গুলি চালাতে শুরু করে। সি নরি ও তাঁর পুত্র বেক্টেশ্বর রেড্ডি-সহ ন'জন ঘটনাস্থলেই প্রাণ হারান। এর মধ্যে নারায়ণপেট পুরসভার কাউন্সিলর বি ভি রাম মোহনও রয়েছেন। এই হামলার পরে শুধ সরকারপক্ষ নয়

শান্তি রূপে পাড়ছে রাজ্যের সব হাইকমান্ড এবং কেন্দ্রীয় মন্ত্রিসভা মহলই। নকশালদের কাছের লোক ইতিমধ্যেই রাজশেখর রেড্ডির সরকারকে যে কেনও উপায়ে মাওবাদী আন্দোলন দমনের পূর্ণ স্বাধীনতা দিয়েছে। নকশালদের প্রশিক্ষণ শিবিরগুলিকে ধ্বংস করার ব্যাপারেও রাজ্যগুলিকে নির্দেশ দিচ্ছে কেন্দ্র।

আজ লোকসভায় এক প্রশ্নের উত্তরে স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী শিবরাজ পাটিল বলেন, নকশাল অধ্যুষিত রাজ্যগুলির কয়েকটি শিবির থেকে সশস্ত্রি নেপালের মাওবাদীরা প্রশিক্ষণ নিয়ে গিয়েছে বলে গোয়েন্দা সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে। তিনি বলেন, কেন্দ্র রাজ্যগুলিকে যত শীঘ্র সম্ভব শিবিরগুলি চিহ্নিত করে ধ্বংস করার নির্দেশ দিয়েছে। — পি টি আই

50-5
17/8

YSR government stops short of banning Maoists

P.P. 10/11

Statesman News Service

Special forces for Andhra

HYDERABAD, Aug. 16. — The YS Rajashekar Reddy government today resolved to take harsher measures to curb Maoists, but stopped short of re-imposing the ban on them. Ministers told Dr Reddy that the government has to appear totally firm, irrespective of whether they are banned or not.

The decision at the Cabinet meeting comes a day after Maoists shot dead Congress MLA C Narsi Reddy and eight others in Mehboob-

NEW DELHI, Aug. 16. — The Centre has rushed special additional forces and deployed special police parties in Mehboobnagar district in Andhra Pradesh, where Naxalites have killed the Congress MLA, C Narsi Reddy, his son, revenue divisional officer of Narayanpet and the municipal commissioner. — SNS

nagar district. This is the first time ever that the Naxalites showed least concern about civilian casualties while carrying out an armed action.

“The Cabinet suggested severe measures against the Maoists without further delay. The Cabinet has given full powers to the chief minister to take all possible steps to maintain law and order. The Cabinet has taken serious note of the gruesome incident and decided not to tolerate such violence any longer,” information minister Mr MA Shabbir told a Cabinet press briefing. Cabinet sources said some ministers suggested that Dr Reddy visit Delhi and have the Centre extend the nationwide ban on Maoists.

17 AUG 2005 THE STATESMAN

Naxalites gun down Congress MLA, 8 others

There was a burst of gunfire and the victims lay dead in a heap

S. Nagesh Kumar

HYDERABAD: Andhra Pradesh Congress MLA Chittam Narsi Reddy and eight others were killed by an 'action team' of CPI (Maoist) in Narayanpet town of Mahabubnagar district of the State on Independence Day.

The assailants, suspected to be members of the Nallamala 'action team', sprayed bullets with two AK-47 assault rifles as the MLA was about to lay the foundation stone for a road in a Dalitwada. Mr. Narsi Reddy, his youngest son, C. Venkateshwar Reddy, Narayanpet Municipal Commissioner D.V. Ram Mohan were among the nine persons killed on the spot.

Seventeen were injured. Four of them — Revenue Divisional Officer Shiva Reddy, principal of Suryalakshmi Degree College Sudershan Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Ghanshyam Dharaka, and Arif, car driver of Mr. Venkateshwar Reddy, were in a serious condition and rushed to a hospital here.

At 1.30 p.m., eyewitnesses said, the MLA offered a coconut to the foundation plaque and asked the RDO to follow suit as a gathering of about 60 people watched. Suddenly, there was a burst of gunfire and the MLA fell dead in a heap along with his gunman Raja Reddy, his driver Srinivas, an employee, Sahebanna, Congress workers Lokesh-

• **Outrage at Narayanpet in Mahabubnagar district**

• **Armed men also shoot Congress MLA's son**

• **Red alert sounded in Telangana**

• **Thinking of re-imposing ban on naxalites: Chief Minister**

war Reddy, Ravinder Goud and Monappa Gowd, apart from the Municipal Commissioner. The armed men then walked over to a car in which the MLA's son was seated and shot him too. The MLA's second gunman was said to have fled the spot along with the crowd.

Police sounded a red alert throughout the Telangana region and areas adjoining the Nallamala forest in the wake of the attack, easily the biggest on civilians since the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Government decided against extending the ban on naxalites in May 2004. They also rushed a large contingent of armed men and launched combining operations around Narayanpet.

The Chief Minister who spoke to the media after presiding over an emergency meeting with the Director-General of Police, In-

telligence chief K. Aravinda Rao and other senior police officials, appeared furious at the attack on 76-year-old Narsi Reddy, a non-controversial leader, who was not on the naxalites' hit list.

Dr. Reddy told reporters that the Government was seriously considering re-imposing the ban on the naxalite outfits and going in hot pursuit after the armed squads. He said the Maoists were provoking the Government to take such a decision even though it had displayed extraordinary patience.

The Chief Minister, who had earlier in the day appealed to the naxalites to join the national mainstream and lay down arms, dismissed a query whether his Government had any plans to resume peace talks with the Maoists, which broke down in October last. He later flew by helicopter to Narayanpet for a first hand appraisal.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi is deputing AICC general secretary and in-charge of party affairs for Andhra Pradesh Digvijay Singh to attend the funeral of Mr. Narsi Reddy. Mr. Singh is also carrying her condolence message to the families of victims.

PCC president Keshava Rao and Home Minister K. Jana Reddy will accompany him to Dhanwada village in Mahabubnagar district where the funeral will be held on Tuesday.

THE HINDU

নকশালদের বিরুদ্ধে 'সুসংহত' দমন নীতি

দিগন্ত বন্দোপাধ্যায় • নয়াদিল্লি

১১ অগস্ট: অনেক আলোচনা হয়েছে, আর নয়। দেশের বিভিন্ন প্রান্তে নকশাল সমস্যার মোকাবিলায় এ বার পুরনো 'দমন নীতি'-ই ফের কাজে লাগাতে চলেছে কেন্দ্র। শুধু তা-ই নয়, চরমপন্থার উপরে ভিত্তি করে দেশের সর্বত্র একটি 'সুসংহত নীতি' নেওয়ার কথাও ভাবা হচ্ছে। গত এক বছরে অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশে নকশালদের সঙ্গে আলোচনা ব্যর্থ হওয়ার অভিজ্ঞতাকে মাথায় রেখেই এই সিদ্ধান্ত। স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরাপত্তার দায়িত্বে থাকা সচিব অনিল চৌধুরী স্পষ্টই বলেছেন, "শান্তির কথা বলতে গেলে এবার মাওবাদী-জনযুদ্ধদের অস্ত্র সংবরণ করতে হবে।"

গত লোকসভা নির্বাচনের আগে কংগ্রেস অন্ধ্র নকশালদের সঙ্গে আলোচনায় বসার কথা বলেছিল। ক্ষমতায় আসার পর অন্ধ্র ওয়াই এস রাজশেখর রেড্ডি সরকার আলোচনার প্রক্রিয়া শুরুও করে। কেন্দ্রের সঙ্গে গলা মিলিয়ে অন্ধ্র সরকার প্রথমে

ফের কড়া হচ্ছে অস্ত্র

অস্ত্র সংবরণ করে নকশালদের আলোচনায় বসার আমন্ত্রণ জানায়। কিন্তু নকশালরা জানায়, তারা অস্ত্র সংবরণ করতে পারবে না। নির্বাচনী প্রতিশ্রুতি ও সমস্যা সমাধানের লক্ষ্যে সে শর্ত রাজ্য সরকার মেনেও নেয়। কেন্দ্রের তরফেও বলা হয়, আলোচনার মাধ্যমে শান্তি স্থাপনের লক্ষ্যে রাজ্য সরকার যে পথই অবলম্বন করুক না কেন, তাদের তাতে সায় রয়েছে। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্য অবশ্য সে সময় অন্ধ্রের এই পথকে সমর্থন করেননি। পশ্চিমবঙ্গে সম্প্রতি পরপর কয়েকটি মাওবাদী হামলার পর বুদ্ধবাবুর সরকার যখন পুরো সমস্যাটিকে কিছুটা হলেও উন্নয়নের নিরিখে ভাবার চেষ্টা করছে, সে সময় কেন্দ্র আবার পুরনো 'দমন নীতি'তেই ফিরে যেতে চাইছে। অন্ধ্র হালে কেন্দ্র ও রাজ্য সরকার নকশাল দমনের জন্য যৌথ অভিযান চালায়। কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের খবর, নকশালদের দু'জন বড় নেতা এই অভিযানের সময় মারা

গিয়েছেন। আর এক নেতা রামকৃষ্ণকে এই অভিযানের সময় প্রায় ঘিরে ফেলা হলেও শেষ মুহূর্তে তিনি পালিয়ে যান।

অন্ধ্র এ বছরে রেকর্ড নকশাল হানার ঘটনা ঘটেছে। এ বছর জুন মাস পর্যন্ত জনযুদ্ধের হামলার ঘটনা ৩৪৫টি। অথচ গত বছর এই সংখ্যা ৩৫৭টি ছিল। এই পরিস্থিতিতে রেড্ডি দরবার করেন পাটিলের কাছে। তার পরেই কেন্দ্র সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়, নকশালদের হামলার যোগ্য জবাব দেওয়া হবে।

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের সূত্রের মতে, অন্ধ্র এ বছর ৭৭ জন সশস্ত্র জনযুদ্ধ সমর্থককে মেরে ফেলা হয়েছে। বাউখণ্ডেও মারা হয়েছে ৩৮ জন মাওবাদীকে। গত সপ্তাহে দেশের বিভিন্ন প্রান্তে নকশাল সমস্যা পর্যালোচনার জন্য স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকে একটি উচ্চপর্যায়ের বৈঠক হয়। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের সাম্প্রতিক মাওবাদী হামলা নিয়েও সেখানে আলোচনা হয়েছে। দেখা গিয়েছে, এক বছর আগেও যে সব রাজ্যে নকশালদের প্রভাব কমতে দেখা যাচ্ছিল, সেখানে নকশালরা ফের

মাথাচাড়া দিয়ে উঠেছে। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ তার

মাথায় একটি।

এই অবস্থায় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক অন্ধ্রের অভিজ্ঞতাকে কাজে লাগিয়ে নকশাল প্রভাবিত সব রাজ্যের জন্য একটি 'সুসংহত বাহিনী' তৈরির জন্যও চিন্তা-ভাবনা করছে। ইতিমধ্যেই প্রতিবেশী রাজ্যগুলির মধ্যে পুলিশবাহিনী আদান-প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে।

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের অভ্যন্তরীণ নিরাপত্তা বিষয়ক যুগ্ম সচিব এল সি গোয়েলের মতে, "সুসংহত বাহিনী" গঠনের লক্ষ্যে এটি একটি পদক্ষেপ বলা যেতে পারে।" উন্নয়নের কাজকে অবশ্য কোনও ভাবেই উপেক্ষা করছে না সরকার। নকশাল প্রভাবিত এলাকায় গ্রামের লোকজনদের উন্নয়ন প্রক্রিয়ায় शामिल করা হচ্ছে। অনিল চৌধুরী জানান, "যারা অস্ত্র ছেড়ে মূলজোতে আসতে চাইছে তাদের পুনর্বাসনের ব্যবস্থাও করা হচ্ছে। অনেক জায়গায় এ ধরনের লোককে নিরাপত্তা ও নকশাল সমস্যা মোকাবিলার কাজেও ব্যবহার করা হচ্ছে।"

Maoists cash in on cop's CD

Dipankar Bose in Ranchi

Notice against IG

Aug. 8. — After the expose, it is now turn for one and all to cash on it.

Mr PS Natarajan, IG for Ranchi zone, was shown by media in a compromising state with a tribal woman, Sushma Badaik, yesterday. Since Badaik has alleged that she was physically abused by the police officer a number of times, the entire state is boiling to draw the officer's blood, who is still shown as "absconding" in police records.

However, Intelligence reports indicate that Maoist outfits in the state have picked up the matter for their own cause.

According to reports, a VCD, which contains the entire media clippings of the sting operation carried out by two TV channels, is being shown in villages across the state.

The clandestine shows were

RANCHI, Aug. 8. — A local court today issued a notice asking the suspended IGP, Mr PS Natarajan, to give himself up before the police within a month following an FIR against him in connection with the sex-on-tape scandal. The notice, issued by chief judicial magistrate Mr Prabhas Kumar Singh, would be pasted at the residences of the accused, the police said and added that in case Mr Natarajan failed to surrender, the police would move the court to seek attachment of property of the accused. — PTI

organised in the rural outskirts of Ranchi, mainly in Chanho, Tamar and in remote villages in Saranda Forests in West Sinhbhum district. Reports have also started to trickle in from both Palamu and Gumla districts today about several shows of the video CD in villages, where the Maoists have a strong presence.

9/18
"The reports suggest that the Maoists have started campaigning against police by displaying this CD and have branded the entire police force to be like Mr Natarajan. They have also strongly highlighted the issue of physical torture on a tribal woman, as shown in the CD. In the process, they have also questioned the validity of a police force in the state," a source said.

The Maoists have also issued a *fatwa* in the form of a death warrant for Mr Natarajan and Mr Pervez Hayat, a former DIG of Palamu, who has also been accused of abusing Badaik into being involved with him physically.

The warrant says that the officers "have no right to live after committing such a crime against a tribal woman on the lands of Jharkhand. Both of them would be obliterated when and wherever they are spotted".

09 AUG 2005

THE STATESMAN

Seven anti-Maoist campaigners killed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Raipur: Maoists abducted and later killed seven more pro-Salam Judum (anti-Maoist) campaigners in Bijapur police district of Chhattisgarh.

According to the police, armed extremists attacked Karmarka and Taalnar villages of Bijapur, kidnapped the men and later killed them. They also looted the belongings of the campaign leaders. State home minister Ram Vichar said the victims were active in the anti-Maoist campaign.

More than 30 people active against the extremists have been killed. Maoists had attacked several villages in the last few days, kidnapped many tribals and later killed them. Most of the victims were village leaders active in organising public rallies against the Maoists. The villages are situated barely 30 km from Bhairamgarh, where the state government had arranged the "surrender" of 117

members of the different Sanghams of the Maoists.

The home minister said the Maoists have become desperate following the strong opposition to their activities from the villagers. Claiming that the rallies against the extremists were spontaneous, the home minister said the Maoists were attacking unprotected villages. They want to discourage people from joining the campaign launched by the police against them.

Netam said there was no need to provide extra security cover as the existing arrangements were adequate. He said practically, it was not possible to give security to the villagers active in the campaign.

Meanwhile, the Maoists launched the martyrs' week from today in memory of the Maoists killed in police action. A press release promised there would be no violence by them during the week. However, they gave a call for Bastar bandh today.

30 JUL 2005

Orissa twists Naxal issue to its advantage

Nageshwar Patnaik
BHUBANESWAR 23 JULY

B JD-BJP combo in Orissa is trying to twist the Naxalite problem in order to get political mileage. No doubt, the spread of influence of Naxalites across tribal-dominated districts in the state in the last couple of years has turned out to be a major challenge for the government. But the government is turning it into an opportunity to blame the Centre for neglecting this poorest region of the country for decades.

In fact, whenever there has been Naxalite violence in the state, the state government points out the problems faced by the tribal people. Experts attribute alienation of tribals, their displacement due to large 'development' projects and complete absence of food security as the main reasons for the surge in the Naxalite movement of the state.

The state is the homeland of the tribal people. Incidentally, the state houses the third highest tribal population in the entire country, which accounts for roughly 11% of the total tribal population in the country.

Not surprising, the Naxals are ruling the roost in nine predominantly tribal districts i.e. Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangapur, Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam abutting the Andhra Pradesh and Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts adjacent to Jharkhand. The movement have



also grown stronger in different parts of Sambalpur, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulbani, Deogarh, Jharsuguda and Anugul.

A series of Naxalite attacks, killing of politicians from mainstream political parties, looting of arms and ammunition from the district armory at Koraput and a series of tribal rallies by organisations supporting the Naxalite movement have forced the Naveen Patnaik government to rethink about the whole development strategy in these underdeveloped tribal pockets.

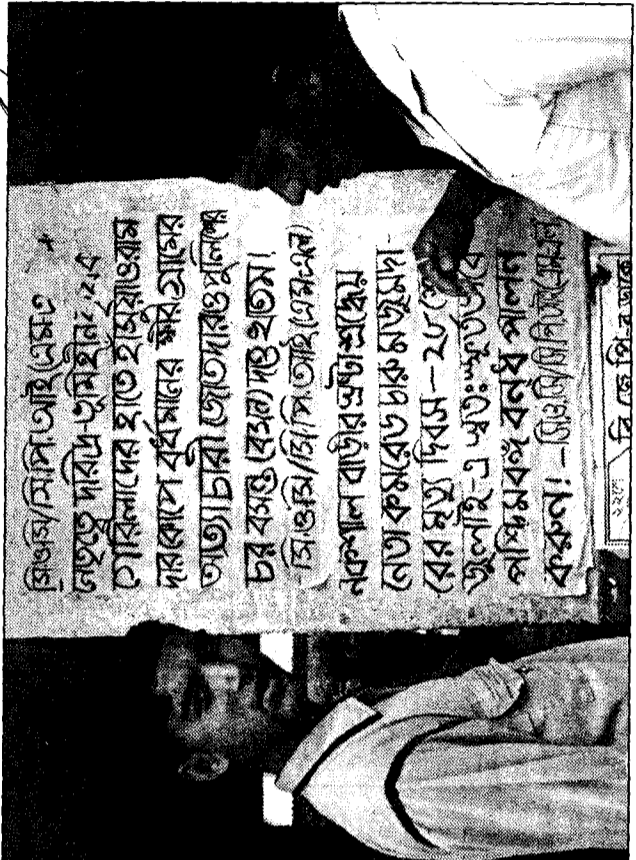
Suchit Das, the state director general of police, told *ET*, "It is a multi-dimensional issue. So far as law and order component is concerned, we are working on two-pronged strategy, confidence building exercise by the armed units in the worst Naxal affected villages in north Orissa and precautionary measures like identifying and clearing the land mines in these areas."

আরও ৩ মাওবাদী বাহিনীর খোঁজে 'নাইট ডিভাইস' নিয়ে রাতভর তল্লাশ

সোমনাথ নদী: ঝাড়খাম, ২১ জুলাই— নাইট বিশন লেঞ্চ আর মাইন নিরোধক গাড়ি-সহ উন্নত প্রযুক্তির সাহায্য নিয়ে মাওবাদী গেরিলাদের বিরুদ্ধে সাঁড়াশি অভিযান শুরু করল পুলিশ। বেলপাহাড়ি থানা এলাকার ঝাড়খণ্ড, বাঁকুড়া, পুরুলিয়া সীমান্তবর্তী পাহাড়-জঙ্গল ঘেরা দুর্গম এলাকায় পুলিশ অভিযান তীব্র করা হয়েছে। রাতের অন্ধকারে কোনওরকম আলো ছাড়াই চাকাডোবা, বিদ্রি, ভীমার্জুন, লালজল, ডাঙরডিহা, ব্যাঙগুটা, অকলডোবা, কাঁকড়াঝোড়, ময়ূরকানার মতো জঙ্গলাকীর্ণ দলমা রেঞ্জের কোলে থাকা জনপদগুলিতে টহল দিচ্ছে বি এস এফ, আই আর বি, এস এ পি-র প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত জওয়ানরা। গভীর রাতের পুলিশ অবলীলায় ঢুকছে বলে জানান পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের অতিরিক্ত পুলিশ সুপার (অপারেশন) মিলন দাস। আই জি (পশ্চিমাঞ্চল) অনিল কুমার এবং ডি আই জি (মেদিনীপুর রেঞ্জ) গঙ্গেশ্বর সিং বালদেয়ান, বারিকুল আর বেলপাহাড়ি থানার মধ্যে যোগসূত্র রক্ষা করে চলেছেন। এদিকে পুলিশ জানতে পেরেছে, বেলপাহাড়ি থানা এলাকার সীমান্তবর্তী অঞ্চলে মাওবাদী গেরিলাদের ২টি সশস্ত্র বাহিনী ও লালগড় থানা এলাকার দুর্গম অঞ্চলে আরও একাধিক বাহিনী ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছে। এই

মাওবাদীদের খোঁজে চলছে গাড়ি-তল্লাশি। বেলপাহাড়ি সি পি এম-ও মাওবাদীদের বিরুদ্ধে মিলি-মিটিং করেছে। সি পি এমের কৃষকসভা এবং ডি ওয়াই এফের নেতৃত্বে এই কর্মসূচি পালিত হয়। এদিকে বেলপাহাড়ি থানার পুলিশি ব্যবস্থা আরও কঠোর করা হয়েছে। থানার ছাদেও থাকছে এ কে-৪৭ হাতে রক্ষীরা।

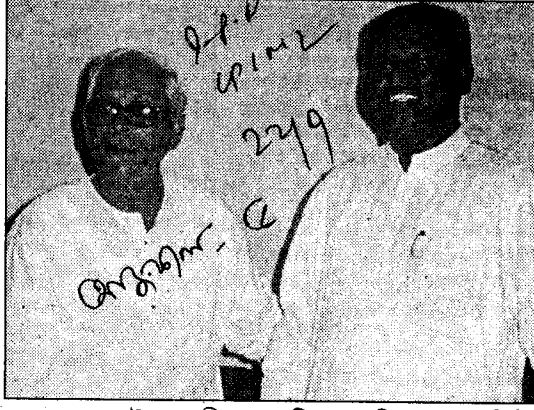
পুরুলিয়া থেকে আজকালের সংবাদদাতা জানাচ্ছেন- মাহেস্ত্র মাহাতো খুনের পর টানা দশ দিন ধরে জঙ্গলে অভিযান চালিয়েও কোনও জঙ্গি ধরা না পড়ায় উদ্বিগ্ন জেলা পুলিশ। শুধু তাই নয়, জেলার সি পি এম নেতাদের মাওবাদীরা খুনের হুমকি দেওয়ায় চিন্তিত জেলা গোয়েন্দা দপ্তর। এই দুটি বিষয়কে সামনে রেখে নেতাদের সুরক্ষা ব্যবস্থা-সহ পুলিশের নিরাপত্তা এবং জঙ্গি দমনে পুলিশকে বিশেষ প্রশিক্ষণ দিতে পুরুলিয়া সফরে আসছেন রাজ্যের চিফ সিকিউরিটি অফিসার অরবিন্দকুমার মালিওয়াল। বাঁকুড়া ও পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরেও দুদিন করে প্রশিক্ষণ দেবেন তিনি। খোদ মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর জেড ক্যাটাগরি নিরাপত্তার দায়িত্বে থাকা মালিওয়াল আগামী ২৩ ও ২৪ জুলাই পুরুলিয়ার পুরনো পুলিশ লাইনে জেলা পুলিশের গেস্ট হাউস স্কটিকা'য় প্রশিক্ষণ দেবেন পুলিশকর্তা ও কিছু পুলিশকর্মীকে।



নকশালপাহাড়ীদের পোস্টারে চিত্রিত বসিরহাটের পুলিশ, প্রশাসন। বৃহস্পতিবার সকালে এইরকম প্রচুর পোস্টার দেখা যায় স্টেশনে। যায় পুলিশ। বসিরহাট শহরে মেসব প্রতিষ্ঠানে নেপালি নৈশপ্রহরী কাজ করছেন তাঁদের ছবি ও পরিচয় থানায় নথিভুক্ত করার সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছে পুলিশ। ছবি: যশেশ ভট্টাচার্য

মাওবাদী রুখতে যৌথ অভিযান: একমত বুদ্ধ, মুন্ডা

আজকালের প্রতিবেদন : দুই রাজ্যে মাওবাদীদের কার্যকলাপ রুখতে যৌথ অভিযান চালাবে। এ ব্যাপারে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্য, ঝাড়খণ্ডের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী অর্জুন মুন্ডা একমত হয়েছেন। মহাকরণে দুই মুখ্যমন্ত্রী যৌথভাবে সাংবাদিক বৈঠক করেন। বৃহস্পতিবার মহাকরণে মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্য বলেন, ঝাড়খণ্ডে ওরা গোলমাল করে আমাদের রাজ্যে চলে আসছে। আমাদের রাজ্যে গোলমাল করে চলে যাচ্ছে ঝাড়খণ্ডে। তাই যৌথ অভিযান শুরু হবে। দুই রাজ্যের উন্নয়ন, শিল্পের বিকাশ, জলাধার থেকে জল, বিদ্যুৎ,



মহাকরণে দুই মুখ্যমন্ত্রী। বৃহস্পতিবার। ছবি: তপন মুখার্জি

মাওবাদীদের কার্যকলাপ, বাংলাদেশি অনুপ্রবেশ নিয়ে দুই মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর মধ্যে মহাকরণে এক ঘণ্টার ওপর বৈঠক চলে। দুই রাজ্যের উন্নয়নে দুই মুখ্যমন্ত্রী হাতে হাত মিলিয়ে কাজ করতে চান। পারস্পরিক সমঝোতার ক্ষেত্রে একটা নীতি প্রণয়নের কথা ভাবা হয়েছে। ইস্পাত কারখানা-সহ অন্যান্য বিষয় নিয়ে দুই মুখ্যমন্ত্রী প্রধানমন্ত্রী মনমোহন সিংয়ের সঙ্গে আলোচনা করবেন। দুই রাজ্য কীভাবে পারস্পরিক সহযোগিতা করবে তা নিয়ে কথা হবে। এমনকি ওড়িশা, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ, ঝাড়খণ্ড এবং ছত্তিশগড়কে নিয়ে কাউন্সিল করার চেষ্টা

বসবেন। ওদের স্বার্থ আমরা দেখব। আর অনুপ্রবেশ পাকুড় পর্যন্ত চলে গেছে। পরিস্থিতি বিপজ্জনক, এক কথায় ভয়াবহ। তাই সীমান্ত এলাকায় ব্রকস্টরে রেশন কার্ড দেওয়া বন্ধ হয়ে গেছে। অন্য রাজ্যে যদি বাংলাদেশি অনুপ্রবেশ হয়, তা জানাতে হবে। ঝাড়খণ্ডকে দেওয়া হবে বিদ্যুৎ। আমাদের রাজ্যে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন ভাল। এদিনের আলোচনায় দুই রাজ্যের শিল্পে সম্ভাবনা, বিদ্যুৎ, ইস্পাত কারখানা অসংখ্য বিষয় নিয়ে আলোচনা হয়েছে। পারস্পরিক স্বার্থে আমরা একসঙ্গে কাজ করব।

চলছে। ঝাড়খণ্ডের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী অর্জুন মুন্ডা সাংবাদিকদের বলেন, আর্থিক দিক থেকে দুই রাজ্য যাতে উপকৃত হয়, সেই চেষ্টা করা হবে। সেইসঙ্গে বিনিয়োগ। উগ্রপন্থী দমনে দুই রাজ্য সহমত পোষণ করেছে। বাংলাদেশি অনুপ্রবেশ পশ্চিমবঙ্গের যেমন সমস্যা, তেমনি ঝাড়খণ্ডের। রয়েছে জলের সমস্যা। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের জলাধার থেকে যদি জল পাওয়া যায়, তাহলে আমাদের রাজ্যের কৃষকরা উপকৃত হবে। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্য এ সম্পর্কে বলেন, ওরা জল কম পাচ্ছে। দুই রাজ্যের সেচ দপ্তরের অফিসাররা শিগগিরই বৈঠকে

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Understanding the shades of crimson

The city presented different shades of crimson over the weekend with the administration detaching Kolkata Police from its state counterpart in dealing with Naxalites. Far from inter-state coordination, concerted action even within West Bengal is now ruled out. Discernible here is a reluctance to acknowledge the reality of the CPI (Maoist) presence in the city. And in the process, the government chooses to ignore its own Intelligence feedback, which testifies that Kolkata has emerged as an ideological centre for the extremist movement. Indeed, when the merger of the People's War and the MCC was formalised in the city some years ago, the administration was caught unawares. The party office, which usually guides Writers' Buildings in such matters, apparently doesn't want to relive the memories of the early seventies, when the police were the prime target of the Left radicals. It was an era when several were "shot in encounters" and more suffered cruel and barbarous punishment.

Things, admittedly, haven't come to such a pass, not even in rural Bengal. But 30 years later, the issue is daunting enough. Implicit in the latest directive is an amazing division of jurisdiction that defies the principles of logistics. If police offensive in one state forces the Maoists to cross over to another, it is far easier to enter the city when pressure builds up in the districts. The special police team has been asked to go slow; no raids are to be conducted in the city without the government's approval. This is dithering in the name of policy. The approach smacks of negativism and in the absence of talks and action, a clear-cut blueprint is still a long way away. This is in stark contrast to the Andhra experiment where Rajshankar Reddy has proposed a concert of contiguous states to track down the extremists. However militarist the approach, a definite start has been made. In the sensitive belt of Purulia, Bankura and West Midnapore, the Naxalites have palpably unnerved the administration. The recent killing of two CPI-M leaders and a police officer was ascribed by the Chief Minister and no less to the failure of Intelligence. And yet whatever feedback Kolkata Police has received has come from the districts. The fact that the city is now the hub of ideological debate was revealed by a heavyweight after his arrest in Belpahari. The situation may get still more acute with the hands-off approach in the city. Unless that is the intention.

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মাওবাদী ও রাজ্যের বেঠক চায় সিপিআই

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, কলকাতা ও
নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, রায়গঞ্জ:
মাওবাদীদের সঙ্গে আলোচনায় বসার
জন্য মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্যের
উপরে চাপ বাড়ছে। ইতিমধ্যেই
বামফ্রন্টের শরিক সি পি আই রাজ্য
সরকারকে মাওবাদীদের সঙ্গে
আলোচনা বসার জন্য অনুরোধ
জানিয়েছে। এমনকী কেন্দ্রীয়
জলসম্পদ মন্ত্রী প্রিয়রঞ্জন দাশমুঙ্গিও
মনে করেন, মাওবাদী সংগঠনগুলির
সঙ্গে রাজ্য সরকারের আলোচনায় বসা
উচিত। এস ইউ সি-র পক্ষ থেকেও
এই দাবি তোলা হয়েছে। তবে সি পি
এমের রাজ্য সম্পাদক অনিল বিশ্বাস
এই সমস্ত দাবি নস্যাৎ করে সোমবার
বলেন, “অস্ত্র না-ছাড়লে মাওবাদীদের
সঙ্গে কোনও আলোচনা নয়।”

সম্প্রতি পুরুলিয়া ও বাঁকুড়ায় সি
পি এমের তিন নেতা এবং পুলিশ
অফিসার খুনের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে রাজ্যে
নতুন করে যে-অশান্তির পরিবেশ তৈরি
হয়েছে, তা স্বাভাবিক করতে বামফ্রন্ট
সরকারকে অনুরোধ জানিয়েছে সি পি
আই। এ দিন সি পি আইয়ের রাজ্য
সম্পাদক মঞ্জুকুমার মজুমদার বলেছেন,
“আমরাও হত্যার রাজনীতির বিরোধী।
মাওবাদীরা যে-হত্যার রাজনীতি
করছে, আমরা তার নিন্দা করছি। তবে
সমস্যা মেটাতে মাওবাদীদের সঙ্গে
আলোচনায় বসার জন্য আমরা রাজ্য
সরকারকে অনুরোধ করেছি।”

গত শুক্রবার সি পি আইয়ের রাজ্য
সম্পাদকমণ্ডলীতে এই বিষয়ে সিদ্ধান্ত

নেওয়া হয়েছে। কিন্তু সি পি এমের
রাজ্য সম্পাদক অনিল বিশ্বাস সি পি
আইয়ের এই দাবি কার্যত খারিজ করে
দিয়ে বলেন, “মাওবাদীদের সঙ্গে
আলোচনার কথা মঞ্জুকুমার
মজুমদারেরা বলতেই পারেন। কারণ,
বামফ্রন্টে থাকলেও গুঁদের পার্টি
আলাদা। মাওবাদীরা যদি অস্ত্র ছেড়ে
গণতান্ত্রিক পথে না-আসে, তা হলে কী
করে তাদের সঙ্গে রাজনৈতিক
আলোচনায় বসা যায়?”

অন্য দিকে, এ দিন রায়গঞ্জে
প্রিয়বাবু বলেন, “রাজনৈতিক
দৃষ্টিভঙ্গির বিচারে রাজ্যে ক্ষমতাসীন
বামেদের সঙ্গে মাওবাদীদের অনেকটাই
মিল রয়েছে। আমার মনে হয়, দু’পক্ষ
আলোচনায় বসে সমস্যা মিটিয়ে নিতে
পারে।” বারিকুল ও বান্দোয়ানের
ঘটনায় উদ্ভিন্ন প্রিয়বাবুর অভিমত,
মাওবাদী সন্ত্রাস নিয়ন্ত্রণের এটাই
একমাত্র পথ। এ ব্যাপারে তিনি
মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে প্রাথমিক আলোচনা
করেছেন বলে প্রিয়বাবু জানান।

প্রিয়বাবুর অভিযোগ, জেলে বন্দি
কে এল ও জঙ্গিরা যাতে তাদের দলে
যোগ দেয়, সি পি এম সেই জন্য প্রচার
চালাচ্ছে। যে-সব বন্দি সি পি এমে
যোগ দেবে, তাদের বিরুদ্ধে আনা
মামলাও প্রত্যাহার করা হবে বলে
লোভ দেখানো হচ্ছে। প্রিয়বাবুর মন্তব্য,
“জেলের ভিতরে এই ধরনের প্রস্তাব
দেওয়ার চেয়ে জেলের বাইরে এক
টেবিলে বসে আলোচনা করতে সমস্যা
কী, তা বুঝতে পারছি না।”

‘ডিফিট সিপিএম’ শ্লোগান সামনে রেখে নয়া মঞ্চ গড়ছে মাওবাদীরা

গৌতম বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় • চুচুড়া

আগামী বছরের বিধানসভা নির্বাচনে সি পি এমকে কড়া চ্যালেঞ্জের মুখে ফেলতে এ বার মঞ্চ গড়ছে মাওবাদীরা। ‘ফ্যাসিবাদ বিরোধী মঞ্চ’ নামে ওই সংগঠনে সমমনস্ক সব দলকে একত্র করাতে চাইছে মাওবাদীরা। ‘ডিফিট সি পি এম’ শ্লোগান সামনে রেখে আপাতত ওই সংগঠন কাজ করবে। মাওবাদীদের পলিটব্যুরোয় মঞ্চের প্রস্তুতি নিয়ে আলোচনা এখন চূড়ান্ত পর্যায়ে। আপাতত বিষয়টি নিয়ে আনুষ্ঠানিক ঘোষণা বাকি। ফ্যাসিবাদ বিরোধী মঞ্চের পোস্টারও প্রায় তৈরি হয়ে গিয়েছে। ওই সব পোস্টারে থাকছে রাজ্য-রাজনীতির নানা ঘটনা।

পাশাপাশি, ওই পোস্টারে থাকছে বীরভূমের নানুরের গণহত্যার প্রসঙ্গও। নানুরে তৃণমূল সমর্থকেরা খুন হন। দক্ষিণপন্থী কোনও দলের সমর্থকদের হত্যার ঘটনা মাওবাদীদের পোস্টারে স্থান পাওয়া তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ। দেখা যাচ্ছে, মাওবাদীরা অন্যান্য দলের কাছে নিজেদের গ্রহণযোগ্যতা বাড়াতে গৌড়ামি ছেড়ে বেরোতে চাইছে।

‘ডিফিট সি পি এম’ শ্লোগানকে সামনে রাখা হলেও ভোটারদের

প্রভাবিত করতে নির্দিষ্ট কোনও দলকে ভোট দেওয়ার জন্য ‘ফ্যাসিবাদ বিরোধী মঞ্চ’ থেকে আহ্বান জানানো হবে না। গত বিধানসভা ভোটে অন্ধপ্রদেশে তেলুগু দেশমকে হারাতে একই মডেলে ওই রাজ্যের মাওবাদীরা ‘ডিফিট তেলুগু দেশম’ আওয়াজ তুলেছিল। সে রাজ্যের ভোটের ফলাফল থেকে এটা স্পষ্ট যে মাওবাদীদের সেই আহ্বান বেশ কিছুটা প্রভাব ফেলেছিল। তার থেকেই উৎসাহিত হয়ে এই রাজ্যেও একই মডেলে তারা সি পি এমের বিরুদ্ধে লড়াইয়ে নামতে চাইছে।

মাওবাদীদের এক মুখপাত্র বলেন, “গত ২৮ বছর ধরে ক্ষমতায় টিকে থেকে সি পি এম শহরে এবং গ্রামে প্রতিক্রিয়াশীলদের আশ্রয়স্থলে পরিণত হয়েছে। একে চূড়ান্ত আঘাত করতে না পারলে স্থিতাবস্থা ভাঙা যাবে না। আর এই স্থিতাবস্থা ভাঙতে না পারলে বিপ্লবী সংগ্রামের নতুন স্তরে উন্নীত করা যাবে না এই রাজ্যকে।” ওই মুখপাত্র বলেন, “মেহনতি মানুষের পয়লা নম্বর শত্রু যে সি পি এম, এই সিদ্ধান্তে আমরা পৌঁছে গিয়েছি।”

বাঁকুড়া, পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে তৃণমূল এবং বি জে পি-র বাড়বাড়ন্তে

যখন সি পি এম সমর্থকদের গ্রাম ছাড়তে হয়েছিল ঠিক তখন বি জে পি-র মূল শত্রু হয়ে উঠেছিল সাবেক জনযুদ্ধ গোষ্ঠী। পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের ডাকসাইটে এক সি পি এম নেতা তথা রাজ্যের মন্ত্রী সে সময় পরিস্থিতি বুঝে বি জে পি-তৃণমূলকে রুখে পালের হাওয়া নিজেদের দিকে আনতে জনযুদ্ধের সঙ্গে গোপনে বৈঠকেও বসেন বলে অভিযোগ ওঠে।

এক সময়ে তৃণমূল-বিজেপি’র একতরফা আক্রমণে গ্রামের পর গ্রাম ফাঁকা করে সিপিএম সমর্থকেরা যখন এলাকা ছাড়া, তখন মেদিনীপুর, বাঁকুড়া, আরামবাগ এবং গোঘাটে সশস্ত্র জনযুদ্ধ সমর্থকেরা বন্দুক উঁচিয়ে গ্রাম পাহারা দিয়েছিলেন। জনযুদ্ধের ক্যাডারদের সামনে রেখে সিপিএম গ্রাম দখলে নেমেছে, এই অভিযোগে বিরোধীরা সরব হয়। কিন্তু একে একে গড়বেতা, গোঘাট, আরামবাগে গ্রাম দখলের কাজ যখন সম্পূর্ণ হয়, তখন সিপিএম সমর্থকেরা সুযোগ বুঝে তৃণমূল এবং বিজেপি-র পাশাপাশি জনযুদ্ধকেও আক্রমণের লক্ষ্য করে। ২০০০ সালের অবস্থান থেকে তাই সরে এসে মাওবাদীরা এখন নতুন ভাবে ‘ডিফিট সি পি এম’ শ্লোগান তুলতে চাইছে।

17 JUL 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

Maoists have a playing field here

9-pp
CPIM
Kanchan Siddiqui in
Majhgoria (Bankura)

No talks with Naxalites, CPM firm

July 15. — Dulukdihi and Majhgoria, the two south-Bengal villages in Purulia and Bankura districts are vulnerable to the Maoists. They are yet to recover from last Saturday's shock.

Though hundreds of policemen with their EFR counterparts make their presence felt, the villagers continue to suffer for decades. Unlike other Bengal villages, both the villages have police camps present there since 1988. The police brandish their firearms everyday in the guise of curbing the Naxalite menace.

The state had to pay millions of rupees towards infrastructure cost. The Barikul investigation centre was elevated to a police station on 15 April and after the mishap, the police station has been further promoted with an IC posted there. After the Barikul, Bandwa incidents, Mr Anil Biswas, state CPI-M secretary said it was an attempt to disrupt development. Villages associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Assocham) not have opinion poll, which

KOLKATA, July 15. — The CPI-M leadership today ruled out the possibility of initiating a dialogue with Maoists. After the party's secretariat meeting today, the CPI-M leadership said there was no question of

the basic amenities. They lack sanitation, drinking water, education facilities, besides poor power supply. The very location in Majhgoria village where Raghunath Murmu, the CPI-M leader of Ranibandh zonal committee, was gunned down bears the mark of neglect.

According to Arabinda Kahturia of Kundal pahari, "Raghunath, the quack, was our only source of health care in the 12 villages of Belpahari and Barikul. He is no more and we are left in the hands of destiny." Raghunath's political aide, Bablu Mudi, had gone to his dispensary to fetch medicine for his child and died to a Maoist's bullet.

Majhgoria still has bare electricity poles erected in front of the empty dispensary. The poles were put up three years ago but there is no connection with the grid supply. Villages in the Bar-

holding talks with the Maoists who had resorted to violence and was spreading terror in some pockets of Bengal. They have also asked the state government not to think about having talks with them. — SNS

ikul, Bandwan and Belpahari police station areas in Bankura, Purulia and Midnapore (West) in the bordering stretches have met the same fate.

The Bankura DM, Mr PK Mishra, visited the spot in Majhgoria the day after the bloodbath occurred. He said: "There are many scopes for development here. We have to start the food-for-work programme."

The CPI-M has promised to support Bablu Mudi's family. Since 2002, the police have been suggesting that the place needs to be developed to help combat the Naxalite menace. The police plan to organise extensive health camps and help give them small-bank loan to block Naxalite ingress. The SP, Bankura, Mr K Jayraman said: "We have decided to help operate health and loan camps soon."

The district CPI-M secre-

tary, Mr Amio Patra, disagrees. He said: "If lack of development is why the Maoists are operating in Hooghly, Durgapur and Kanksa in Burdwan, we have to wreck havoc against the intruders."

Conciliation gives way to confrontation

The police-Maoist confrontation in Andhra Pradesh has worsened.

K. Srinivas Reddy

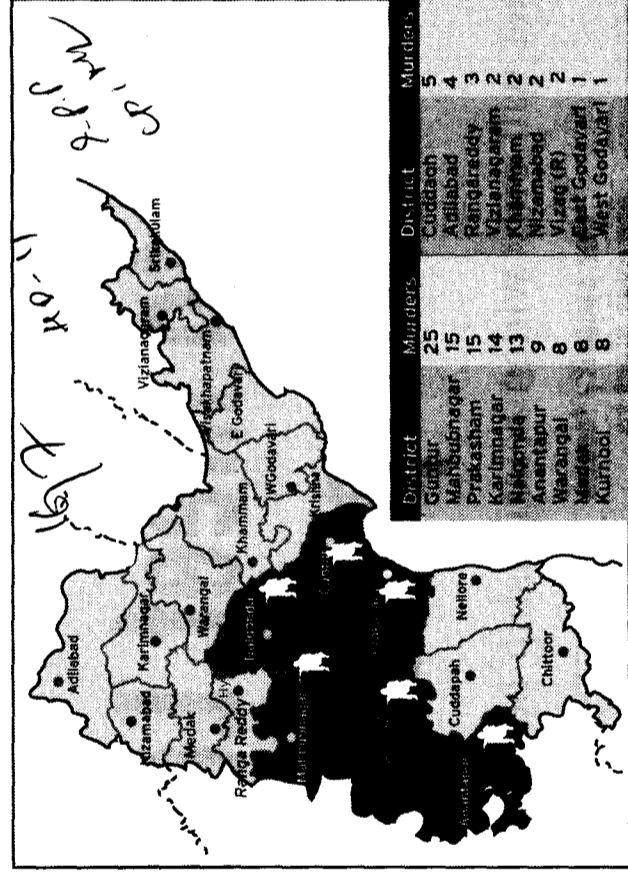
THE SOUTH West monsoon has brought not only rain to Andhra Pradesh but also made the work of policemen involved in anti-Maoist operations more difficult. The State's top police brass is busy revising a counter-insurgency strategy to stay a step ahead of the Maoists.

During the summer, which peaked during April and May, the police launched aggressive combing operations in the jungles. No single proved impossible to penetrate. Be it the Nallamala tracts in the south or the agency areas bordering Orissa. The Maoists were forced to shift their bases. As police teams scoured the jungles, fighting an occasional gun battle, the rebels withdrew deep inside or crossed over into Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Orissa. The Maoist "action teams," however, stayed put. These small bands, on "shoot and scoot" missions, killed 140 people — mostly political activists or those affluent in villages, and unsuspecting policemen.

The police hit back in the plains — 'neutralising' squads and action team members in incidents that civil liberties activists branded 'cold-blooded' killings.

Of the 140 killings this year by the naxalites, 84 took place in Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Prakasam, Kurnool, Guntur, and Cuddapah districts, which are on the fringes of the Nallamala forest — the focus of the police operations. The lone exception is Karimnagar, which is outside the Nallamala area. Fourteen persons were killed in the district.

The scenario has changed. The rain has



Graphics: Venkat

brought the vegetation back to life. The now verdant foliage offers excellent cover to the Maoists who are back in the forests in strength. The police, too, have revised strategies. In addition to field assaults, they are focussing on seizing weapons and "exposing" organisations they believe are Maoist outfits.

In the last two months 70 weapons — carbines, self-loading rifles, and bolt-action rifles — have been seized by the police, some from naxal dens in Hyderabad.

However, many of the actions of the police have come in for criticism. For example, at least 12 hours before Jana Shakti leader Riaz and three others died in an 'encounter' in Karimnagar district, his party colleagues called up the media to say he had been whisked away by the police in Hyderabad. Riaz was on the naxalite team that participated in talks with the Government.

Clearly, the police stand hardened as violence by the naxalites increased. Activists of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), an ally

of the ruling Congress, had to flee their villages after they were told to either resign their posts or face death. The Government seized on the opportunity to justify the severe crackdown not only on the Maoists but also on their 'front organisations.'

In a move that affected the image of the three former emissaries of the Maoists, police released documents that exposed the differences of opinion among the trio — Varavara Rao and Kalyan Rao of the Revolutionary Writers Association (RWA), and Gadar of the Jana Natya Mandali.

Damaging observations

More damaging was some writings by Mr. Varavara Rao to others in the movement that he was not happy about the scale of naxalite violence. These were made public and Mr. Varavara Rao and his two comrades found themselves in an embarrassing situation.

It was not only the publicising of these documents that showed the police were concentrating on the 'front organisations.' A State Committee member of the CPI (Maoist), Gunti Prasadam, was arrested along with N. Venugopal, a journalist known for his Left leanings. Mr. Venugopal's arrest led to a debate on the propriety of the action, but police argued that he had not been meeting the naxalites in the pursuance of his journalistic obligations, but as a sympathiser of the party.

The Maoists firmly believe the revolution-ary process can only be advanced by intensifying physical attacks. The police are leaning heavily on the military option. The result: Andhra Pradesh sits on a powder keg.

Most Maoists in West Bengal are from other States: Buddhadeb

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Administration suspects arms are being smuggled in; vigil stepped up along borders

By Our Special Correspondent

KOLKATA: A large majority of the Maoist militants operating in certain parts of West Bengal belong to States such as Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. A recent operation they carried out in the State was planned in a hideout on the hills of Jharkhand, West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee said here on Thursday.

He was referring to the twin attacks by Maoists in the districts of Purulia and Bankura last week. Three leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) were shot dead in the incident. A senior police official was killed when a packet abandoned by the fleeing militants exploded as he was examining it.

- Recent operation carried out was planned in a hideout in Jharkhand hills
- Militancy confined to three south-western districts
- Chief Minister admits intelligence lapses prior to Maoist attacks

Maoist militancy is mainly confined to the three south-western districts of Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore that share a border with Jharkhand. Those involved in the killings were reportedly led by a Telugu-speaking person and are believed to have fled to Jharkhand.

Replying to a call-attention notice on last week's Maoist operations, Mr. Bhattacharjee told

the Assembly that the killings were to avenge the recent arrest of two top members of the outfit. The arrests were a major setback to Maoists who were reportedly trying to set up bases in parts of the State. The West Bengal Government has been reiterating that most Maoist militants operating in the State are from outside West Bengal and have no links with those involved in the naxalite move-

ment. Vigil has been stepped up along the State's borders with Jharkhand and Orissa, through which the Maoists are reported to be trying to set up a corridor linking their bases in Andhra Pradesh to parts of West Bengal.

The administration also suspects that sophisticated arms and explosives being used by the activists are smuggled in.

The Chief Minister admitted in the House that there had been lapses on the part of the intelligence agencies prior to the Maoist attacks.

At a meeting with senior police officials earlier this week, he underlined the need to tone up the local intelligence network, particularly in areas bordering Jharkhand.

THE HINDS

15 JUL 1997

মাওবাদীরা চান গণতান্ত্রিক আন্দোলনের অধিকার, অনিলের শত ছাড়তে হবে হত্যা

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার: রাজ্যে উন্নয়নের অভিমুখ এবং কমিউনিস্ট আন্দোলনের পথ নিয়ে মাওবাদীদের সঙ্গে মার্ক্সবাদীদের বিতর্কের সূত্রপাত হল। আর এই বিতর্কের সূত্রে ধরে আগামী দিনে এ রাজ্যের মাওবাদীরা সন্ত্রাসবাদের পথ ত্যাগ করে গণতান্ত্রিক পথে আন্দোলনে নামবে কি না, সেই প্রশ্নও উঠল। দেখা দিল দু'পক্ষে আলোচনার ক্ষীণ সম্ভাবনাও। আর মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্য আইনশৃঙ্খলার চোখ দিয়ে এই সমস্যাকে দেখার অবস্থান থেকে সরে এসে স্বীকার করে নিলেন, মাওবাদীদের সমস্যার সঙ্গে আর্থ-সামাজিক সমস্যা জড়িত।

জঙ্গলমহলে সন্ত্রাসের মাধ্যমে উন্নয়নের প্রশ্ন সামনে তুলে ধরার পাশাপাশি এই প্রথম মাওবাদীরা রাজনৈতিক বিশ্বাস অনুযায়ী গণতান্ত্রিক পদ্ধতিতে কাজ করার অধিকার দাবি করল। সেই সঙ্গে জানিয়ে দিল, পুলিশের দালালি করার জন্যই শনিবার রাতে পুরুলিয়া, বাঁকুড়ায় সি পি এমের তিন নেতা ও কর্মীকে হত্যা করা হয়েছে। এক বিবৃতিতে সি পি আই (মাওবাদী) পুরুলিয়া, বাঁকুড়া, মেদিনীপুর জোনাল কমিটির পক্ষ থেকে এ কথা জানানো হয়েছে।

মাওবাদীদের বক্তব্যের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে সি পি এমের রাজ্য সম্পাদক অনিল বিশ্বাস বলেছেন, “হত্যার রাজনীতি গণতান্ত্রিক পদ্ধতি নয়। ওরা যদি

হত্যার রাজনীতি বন্ধ করে, তা হলে আদর্শগত বিরোধ থাকলেও গণতান্ত্রিক পদ্ধতিতে জনগণের সচেতনতা বৃদ্ধি এবং তাদের জন্য কাজ করাকে স্বাগত জানাচ্ছি। কারণ, আমাদের বিরুদ্ধে হলেও গণতান্ত্রিক পদ্ধতিতে সব রাজনৈতিক কার্যকলাপ সমর্থন করি আমরা।”

একই সঙ্গে অনিলবাবু দাবি করেন, মাওবাদীরা যে-তিন নেতা ও কর্মীকে খুন করেছে, তাঁদের কেউই পুলিশের চর ছিলেন না। কারণ, পুলিশকে খবর দেওয়া তাঁদের দলের কর্মীদের কাজ নয়। পুলিশ কী ভাবে খবর নেবে, সেটা তাদের ব্যাপার। এ দিন তিনি আবার বলেন, মাওবাদীরা হত্যার রাজনীতি পরিত্যাগ করলে তবেই আলোচনা হতে পারে।

মাওবাদীরা কিন্তু কেবল বিবৃতি দেওয়াতেই সীমাবদ্ধ নেই। পুরুলিয়ায় মাওবাদী সন্দেহ ধৃত সব্যসাচী গোস্বামী ওরফে কিশোরকে প্রিজন ভ্যানে তোলার সময় তিনি সি পি এম নেতৃত্বের উদ্দেশ্যে উন্নয়ন ও মাওবাদ নিয়ে খোলা বিতর্কের ডাক দেন। তাঁর কথায়, “অনিলবাবু বলছেন, মাওবাদীরা উন্নয়নের বিরুদ্ধে। কিন্তু কলকাতায় দেখা যাচ্ছে, সি পি এমের উন্নয়ন মানে বহুতল বাড়ি তৈরি বা টালি নালার পাশে উচ্ছেদ। কিন্তু আমরা এমন উন্নয়ন চাই, যেখানে আমলাশৌল হবে না, উচ্ছেদ হবে না, মানুষ খেয়ে বাঁচতে পারবে।” সব্যসাচী ছাড়াও আরও চার

জনকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়েছে। তাঁদের মধ্যে কণিকা দেবনাথ ওরফে সোমা কর নামে এক মহিলাও আছেন। তাঁকে কলকাতা থেকে কড়া পুলিশি প্রহরায় পুরুলিয়ায় নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়। তাঁদের বিরুদ্ধে বান্দোয়ান থানার ও সি নীলমাধব দাসের হত্যাকাণ্ড ছাড়াও আরও বেশ কিছু অভিযোগ আনা হয়েছে।

মাওবাদীদের বিষয়টি যে আর কেবল আইনশৃঙ্খলার মতোই সীমাবদ্ধ নেই, বরং আর্থ-সামাজিক প্রশ্ন তাতে জড়িত, মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর কথায় তা পরিষ্কার। বিধানসভায় তিনি বলেন, “তিন-চার বছর ধরে পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর, বাঁকুড়া, পুরুলিয়া উন্নয়নের বিষয়ে আমি সরাসরি খোঁজ নিচ্ছি। ওখানে পশ্চিমাঞ্চল উন্নয়ন পর্যদ রয়েছে। কী করে সেচ ব্যবস্থা উন্নত করা যায়, সেই সঙ্গে কৃষি, স্বাস্থ্য, শিক্ষা, পানীয় জলের সমস্যার সমাধান করা যায়, তা দেখা হচ্ছে। কেন্দ্রপাতা ও শালপাতার দাম বাড়ানোরও চেষ্টা হচ্ছে।”

মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর কথা থেকে পরিষ্কার— উন্নয়ন নিয়ে, কেন্দ্রপাতার দাম নিয়ে মাওবাদীদের তোলা অভিযোগ অসার নয়। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী জানান, “পরিস্থিতি উদ্বেগজনক। অন্ধ-নেপাল সব জড়িয়ে আছে। অন্ডাল, কাঁকসা, নানুরে মাওবাদীরা ঘাঁটি গেড়েছে।”

এর পর নয়ের পাতায়

● বাড়খণ্ড থেকে হানা, অভিযোগ বৃদ্ধির...পৃঃ ৭

আন্দোলনের অধিকার চান মাওবাদীরা

প্রথম পাতার পর

উন্নয়ন নিয়ে ফ্লাইওভার-মাল্টিপ্লেক্স-আবাসন-কলসেন্টার-মডেল বস্তির যে-বুদ্ধ মডেল' রাজ্য গ্রহণ করেছে, মাওবাদীদের সমালোচনার লক্ষ্য সেটাই। আরও পরিষ্কার করে বললে এই উন্নয়ন যে রাঢ়বঙ্গের প্রত্যন্ত গ্রামের মানুষের জীবনযাত্রায় সচ্ছলতা বয়ে আনতে পারছে না, মাওবাদীরা সেটাই তুলে ধরছে। সেই সঙ্গে রয়েছে চিনকে শাশনে রেখে বনভিত্তিক পন্থার পথ, নেওয়ার প্রশ্ন।

অনিলবাবু আগেই মাওবাদকে অচল, বিকৃত তত্ত্ব আখ্যা দিয়ে বলেছিলেন, মাওবাদ বলে চিনেই কিছু নেই। এ দিন অনিলবাবুদের সংশোধনবাদী অ্যাখ্যা দিয়ে সব্যসাচীবাবু পাঁচটা বলেন, “ওরা চির কাল মার্ক্সবাদকে নিজেদের মতো করে কাটছাঁট করে ব্যবহার করে। প্রতিটি দেশের নিজস্ব স্থান, পদ্ধতি ও অবস্থানের উপরে নির্ভর করে তত্ত্ব বিকশিত করতে হয়। মাও জে দং সেই কথাই বলেছিলেন। এটাকেই মাওবাদ বলছি আমরা।”

আর এই ব্যাপারে মার্ক্সবাদীদের জনগণের মতামত নেওয়ার পরামর্শ দিয়ে কণিকা দেবনাথ বলেন, “যা ঘটছে, তা বিচ্ছিন্ন ঘটনা নয়। সামগ্রিক সংগ্রামেরই অংশ।” যে-ভাবে হাজার হাজার আধা-সামরিক বাহিনীর জওয়ান নামিয়ে তাঁদের আন্দোলনকে দমন করা হচ্ছে, তার বিরুদ্ধেই মাওবাদীদের লড়াই। তাদের দাবির মধ্যে যেমন ভূমিহীনদের মধ্যে জমি, সরকারি দুর্নীতি, মহাজন-ঠিকাদারদের বিরুদ্ধে ব্যবস্থা নেওয়ার কথা আছে,

তেমনই বলা হয়েছে, “প্রতিটি মানুষের তাদের রাজনৈতিক বিশ্বাস অনুসারে সি পি আই (মাওবাদী) বা অন্যান্য যে-কোনও পার্টিকর্মী হিসাবে কাজ করার গণতান্ত্রিক অধিকার দিতে হবে।”

এই প্রসঙ্গে অনিলবাবু বলেন, “আমরা আবার বলছি, কোনও পদ্ধতিতেই সর্বত্র পূর্ণাঙ্গ উন্নয়ন সম্ভব নয়। আসলে প্রশ্নটা উন্নয়ন নয়। রাজনৈতিক প্রশ্ন। কিছু জায়গায় ওরা মিছিল, মিটিং করছে। ভাল কথা। তবে গণতান্ত্রিক পদ্ধতিতে আন্দোলনের আগে এই হত্যার রাজনীতি বন্ধ করতে হবে।”

ঝাড়খণ্ড থেকে এ রাজ্যে হানা মাওবাদীদের, অভিযোগ বুদ্ধের

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, কলকাতা ও রাঁচি: রাজ্যে মাওবাদীদের সাম্প্রতিক হানার জন্য প্রতিবেশী ঝাড়খণ্ডকেই দুয়লেন মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্য।

বৃহস্পতিবার বিধানসভায় বুদ্ধবাবু বলেন, “ঝাড়খণ্ড থেকেই মাওবাদীরা আমাদের রাজ্যে হানা দিচ্ছে। ঝাড়খণ্ডে এমন অনেক জায়গা আছে, সেখানকার পুলিশ যেখানে পৌঁছতে পারে না। ফলে ওদের সুবিধা হয়ে যাচ্ছে। পূর্ব সিংভূমের ঘাটশিলা থানার ধরাগিরির গোপন আস্তানায় বসে মাওবাদীরা শনিবারের আক্রমণের স্ক্রিপ্ট তৈরি করে।”

ঝাড়খণ্ডের উপরে মুখ্যমন্ত্রী সব দায় চাপিয়ে দিলেও সেখানকার বি জে পি সরকার তড়িঘড়ি কোনও প্রতিক্রিয়া জানাতে রাজি নয়। ঝাড়খণ্ডের স্বরাষ্ট্রসচিব জে বি টুবিড বলেছেন, “বিধানসভায় বুদ্ধবাবু কী বলেছেন, তা আমরা জানি না। তবে এটুকু বলতে পারি, পশ্চিমবঙ্গের সঙ্গে আমরা যৌথ ভাবে মাওবাদী দমনে অভিযান চালাচ্ছি। দুই রাজ্যের সীমানায় রাজ্য পুলিশ পরস্পরের সঙ্গে সমন্বয়ের ভিত্তিতে কাজ করছে। তাতে ভাল ফলও হচ্ছে।”

বৃহস্পতি রাত্রে পলামু জেলায় তল্লাশি চালিয়ে পুলিশ মাওবাদীদের এক কমান্ডার-সহ প্রথম সারির তিন জঙ্গিকে গ্রেফতার করে। তাদের কাছ থেকে প্রচুর অত্যাধুনিক আগ্নেয়াস্ত্র, সেনা বিভাগের আদলে তৈরি পোশাক, ল্যান্ডমাইন, কার্তুজ ইত্যাদি উদ্ধার করা হয়েছে। পলামু জেলা পুলিশ সূত্রের খবর, গোপন সূত্রে খবর পেয়ে পুলিশ ও কেন্দ্রীয় বাহিনী যৌথ ভাবে তল্লাশি চালায় পাহাড় ও জঙ্গল ঘেরা ছত্তরপুর ব্লক এলাকার কসিয়ার গ্রামে। সেখানে গ্রেফতার করা হয় মাওবাদী জঙ্গিদের কমান্ডার পরিখা যাদব ওরফে লগনজিকে। ওই সূত্র ধরেই পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার জঙ্গল থেকে গ্রেফতার করা হয় মনু যাদব, হরি যাদব, মনোজ যাদব নামে প্রথম সারির আরও তিন জঙ্গিকে।

ধৃতদের কাছ থেকে থ্রি-নট-থ্রি রাইফেল, মাউজার রাইফেল, ডবল ব্যারেল রাইফেল, বন্দুক, পিস্তল, দুটি ওয়াকিটকি এবং ১০ হাজার টাকা উদ্ধার করা হয়। সে-রাত্রেই পুলিশ ওই এলাকার কালা পাহাড়ের একটি গুহা থেকে ৪৫০টি তাজা কার্তুজ, পিস্তল, সেনা বিভাগের আদলে তৈরি প্রচুর পোশাক উদ্ধার করে। ধৃত হরির কাছ থেকে উদ্ধার করা হয় একটি অত্যাধুনিক রাইফেল এবং প্রচুর তাজা কার্তুজ। পাওয়া যায় মাওবাদী পুস্তিকা, প্রচারপত্র ইত্যাদি।

এ দিকে, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ যে মাওবাদীদের আঁতুড়ঘর নয়, তা বোঝাতে গিয়ে বুদ্ধবাবুর ব্যাখ্যা, “মাওবাদীদের ২২ জনের যে-সশস্ত্র দলটি আমাদের রাজ্যে ঘোরাফেরা করছে, তাদেরও ৭০ শতাংশ অন্য প্রদেশের লোক। বাইরের। দলের নেতা যে, সে-ও তেলুগুতে কথা বলে। ওরা আমাদের রাজ্যে ‘অ্যাকশন’ করে রাতের অন্ধকারে ঝাড়খণ্ডে চলে যাচ্ছে।” মাওবাদীদের আন্দোলন সম্পর্কে মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর উপলব্ধি, “এটা শুরু অন্ধপ্রদেশ থেকে। এদের মতাদর্শ আজকের দিনে অকেজো। এরা মাওয়ের মিলিটারি ধারণাকে আঁকড়ে আছে। ফলে সন্ত্রাসবাদের জন্ম হচ্ছে। এটা আজকের দিনে অর্থহীন। নকশালবাড়ির যে-সব পুরনো নেতা রয়েছেন, তাঁরা কোনও ভাবেই এই আন্দোলনের সঙ্গে যুক্ত নন।”

মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর মন্তব্য, “অন্ধপ্রদেশেরও অনেক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য আমাদের হাতে এসেছে। ওই দুই নেতাকে জিজ্ঞাসাবাদ করতে দিল্লি ও অন্ধপ্রদেশ থেকে পুলিশ এসেছে আমাদের রাজ্যে।” রাজ্য সরকারের এই চাপ সরাতেই মাওবাদীদের এই হামলা বলে মন্তব্য করে মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বলেন, “ওই নেতাদের ধরার পরেই মাওবাদীরা সাংগঠনিক দিক দিয়ে বড় ধাক্কা খেয়েছে। তাই বদলা নেওয়ার জন্যই ওরা পাল্টা আক্রমণ করেছে।”

গোয়েন্দা পুলিশের ব্যর্থতা নিয়ে এ দিন বিধানসভায় বিরোধীদের তোপের মুখে পড়তে হয় বুদ্ধবাবুকে। তৃণমূল কংগ্রেসের সৌগত রায় প্রশ্ন তোলেন, “এত বড় একটা ঘটনার আগাম খবর আপনার গোয়েন্দারা পেল না কেন?” বুদ্ধবাবু বলেন, “এই ঘটনার খবর আমরা আগাম পাইনি ঠিকই। তবে আমাদের পুলিশও যথেষ্ট ভাল কাজ করেছে। ২২ জনের যে-দলটি আমাদের রাজ্যে রয়েছে, তাদের সকলের ছবি আমরা জোগাড় করেছি। বেলপাহাড়ি থেকে গোয়েন্দা সূত্রে খবর পেয়ে সুশীল রায় নামে ওদের সংগঠনের দ্বিতীয় ব্যক্তিকে আমরা গ্রেফতার করেছি। ওদের সংগঠনের প্রধান ব্যক্তির নাম গণপতি বলে আমরা জানতে পেরেছি। পুলিশ পতিতপাবন হালদার নামে এই রাজ্যের প্রধান নেতাকেও ধরেছে। ধৃতদের জেরা করে আমাদের রাজ্যে ওদের গোপন ডেরা সম্পর্কে অনেক তথ্য পেয়েছি।”

অন্য দিকে, পলামুর পুলিশ সুপার উদয়ন সিংহ এ দিন বলেন, “ধৃত মাওবাদী কমান্ডার পরিখা যাদব ওরফে লগনজির নামে ঝাড়খণ্ড, বিহার, পশ্চিমবঙ্গের বিভিন্ন প্রান্তে একাধিক হামলা চালানো-সহ ন’টি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ মামলা রয়েছে। বহু দিন ধরেই তাকে গ্রেফতারের চেষ্টা হচ্ছিল।” পুলিশ সুপার জানান, আরও কয়েক জন প্রথম সারির জঙ্গির গতিবিধি সম্পর্কে সুনির্দিষ্ট তথ্য সংগ্রহের চেষ্টা চলছে। তাদেরও গ্রেফতার করা হবে।

রাজ্য পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, রাঁচি জেলার আরকি এলাকার মাওবাদী জঙ্গি কুন্দন পাহানকে গ্রেফতারের জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় বাহিনী ও ঝাড়খণ্ড পুলিশ ব্যাপক তল্লাশি চালাচ্ছে। ঝাড়খণ্ড রাজ্য সরকার কুন্দনের মাথার দাম ধার্য করেছে দু’লক্ষ টাকা। গিরিডি এলাকার মাওবাদী জঙ্গির মাথার দাম এক লক্ষ টাকা ঘোষণা করেছে রাজ্য সরকার।

Trained hand in Maoist attacks?

Cops probing engineer's role in blast that killed cop

SOURMEN Datta
Bankura, July 11

SATURDAY NIGHT'S Maoist attacks in Bankura and Purulia may have a foreign connection. The police aren't sure yet whether the guns that killed Raghunath Murmu, Bablu Modi and Bogendra Mahato, the three CPI(M) leaders, were indigenous or imported. But the bomb that killed Barikul O-C Prabal Sengupta when he tried to unzip a bag left behind by the attackers had a highly sophisticated detonator wired to the zipper, known so far to be used only by foreign-trained mercenaries and terrorists.

An explosives expert on the police team here said insurgents active in the Purulia-Bankura belt had always used crude bombs, grenades and the usual variety of landmines used by terror outfits elsewhere in the country.

"This bomb had a very sophisticated trigger attached. Which is why the moment the O-C tried to unzip the bag it blew up and killed him," the officer added.

This one fact alone has given a whole new turn to the case, which otherwise was fitting well into the pattern set by previous Maoists attacks.

While forensic experts were still examining the remnants of the killer bag, the police on Monday made several arrests in different parts of the state.

As far as the bomb goes, they feel the arrest in Andal of a jobless engineer, Gautam Bhattacharjee, a 1981-batch student of Durgapur R.E. College, might provide important clues. Bhattacharjee was arrested with Maoist literature and bomb-making manuals. Also arrested were Sushen Mahato, an employee of MAMC, Durgapur, and one Dhajadhari Chatterjee.

Meanwhile, three teams from the BSF, EFR and the state police's commando forces comprising about 140 personnel carried out a combing operation through the day, scouring the jungles of Birkat, Baromail, Jhilimili, Sutanmore, Chendapahor, Kathalia and Phuljhor.

In Kolkata, chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee held a high-level meeting with the police brass and senior officers

in the administration. DGP S.C. Awasthy, who had surveyed the spot on Sunday, submitted his report to the government on Monday. Home secretary P.R. Roy told reporters that the attacks could happen because of an intelligence failure. "We didn't have any information. The extremists may have been from other states," he said.

Asked about police deployment, he said the government had already deployed 29 companies in Bankura and Purulia. Two more companies of central forces would be sent there soon. When reporters asked him why the CPI(M) was being targeted, Roy said, "The

CPI(M) is politically protesting against extremist activities in these areas. That is why its men are being attacked."

While the top officers of the state government remained huddled in a series of meetings, the police appeared demoralised. For much of the day Barikul police station remained locked from inside. The force was being told to fight Maoists with outdated weapons, a constable complained.

"On Saturday night, the Maoists fired nearly 45 rounds from their carbines. We on the other hand had only .303 rifles. In the entire district we do not have a single bomb detection unit. It's an unequal war," he added.



The CM held a high-level meeting with the police brass and senior officers to take stock of the situation

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নকশালাদের সঙ্গে কথায় এখনও নারাজ সিপিএম

মাওবাদীদের রুখে শাসক মার্ক্সবাদীরা কি ভাবের ঘরে চুরি করছেন? তারা কি জানেন না, কোনও বিষয়ে আদর্শগত বিতর্ক-আলোচনা রাজনৈতিক মোকাবিলায় অন্যতম কৌশল।

বিকৃত-পুরুলিয়ার ঘটনার পরেও জঙ্গলমহলে মাওবাদীদের কার্যকলাপের বিরুদ্ধে 'রাজনৈতিক মোকাবিলা'র কথাই বলাছেন সি পি এম নেতৃত্ব। রাজ্য সম্পাদক তথা পলিটব্যুরোর সদস্য অনিল বিশ্বাস সোমবারেও জানান, তারা রাজনৈতিক ভাবেই মাওবাদীদের মোকাবিলা করবেন। দলের নিচু তলার ইউনিটগুলিকে সেই ভাবেই নির্দেশ দেওয়া হয়েছে। প্রচার করা। মাওবাদীদের বিরুদ্ধে মানুষকে আরও সংগঠিত করা। এটাই সি পি এমের রণকৌশল। অর্থাৎ নিচু তলার বহু নেতাকে পুলিশি প্রহরায় বাঁচতে হলেও আদর্শগত ভিত্তিই সি পি এম নেতা-কর্মীদের প্রধান শক্তি।

সি পি আই (মাওবাদীরা) কী করছে? তারা এক দিকে গরিব, ডুমিপুত্র আদিবাসী, অনুন্নত সম্প্রদায়ের উন্নয়নের দাবি জানাচ্ছে। অন্য দিকে,

পারিকল্পিত সম্মান সৃষ্টি করে রাই বারম্বাহকে চ্যালেঞ্জ জানাচ্ছে। হতাশাজনিত তারই একটা অঙ্গ। কেবল পশ্চিমবঙ্গ নয়, অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশ, বিহার, ওড়িশা, ছত্তীসগড়, ঝাড়খণ্ড, সর্বত্র মাওবাদীদের একটাই পথ। দেশের ৩০টির বেশি জেলায় মাওবাদীদের কার্যকলাপের পিছনে বিপ্লবের স্বপ্নের পাশাপাশি যে একটা আদর্শগত ভিত্তিও আছে, সি পি এম নেতারা কার্যত তা স্বীকার করেন।

অনিলবাবু বলেন, "ওরা নিজেদের আদর্শ প্রচার করতে ভারতের অভ্যন্তরে সি পি এম-কে বেছে নিয়েছে। তাই সি পি এমের নেতা-কর্মীদের আক্রমণের নিশানা করছে। আর আন্তর্জাতিক স্তরে চিনকে বেছে নিয়েছে। মাও জে দংয়ের দেশকে সমালোচনার কাঠগড়ায় দাঁড় করিয়ে বলছে, চিন সংশোধনবাদী, পুঞ্জিবাদের দলিল। এ ভাবেই ওরা নিজেদের প্রকৃত মাওবাদী বলে তুলে ধরতে চায়।"

এর পরেও কিন্তু মাওবাদীদের সঙ্গে কোনও রকম আদর্শগত বিতর্ক বা আলোচনায় যেতে রাজি নয় সি পি এম। যা রাজনৈতিক মোকাবিলায় অন্যতম অঙ্গ। কেন তাঁরা রকম বিতর্ক বা আলোচনায় যেতে নারাজ? অনিলবাবু বলেছেন,

"অন্ধ্র তাগ না-করলে কীসের বিতর্ক?" তাঁর মতে, "মাওবাদীরা অন্ধ্র তাগ না-করলে সরকারের সঙ্গে কোনও আলোচনা সম্ভব নয়।" মাওবাদীরা তাদের আদর্শগত অবস্থান থেকেই সন্ত্রাসবাদী কার্যকলাপ চালানোর পাশাপাশি উন্নয়ন নিয়ে বিতর্ক-আলোচনা চেয়েছে একাধিক বার। শর্ত, পুলিশি নির্যাতন বন্ধ করলে তবেই তারা আলোচনার টেবিলে বসবে।

অন্ধ্র কংগ্রেসের নেতৃত্বে রাজশেখর রোড্ডি সরকার গঠনের পরে কিন্তু মাওবাদীরা আলোচনায় বসেছিল। আর তাতে উন্নয়ন এবং পুলিশি নির্যাতন দু'টি প্রসঙ্গই উঠেছিল একসঙ্গে। পরবর্তী কালে আলোচনা ভেঙে গেলেও উন্নয়ন প্রসঙ্গে মূল সমস্যা নিয়ে কিন্তু সরকার ও মাওবাদীরা একমত হয়েছিলেন। যুদ্ধদেব তত্ত্বাচাৰ্যের সরকার মুখে মাওবাদীদের নিষিদ্ধ না-করলেও মাওবাদী হিসাবে চিহ্নিত বহু যুবক-যুবতীকে কার্যত বিনা বিচারে বিভিন্ন জেলে বন্দি করে রাখছে। তাদের বিরুদ্ধে নানা সন্ত্রাসমূলক কাজের অভিযোগ আনছে। কিন্তু উন্নয়ন নিয়ে মাওবাদীদের তোলা প্রশ্নের সম্মুখীন হচ্ছে না।

যে-কোনও কমিউনিস্ট দলই কিন্তু মতাদর্শগত

ভিত্তি নিয়ে বিতর্কে বিশ্বাস করে। স্বভাবিক ভাবেই প্রশ্ন ওঠে, সি পি এম কি বিতর্কে বিশ্বাস করে না? অনিলবাবুর মতে, "অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশে আলোচনার টেবিলে বসেও কোনও লাভ হয়নি। আর অন্ধ্র বা পশ্চিমবঙ্গ, সর্বত্রই যখন আক্রমণের প্রধান লক্ষ্য সি পি এমের নেতা ও কর্মীরা, তখন তাদের সঙ্গে কী ভাবে আলোচনা হবে?"

"কিছু গরিব মানুষকে বিক্রাস্ত করে সন্ত্রাসবাদী কার্যকলাপে প্ররোচিত করা"— বিষয়টিকে এই ভাবেই দেখছে সি পি এম। অনিলবাবুর মতে, "প্রতিটি নির্বাচনের সামনেই সি পি এমের নেতা-কর্মীদের লক্ষ্য হিসাবে বেছে নেয় মাওবাদীরা। বিধানসভা নির্বাচনের আর এক বছরও থাকি নেই। তাই এ ব্যপারে সেই লক্ষ্যে আক্রমণ হানছে তারা। কেনও ভূস্বামী-বড়লোক, এমনকী অ-বাম নেতা-কর্মীরা মাওবাদীদের আক্রমণের লক্ষ্য হয় না।" অনিলবাবুর 'বিনীত' প্রশ্ন, "কেন হয় না?"

এ কথা বলার পরে কোনও দলের আদর্শগত ভিত্তি এবং রাজ্যের উন্নয়ন নিয়ে আর আলোচনা বা বিতর্ক কিছুই করা যায় না। রাজ্যের মার্ক্সবাদীরা তা ভাল করেই জানেন।

নেতা খুনের তদন্তে গিয়ে নকশাল বোমায় হত ওসি

অমিতাভ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় ও প্রশান্ত পাল

বারিকুল (বাঁকুড়া) ও বান্দোয়ান (পুরুলিয়া): রাজা জুড়ে ধরপাকড়, ঘনঘন পুলিশি অভিযান, পুরুলিয়া, বাঁকুড়া আর পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের আদিবাসী-প্রধান গ্রামগুলিতে উন্নয়নের বন্যা বইয়ে দেওয়ার চক্কানিনাদ— সবই যে অসার, তা ফের বুঝিয়ে দিল মাওবাদীরা।

চোরাগোপ্তা হানা নয়। গ্রামের মধ্যে হাতুড়ে ডাক্তারের চেয়ারে ঢুকে লক্ষ্য ভেদ করে চলে গেল তারা। আর ঘটনাস্থলে একটি ব্যাগের টোপ রেখে বিনা ‘যুদ্ধ’-এ সরিয়ে দিল এক পুলিশ অফিসারকে, মাওবাদী ঠেকাতে যার উপরে অনেকটাই নির্ভর করতে শুরু করেছিল প্রশাসন।

মাওবাদীদের বিচ্ছিন্ন করা গিয়েছে বলে রাজ্য সরকার এত দিন যে-দাবি করে আসছিল, ঝাড়খণ্ডের সীমানা সংলগ্ন মেদিনীপুর, বাঁকুড়া ও পুরুলিয়ায় তার যে কোনও ভিত্তিই নেই এবং মাওবাদীরা যে এখনও সেখানে যথেষ্ট সক্রিয়, ফের তা প্রমাণিত হল। শনিবার রাতে বাঁকুড়া ও পুরুলিয়ায় মাওবাদীদের হামলার শিকার চার জন। বাঁকুড়ার বারিকুলের দু’জন ও পুরুলিয়ার বান্দোয়ানের এক সি পি এম নেতা এবং বারিকুলের এক পুলিশ অফিসার। বস্তুত, বারিকুলের নেতা-হত্যার তদন্তে গিয়েই বোমা ফেটে প্রাণ হারান ও সি প্রবাল সেনগুপ্ত। বান্দোয়ানে খুনের পরে পাশের গ্রাম কেক্রবনি থেকে পুলিশের চর সন্দেহে দু’জনকে না-পেয়ে তাঁদের তিন আত্মীয়কে তুলে নিয়ে যায় মাওবাদীরা। যদিও পরে তাঁদের ছেড়ে দেওয়া হয়েছে।

রাজ্য গোয়েন্দা দফতর সূত্রের খবর, ১৩ থেকে ২১ জুলাইয়ের মধ্যে বাঁকুড়া, পুরুলিয়া বা মেদিনীপুরে পুলিশের উপরে হামলা হতে পারে বলে সতর্কবার্তা ছিল জেলা পুলিশের কাছে। ২০০৩-এর ১১ অক্টোবর বান্দোয়ান থানার ও সি নীলমাধব দাস নিহত হন মাওবাদীদের ল্যান্ডমাইনে। জঙ্গিরা সেই ঘটনা ঘটিয়েছিল সুপারিকল্পিত ভাবেই। এ বারেও তারা বারিকুলের ও সি-কে সুকৌশলে খুন করল।

শনিবার রাতে বারিকুলের মাজগেড়িয়ায় সি পি এমের রঘুনাথপুর জোনাল কমিটির সদস্য রঘুনাথ মূর্মু এবং আর এক পার্টিকর্মী বাবলু মুদিকে গুলি করে মেরে বিস্ফোরকের ব্যাগটি মৃতদেহের পাশে রেখে চলে যায় জঙ্গিরা। পুলিশ গিয়েই ব্যাগটি দেখতে পায়। ওই ব্যাগ থেকে নেতা-হত্যার কিছু তথ্য মিলতে পারে, সম্ভবত এমন ধারণা থেকেই ও সি সেটি খুলতে গিয়েছিলেন। তখনই বিস্ফোরণ ঘটে। ও সি-র দেহ সম্পূর্ণ ঝলসে যায়। আহত হন আরও ১৯ পুলিশকর্মী। ১০ জনকে বাঁকুড়া মেডিক্যাল কলেজ হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করানো হয়েছে। রাজ্য পুলিশের ডি জি রবিবার এলাকা ঘুরে দেখেন।

প্রত্যক্ষদর্শী ও রঘুনাথ মূর্মুর ভাই বিজয় জানিয়েছেন, তাঁর দাদা হাতুড়ে চিকিৎসক ছিলেন। তিনি সন্ধ্যা সাড়ে ৬টা নাগাদ তাঁর গুমটিতে বসে চিকিৎসা করছিলেন। দু’জন সাইকেল চড়ে এবং এক জন হেঁটে এসে গুমটির সামনে থামে। যে হেঁটে এসেছিল, সে কোমর থেকে অস্ত্র বার করে চেয়ারে বসা রঘুনাথবাবুকে লক্ষ করে গুলি চালাতে থাকে। তিনি ঢলে পড়েন। গুমটির সামনে ছিলেন বাবলু মুদি। আততায়ীরা

তাঁকেও গুলি করে মারে। বিজয় বলেন, “একটু দুরেই দাঁড়িয়ে ছিলাম। ওরা বাইরেও আগ্নেয়াস্ত্র ঘুরিয়ে ঘুরিয়ে গুলি চালাচ্ছিল। আশপাশ থেকে লোকজন বেরিয়ে এলে ওরা ‘মাওবাদ জিন্দাবাদ’ বলে স্লোগান দিতে দিতে পালিয়ে যায়।”

এমনিতেই ওই এলাকায় পুলিশ ভীতসন্ত্রস্ত হয়ে রয়েছে। হামলার কথা শুনে ২০ হাত দূরের ক্যাম্প থেকে কোনও পুলিশ ঘটনাস্থলে যেতে চাননি বলে গ্রামবাসীদের অভিযোগ। রঘুনাথবাবুর ভাইও ক্যাম্পে গিয়েছিলেন এই খুনের কথা জানাতে। কিন্তু পুলিশকর্মীরা বিজয়বাবুর নিরাপত্তার জন্য তাঁকে ক্যাম্পেই রেখে দেন বলে তিনি জানান। প্রায় দু’ঘণ্টা পরে তাঁরা বাইরে আসেন। ওই পুলিশকর্মীরা বলেন, থানা থেকে পুলিশ না-এলে তাঁরা কিছুই করতে পারবেন না। তাই মৃতদেহ দু’টি সেখানেই পড়ে ছিল রাত প্রায় ১১টা পর্যন্ত। ওই সময় থানা থেকে প্রবালবাবু বাহিনী নিয়ে ঘটনাস্থলে আসেন।

শনিবার রাতে মাওবাদীরা একই ভাবে খুন করেছে পুরুলিয়ার সি পি এম নেতা মহেন্দ্র মাহাতোকে। বাড়িতে রাতের খাবার খেতে বসেছিলেন তিনি। পুলিশের পোশাক পরা ৫-৬ জন তাঁর নাম ধরে ডাকে। তাঁকে বলে, ‘চলুন, থানার বড়বাবু ডাকছেন।’ তার পরেই তাঁকে লক্ষ করে পরপর গুলি চালায় তারা। মহেন্দ্রবাবুর স্ত্রী অলকাদেবী বলেন, “আমিই ওঁকে খাওয়ার জন্য ডেকেছিলাম। পুলিশের মতো পোশাক পরা লোকগুলি ওঁর নাম ধরে ডাকছিল। তার পরেই গুলি চালান।” খুন করে চলে যাওয়ার সময় জঙ্গিরা বেশ কিছু কাগজ ছড়িয়ে দেয়।

জেলার পুলিশ সুপার আর শিবকুমার বলেন, “প্রচারপত্র থেকে জানা যায়, ওরা মাওবাদী।” ছোপ ছোপ পোশাক পরে আসায় অন্ধকারে জঙ্গলের মধ্যে তারা দ্রুত মিলিয়ে গিয়েছে। যাওয়ার সময় বলেও

গিয়েছে, ‘মাওবাদী জিন্দাবাদ। খতম অভিযান চলছে, চলবে’। সারা রাত পুলিশি অভিযান চলে। কিন্তু কাউকেই ধরা যায়নি। কারণ, ওই এলাকার বেশির ভাগ অঞ্চলই অরক্ষিত। বারিকুল থানা থেকে ঘটনাস্থলের দূরত্ব প্রায় ১৫ কিলোমিটার। গোটা এলাকা কয়েকটি ছোট পাহাড় দিয়ে ঘেরা। আশেপাশে মাইলের পর মাইল-জঙ্গল। এক দিকে পুরুলিয়া। অন্য দিকে মেদিনীপুর। যেখানে যোগাযোগের একমাত্র মাধ্যম বলতে প্রধানমন্ত্রী গ্রামীণ সড়ক যোজনার একটি রাস্তা। ওই রাস্তাই গ্রামগুলিকে বৃত্তাকারে ঘিরে রেখেছে।

এই ঘটনার প্রতিবাদে সি পি এমের পক্ষ থেকে আজ, সোমবার বাঁকুড়ার খাতড়া মহকুমায় ১২ ঘণ্টার বন্ধের ডাক দেওয়া হয়েছে। জেলা সি পি এমের সম্পাদক অমিয় পাত্র বলেন, “বন্ধ ডাকা ছাড়া উপায় ছিল না। ওর সম্ভ্রাস ছড়াচ্ছে। সম্ভ্রাস ছড়ানোর সুবিধাও রয়েছে। জঙ্গল এলাকা। ফলে সহজেই ভীতি ছড়ানো যায়।” ওই এলাকাটি যে যোগাযোগের অভাবে এখনও প্রত্যন্ত এবং আর্থ-সামাজিক পরিকাঠামোও সে-ভাবে গড়ে ওঠেনি, সি পি এম নেতাদের কথাতাই তা পরিস্কার। ফলে এটাকেই মূলধন করে গ্রামগুলিতে নিজেদের ভিত শক্ত করছে জঙ্গিরা। এই অনুরণনের কতা কার্যত স্বীকার করে বাঁকুড়ার জেলাশাসক প্রভাত মিশ্র বলেন, “কী করে আরও উন্নয়ন করা যায়, তা নিয়ে আমরা ভাবনাচিন্তা করছি।”

● বারিকুলের আরও খবর... পৃঃ ৬ ও ৭



প্রবাল সেনগুপ্ত

মাওবাদী হামলা কবে কোথায়

- ২৮ নভেম্বর, ২০০১: পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে বাঁশপাহাড়িতে সিপিএমের বেলপাহাড়ি লোকাল কমিটির সম্পাদক সুধীর সিংহে সর্দার খুন।
- ১১ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০২: বাঁকুড়ার রানিবাঁধ এলাকায় সি পি এম নেতা রামপদ মাঝি খুন।
- ৯ জুলাই ২০০২: সোয়ালভোড়ে সি পি এম লোকাল কমিটির সদস্য অজিত ঘোষকে গুলি করে খুন।
- ২৬ নভেম্বর ২০০২: হাড়িকাঠে বলি দেওয়া হয় পুরুলিয়ার ব্যবসায়ী জগদীশ তিওয়ারিকে।
- ৩ মার্চ ২০০৩: সি পি এম কর্মী অসিত সাঁতরাকে গুলি করে খুন।
- ১১ অক্টোবর ২০০৩: বান্দোয়ানের কাটাগোড়ায় ল্যান্ডমাইন বিস্ফোরণে বান্দোয়ান থানার ও সি মীলমাধব দাসের মৃত্যু।
- ২১ অক্টোবর ২০০৩: বাঁশপাহাড়িতে সিপিএম নেতা বারিদবরণ মণ্ডলকে গুলি করে খুন।
- ৩ জানুয়ারি ২০০৪: সোয়ালভোড় থানার মেটালার জঙ্গলে পাওয়া গেল ল্যান্ডমাইন।
- ১৪ জানুয়ারি ২০০৪: বেলপাহাড়ির লালজল গ্রামে পশুত্র এম সি সি জঙ্গিরা পুলিশের চর সন্দেহে ঝাড়খণ্ড পার্টির কর্মী অমল মাহাতোকে গলা কেটে খুন করে।
- ২৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৪: ভূলাভেদা থেকে কাঁকড়াঝোরের রাজ্য দলদলির কাছে ল্যান্ডমাইন ও ডিরেকশনাল মাইন ফেটে হত ৫ ইএফআর জওয়ান, বেলপাহাড়ি থানার ২ অফিসার ও ট্রেকার চালক।
- ১৪ অক্টোবর ২০০৪: লালগড় থানার রামগড়ে বাঁকিশোলের জঙ্গলে ল্যান্ডমাইন ফেটে ৬ ই এফ আর জওয়ানের মৃত্যু।
- ১৭ নভেম্বর ২০০৪: লালগড় থানার কাছেই রাজ্য গোয়েন্দা পুলিশের কনস্টেবল চুনিলাল মাইতিকে গুলি করে খুন।
- ৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৪: কাঁকড়াঝোরে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটিয়ে দু'টি মনবাংলো উড়িয়ে দেয় মাওবাদীরা।
- ৯ জুলাই ২০০৫: বাঁকুড়ার যারিকুল ও পুরুলিয়ার বান্দোয়ানে তিন সি পি এম নেতাকে খুন।
- ১০ জুলাই ২০০৫: তদন্তে গিয়ে যারিকুল থানার ও সি প্রবাল সেনগুপ্ত বিস্ফোরণে নিহত। জখম ১৬ পুলিশ।

উন্নয়নে ক্ষিপ্ত

হয়েই জঙ্গি

হামলা, দাবি

অনিলের

সঞ্জয় সিংহ

অনুন্নত এলাকায় উন্নয়নমূলক কাজ আর পুলিশি ঘেরাটোপেও কি নিরাপদে নেই সি পি এম?

বাঁকুড়া ও পুরুলিয়ার ঘটনা আরও এক বার এই প্রশ্নটাকেই উল্লেখ দিয়েছে। শনিবার রাতে বাঁকুড়া ও পুরুলিয়ায় তিন দলীয় নেতা এবং বারিকুল থানার ও সি খুনের ঘটনার পরে সি পি এমের রাজ্য সম্পাদক অনিল বিশ্বাস রবিবার এক বিবৃতিতে জানিয়েছেন, গত দু'বছরে ওই অঞ্চলে দুষ্কৃতীদের আক্রমণে ১২ জন পার্টিকর্মী খুন হয়েছেন। ওই একই সময়ে জনযুদ্ধ-মাওবাদীদের আক্রমণে খুন হয়েছেন অফিসার-সহ ১৭ জন পুলিশকর্মী।

অনিলবাবুর এই বিবৃতির পরিশ্রেক্ষিতে উন্নয়নের কাজ নিয়ে প্রশ্ন উঠেছে। তার পাশাপাশি উগ্রপন্থী রাজনীতির মোকাবিলার কাজ সরকার ও শাসক দল কতটা করতে পেরেছে, তা নিয়েও বিতর্ক দেখা দিয়েছে।

এই আক্রমণের কারণ বিশ্লেষণ করতে গিয়ে সি পি এম নেতারা বলছেন, বাঁকুড়ায় উন্নয়নের কাজ হচ্ছে বলেই জনযুদ্ধ-মাওবাদী উগ্রপন্থীরা প্রশাসনের উপরে আঘাত হানছে। আর যে-হেতু সি পি এমের নেতৃত্বাধীন বামফ্রন্ট সরকার উন্নয়নের কাজ করছে, তাই তাঁদের দলের কর্মীরাই উগ্রপন্থীদের আক্রমণের লক্ষ্য হয়ে উঠছেন। অনিলবাবু বিবৃতিতে বলেছেন, “পুরুলিয়া ও বাঁকুড়ার বিস্তীর্ণ অঞ্চলে দারিদ্রের মোকাবিলায় রাজ্য সরকার উন্নয়নমুখী ভূমিকা পালন করছে। রাজ্য সরকারের গৃহীত কর্মসূচির প্রভাবে ওই সব অঞ্চলের সাধারণ মানুষ উন্নয়নের কর্মকাণ্ডে যুক্ত হয়েছেন। এর ফলে জনযুদ্ধ-মাওবাদী উগ্রপন্থীরা সাধারণ গরিব মানুষ থেকে বিচ্ছিন্ন হয়ে পড়েছে। মানুষকে তারা আর বিভ্রান্ত করতে পারছে না। তাই জনযুদ্ধ-মাওবাদী জঙ্গিরা হিংসাত্মক কার্যকলাপ চালাচ্ছে।”

প্রশ্ন উঠেছে, এই উন্নয়ন কতটা সার্বিক? এর কতটাই বা সাধারণ মানুষের জন্য? আর কেনই বা উগ্রপন্থীদের লক্ষ্য হয়ে উঠছেন সি পি এমের স্থানীয় নেতাদের বিশেষ কয়েক জন? কারণ, এলাকার মানুষের কথায় কান পাতলে যে-অভিযোগ উঠে আসছে, তা হল, উন্নয়ন হচ্ছে তিকই। তবে তা আমজনতার নয়, শাসক দলের নেতাদের একাংশের। এই প্রশ্নে পুরুলিয়ার বান্দোয়ানে নিহত সি পি এম নেতা মহেন্দ্র মাহাতোর ‘কাজকর্ম’ নিয়েও স্থানীয় মানুষজনের অভিযোগ আছে। এই বিষয়ে

এর পর ছয়ের পাতায়

উন্নয়নে ক্ষিপ্ত হয়েই জঙ্গি হামলা

প্রথম পাতার পর

বন্দোপাধ্যায়ের অভিযোগ, “এলাকায় সি পি এমের রাজ্য সম্পাদক বলেছেন, উন্নয়নের নামে সি পি এমের এক “মহেন্দ্রের ব্যাপারে বিস্তারিত ভাবে শ্রেণির নেতা ব্যাপক দুর্নীতি করছেন। আর ওঁদের দলের ভিতর থেকেই সেই কিছু জানি না। খোঁজ নিতে হবে। কিন্তু রানিবাঁধে নিহত রঘুনাথ মূর্খু অত্যন্ত দুর্নীতির প্রতিবাদ করলে তা খুনোখুনির নিরীহ কমরেড ছিলেন।” পর্যায় চলে যাচ্ছে।” প্রদেশ কংগ্রেস

রাজনৈতিক ভাবে জঙ্গিদের মোকাবিলা করার যে-দাবি অনিলবাবুরা করছেন, তার পিছনে স্থানীয় মানুষ আছে কি? তা হলে বাঁকুড়া, পুরুলিয়া তো বটেই, পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর, বীরভূম, হুগলির বহু জায়গায় সি পি এমের অন্তত ৫০ জন নেতাকে সশস্ত্র পুলিশি প্রহরায় চলাফেরা করতে হয় কেন? তৃণমূল নেতা পঙ্কজ

বন্দোপাধ্যায়ের অভিযোগ, “এলাকায় উন্নয়নের নামে সি পি এমের এক শ্রেণির নেতা ব্যাপক দুর্নীতি করছেন। আর ওঁদের দলের ভিতর থেকেই সেই দুর্নীতির প্রতিবাদ করলে তা খুনোখুনির পর্যায় চলে যাচ্ছে।” প্রদেশ কংগ্রেস নেতা মানস ভূঁইয়াও অভিযোগ করেন, “এক দল কমরেড ফুলেফেঁপে উঠছে বলেই জঙ্গিদের কাজের সুবিধা হচ্ছে।” এই অভিযোগ উড়িয়ে দিয়ে অনিলবাবুর দাবি, “মানুষ আমাদের সঙ্গেই আছে। তাদের ভয় দেখাতেই উগ্রপন্থীরা হিংসা ছড়ানোর চেষ্টা করছে।” এর বিরুদ্ধে আজ, সোমবার তাঁরা প্রতিবাদ দিবস পালন করবেন।

L 2

Suspicion falls on Andhra's most wanted

House hurdle for guards

Strike aimed at foiling raids

PRONAB MONDAL

Calcutta, July 10: The strikes by suspected CPI (Maoist) rebels in Bankura and Purulia last night were plotted by Koteswar Rao alias Kishanji, a top-level Maoist from Andhra Pradesh, according to sources.

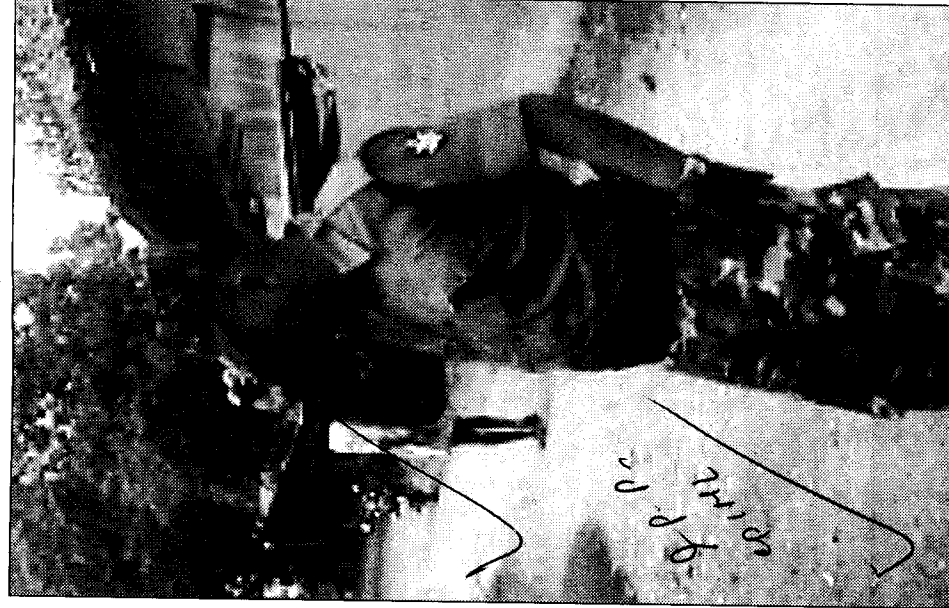
Rao is the chief of the organisation's action squad, which operates in Jharkhand and Bengal.

The entire plan — said to be in retaliation to the crackdown initiated by the state government a month-and-half ago — was chalked out in Calcutta a fortnight ago at a meeting presided by Kishanji and politburo members of the organisation, the sources said.

"Both the operations were carried out by the core members — both men and women — of the organisation's action squad. The assassins, all in black trousers and shirts, were armed with sophisticated and semi-automatic weapons. The way they fired proves the killers are well-trained in pulling triggers," said an official of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Chayan Mukherjee, additional director-general of police (law and order) said: "He (Kishanji) is on the list of the most wanted Maoists. Though we have no specific information about his whereabouts, efforts are on to track him down."

HATCHED IN CITY, EXECUTED IN THATCHED HUT



The dispensary in Majheria village of Bankura, where two CPM leaders were killed on Saturday. (Right) A Jawan of the Eastern Frontier Rifles at Dulukdihni village in Purulia. Pictures by Debjit Modak and Tapan Mahato

Police, however, agreed that Kishanji was a few steps ahead of them. "There was no report from the officials of the Intelligence Branch (IB) who are deployed there. The IB has not even mentioned the names of the victims in their list of the Maoists' targets," said an official of the CID's Special Operation Group, the wing specially formed to combat Naxalism in West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia.

At a meeting on June 3 in

Calcutta, leaders of the CPI (Maoist) had adopted a resolution and threatened those who tipping off the police.

The official said the twin attack has proved it was not a false threat. "While walking away, the assassins were shouting slogans describing their targets as police spies. They also warned villagers that all police informers would meet the same fate," he said.

Earlier, Maoist leaders had

also drawn up a hit list. Senior police officials, including an IPS officer, were among the targets.

"Besides, they selected the Lalgarh police station in Bankura as one of their immediate targets. They had a plan to attack the *thana* and kill police officers posted there sometime in the last week of June," said another official working on the movements of the outfit. But Bankura police came to know about the plan.

"Similarly, the Maoists also kept a close watch on our movement. We carried out a massive search operation in Lalgarh jungle where the members of the action squad were supposed to meet. But they managed to escape a few hours before we rushed there," said the official.

"It seems, the attackers targeted CPM leaders after their first plan — attacking the Lalgarh police station — did not work," he added.

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta, July 10: CPM leaders are soft targets of the CPI (Maoist) in Bankura and Purulia but they are unable to provide accommodation to security personnel provided by the government, the leadership said here today.

Alarmed at last night's killing of three CPM leaders in the two districts by Maoist activists and today's subsequent explosion in which the officer-in-charge of Barikul police station in Bankura Prabal Sengupta was killed, senior officials decided to provide security to those who are "vulnerable."

As many as 17 police and para-military personnel, including two officers in charge and 12 CPM activists, have been killed by Maoist rebels in the last two years.

Though additional director-general of police (law and order) Chayan Mukherjee, said the government is ready to provide security to those being targeted by the extremists, CPM leaders from two districts expressed their inability to accept the offer.

"Most of our leaders and party members, though they are exposed to regular attacks by Maoists, are too poor to provide shelter to security people, deployed to guard them round the clock. How can they accommodate security men if they do not have adequate accommodation for themselves?" asked Amiya Patra, CPM district secretary of Bankura.

He also said it is difficult to visit remote villages in the district with a security man in tow all the time.

"Our job is to interact with poor people on a regular basis to enquire about their difficulties. So, grassroots people, particularly tribals, may take it otherwise if we always take escorts with us," he added.

A party spokesperson from the CPM's Purulia district committee echoed him. "Is it possible for us to move around the remote tribal area with escorts?" he asked.

A CPM insider said party leaders have already turned down the requests from the district administration on accepting security.

Faced with the problem, the district administration in the two districts has decided to reinforce all police stations.

Besides, regular meetings between officials and those stationed in police stations have been lined up to assess the law-and-order situation.

On its part, the CPM leadership has planned to intensify its campaign in support of development activities being carried out in two districts for the uplift of poor people.

"Our efforts will be to isolate the extremist forces from the poor people by way of constantly stepping up the campaign in favour of development activities," said Anil Biswas, state CPM secretary and politburo member in a statement.

Blast kills O-C in Naxalite den

Statesman News Service

Posters in train coaches

MAJHGORIA, (Bankura), July 10. — Officer-in-charge of Barikul police station Prabal Sengupta was killed and 17 policemen were injured in a blast when Sengupta tried to open an abandoned bag left behind by suspected CPI (Maoist) cadres last night.

The team went to Ranibandh after armed CPI (Maoist) activists gunned down Raghunath Murmu, Barikul CPI-M zonal committee member and Bablu Mudi, another CPI-M activist last night at 8 p.m.

With yesterday's attack, so far 17 policemen and officials were killed in Maoist attack in Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore since 2003. This was stated by ADG (law and order) Mr Chayan Mukherjee at Writers' Buildings today.

Tribal welfare minister Mr Upen Kisku along with district CPI-M secretary, Mr Amiya Patra and other CPI-M leaders rushed to Majhgoria this morning.

IGP, senior IB and CID officers and officials of the state forensic cell today inspected the spot and col-

lected samples from the blast site. The CPI-M observed a protest day today in Ranibandh. The party has called a bandh in Khatra sub-division tomorrow to protest against the killings. Three CPI-M activists, were abducted at gunpoint this morning at Bandwan in Purulia. They were, however, released in the afternoon, SP, Mr K Shibakumar said.

The CPI(M) state secretary, Mr Anil Biswas, in a statement, has condemned the killing of party leaders at Ranibandh and Bandwan.

Mr Biswas said various developmental projects taken up by the state government had isolated the CPI (Maoist) cadres from the villagers.

CRIP(Maoist) posters in some coaches of the Sealdah-Krishnagar local, which reached Krishnagar station around 9.30 this morning, spread panic among commuters. The CPI(Maoist) has claimed responsibility for the murder of the CPI-M activist Basanta Dutta at Khir. — SNS

1 JUL 2005

THE STATESMAN

Naxalites kill sarpanch, abduct two

Hyderabad, July 10

NAXALS SHOT dead a village sarpanch and abducted two persons in separate incidents in Andhra Pradesh since Saturday night, police said on Sunday.

Sarpanch of Madhavaram village, N. Veera Malliah Naidu was walking down to Maddelavandlepalli village on Sunday morning when he was shot dead by a group of CPI (Maoist) naxalites, who branded him to be a police informer, police said.

In another incident, two clerks of a transport company were kidnapped by Janashakti extremists last night in Khammam district.

Police said the armed extremists went to Koyagudem village and enquired about the owner of a transport company Suresh Lahoti. However, on being informed that Lahoti was not available, the extremists took them away the clerks-Gajjela Ramakrishna and Naga Bujji.

Police suspect that the two were abducted to extort money from the transport company.

PTI

Fear grips Orissa villages after Maoist blitzkrieg

Sambalpur, July 10

FEAR HAS gripped three villages in the heavily-forested Jujumara block — the scene of the brutal killing of five persons by armed Maoists on Wednesday night. Despite a four-member ministerial team visiting the villages on Saturday, where the Maoists perpetrated the nine-hour-long carnage, inhabitants were not convinced.

"When there is no safety and our lives are in danger, why stay here?" an anguished resident of this underdeveloped village asked as the ministers, including revenue minister Manmohan Samal and energy minister Suryanarayan Patra, went round the Tamparsinga, Banjaritiki-ra and Larabira villages.

Samal assured the inhabitants that all efforts were being made to maintain

REIGN OF TERROR

ACT OF VIOLENCE
Maoist raiders killed five villagers in Orissa's Sambalpur district on Wednesday

TOO AFRAID TO STAY
The latest act of violence has prompted many from the district's villages to seek shelter in a secure place

law and order in the area and protect the people.

The villagers said people had already started leaving their homes in search of safety. At least five houses were found locked in this village. Hours later, family members of Prafulla Patnaik, whose house was blown up by the Maoists who also looted his grocery shop, left the village.

The leader of the Opposition, J.B. Patnaik, who

also visited the three villages on Saturday, blamed the local police for the carnage. "The police had been negligent", he charged.

Jena said that the party would submit a report on the incident to the Union ministry and to AICC president Sonia Gandhi.

One company of CRPF and seven platoons of Orissa special armed police have been deployed for combing operation in the dense Meghapal forests while another company of CRPF was being rushed to the area, said B.B. Mishra, a police official.

Significantly, people alleged that several of the Maoists, belong to the same villages they raided. This was corroborated earlier by the police who said that seven persons from Tamparsinga had been with the Maoists.

Agencies

Burdwan police draw up blueprint to stem menace

Maoists get cops up & running

9-13 ✓
9/7

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Durgapur, July 8: Burdwan police are drawing up a blueprint to combat the growing Naxalite menace in this district after the recent arrests of six Maoists.

The police went into overdrive after Saturday night's arrests of a Naxalite trio holding a secret meeting in Jangalmahal forest region followed by another from the Coke Oven area the next day. So far, they have been under the impression that the menace is confined to Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore.

Last night, two more alleged Maoists were picked up: a Durgapur Steel Plant employee, Dhajadhari Chatterjee, from his Hospital Road home, and a local salesman, Sushen Mahato, from his Mining Allied and Machineries Corporation colony residence. Several documents and posters were also seized.

Intelligence sources said the arrested Maoists confirmed links with hardcore guerrillas in Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore.

"It appears the Naxalites are trying to build a base in the forest area and rope in tribal villagers," Burdwan police superintendent N.K. Singh said today.

"We have got the names of more Maoists active in the district. Last night's raid was a part of ongoing operations against the extremists. We hope to make more arrests."

To clamp down on the growing menace, the police are planning to launch a door-to-door drive to persuade people to keep off the Maoists and not be drawn towards them.

The police and the intelligence branch will maintain a joint round-the-clock vigil in the Jangalmahal region, which covers the Kanksa, Laudoha, Aushgram and Guskara police station areas. These are underdeveloped pockets, peopled mostly by tribals.

The officials, dressed in plain clothes, will mingle with villagers so that they can collect data on their socio-economic condition.

The police will also keep track of people visiting these areas and prepare monthly reports on their activities and whereabouts. The reports will be scrutinised by senior intelligence officials and the police.

The Government Railway Police have been asked to maintain vigil on train passengers. An eye will also be kept on major bus termini for suspicious characters. "If we find anyone moving about suspiciously, we will detain them for interrogation," a senior official said.

Although the police claim the Maoists are not planning any immediate strikes, a special training programme on locating and deactivating landmines and explosives will be held for select officers and constables. They will also be trained to tackle ambush situations.

More

Statesman News Service

KANKSA (Burdwan), July 5.— Andhra Pradesh link with the detained Maoists in Kanksa has come to light establishing the fact that the outfit had been operating in the Durgapur industrial zone..

Police said the Naxalites have confessed that they planned to make the Asansol-Durgapur industrial hub a soft target.

The DIG (Burdwan Range), Mr Nanda Biswas and the SP, Burdwan, Mr N K Singh reached the Kanksa PS in Burdwan today to interrogate the Maoists in police custody. Police have been picking up Naxalites from different stretches of the coal and iron belt since two days,

Maoist arrests



The Maoists who were arrested, in Durgapur. — The Statesman

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

adding four more to the arrest count. Mr Nanda Biswas, DIG (BR) told The Statesman: "Two of the detained ultras have

opened up finally and we have gathered a lot of information regarding their deep-rooted link with the outfit heads operating in

expose Andhra link

Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kolkata and Midnapore." Locals from different segments have also got associated with the Maoists in this belt which is a matter of concern, he added.

The Burdwan SP, Mr NK Singh told reporters: "We are yet to identify the heads behind the organisation. We have got certain information establishing their link with some personalities residing in Salt Lake area in Kolkata and some staying in Midnapore, Bankura and Jharkhand," he said

The DIG, Mr Biswas said: "One of the hard core leaders has expressed his desire to return to the mainstream of life." Mr Prasanta Roy, alias Tapan alias Buro, who hails from Chagulia,

sought police assistance to return to the mainstream. The chief minister, Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, has declared safe rehabilitation for the Naxalite ultras who wish to come back.

in Onda PS area in Bankura had been helping to run training camps in Jungle Mahal hideouts in Kanksa. He was arrested from Shibpur location with his aide Mr Ajit Halder. Mr Biswas and

Barrel of the gun

If parties do not stand up to Naxal threats in Andhra, what hope is there for citizens?

POLITICS in Andhra Pradesh is on the brink of a dangerous precipice. There is no other way of describing a situation when ministers have to resign from government, and political parties have to craft their strategies, at gun point. The resignation of five Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) members from the government should bring home the fact that the security situation in AP is getting precarious. There was always potential for friction between the TRS and Congress. The Congress tried to ride on the support for the Telangana movement. But since coming to power it has vacillated on the issue.

But this does not diminish the enormity of what we are witnessing in the state. TRS may have legitimate grievances, but there is no denying the fact that the Naxals are now calling the shots in

Telangana. In some ways the TRS-Congress dispute has become a peripheral side show. Neither is will to face the serious question: what happens to politics when neither party can now act without fear of Naxal violence directed against them? And if political parties do not have the courage to stand up to Naxal threats, what hope is there for citizens now trapped by Naxal power?

Congress vacillations on Telangana are outdone only by its vacillations on the Naxal issue. To be fair, it inherited an enormous problem. But it has no clear strategy for dealing with it and thus preventing the Naxals from being able to mock the authority of the state almost at will. It does not have the will to crack down on the Naxals or the imagination to politically neutralise them. It emerges all the weaker for this.

0 6 11 2005

INDIAN EXPRESS

On Naxal orders, TRS walks out on YSR

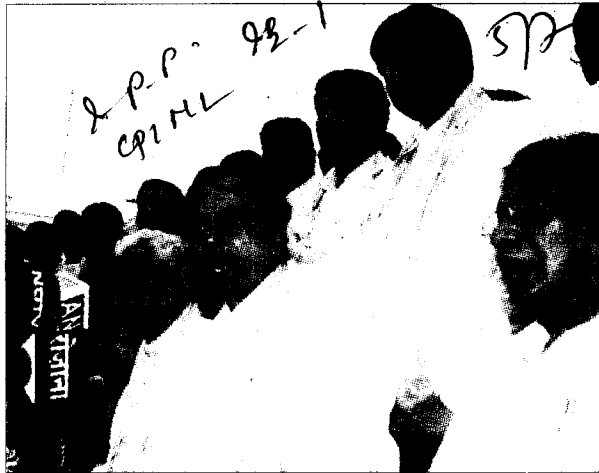
No movement in Telangana, says Rao; on UPA, waits for PM, Sonia response

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, PLY 4

THE Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) demanding a separate Telangana state, today pulled out five of its six ministers from the Andhra Pradesh government and threatened to leave the UPA coalition at the Centre, citing serious differences with the Congress over the handling of the Naxal problem.

While one of the five ministers faxed his resignation from the US where he was on a tour, the sixth revolted, saying he would not quit the Y S Rajasekhara Reddy government. The TRS took the decision after the Naxals issued them an ultimatum to either quit or face bullets.

The TRS, unhappy with the Congress because "not much progress" has been made on



TRS chief Chandrasekhara Rao, colleagues announce the party decision in New Delhi on Monday. Express photo

the Telangana statehood issue, has also been protesting the Andhra police action against Naxalites.

Chief Minister Rajasekhara Reddy, whose government does not face any threat be-

cause of the majority his party enjoys in the 294-member Assembly, said a decision on their resignation will be taken at the "appropriate time".

Union Minister Pranab Mukherjee, who heads the

UPA sub-committee on Telangana, told reporters in Ahmedabad—he's on a tour of flood-hit Gujarat—he was confident that the problem would be resolved. "I am in touch with TRS leaders. The issue will be sorted out," he said.

In New Delhi, Congress spokesman Anand Sharma said that AICC general secretary Digvijay Singh, in charge of party affairs in the state, was also in touch with TRS leaders.

Speaking at a press conference, TRS chief and Union Labour Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao said: "We will decide whether to stay in the UPA or not after meeting Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and seeing their response to our demand."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TRS walks out

The TRS, which has five members in the Lok Sabha and two ministers at the Centre, fought in alliance with the Congress in last year's Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Four of its Andhra ministers—T Harish Rao, A Chandrasekhar, Capt Lakshmikanta Rao and Vijayarama Rao—met Governor Sushil Kumar Shinde and submitted their resignation to him this morning. N Narasimha Murthy, on a visit to the US, faxed his communication from there. Sarathi Reddy, the sixth minister, defied the party.

Naxalite trio held in forest

SWOOP

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Burdwan, July 3: Three CPI (Maoist) leaders were picked up last night from a forest in Burdwan where they had assembled for a secret conclave.

They have been identified as Prasanta Roy, Gautam Bhattacharya and Ajit Haldar.

The police intelligence wing is particularly perturbed as the arrests were made barely 12 hours before the chief minister drove into the Durgapur Projects Ltd guesthouse, 25 km from where the Naxalites were meeting.

On his way back to Calcutta from Purulia, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee had made a stopover in Durgapur.

District police chief Niraj Singh said a team that raided Jangalmahal in the Kanksa area, about 170 km from Calcutta, caught the rebels off guard.

Bhattacharya, said to be from Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas, is a civil engineer who passed out from then Regional Engineering College, Durgapur, in 1981, the police said. They also claimed that the catch was a major success. "We have found documents and blueprints for making explosive devices, which will lead to more arrests and information about Naxalite activities in neighbouring Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore," an officer said.

The three rebel leaders were produced in Durgapur court today and remanded in police custody for 10 days.

"They had come from other districts and taken shelter in the forest to plan subversive activities," said Singh.

Roy, a resident of Onda in Bankura, used to stay at Andal in Durgapur. Haldar, from Hanskhali in Nadia, had also taken shelter in Durgapur.

"We have found in the papers plans to attack or blow up police stations. There were also notebooks with details of how tribals of Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore are 'exploited' and how they could be freed," Singh said.

Suspected Naxalites here have pasted posters in and around the railway station, the office of the district magistrate and the medical college and hospital claiming responsibility for the murder of CPM activist Basanta Dutta.

On June 7, a gang of five had raided Dutta's home and hacked him to death.

The police said Jangalmahal was a safe corridor for the rebels as it provided easy access to hideouts in Jharkhand, West Midnapore, Birbhum, Bankura and Purulia.

MAY-JUNE HAUL

- Sushil Roy, a CPI (Maoist) politburo member, arrested from Konnagar, Hooghly
- Patit Pawan Halder, a state committee member, arrested from Roy's place
- Jishnu Roychowdhury, of north Bengal zonal committee, and Prasanta Das netted in Malda
- Asit Jana, former state committee member, held in Jangipara, Hooghly
- Sabyasachi Goswami, general secretary of greater Calcutta committee, Kanika Deb Nath and Dipanjan Mukherjee, members of city committee, arrested
- Sheikh Zakir Hussain, Kanika's husband, arrested from Belpahari in West Midnapore

MCC, PWG plague Champaran

Ashok K Mishra
PATNA 28 JUNE

THE sudden spurt in Naxal activity in the border district of East Champaran in Bihar has led to a major showdown between the police and the Maoist groups there. That the East and West Champaran districts are a hotbed of Naxal extremism is a known fact and the state government could have done its bit to rein in the terrorists. In dealing with their increasingly daring attacks, the government now has to also take into consideration the involvement of the Nepali Maoists with the Naxals.

The merger of the two ultra groups—the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) and the People's War Group—to form the new CPI(Maoists) has increased their striking power, so much so that their very presence in the Champaran range is much dreaded. Even till some time back, the entire Champaran range—unlike other parts of Bihar, like Gaya, Jehanabad and including the ex-

tremist affected districts of Jharkhand—was not known for the extremists who would call for poll boycotts.

"The twin districts of East Champaran and West Champaran, hitherto, remained impervious to the poll boycott call," state BJP president Sushil Kumar Modi said. "But things may change in future if the diabolic manifestations of the Maoists are any indication. We are keeping our fingers crossed at the moment but it will not come as a surprise if the Maoists decide to enforce the poll boycott during the coming Assembly elections."

Mr Modi added that the NDA had performed quite well in the last Assembly elections. "And we will not like to comment on the

political import of the poll boycott call—if there is one from the extremists in the future," he stated explicitly.

There is clear feeling among the NDA leadership that the ultras have had a nexus with the RJD and this paid electoral dividends to Lalu Prasad Yadav. "We can say with surety that the MCC, before it merged with the PWG, played ball with the RJD. Though the MCC issued the diktat for the poll boycott, its cadres actually worked towards

ensuring a victory of the RJD candidates," commented an NDA leader. He even went on to remind how the MCC cadres would welcome Lalu Yadav with booming gun salute whenever he undertook tours in the extremist-affected districts of Jharkhand.

Things may, however, be changing—as far as the political relations of the RJD with the ultras are concerned—after the MCC-PWG merger. Little wonder then that RJD spokesman Shiavanand Tiwari voiced his concern as to whether there was a design behind the recent Maoist attacks on the RJD leaders.

"The house of the RJD MP Sitaram Singh was attacked. Even RJD MLA Atri Rajendra Yadav in Gaya district was not spared. Certainly, it calls for a probe as to why the RJD leaders were being targeted by the Maoists," Mr Tiwari said. A number of RJD leaders have now even urged the Centre to take immediate steps to rein in the Maoists who they said were now spreading out to newer areas.



Bihar BJP chief fears poll boycott call by Naxals while NDA hints at Lalu's links with the ultras

মাওবাদীদের সশস্ত্র মহিলা স্কোয়াড পশ্চিমবঙ্গেও

দেবজিৎ ভট্টাচার্য

বিহার-ঝাড়খণ্ডে অনেক আগে থেকেই সক্রিয় মাওবাদীদের মহিলা স্কোয়াড। কিন্তু পশ্চিমবঙ্গে অনুকূল পরিস্থিতি না-পাওয়ায় তারা এই প্রচেষ্টা থেকে এত দিন বিরত ছিল। এ বার এই রাজ্যেও মহিলা স্কোয়াড তৈরি করেছে মাওবাদীরা। সম্প্রতি রাজ্যের স্বরাষ্ট্র দফতরে এমনই তথ্য পাঠিয়েছে কেন্দ্রীয় গোয়েন্দা দফতর (আই বি)।

মাওবাদীরা যে পুরুলিয়া, বাঁকড়া ও পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর ছাড়িয়ে রাজ্যের অন্যত্র ছড়িয়ে পড়েছে, সরকার সেই ব্যাপারে যথেষ্ট ওয়াকিবহাল। কিন্তু মেদিনীপুরের জঙ্গলে কিছু বি এস এফ জওয়ান মোতামেন করা ছাড়া গত কয়েক বছরে মাওবাদীদের বিরুদ্ধে এই রাজ্যে তেমন জোরদার তল্লাশি চালানো হয়নি। সেই ফাঁকে মাওবাদীরা সংগঠন বাড়িয়ে নিয়েছে বহু জেলায়। ফলস্বরূপ একাধিক ঘটনায় মাইন বিস্ফোরণের শিকার হন অন্তত ১০ জন পুলিশকর্মী। শেষ পর্যন্ত বিভিন্ন জেলা থেকে বাছাই করা কয়েক জন সাব-ইনস্পেক্টর নিয়ে বিশেষ বাহিনী গড়ে তাঁদের পাঠানো হয় পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে।

এই মাসের গোড়ায় রাজ্য পুলিশের ডি জি-র নির্দেশে সি আই ডি এবং আই বি-র অফিসারদের নিয়ে পৃথক একটি দল গড়া হয়। এত দিন মাওবাদীরা যে-ক'টি নাশকতামূলক ঘটনা ঘটিয়েছে, সেগুলির তদন্তের দায়িত্ব বর্তেছে ওই দলের উপরে।

দায়িত্ব নেওয়ার পরেই কলকাতার বিভিন্ন এলাকা থেকে মাওবাদী সন্দেহে এক মহিলা-সহ তিন জনকে গ্রেফতার করে পুলিশ। একই অভিযোগে বেলপাহাড়িতে ধরা হয় আরও কয়েক জনকে। পুলিশের দাবি, মাওবাদী জঙ্গিদলের সঙ্গে সরাসরি যোগাযোগ আছে খুতদের। কিন্তু এখনও পর্যন্ত ওই সংগঠনের অস্ত্রভাণ্ডারের খোঁজ পায়নি পুলিশ। অথচ কেন্দ্রীয় গোয়েন্দা রিপোর্টে বলা হয়েছে, পশ্চিমবঙ্গে মাওবাদীদের হাতে কার্বাইন, এল এম জি-র মতো দু'শোর বেশি আধুনিক অস্ত্র আছে। সেই অস্ত্র দেওয়া হয়েছে সদ্যগঠিত মহিলা স্কোয়াডের হাতে।

কেন্দ্রীয় গোয়েন্দা দফতর জানিয়েছে, কেবল দক্ষিণবঙ্গে নয়, মাওবাদী সংগঠন জোরদার হচ্ছে উত্তরবঙ্গেও। শিলিগুড়ি শহরকে কেন্দ্র করে সংগঠনের কাজকর্ম চলছে কোচবিহার, দার্জিলিং, জলপাইগুড়ি ও মালদহে। গোয়েন্দাদের অনুমান, কোচবিহারের অসম-ঘেঁষা এলাকা দিয়ে মাওবাদীরা সম্পর্ক গড়েছে আলফার সঙ্গে। তারা জঙ্গি কাজকর্মের প্রশিক্ষণ পাচ্ছে সেখানে। অন্য দিকে, অস্ত্র আনতে মাওবাদীরা ব্যবহার করছে মালদহের বাংলাদেশ সীমান্ত।

২০০৩ সালের ডিসেম্বরে মাওবাদী সংগঠনের ক্ষমতা যাচাই করতে পুলিশ যে-তথ্য জোগাড় করে, তাতে জানা যায়, বাঁকড়া, পুরুলিয়া ও পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে তিনটি 'অ্যাকশন স্কোয়াড' সক্রিয় রয়েছে। জনযুদ্ধের স্কোয়াডে আছে ১০ থেকে ১২ জন। তুলনায় এম সি সি-র স্কোয়াডটি বড়। ৩৫ থেকে ৪০ জনের ওই দলে আছে বেশ কয়েক জন দক্ষ বন্দুকবাজ। সেই সংখ্যা ইতিমধ্যে অনেক বেড়েছে।

কেন্দ্রীয় গোয়েন্দা দফতরের রিপোর্ট, গত বছর এই রাজ্যের ১৭০ জন যুবক-যুবতীকে মাওবাদীদের গেরিলা স্কোয়াডের সদস্য করা

28 JUN 2005

PATRIKA

Nepal Maoists join Bihar raid

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna, June 24: Several hundred Maoists raided a small hamlet, Madhuban, on Bihar's border with Nepal yesterday in an orchestrated attack managed through walkie-talkies.

They targeted simultaneously two banks, a post office, a petrol pump and inevitably the police station, besides the houses of Rashtriya Janata Dal MP from Sheohar, Sitaram Singh, and two of his supporters.

State government sources claimed this to be the first joint operation carried out by Maoists in Nepal and India.

The guards at the banks and a CRPF jawan fired at the

9.P.P-CPIML (Maoists) 5-1 25/6
marauding Maoists and, outnumbered, paid with their lives. Police today claimed to have recovered the bodies of six Maoists. The attackers could have suffered higher casualties as the CRPF used mortars on the retreating rebels.

The extremists poured into the hamlet, around 60 km from Motihari (see map), from all sides around 1.30 pm and for the next one-and-a-half hours, had a free run of the place.

There were some women in *salwar kameez* and red *dupattas* while others wore jeans and tops. The latter were taken to be Nepalese.

The target of the attack was clearly Singh and the market complex owned by him.



The market housed the two banks. Singh, who is a terror in the region, had received threats from the Maoists earlier. But he was away at the time of the attack.

The Maoists are believed to have escaped with Rs 12 lakh in cash from the branches of State Bank of India

and Central Bank of India, the cash-box of the post office and the treasury at the block office.

They torched the police station and looted the armoury, besides ransacking the house of two supporters of the MP. They are also believed to have taken away an undisclosed amount of cash and jewellery from these houses.

The police claimed the Maoists used various modes of transport, including buses, jeeps and motorcycles. Many also reached Madhuban on foot.

This was a rare Maoist attack conducted in broad daylight. Nor did they ever choose so many targets simultaneously.

Naxalites chip in where state doesn't give a damn

Manoj Chaurasia in Patna

June 17. — Given their four-decade-long presence in a poverty-stricken state like Bihar, yet to get rid of its caste-based and communally-oriented politics, Naxalites appear to have learnt very well the art of exploiting mass sentiments. Their task has been made easy by the failure of the government machinery to deliver the goods regardless of who's in power. Taking full advantage of the official failure to come to the rescue of the people suffering the state's worst hot spell in 80 years, the Naxalites are now making their presence felt doing what the government cannot.

The Communist Party of India-Maoist has initiated efforts aimed at providing irrigation facilities to the poor farmers of Immamganj, Dumaria, Kothi and Barachatti in Bihar's Gaya district. The extremists are constructing a huge dam near Khajura village in Dumaria block by connecting two hills. They are planning two big canals for the water to be taken out of it. The work on the dam is

on, with the administration looking on, and the project is being funded by levying survival taxes upon the rich. A report from Gaya said extremists were working on a dam at Tata Bara in Kothi besides building two more in Barachatti. All these initiatives have been warmly welcomed by the people, who recall how Naxalites once saved Gaya's poor peasants from the terror of the *dola* system. When the state administration failed to check crime in these areas,

Naxalites meted out rough justice, detaining some 24 criminals whom the police had failed to arrest and punishing them in their "courts" organised in the Konch-Tekari region early in 2000. Those accused of rape and murder were hacked to death. Petty offenders had their ears or noses chopped off. That brought the crime graph down, whilst raising an important question about who was ruling Bihar. The debate, truth to tell, continues.

Integrated plan to curb terror

HYDERABAD, June 17. — The thirteen Naxalite-affected states today decided on an integrated approach in terms of sharing intelligence and coordinated action to tackle the gravest threat to internal security. "It is important for joint operations and sharing of intelligence. It has been tried and tried successfully. We agreed to constitute two task forces so that police chiefs in consultations with their counterparts can plan operations against the militants," Union home secretary Mr VK Duggal said. Such actions are yielding good results, he said. Mr Duggal chaired the eighteenth meeting of the Coordination Centre here comprising directors general, chief secretaries and top police brass of the respective states. Ahead of the meeting the participants visited the Ordnance Factory in adjacent Medak district to note the progress in production of mine-protected and bullet proof vehicles. Mr Duggal said the Centre would assist the states in procuring these vehicles, as the number of casualties is the highest in landmine attacks. — SNS

18 JUN 2005

THE STATESMAN

নকশাল-চাঁইদের খোঁজে বিশেষ বাহিনী সক্রিয় এ বার কলকাতায়

দেবজিৎ ভট্টাচার্য

কেবল জঙ্গল-এলাকায় ঘুরেই যে মাওবাদীদের কাজকর্মের খুঁটিনাটি জানা যাবে না, তা বুঝতে পেরে রাজ্য পুলিশের বিশেষ বাহিনী কলকাতা ও শহরতলিতে জনসংযোগ ও তথ্য সংগ্রহে তৎপরতা বাড়িয়েছে। সম্প্রতি বেশ কয়েক জন মাওবাদী নেতাকে গ্রেফতার করে পুলিশের এই অনুমান আরও দৃঢ় হয়েছে এবং সেই কারণে পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের পুলিশ সুপার সম্প্রতি কলকাতা পুলিশের স্পেশাল ব্রাঞ্চ ও গোয়েন্দা পুলিশের কর্তাদের সঙ্গে বৈঠক করেন। বৈঠক করেন নদিয়া, উত্তর ২৪ পরগনা ও হুগলির পুলিশ সুপারের সঙ্গেও।

পুলিশ বুঝতে পেরেছে বাঁকুড়া, পুরুলিয়া ও পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে এত দিন মাওবাদী সন্দেহে যাঁদের ধরা হয়েছে, তাঁরা নেহাতই তল্লাসকারী। ধৃতদের মধ্যে বেশ কিছু আশ্রয়দাতাও আছেন এবং ভয়ে বা ভক্তিতে তাঁরা মাওবাদীদের আশ্রয় দিয়েছেন। মাস সাতেক আগে রাজ্য পুলিশ কয়েকটি জেলার সাব-ইনস্পেক্টদের নিয়ে বিশেষ বাহিনী তৈরি করে। বিভিন্ন থানার ও সি ছিলেন তাঁরা। ওই বাহিনীর কাজ মূলত জঙ্গল-এলাকার গ্রামে গ্রামে ঘুরে মাওবাদীদের গতিবিধি সম্পর্কে খোঁজখবর করা। তাই তাঁরা হামেশাই কলকাতা ও সংলগ্ন জেলায় তল্লাশি চালাচ্ছেন। পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে ক্যাম্প করে থাকা ওই বাহিনী সম্প্রতি হুগলির চণ্ডীতলা, গোবরা ও তারকেশ্বর, উত্তর ২৪ পরগনার বারাসত, জগদল, ব্যারাকপুর ও বেলঘরিয়ায় হানা দেয়। তবে খালি হাতেই ফিরতে হয় তাদের।

গত দু'তিন বছর যাবৎ পূর্ব ও পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর, বাঁকুড়া, পুরুলিয়ায় বিক্ষিপ্ত ভাবে পুলিশি তল্লাশি হলেও দলের নীতি নির্ধারকদের গ্রেফতার করা যায়নি। ধরা যায়নি তাঁদেরও, যাঁরা কলকাতায় বসে বিহার, ঝাড়খণ্ড ও ওড়িশায় পুলিশকর্মী খুনের ছক চূড়ান্ত করেন বা ভবিষ্যৎ কর্মপন্থা নির্দিষ্ট করেন।

নির্বিদ্র নকশাল সংগঠনের যে-ক'জন কর্মী ধরা পড়েছেন বলে পুলিশ দাবি করেছে, পরে জানা গিয়েছে, তাঁরা নেহাতই মাওবাদীদের তল্লাসকারী, আশ্রয়দাতা বা খাদ্য সরবরাহকারী। মূল পাণ্ডারা বসে আছেন জনবহুল শহরে, প্রায় জনসমক্ষে। তাই ধৃতদের কাছ থেকে মাওবাদীদের গতিবিধি সম্পর্কে কোনও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য পাওয়া যায়নি। এক পুলিশকর্তা জানান, আই এস আইয়ের মতো ছোট দলে ভাগ হয়ে কাজ করে মাওবাদীরা। ফলে সংগঠনের কেউ ধরা পড়লে তদন্ত বেশি দূর এগোতে পারে না পুলিশ।

গত নভেম্বরে জনযুদ্ধের 'সাব-জেনারেল কমান্ডার' চাঁদ সোরেন ও দলের তান্ত্রিক নেতা অসিত সরকারকে গ্রেফতার করার পরে পুলিশ খানিকটা আশার আলো দেখেছিল। গত ২৩ মে বাঁশপাহাড়ির দলদলি জঙ্গলে ধরা পড়েন দুই মাওবাদী নেতা পতিতপাবন হালদার ও সুশীল রায়। তার আগেই আই বি ওই সংগঠনের 'থিঙ্ক ট্যান্কদের' নামধাম সংগ্রহ শুরু করেছে। বিশেষ বাহিনী গড়েছে সি আই ডি-ও। এত দিন মাওবাদীরা যে-সব নাশকতামূলক ঘটনা ঘটিয়েছে, তার তদন্তের দায়িত্ব পেয়েছে সি আই ডি। বৃহস্পতিবার ওই দলটি পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে পৌঁছেছে।

অন্য দিকে, মাওবাদী সংগঠনের কাজকর্ম ও নেতা-কর্মীদের গতিবিধি সম্পর্কে সম্যক ধারণা পেতে পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের পুলিশ-লাইনে একটি 'তথ্য ভাণ্ডার' গড়ে তোলা হয়েছে। রাজ্যের বিভিন্ন জেলায়, এমনকী ঝাড়খণ্ডের ঘটশিলাতেও যাঁদের ধরা হয়েছে, তাঁদের নামধাম-সহ ছবি ও পুলিশি জেরায় ধৃতদের বক্তব্য ধরে রাখা হয়েছে ভিডিও ক্যামেরায়। রাখা হয়েছে বিভিন্ন সময়ে মাওবাদী ডেরা থেকে উদ্ধার করা অস্ত্রশস্ত্র। পুলিশ জেনেছে, মাওবাদীদের কাছে রাইফেল ও বন্দুক ছাড়াও আছে স্টেনগান, প্রচুর ল্যান্ডমাইন। গভীর জঙ্গলে অস্ত্র তৈরির কারখানা আছে কি না, তা অবশ্য জানা যায়নি। তারই সন্ধানে জঙ্গল এলাকায় ঘুরছে পুলিশের বিশেষ বাহিনী।

11 JUN 2005

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

Naxals 'planning' abduction to force release of their leaders

"Naxalites have regrouped and formed two squads"

K.V. Subramanya

BANGALORE: Naxalites who owe allegiance to the Communist Party of India (Maoist) are planning to abduct a prominent politician or a senior police or forest official to obtain the release of their two top leaders who are in jail.

Sources in the State Home Department told *The Hindu* on Saturday that naxalites are planning to carry out a "spectacular act" to prove their strength and to obtain the release of their jailed leaders — Ramesh and Ujjani Gowda.

The police arrested Ramesh, said to be a member of the Central Committee of the CPI (Maoist), in Raichur a few years ago. Gowda was arrested at the KSRTC bus stand in Hospet, Bellary district, recently.

The sources said they had in-

formation that naxalites could even attack the policemen who escort Ramesh, who is in Gulbarga jail, to the court, and obtain his release. Gowda is lodged in Bellary Central Prison.

According to sources, soon after Gowda was arrested, a senior journalist prevailed upon the political administration to ensure that the police did not act tough against him. Naxalite sympathisers feared that the police would kill Gowda in a fake encounter.

The sources said that after Patel Sudhakar Reddy, an engineering graduate from Mehbubnagar in Andhra Pradesh, took over as the chief of the Karnataka unit of the CPI (Maoist) two months ago, naxalites have regrouped themselves. They have formed two squads named Karavali and Varahi.

As the Karnataka cadre is not

considered strong enough, Sudhakar Reddy has got his own men from Andhra Pradesh. Cherukuri Rajendra alias Uday, based in Mangalore, is the party's next in command after Sudhakar Reddy. Rajendra has been in Karnataka for more than a decade and he reportedly had close contacts with a former IPS officer, the sources said. Recently, the CPI (Maoist) formed the South West Regional Committee to expand and strengthen its activities in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The Western Ghats occupies a prominent place in its new scheme of things, the sources said. After the formation of the SWRC, the CPI (Maoist) is recruiting members and conducting training camps in Hosur, Chandragiri and other places in Tamil Nadu bordering Karnataka.

05 JUN 2005

THE HINDU

~~05~~ JUN 2005

'Most wanted' Maoist commander held

Press Trust of India

PATNA, May 31. — In a prize catch, "most wanted" self-styled commander of the proscribed CPI (Maoist), Kameshwar Baitha, who was carrying a cash reward of Rs five lakh on his head and was evading arrest for the past one decade, was nabbed by the Special Task Force from the city, a top official said today.

Baitha was the chief of the outlawed erstwhile CPI-ML (People's War Group) or PWG, before its merger with the banned Maoist Communist Centre to form the CPI (Maoist) last year. Another dreaded Naxalite of the CPI (Maoist),

Rambachan Yadav, was arrested by the STF from a village in Rohtas today, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, STF commandoes, assisted by the local police and STF men from Uttar Pradesh, carried out intense search operations and captured Baitha from the outskirts of Patna last night, DGP Mr Ashish Ranjan Sinha told a press conference here today. Baitha, who was also wanted by Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand Police in some criminal cases, was allegedly responsible for the murder of more than 70 policemen, the DIG said.

Soon after his arrest, Baitha was brought to the Kotwali police station where he was subjected to interroga-

tion by STF personnel, Mr Sinha said. STF personnel from UP and Jharkhand too are arriving here to question the dreaded Naxalite leader.

While Bihar and Uttar Pradesh governments had announced cash rewards of Rs two lakh each for the person providing clues about Baitha, Jharkhand also had announced a cash reward of Rs one lakh for those helping in arresting the Naxalite.

Baitha, believed to be an expert in laying and manufacturing landmines, was wanted for a number of landmine blasts also, apart from murders and abductions and attacks on police stations. But no sophisticated weapon was recovered from Baitha's possession, Mr Sinha said.

7 cops killed in Naxal strike in Gondia

By Ramu Bhagwat/TNN

*9 P.P. -
CP/MIL*

Nagpur: In one of the deadliest attacks on police force in Maharashtra, seven police personnel, including two sub-inspectors and five constables, were killed along with a civilian driver when their vehicle was blown by a powerful landmine planted by Naxalites in Gondia district of Vidarbha on Monday.

Two other constables who survived the blast and subsequent firing by the Naxalites were shifted here on Tuesday morning and are being treated at a private hospital.

The police as well as the local authorities in Gondia were caught unawares as the district was considered relatively less sensitive and the last serious Naxal attack took place three years ago. Hours after the blast, deputy CM, who holds the home portfolio, along with state DGP P S Pasricha, landed in Gondia on Tuesday afternoon and deliberated with top police officers of the region. DSP Anupkumar Singh reached the blast site late on Monday evening and supervised evacuation operations.

For nearly 20 days of this

month, the Naxalites were active in the neighbouring, more sensitive Gadchiroli district where they killed three police informers and burnt four gram panchayat offices. The police personnel attached to Darekasa police outpost in Salekasa tehsil of Gondia could have been easy targets for the Naxalites as they were travelling in the van of a civilian contractor.

Normally in Naxalite-sensitive areas, policemen move on foot and do not travel in vehicles so as to avoid landmine attacks. The police team had gone to Dewartola, close to the MP-Chat-tisgarh border, 65 km from district headquarters of Gondia and 215 km from here, to provide protection to a PWD explosives team working at an interstate dam being built there. While they were returning to Darekasa, the vehicle was blown by Naxalites who were probably well aware of the routine movement of the police team.

The police suspect Naxals belonging to Balaghat Dalam, Deori Dalam and platoon Dalam were involved in the well-coordinated attack.

01 JUN 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

৩ মাওবাদী নেতা ফের পুলিশি হাজতে

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, ঝাড়গ্রাম: মাওবাদী কমিউনিস্ট পার্টির পলিটব্যুরো সদস্য সন্দেহে ধৃত সুশীল রায় ওরফে অশোক-সহ তিন জনকে আরও চার দিন পুলিশি হাজতে রাখার নির্দেশ দেওয়া হয়েছে। মাওবাদী সন্দেহে মালদহ থেকে ধৃত জিষ্ণু রায়চৌধুরীকে ১৪ দিন জেল-হাজতে রাখার নির্দেশ দিয়েছে আদালত। ধৃত সুশীল রায়, মাওবাদী সংগঠনের রাজ্য সম্পাদক পতিতপাবন হালদার ওরফে দিনু, প্রশান্তকুমার দাস ও জিষ্ণু রায়চৌধুরীকে রবিবার ঝাড়গ্রাম এস ডি জে এম আদালতে তোলা হয়।

গত ২৩ মে সকালে মালদহ থেকে জিষ্ণু রায়চৌধুরী ও প্রশান্তকুমার দাসকে গ্রেফতার করে পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর জেলা পুলিশ। ধৃতদের জেরা করে সে-রাতেই বেলপাহাড়ি থানার বাঁশপাহাড়ি এলাকায় দলদলির

জঙ্গলে সুশীল রায় ও পতিতপাবন হালদারকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়। গত ২৪ মে ধৃতদের পাঁচ দিন পুলিশি হাজতে রাখার নির্দেশ দেন ঝাড়গ্রাম এস ডি জে এম আদালতের বিচারক।

এ দিন ওই চার জনকে ফের আদালতে তোলে পুলিশ। তদন্তের স্বার্থে সুশীল রায়, পতিতপাবন হালদার ও প্রশান্তকুমার দাসকে আরও ন'দিন পুলিশি হাজতে রাখার আবেদন জানায় তারা। সরকারি কৌঁসুলি শশাঙ্কশেখর ঘোষ আদালতকে জানান, গত পাঁচ দিন রিযড়া, খড়দহ-সহ কলকাতার বিভিন্ন জায়গায় দুই মাওবাদী শীর্ষ নেতাকে নিয়ে ঘুরেছে পুলিশ। ধৃতদের স্বীকারোক্তি অনুযায়ী গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তথ্য ও অস্ত্রশস্ত্র উদ্ধারের জন্য এবং ধৃতদের সহযোগীদের গ্রেফতারের জন্য তাঁদের বিহার, ঝাড়খণ্ড ও ছত্তীসগড়ে নিয়ে যাওয়ার প্রয়োজন আছে। সেই জন্য

আরও ন'দিন তাঁদের পুলিশি হাজতে রাখা দরকার।

সরকারি কৌঁসুলির এই আবেদনের বিরোধিতা করেন ধৃতদের আইনজীবী প্রশান্ত রায়। তিনি বলেন, “ইতিমধ্যে ধৃতদের পাঁচ দিন তাদের হেফাজতে রেখেও পুলিশ আদালতে উপযুক্ত তথ্যপ্রমাণ দাখিল করতে পারেনি। ধৃত সুশীল রায় ওরফে অশোকের বয়স ৬৫ বছর। তাঁকে এই গরমে টানা পাঁচ দিন বিভিন্ন জায়গায় ঘোরানো হয়েছে। কিন্তু কোথাও পুলিশ এমন কিছুই উদ্ধার করতে পারেনি, যা দিয়ে প্রমাণ করা যায় ধৃতেরা এই ধরনের ঘটনায় অভিযুক্ত।” তিনি ধৃতদের পুলিশি হাজতে রাখার বিরোধিতা করেন। দু'পক্ষের বক্তব্য শুনে ভারপ্রাপ্ত বিচারক বিভাস চট্টোপাধ্যায় সুশীল-সহ তিন জনকে আরও চার দিন পুলিশি হাজতে রাখার নির্দেশ দেন। জিষ্ণু

রায়চৌধুরীকে ১৪ দিন জেল-হাজতে রাখার নির্দেশ দেন তিনি।

পুলিশি সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, মালদহে ধৃত জিষ্ণু একটি বেসরকারি ব্যাঙ্কের মালদহ শাখার কর্মী। তিনি নকশালপন্থী সংগঠন যুব লিগের মালদহ-মুর্শিদাবাদ-নদিয়া জোনাল কমিটির সদস্য। তাঁর আদি বাড়ি বারাসতে। মাওবাদী সংগঠনের কয়েক জনকে তিনি চিনতেন বলে পুলিশ দাবি করেছে। অন্য দিকে, ধৃত প্রশান্ত অঙ্ক থেকে গেরিলা প্রশিক্ষণ নিয়ে এসে মাওবাদীদের বিভিন্ন স্কোয়াডের মধ্যে সমন্বয় রক্ষা করতেন বলে পুলিশ জানিয়েছে। ইতিপূর্বে একাধিক বার তিনি বেলপাহাড়িতেও এসেছেন। সুশীল রায় ও পতিতপাবন হালদারকে জেরা করে বেশ কিছু মাওবাদী নেতার নাম ও তাঁদের গুপ্ত ঘাঁটির সন্ধান পাওয়া গিয়েছে বলে পুলিশের দাবি।

30 MAY 2005

ANAD BAZAR, PATNÁ

Top Maoist leaders held in Midnapore

HT Correspondents

Kolkata / Midnapore, May 24

IN A major breakthrough, the police on Monday night arrested two front-ranking leaders of the banned CPI (Maoist) from the forests of Banspahari, a party stronghold, in West Midnapore. Seventy-year-old Sunil Roy, alias Ashok, is a politburo member of the proscribed outfit's central committee while Patitpaban Hal-dar, alias Binu, is the state secretary of the party. The two were nabbed by the cops when they were holding a meeting inside the jungle, police sources said.

The two were produced in a Jhargram court on Tuesday and remanded to police custody for five days. West Midnapore police superintendent Ajay Nanda said several Maoist documents, including those on strategy, tactics, party programmes and political resolutions, were found on the two men.

But the Maoists disputed the police version, saying the two leaders had been arrested from Konnagar in Hooghly district last Friday. They were on their way to attend a party meeting when the cops nabbed them. Aritra, a state committee member of the CPI (Maoist), said party cadres would not take the arrests lying down. "We will give a fitting reply to the Left Front government for trying to stop our democratic movement with the help of the police," he said.

25 MAY 2005

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Naxal toll ticking in Gadchiroli: 7 cops dead in '05

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, MAY 20

NAXAL violence is once again on the rise in Gadchiroli — eleven villagers and seven policemen have been killed this year. The latest attack came on Thursday, when Naxals killed two villagers on the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border, accusing them of being police informers.

While Karuram Poya, 52, was shot dead, Kisan Madavi, 36, was beheaded, SP Shirish Jain told *The Indian Express*. Jain refuted the Naxal claim that Poya and Madavi were informers. "In fact, they were trying to recruit an unwilling Madavi," he said.

A spurt in Naxal violence followed the breakdown of a peace dialogue with the Andhra Pradesh Government. "The rate at which they are killing villagers is alarming," Jain said, adding, "the number of murders since January is one of the highest for the corresponding periods of any previous year."

In February, seven policemen were killed in a landmine blast at Dhodraj near Bhamraharh. Also, Naxals recently assaulted forest employees, attacked policemen with grenades and set ablaze two gram panchayats at Kamlapur and Dechhlipetha.

By organising a *Daman Viroshi Saptah* (anti-repression week) in mid-May, Naxals also tried to instigate people against the police. They cited the Vyankatapur incident in which a sub-inspector allegedly molested a woman while his colleague gunned down her husband.

The Vyankatapur incident brought back memories of the killing of an alleged Naxal sympathiser, Chinna Mattami, in 2000. Mattami was

killed in an encounter that sparked a huge furor.

When a magisterial probe proved that Chinna was not a Naxal, the police had set out to prove the "tribal-Naxal nexus" through identification parades of tribals, which saw many of them being labelled as Naxal supporters. The drive had to be dropped following a high court directive.

In the following years, the Gadchiroli police had built bridges with the tribals. Led by then SP Rajvardhan, it had embarked on a campaign to win the confidence of the trib-

On Thursday, Naxals killed two villagers, saying they were police informers.

als by interacting with them at rallies and discussing their problems. The police also solemnised tribal marriages at rallies. The efforts paid dividends with over 200 villages announcing *gaonbandi* (no-entry) to Naxals, and earned them Rs 2 lakh each as special government aid. Half the amount has been distributed for development activities.

"Even at the Venkatapur village, we had set up our post a year ago to facilitate the Border Roads Organisation's work, which had stopped due to a threat by Naxal Dalam commander Vishwanath, who was later apprehended. It was due to our post that the village also got electricity," Jain said.

Jain has admitted that Perkiwar's death was a case of police excess. Three policemen, PSI Bhausheb Magare and constables Prabhakar Tekam and Sontakke, have been suspended and a CID probe is underway.

21 MAY 2005

INDIAN EXPRESS

A return to the killing fields

26
100-11
(18)

The talks have broken down, and the Maoists and the Andhra Pradesh Government are adopting an-eye-for-an-eye tactics.

K. Srinivas Reddy

AN UNHAPPY situation now prevails in Andhra Pradesh. The guiding principle behind the revolutionary movement has been reduced to just unleashing terror; winning over the masses has been given a complete go-by. On the Government side, the onus is once again on the police; the civil administration has withdrawn.

Hopes of reviving the peace process through negotiations between the Maoists and the Government are fading. In the naxalite camp, it is now up to the underground squads. The Government's strategy is more and more focussing only on one option — elimination of the naxalites.

Since the resumption of hostilities after the naxalites announced they were pulling out of the talks process in mid-January, 68 of them have been shot dead by the police. The Maoists too intensified their activities — attacking policemen, police stations, political activists and civilians branded as informants. As many as 102 people, including a dozen policemen, have been killed by naxalites this year.

People trapped

With both sides seemingly guided by the principle of balance of terror, the people are caught in the crossfire. The talks were officially called off on January 16. Four days later, police shot dead three naxalites in Sircilla of Karimnagar district.

The naxalites hit back, attacking unarmed policemen in Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar districts. On March 1, the gruesome Vempenta incident took place in Kurnool district. Eight villagers were called out into the jungle under the guise of settling a dispute over the killing of some Dalits and hacked to death.

On March 7, the police in a well-coordinated assault near Manala in Nizamabad district shot dead 10 naxalites and took two into custody. Four days later, Maoists raided the Chilkaluripet police station in Guntur district and killed four policemen and three civilians, including the mother of a police officer.

Then came the April 1 raid on the Achampet police station in Mahabubnagar district where two police constables were killed. A month later, the rebels used a rocket launcher to attack the Durgi police station. Soon afterwards came the biggest attack in recent times: an abortive attempt on the life of

the Prakasam SP, Mahesh Chandra Laddha. An improvised explosive device (IED) was exploded, killing two civilians.

Such tit-for-tat actions are common in Andhra Pradesh but the brutality of the methods employed by the naxalites have everyone worried. In Vempenta, the victims were gagged and hacked to death one by one; in Chilkaluripet, too, a police officer was axed to death. In its earlier avatar as the People's War, the outfit had cautioned its cadres against resorting to such brutality.

Caught amid all this are the masses, the crucial component of winning either the revolutionary or a counter-revolutionary war. Despite claims by some political leaders that the Government views the issue as a socio-politico-economic problem and that it is attempting to find a solution by solving the people's problems, it is becoming clear that the focus is more on using the police.

Caution from within

That the revolutionary movement is going astray with the cadres laying greater emphasis on violence has been pointed out by Varavara Rao, a firm believer in the "New Democratic Revolution" and one of the emissaries of the Maoists during the talks process. In a letter sent to the politburo, he says "the developments, especially the killings in the name of informants, political workers" are causing extreme concern to him. "I am not convinced," he writes in the letter, which was seized from two Maoist couriers.

It is not only Varavara Rao who has opposed this violence. Party politburo member Cherukuri Rajkumar a.k.a. Gangadhar made a clinical analysis of the dangerous trend. He is of the view that the leadership failed to involve people and that the revolutionary movement had been reduced to a mere conflict between the underground squads and the police.

He makes another interesting observation. Despite lakhs of people turning up for public meetings organised by the party during the talks period, the Maoist leadership had failed to mobilise even a small section of people against the Government. Worrying the Maoists now is the fact that the media in the State, which had always given them favourable coverage, had begun equating the Maoists with the police with regard to the violence. "This is happening due to some actions done by us ... we should change this trend," Rajkumar writes.

18 MAR 2005

THE HINDU

Emissaries quit Andhra talks

Statesman News Service

HYDERABAD, April 4. — Maoist representatives Mr Vara Vara Rao, Mr Kalyan Rao and Mr Gaddar, today withdrew as the Naxalite emissaries for the peace talks and accused the Rajashekar Reddy government of resorting to "fascist methods".

In an escalation of violence Maoist cadre killed two political leaders in Mahboobnagar district. At 10.30 p.m. yesterday they shot dead Congress leader Madhusudhan Reddy. In the wee hours of the morning they shot dead BJP leader Ayappa Reddy.

The three representatives in a press release accused the government of resorting to fake encounters, combing operations, arrests and harassment of Naxalite cadre, which was not contributing to a conducive atmosphere for talks. Home minister

Pranab's clarion call

NEW DELHI, April 4. — Defence minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee today asked the armed forces to be ready for not only terrorists and insurgents but also, nuclear and missile threats. Speaking at the Army commanders' conference, he said reducing the Army's size, especially its "tail", could help to reduce expenditure.

During their meeting, the commanders are expected to analyse the situation along the LoC and the Line of Actual Control. India would continue its dialogue on all issues with Pakistan, he said, adding that bilateral issues would be discussed with Chinese Prime Minister Mr Wen Jiabao.

Meanwhile, the government could ask the Army for clarifications regarding the MacMahon Line. Mr Mukherjee said the situation in Nepal was worrying. He also reminded the Army officers about "disturbing" reports of human right violations by security forces. — SNS & PTI

Mr K Jana Reddy termed the decision as unfortunate and said the doors are open for talks. The government has a Constitutional responsibility to maintain peace and any incident, like encounters, should be seen as the government's efforts to maintain law and order, he said.

The Maoist representatives said the government earlier promised uncondi-

tional talks, but is now asking the Naxalites to lay down weapons for the second round of talks. "It is clear that the talk of negotiations by the government is a farce. We also gather that the Centre and state are planning an all-out war against Naxalite organisations and also impose a ban on them in the eight states where they are strong," they said.

05 APR 2005

THE STATESMAN

বাম সন্তোষ আদায়ে স্থায়ী কমিটিতে পেনশন বিল

স্টাফ রিপোর্টার, নয়াদিল্লি, ২৩
মার্চ: পেটেন্ট বিল সমর্থনের বিনিময়ে
পেনশন বিল সংসদীয় স্থায়ী কমিটিতে
পাঠিয়ে বামদেবের খুশি করতে চাইছে
কেন্দ্র। ফলে সরকারি কর্মচারীদের
পেনশন সংক্রান্ত অর্ডিন্যান্সটির মেয়াদ
৮ এপ্রিল ফুরোচ্ছেই। পরে সরকার
ফের অর্ডিন্যান্স করবে কি না, তা স্পষ্ট
নয়। তবে পেনশন বিলে যে হেতু
বিজেপি-র সমর্থন ছিল, বিলটি সংসদে
পাশ করাতে সরকারের সমস্যা ছিল
না। এ থেকেই স্পষ্ট যে, বামদেবের খুশি
করতে বিলটি কমিটিতে গিয়েছে।

পেটেন্ট বিল সমর্থনের প্রস্নে
বামদেবের মধ্যে মতভেদ ছিল। তবে
আজ চার বাম দল একত্রে সাংবাদিক
বেঠক করে ফের দাবি করেছে, তাদের
যে সব সংশোধনী সরকার গ্রহণ
করেছে, তার মধ্যে জনস্বার্থ রক্ষার
ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। তবে সরকারের সঙ্গে
এখনও অনেক মতপার্থক্য থাকায় চাপ
বজায় রাখতে গণ আন্দোলন হবে।

বিজেপি-র মুখপাত্র বিজয়কুমার

মলহোত্র অবশ্য বামদেবের কটাক্ষ করে
বলেছেন, “ওঁদের যদি মাসে এক বার
প্রাতরাশে বা বেঠকে ডাকা হয়, অথবা
পেনশনের মতো অর্ডিন্যান্স তুলে
নেওয়া হয়, তা হলেই ওঁরা নিজেদের
জায়গা ছেড়ে পিছু হঠেন।”

পেটেন্ট নিয়ে ঘরে-বাইরে চাপে
পড়ার পরে সিপিএম-ও পেনশন বিল
নিয়ে ঝুঁকি নিতে রাজি ছিল না।
সরকারকে গত সপ্তাহে এই বিষয়ে
তঁরা দৃঢ় মত জানাননি। কিন্তু
সিপিআই নেতা গুরুদাস দাশগুপ্ত এবং
সিটির নেতারা বিরোধিতায় অনমনীয়
ছিলেন। কাল বামেরা সম্মিলিত ভাবেই
সরকারকে জানান, তঁরা বিলের
বিরোধিতা করবেন। তার পরেই আজ
সংসদীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী বিজয়কৃষ্ণ হান্ডিক
সভায় জানান, বিলটি সংসদীয় স্থায়ী
কমিটিতে পাঠানো হচ্ছে। বিজেপি
বেঞ্চ থেকে এই সময়ে হইচই হয়।
তবে গুরুদাস আজও বলেন, প্রস্তাবিত
নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃপক্ষের অবসান না-ঘটিয়ে
তঁরা ক্ষান্ত হবেন না।

ANADABAZAR PATRIKA

24 MAR 2005

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005

NO ALTERNATIVE TO PEACE TALKS

IF THERE WAS one useful purpose in Congress president Sonia Gandhi's Hyderabad visit, it was to re-affirm the Government's commitment to talk to the Naxalites — in an atmosphere charged with recrimination, intimidation and suspicion. Given her dual capacity as chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) ruling at the Centre and leader of the party governing the State, Ms. Gandhi's appeal to the left-wing extremists to abjure violence and return to the negotiating table does clear the air in Andhra Pradesh. In the past month there has been a series of 'encounter' deaths and reprisal killings involving the State police and the Maoists. This has resulted in the death of innocent people, besides policemen and Naxalites. It is the responsibility of both sides to realise the seriousness of the situation and put a decisive end to violence of the 'eye for an eye, blood for blood' type witnessed in the Naxalite-affected areas of the State. Unless initiatives are taken at the political level to stop the killings and encounters, there can be no hope of re-starting the stalled peace talks. Now that Ms. Gandhi has made her party's policy position clear, Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy must quickly review the recent developments and devise a strategy to restart the negotiations with the Maoists.

After a promising beginning and a useful round of talks, both the State Government and the Maoists seem to have resiled from their commitment. Perhaps because the Government did not make its position clear in the talks, or make the laying down of arms a precondition for the ceasefire, the Naxalites moved about with weapons even when they had shifted from the forests into habitations. This became a major sticking point. Capitalising on the violations of ceasefire conditions, the police stepped up their combing

operations in the Naxalite strongholds. When some of their cadres were killed in "encounters," the Maoists hit back with a vengeance — targeting the police in particular and the local administration sporadically. With the killing of policemen triggering more "encounters," the spiral of violence has become quite intense in the past few weeks. If the trend continues, it may become very difficult to re-rail the peace process. While the speeches of some of the Naxalite leaders have been provocative, to say the least, the State president of the Police Officers' Association, Anantaramulu, has sounded equally hawkish: "Give us a free hand and we will wipe them out in six months."

The Chief Minister must seize the initiative politically to restart the talks. He has already cried a halt to "fake encounters." The Maoist representatives, including Gaddar and Varavara Rao, must break away from the cult of violence and demonstrate their concern for the people they claim to represent. There has to be a businesslike round of discussions on how to revive the peace process. Just as the State Government must realise there can be no real development or enhanced flow of investment if the present cycle of violence continues, the Naxalites must make up their mind about seeking a solution to the people's problems through democratic means and peaceful negotiations. This will mean giving up extremism and violence as a means to achieve their ends. As much as the killings in the first three months of 2005 — at least 52 civilians, 53 Naxalites and nine policemen — it is the brutality of the murders that has sent out alarm signals. Sanity must be re-established on the ground and a conducive atmosphere created for the resumption of a dialogue. There is indeed no alternative to a political settlement.

Naxalites plan dual strategy

**Pranesh Sarker
in Santiniketan**

March 20. — Naxalites, united under the banner of the newly-formed CPI-ML, have formally decided to pursue a dual strategy for organising movements in states where they have a formidable presence, including West Bengal — participate in Parliamentary democracy and simultaneously consolidate “armed struggle” against the political powers that be.

The decision was finalised by the central executive committee of CPI-ML, a party recently formed after the merger of four Naxalite outfits — CPI-ML (UI), COI-ML, CPI-U (ML) and CPP-ML (Red Flag) — which held a four-day closed-door meeting at Santiniketan that ended on 13 March.

This faction is, however, different from the party that calls itself CPI (Maoist) and which emerged last year from the merger of the People's War

and MCC groups. The 71-member executive committee was elected at the party's unity conference held at Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh, between 27 January and 1 February.

The Santiniketan meeting was held to finalise the party's “political strategies” to fulfil its objectives. Party insiders said that the CEC decided to participate in Parliamentary politics to “unearth corruption there”. At the same time it would work to form a “people's army” so that an “armed revolution” can be called “to establish Socialism” in India, they said.

The party has decided to maintain distance from both the mainstream Left parties, the CPI-M and the CPI, as well as the ultra-Left outfits like CPI (Maoist) since it feels both these extreme positions are far removed from the ideals of Marxism.

Kanu Sanyal, the party's all-India secretary, told The Statesman that they have already formed full-fledged state committees

in 13 states to achieve their goal.

“We would participate in Parliamentary politics only to expose and wreck the infirmity of the existing Parliamentary system. We dream that there should be a people's parliament. People can now, at best, elect their representative in the Parliament but they can't execute their own legislation. We must change this,” he said.

Speaking on their so-called “armed revolution”, Sanyal said: “If we strive for our goal, we would most certainly be attacked by the parties in power. And to resist the attack, we would take up arms. But the call for an armed revolution would be given only when proper time would warrant.”

Local political commentators, however, say that the presence of this new group of Naxalites in mainstream politics would add to the already existing incidents of violence at the level of the ordinary masses.

THE STATESMAN

21 MAR 2005

In Karnataka, core Maoists up from 25 to 600 in last six months

The SMS came too late. Even before Professor V.S. Sridhar of Bangalore's Vijaya College could erase the message — ABVP plans to target you — a group of 20 slogan-shouting students burst into his class, accused him of being a Naxalite supporter and beat him up with slippers. The reason: the English teacher, also a human rights activist, had criticised the killing of a Naxalite ideologue in a police encounter.

Strange though it may sound, the Right-wing student body, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, was merely feeding on Bangalore's new found dread-of-the-Red. Last month, riots erupted in the city after a band of 200 armed Naxalites raided a Karnataka police camp — firing from automatic weapons, hurling grenades and killing six policemen — in the neighbouring Tumkur district. Since then, as Sridhar says, "the fear of the Reds has entered urban consciousness".

The foreboding is hardly misplaced. Last week an internal Bangalore police report named 200 Naxalite sympathisers based in India's Silicon Valley. That's not all. Slogans eulogising Nepal's Maoists have appeared in the city's localities such as Lalbagh West Gate. And recent Naxalite press releases have been issued from Jayanagar, an upscale south Bangalore colony.

Bangalore's current state is the outcome of a fast and furious surge in radical Red extremism in India. Call them Left-wing extremists, radical Reds, good old Naxalites, or by their latest name, the Maoists — theirs is a riproaring advance from the boondocks to urban India.

Figures available with the New Delhi-based Institute for Conflict Management show that between November 2003, and September 2004, the Naxalite presence expanded from 55 districts in nine states to 156 districts in 13 states, an astounding average growth of two districts per week. By February 2005, statistics indicate, the number had further gone up to 170 districts in 15 states; thereby creating a Red corridor that connects eastern parts of India, including the Nepal Maoists, to the deep south. As Ajai Sahni, executive director of the institute, puts it, "India Shining is coming under increasing threat from the Reds. And the government can only ignore it at its own peril."

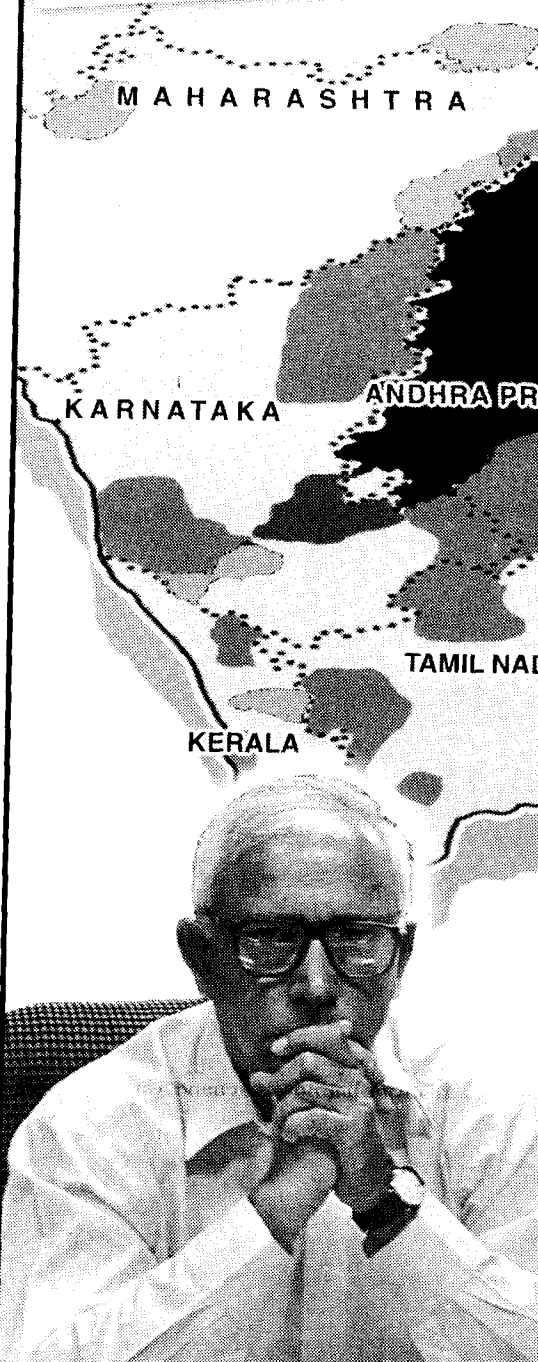
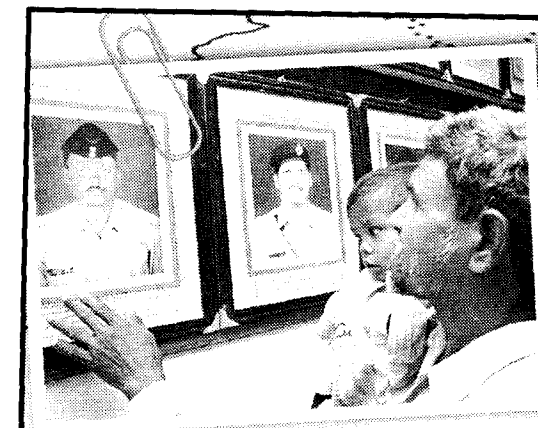
Arrests made from Hyderabad, Patna and Nagpur (see box) and the recent developments in Bangalore bolster this view. Traditionally, the Naxalites have used the urban centres as hideouts and for logistical support. Now, says Sanjay K. Jha of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, urban areas are also being used as transit routes for arms and for mobilisation work. "The arrest of Nepal Maoists from Indian cities indicates that the Naxalites from both countries are working in collaboration," says Jha.

Even Maoists admit to their rising ambitions. In an interview last year, a top Andhra Pradesh-based Naxalite leader admitted to the party preparing a document on working in cities.

The changed strategy can be attributed to the September 2004 merger of Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (People's War) and Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCC) — the two parties which roughly account for about 90 per cent of the country's Left extremists — into a united Communist Party of India (Maoists).

"Even the Centre admits there is a parallel government in 12 states," says an upbeat middle-level Maoist leader on phone from Dhanbad in Jharkhand. "We are surrounding the cities first as per Maoist principles. Capturing them is the last part."

The present state of Ranchi is a case in point. While Capitol Hill, the town's new, swank hotel serves the finest grilled chicken foresters dipped in red wine sauce, the Jharkhand capital



KEY to the growing menace

	Highly affected (50 districts)		Marginally affected (58 districts)
	Moderately affected (18 districts)		Targetted (30 districts)

Total Affected Districts: 156

CITY HEAT

January 13, 2005:

The Hyderabad police seized a cache of arms and ammunition from the Himayatnagar residence of a government servant arrested on charges of supplying arms to the Maoists. Items seized included two telescopic rifles.

December 26, 2004:

Maharashtra police raided several Naxalite hideouts in Nagpur and arrested three leaders. An arms manufacturing factory was also unearthed. A truckload of arms, including a light machine gun and five two-inch rocket launchers, were seized.

June 11, 2003:

The People's War Group's Bihar unit chief, Dev Kumar Singh alias Arvindji, was arrested

along with three other associates by Bihar police's Special Task Force in his Patna hideout.

April 20, 2003:

Two People's War Group leaders, including Hyderabad district committee secretary Ramana Reddy, were killed in an encounter near Ramoji Film City in the Andhra Pradesh capital's suburbs.

February 25, 2003:

A combined operation by the Central Bureau of Investigation and Bihar's Special Task Force unearthed a Left-wing extremist nerve centre from Patrakar Nagar, Patna. Four Maoist Communist Centre of India cadres and four Maoist insurgents of Nepal were arrested from the shelter.



SEEN AT EVERY CORNER: A poster brought out by the Jharkhand government against Maoist violence in the state

(Map not to scale. Source: Institute for Conflict Management)

TENSE MOMENTS: (Top) A relative looks at portraits of policemen killed by Naxals; (left) director-general of police K.K. Kashyap at Gadchiroli in Maharashtra (Pic: Ranjit Deshmukh)

RED SPREAD

Armed movements, as in Kashmir and the Northeast, are confined to a single state. But Naxalism has already swept across 15. A Telegraph report on India's most serious constitutional threat

areas of control, the Maoists ensure better attendance of government school teachers and doctors. "At that level, their intervention has ensured that the state delivery mechanism improves," says Ranchi-based journalist Sudhir Pal. The Naxalites are not short of cash. In 2003, Jharkhand police seized Rs 36 lakh during raids on Naxal hide-

outs. "We charge a levy," says the Maoist. Government contractors and those making money from forests and mines are charged the unofficial tax — ranging from two to 20 per cent. Says Ganesh Chandra Modal, a BJP leader in Malkangiri, "The Maoists say they need money to run the *dalams* (groups)." Internal security experts note that the Maoists are now displaying an increasing maturity in dealing with the system and wresting the maximum out of it without compromising on their long-term goal of overthrowing the state. For instance, whenever a particular state government gets rough, they secretly join hands with the Opposition. Sahni believes that the Congress cut a covert deal with the Reds in Andhra Pradesh. And not every body believes Jharkhand home secretary J.B. Tubid when he says that the rise in voting percentage from 30-35 per cent to 55 per cent during the recent state Assembly polls is a sign of the dwindling influence of the Maoists. "The increase is because the Maoists have ensured the victory of candidates better inclined to them," says a human rights activist.

strong Naxal presence. In Koraput district headquarters, even the police armoury was attacked last year. States such as Jharkhand have invested heavily in the police. Though 30 paramilitary companies were stationed in the state for the past three years, some 15,000 constables, recruited in the past one year, are being trained by the army. The armed police will now carry self-loading rifles, an improvement from the earlier 303 rifles, along with mine detectors and night vision devices. Ironically, even the Maoists are modernising their armed units.

Orissa, while modernising its police force, has also offered the olive branch. To win over the tribals — the Maoists' primary constituency — the state has withdrawn 34 cases involving 417 tribals. It has also retracted six serious cases involving Naxalites. "We have done our bit, now let them come forward," says B.B. Mishra, director-general of Orissa police. Insists Orissa home secretary Santosh Kumar, "Development is the ultimate solution."

Yet, the Naxalites have grown in both states as elsewhere. Bangalore police records show that in Karnataka the number of core Naxalites has shot up from 25 to 600 in the last six months. Such a rapid rise has prompted internal security experts to believe that Naxalism pres-

seems to be in the offing. Till then, the Maoists continue to consolidate and multiply in the hinterland and encircle the cities. Manjushree Thapa writes in *Forget Kathmandu* about the elite in the Nepal capital living in dread of a final assault from the Maoists. However unlikely that may seem at the moment, the CPI (Maoists) hope to be in a similar position one day.

(Reporting by Debashis Bhattacharya from Malkangiri, Orissa, Avijit Ghosh from Ranchi, Satish Nandgaonkar from Gadchiroli, Maharashtra and Varuna Verma in Bangalore)

Keeping to the left

■ **RED HEAT:** Lal Salaam (2002). Bollywood's boorish take on the Naxalites, collapsed at the box office everywhere. Except Bihar where the film ran to packed houses in towns like Patna and Buxar. Reason: the People's War Group unofficially adopted the movie as part of its cultural promotion package and encouraged its supporters and sympathisers to watch the Nandita Das-Sharad Kapoor starrer. Lal Salaam's pirated copies were even shown in remote villages by the Naxalite outfit.

■ **RUNNING SCARED:** After Left-wing extremists attacked the Kalimela and Motu police stations in Orissa's Malkangiri district in August 2001, security forces launched a massive combing operation. Not to look for the ultras but to locate the district collector and superintendent of police who had gone missing. They were eventually found in a safe house in the neighbouring Koraput district. The officials said they had fled after word spread that their houses were the next targets.

■ **THE GUNRUNNERS:** In January 2005, Mumbai's anti-terrorist squad arrested two gunrunners of the Chhota Rajan gang after a dramatic car chase and seized a US-made Ruger revolver and five rounds of ammunition. Investigations showed that the gangsters had procured the weapons from an arms consignment originally meant for Maoist insurgents in Nepal.

7 killed in Maoist strike

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, March 12. — Seven persons, including three civilians, were killed by Maoists in an attack on a police station at Chilakaluripeta town in Guntur district.

The Maoists reached the police station at 11 p.m. last night and shot the constable on duty. They then surrounded the premises, leaving no escape route for CI CR Prasad, SI Dharmendra Babu, and three other policemen, a top police source told The Statesman.

Among the civilians was a college attendant who had come to collect the question papers for the Intermediate

ANDHRA PS ATTACKED

Board examinations. Police stations are used for keeping question papers in safe custody. They shot him dead. Another person, Veera Reddy, who had come to meet Prasad was also shot dead. Then Prasad and Babu tried to escape.

The Maoists shot Prasad and gave Babu a chase. The SI reached his official residence in the police station premises.

His mother, Uma Maheshwari Devi, was killed when she tried to stop the attackers. Babu escaped through the back door. Meanwhile, another batch

CM announces ex gratia for next-of-kin

GUNTUR, March 12. — The chief minister, Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy today announced Rs 12 lakh ex gratia for the CI's family and Rs 7 lakh for each of the civilians' families. Describing yesterday's killing of seven persons, including four policemen, in Guntur as "outrageous", he asked human rights activists to "pause and ponder over their double standards" before condemning Naxalite deaths

of Maoists shot head constable GSR Mohan Rao, another constable and a home guard. The attack is being seen as a retaliation to the killing of 10 Maoists in an encounter in Manaala forest on 7 March.

Naxalites kill 8, chop off hands of two others

HTC and Agencies
Hyderabad, March 1

MAOISTS TAKING sides with dalits killed eight upper caste men and chopped off hands and legs of two others in Vempenta village of Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Tuesday.

According to police sources, a group of Maoists came to the village under Pamulapadu mandal near Nandikotkur town on Monday night and whisked away at least 50 upper caste men at gunpoint. They were taken to the forest on the pretext of discussions over a local dispute between dalits and upper castes.

After discussing for some time, the Maoist dalam leader called the victims one by one and shot 10 of them dead. They chopped off the hands and legs of two others. The injured were rushed to Kurnool government hospital. The police have begun combing operations around the village.

Other villagers were let off with a warning. The police said the killings could be in retaliation for the murder of nine dalits by upper castes in 1998. Villagers had then burnt nine PWG sympathisers to death, alleging that they were responsible for killing the village sarpanch in July that year.

Additional forces have been rushed to the village from Kurnool.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

02 MAR 2005

মাওবাদীদের মূলশ্রোতে ফেব্রার ডাক মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর

বুদ্ধদেব দাস: পিড়াকাটা (শালবনি), ২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি—
মাওবাদীদের মূলশ্রোতে ফেব্রার আহ্বান জানিয়ে মুখ্যমন্ত্রী
বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্য বললেন, 'জঙ্গলে লুকিয়ে লুকিয়ে পুলিশ
মেরে কী লাভ? এতে আপনাদেরও প্রাণ যেতে পারে। এটা
কী পথ? রাজনীতি? মানুষ খুন করা কোনও রাজনীতি নয়।
আপনারা ভুল করে ভুল পথে চলে গেছেন, ওই পথ থেকে
ফিরে আসুন। আমি শুনেছি, আমার আসাকে কেন্দ্র করে
এখানে পোস্টার পড়েছে। তা হলে ধরে নেব এখানে কেউ
কেউ আছেন। যদি কেউ থাকেন, বলছি আপনারা ফিরে
আসুন। পরিবারের দায়িত্ব আমরা নেব। দুঃখ-দুর্দশা
একসঙ্গে বসে ভাগ করে নেব। এই আমাদের পার্টি। পুলিশ
খুন করে, জঙ্গলে লুকিয়ে, ঝড়থণ্ডে পালিয়ে লাভ কী?'
শনিবার পিড়াকাটা হাইস্কুল মাঠে মুখ্যমন্ত্রী ভাষণ
দিয়েছিলেন। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বলেন, 'মাও সে তুং বিশাল বিপ্লবী
ছিলেন। কিন্তু শেষ জীবনে উনিও কিছু ভুল করেন।
নকশালপন্থীদের মদত দিয়ে ভুল করেছিলেন। ভুলকে
কেন্দ্র করেই দল গড়া হয়। মাওবাদীরা সেই ভুল পথেই
চলছে। নকশালবাড়িতে যে আন্দোলন হয়েছিল, কানু
সান্যালের মতো নেতারাও বলেছেন পথ ভুল ছিল।'
মাওবাদী জঙ্গিদের উদ্দেশ্যে তাঁর বক্তব্য, 'বাবা-মা,
পরিবারের কথা ভেবে ও- পথ ছেড়ে চলে আসুন।'

মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বলেছেন, ওঁরা বলছেন জমি দেওয়া হয়নি। আর
জমি কোথায়। জমি যা ছিল গরিবকে দেওয়া হয়েছে। এখন
বিকল্প পথ খোঁজা হচ্ছে। ওঁরা বলছেন, পাতার দাম পাচ্ছে
না গরিব মানুষ। পুরুলিয়ার বান্দোয়ানের ওসি-কে গুলি
করার পরে কি পাতার দাম বেড়ে গেল? পাতার দাম
পেয়ে গেল? আদিবাসী যুবকদের সমবায় গড়ে বনজ
সম্পদের ব্যবহার করা হবে। তৈরি জিনিস কিনে নেওয়া
হবে। এদিকে র্যামকো ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজের একটি অ্যাসবেস্টস
কারখানার উদ্বোধন করেন মুখ্যমন্ত্রী। সেখানে বলেন,
এরা ১৮ কোটি টাকা বিনিয়োগ করেছে। এ রকম সংস্থা
রাজ্যে আসায় আমাদের রাজ্যে শিল্পায়নের নতুন দিক
খুলছে। পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর পিছিয়ে পড়া জেলা।
খঙ্গাপুরে শিল্পতালুক গড়ে তোলার চেষ্টা হচ্ছে। ওরা
টেক্সটাইল শিল্প করবে। এদিন খঙ্গাপুরে টাটা মেটালিজে
একটি অনুষ্ঠানে মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বুদ্ধদেব ভট্টাচার্য বলেন, এরা
যদি স্পঞ্জ আয়রন ও লিকুইড আয়রন মিশিয়ে স্টিল
তৈরি করে, তার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় সব সাহায্য করবে
রাজ্য। ভাষণে শিল্পমন্ত্রী নিরুপম সেন বলেন, '২০০৪-
এর ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে ৮১ কোটি টাকা
শিল্পে বিনিয়োগ করেছে। গুপ্তমণিতে শিল্পতালুক গড়ে
তোলা হবে।'

AAJKAL

27 FEB 2005

Left & reform side by side

J.P.P.
UP/AM

(91) 25/2

MONOBINA GUPTA

New Delhi, Feb. 24: First, the Left was pacified with commitments on the social sector, then followed the almost daily dose of relaxation of foreign investment rules.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and finance minister P. Chidambaram held out an olive branch towards Left leaders this morning and assured them the budget would reflect their concerns for the social sector.

Chidambaram said after the meeting that "the government has benefited from the (Left's) suggestions" while his ministry announced easier foreign investment norms for housing.

Foreign investors can now establish wholly-owned sub-

sidiaries to construct housing projects without having to seek government approval. The minimum plot size of housing projects allowed for foreign investment has been cut from 100 to 25 acres. (See **Business Telegraph**)

In recent days, the Left has periodically hit out at the government's economic policies, particularly the easing of foreign investment guidelines, threatening to bite as the United Progressive Alliance's "watchdog". In contrast, the mood was mellow today after the meeting with Singh, Chidambaram, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and defence minister Pranab Mukherjee.

"We reminded the Prime Minister that the budget must meet the commitments in the common minimum progra-

me," said CPM politburo member Sitaram Yechury, who used the "watchdog" description earlier in the week.

He did not smack his lips but suggested a state of satisfaction. "The finance minister assured (us) he will consider them positively," Yechury said about the Left's demands.

The Left's areas of concern are creating jobs, expanding education and healthcare and increasing money for farm infrastructure. It wants the finance minister to allocate Rs 50,000 crore for the social sector and seems to believe more than that can be set aside.

Chidambaram did most of the talking on the budget. The Left did not join issue with him over policies they object to and for which they blame the finance minister more

than the Prime Minister.

They did mention banking reforms but the tone stood in contrast to Wednesday's "anguish and sense of humiliation" the Left said it would convey to the Prime Minister about the government relaxing foreign investment rules.

Banking federations will hold a protest rally in Delhi on March 11 and observe a strike on March 22.

CPI leader A.B. Bardhan told Singh he would address the rally. Bardhan also said what he was going to talk about. On an earlier occasion, his remarks had upset Singh.

The Left leaders indicated that the strategy would remain the same. "We will protest and agitate outside. Take these issues to the people," said Yechury.

25 FEB 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

Maoist held in North Bengal

Pramod Giri
Siliguri, February 21

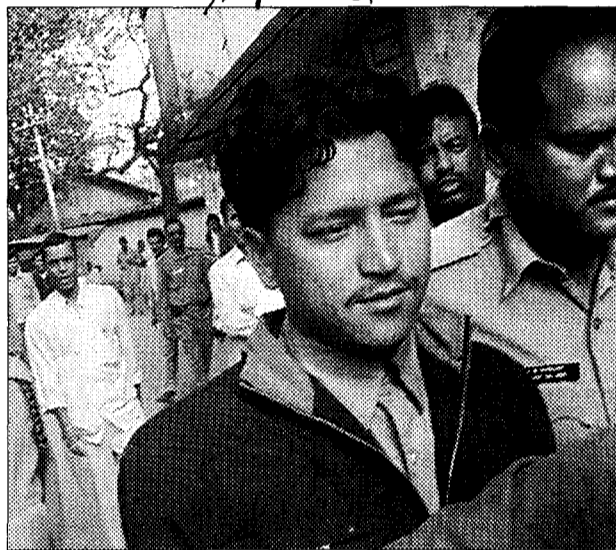
THE JALPAIGURI police claim they have unearthed a plan by the Communist Party of India (Maoist) to extend its activities to North Bengal following the arrest of Suresh Das, 21. The police said he was earlier a member of the People's War, which merged with the Maoist Communist Centre to form the CPI(Maoist). Jalpaiguri SP Rahul Srivastav has described Das as "a big catch". Das, a resident of Madhirahat, was arrested early on Monday from Alipurduar in Jalpaiguri, Srivastav said.

According to a senior police officer, Das, a whole-timer of the CPI(Maoist), was introduced to the party by a Kamtapur People's Party leader in 2003 and was an active PW member. Three Red Books, a few posters, pamphlets and a book that carried inter-

views of leaders of the PW, Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) and the MCC. The police claim they also found a hit list in his possession.

A senior police officer in Jalpaiguri said Das, who has inducted three youths into the PW, was involved in a 2003 case involving the snatching of arms from the police. In 2003, three rifles were snatched at Kalchini in Jalpaiguri district. The police believe the new recruits have already received training in the CPI(Maoist) camps in Midnapore. The police also suspect Das was involved in getting arms from Assam to North Bengal last year.

The police said Das was kept in North Bengal to spread the party's ideology among the youths and that he was playing a key role in the Maoists' effort to launch Kisan-Mazdoor Sangha. The police claim they have also learnt about a CPI(Maoist) plan to publish



Suresh Das being escorted by the police to the Alipurduar court on Monday.

a magazine here to propagate its ideology in the region. For this, the party was looking for female cadres.

Another source said Das was a resident of South Sal-

salabari was picked up from South Shivkati under the Samuktala police station.

The Alipurduar court on Monday remanded him to 10 days' police custody.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2005

DEALING WITH NAXALISM

2008
17/2

AFTER ANDHRA PRADESH it is now Karnataka's turn to face naxalite violence. With the gunning down of forest brigand Veerappan, Karnataka Chief Minister Dharam Singh decided to re-deploy the Special Task Force (STF) for neutralising the threat from the Maoists (earlier known as People's War). There was specific information that a group was moving into the State from Andhra Pradesh. A 27-member Reserve Police team killed two naxalites, including a noted leader, Saketh Rajan, in the Kallugudde forest in Chikmagalur district. But within five days, the naxalites hit back, killing six policemen and a civilian — in a planned attack on the Reserve Police camp at Venkatammanahalli in Tumkur district. Although there have been reports of naxalite movement in Karnataka, there has been no violence in recent months. The activity was largely confined to Andhra Pradesh and its northern neighbours. Evidently, with the breakdown of the peace talks with the Andhra Pradesh Government, the naxalites are feeling the heat of a police crackdown. In consequence, some groups have moved into neighbouring forests in Karnataka. And this has also put Tamil Nadu on the alert, since the forests in Dharmapuri and Vellore districts provided a convenient base to extremists in the past.

It will be a serious mistake for governments to treat the naxalite challenge merely as a law and order problem. They have to identify the socio-economic issues that provide a fertile ground for the naxalite movement to grow, especially in tribal areas and pockets. It is not as though the States are not aware of these areas of concern, as seen in naxalite-infested regions — a lack of development, the non-availability of land, and the absence of basic health and education, transport and communication infrastructure. The problem has been festering for years and it

10-10
17/2

erupts into major violence whenever the State administration either turns the heat on the naxalite groups or shuts its eyes to the demands of the tribal population. Some of the eastern and central States of the country, stretching up to the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal, have been in the throes of extremist violence from time to time. A change of government in a State is generally followed by fresh peace efforts, but these collapse sooner than later.

The Andhra Pradesh initiative, pursued with spirited realism by Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, needs to be commended and persevered with. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has offered to consult with Opposition parties for evolving a consensus on dealing with the issue. It cannot be reduced to a question of adopting and using a Prevention of Terrorist Activities-type legislation. The affected States, which already have a special platform to discuss the naxalite problem, with a cell in the Union Home Ministry acting as the coordinator, should raise the level of interaction and cooperation to work out a joint strategy. This can involve a carrot-and-stick approach by which the issue raised by the naxalites and the people are dealt with seriously, while the law and order problem are handled in the normal course. Any ceasefire with the dominant extremist group must also mean that its cadres do not move around with arms outside the designated areas. Such a basic framework can be put in place in each affected State, which can take up the socio-economic issues that are hurting the people. A regular exchange of information and intelligence must form part of the arrangement among the State concerned, with the Centre extending wholehearted cooperation in terms of modernising the police force and providing financial support to development projects in the tribal areas.

PM's formula to curb Naxalites

Press Trust of India

RANCHI, Feb. 13. — Suggesting that a comprehensive strategy was needed to tackle the Naxalite problem, Dr Manmohan Singh said he was ready to discuss the issue with the Opposition. He also rejected the contention that the scrapping of tough anti-terror laws such as Pota was responsible for the spurt in extremism.

"I don't have any hesitation if the Opposition wants to give any suggestion... We have to have a comprehensive strategy for the problem," he told a press conference at the airport here while replying to a question on BJP president Mr LK Advani's recent demand to take the Opposition into confidence on internal security.

He denied the BJP's allegation that the scrapping of Pota had led to the increase in the extremism saying "Advani himself knows that it is not true." Dr Singh said Naxalite violence was a serious problem in many states and the Centre would extend "maximum possible" cooperation to control it.

The Centre was in touch with the affected states and "I believe the states and the Centre will jointly solve the problem," he added. Replying to a query on the political crisis in Nepal, Dr Singh said India had great concern over it and the Indian Ambassador in the country had already met the monarch and the Nepal foreign minister.

"We have already clearly stated that the monarchy and multi-party democracy are the two pillars of Nepal politics." Dr Singh expressed confidence over the Congress winning the Assembly polls in Jharkhand and Bihar and said his party was committed to providing stable governments there. Accusing the NDA government in Jharkhand of failing to meet the people's expectations, he said if the UPA is voted to power emphasis would be given on agriculture, education, irrigation and employment. "We will also work for the development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities." The UPA government is at the Centre and if it is also voted to power in Jharkhand it would lead to coordination in accelerating development.

Naxalites kill 6 policemen in Karnataka

Statesman News Service

BANGALORE, Feb. 11. — Six police constables were killed and four injured in a daring attack by Naxalites on a Karnataka State Reserve Police camp, barely 120 km from Bangalore, late last night. The attack came on the eve of the two-day visit of Dr Manmohan Singh to Bangalore.

The camp is situated at Venkamanahali in Tumkur district on the state's border with Andhra Pradesh.

The Prime Minister, who arrived here today, was briefed about the developments by chief minister Mr Dharam Singh, who also proposes to talk to his Andhra Pradesh counterpart, Mr Rajasekhar Reddy.

Police chief Mr SN Borkar told reporters that the Naxalites, including some women activists, shot dead the sentry at the camp housed in a school building at 11.30 p.m. and also fired indiscriminately at the policemen, most of whom were asleep.

He claimed that it was possible that few of the Naxalites too might have been killed in the return

fire. Their bodies appear to have been carted away. The attackers were armed with AK-47 rifles and grenades.

Unnerved by the assault, Mr Dharam Singh, quickly announced the setting up of two anti-Naxalite squads each with a strength of 250 jawans, commanded by a DIG.

While one squad would tackle the menace in the Malnad district of Chickmagalur, Mangalore and Udupi districts, the other would comb Bidar, Gulbarga, Kolar, Bellary and Tumkur districts. The militants have been particularly active in these areas.

Officials here claim that the killing of the KSRP jawans was in retaliation to the death of a Naxalite leader Saketh Rajan and his associate, in an encounter with the police last week in Chickmagalur.

Reacting to the development, the chief minister said that these activists would now have to lay down their arms before coming for any peace talks with the government.

He was particularly angry at the reported letter that the Naxalites have left behind in Telugu. The letter warns of more such attacks in the future.

THE STATESMAN

12 FEB 2005

...saying that the Bureau of

Cops surround Naxal leaders, pulled back

■ **Setback for talk effort; it was routine mission, says minister**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI, FEB 4

A COMMANDO operation by the Andhra Pradesh police, which had the top Naxalite leadership from across the country at its mercy for several hours yesterday, once again derailed the possibility of peace talks.

The special anti-Naxalite Grey Hound commandos were called back after frantic telephone calls by the intermediaries to senior

the first time in three decades last year to take part in the now-rocky peace talks.

Senior Home Ministry officials in New Delhi confirmed that the Naxals leadership had been allowed go. Senior Home Ministry officials said: "Even though talks have been interrupted back channels of communication are still open. Under such circumstances, apprehending the Naxal leaders might not have sent the right signals."

Officials also said that



Andhra Home Minister K Jana Reddy (right) sorts out the crisis with Left activists Gadar (2nd from left) and Varavara Rao (3rd from left) and others in Hyderabad on Thursday. PTI

ministers in Hyderabad and New Delhi.

The episode has left both the Naxalites and the security forces seething and it could further harm the already floundering peace talks with the Maoists.

The Naxalites are alleging that the sole purpose behind the Grey Hound ambush was to liquidate their entire leadership. Ramakrishna, for example, had emerged from the forests for

state has been asked to continue engaging the Naxals. "We hope that this gesture will help the Naxals back to the table," they said.

Some 30 top leaders, including Andhra's CPI (Maoist) state secretary Ramakrishna and representatives from Bihar and Chhattisgarh were meeting secretly, deep inside the Nallamalla jungles, when they were encircled by Grey

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

... and then Chissary in the peace talks, on his mobile phone.

Rao told *The Indian Express* that Ramakrishna called him around 1 pm on Thursday to say they were completely surrounded. He said he had to seek the intervention of Union ministers from Andhra Pradesh—Dasari Narayana Rao, S Jaipal Reddy and K Chandrasekhar Rao—and State PCC chief Keshav Rao and state Home Minister K Jana Reddy.

While top politicians are now denying their role in the affair, the fact remains that the Grey Hounds aborted their operation later in the day with the Naxalites within their sights. The distrust between the two sides has deepened after this.

On January 16, the talks had collapsed as Naxalites alleged that the security forces continued to kill their men in fake encounters.

The sight of the Grey Hounds led them to believe that they were about to face another such encounter. Rao said that he and the Naxalite balladeer Gadar had an emergency meeting with Home Minister K Jana Reddy at 4 pm on Thursday and around 7

DGP tried to explain it away saying that the Grey Hounds were on a routine mission. But we know how close they came to killing our leaders." Reddy himself would only remark: "Police officers have been told to exercise restraint." Over the past month 23 Maoists have been killed in 10 encounters, said Rao. "They call them encounters, but not a single cop was hurt in any of these," he claimed.

Added K G Kannabiran, a member of the Committee for Concerned Citizens: "On the one hand they are inviting the Naxals to the negotiating table on the other hand the police action continues."

One security official said, however, that the police may never get another opportunity like this. "What if the talks fail? We may not be able to nab them again," he said.

The Government has been trying to get the Naxals back to the table for the last three weeks, and yesterday's incident could set things back to the Chandra Babu Naidu regime days when neither side believed in giving any quarter.

The Grey Hounds, Rao said, are still in the area, though the DGP has asked the SP of Prakasam district to rein them back.

Bollywood museum Maulavi's arrest

difficult considering the number of organisations claiming to represent the interests of the industry.

"They have to get together to represent a common cause," he says.

The I&B Secretary admits that the project might prompt demands for similar museums from states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, with active film industries of their own, but says the

Ministry is open to suggestions.

Meanwhile, the Ministry is also planning a panel discussion on television content on February 16.

"We are going to act as facilitators providing a common platform for content providers Zee, Star, Sony and cable operators, and viewers comprising sociologists and academics/chancellors of universities, to discuss content," said Chawla.

before the Kotwali police station, demanding immediate release of their religious leader. The protestors also alleged that police had manhandled the moulavi.

But then, Justice R S Garg spoke to a section of the media and denied that he had given any order to arrest the moulavi, adding that he was being defamed through a conspiracy.

The Judge then declared that he would now seek a transfer, saying it was not possible for him to work here under the present circumstances.

Zaheera fails to appear before Godhra Commission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 4

THE prime witness in the Best Bakery case, Zaheera Sheikh on Friday failed to turn up for cross-examination before the Godhra Commission, citing fatigue from attending the trial court proceedings in Mumbai.

The Commission, comprising Justice (Retd) G.T. Nanavati and Justice (Retd) K.G Shah, probing the Sabarmati Express fire and the

Godhra riots, instead received an application faxed by Zaheera through her advocate Atul Mistry. She said she was "physically and mentally" exhausted from the trial court proceedings in Mumbai and sought another date to appear before the Commission.

The application, signed by both Mistry and Zaheera, also stated that she had returned to Vadodara from Mumbai on February 3 and needed some time to rest before appearing before the judges.

Six Cong MLAs threaten to quit, Alva rushes in

ministers by an hour as Rane could not decide who to include and who to keep out.

In the end, Rane got the Governor's office to despatch a hurried appointment order inducting Luizinho Faleiro and Dayanand Narvekar into his team. Chief Minister Rane has decided not to allocate portfolios to his team to prevent further damage to his fragile coalition.

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Bureau of (CBI) register of disproportionate assets against officials in and movable Rs 19.35 seized.

Speaking *Express*, CBI Mishra said faceless 'bal common pe street the in everywhere is corruption try. The spread of there for you anti-corrupt

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আডবাণীর সুরে নকশালদের সন্ত্রাসবাদী বলছে সি পি এম-ও

দীপেন্দ্র রায়চৌধুরী • নয়াদিল্লি

৩০ জানুয়ারি: মাওবাদীদের সম্পর্কে দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি আরও কড়া করে সি পি এম কার্যত তাদের 'সন্ত্রাসবাদী' বলে অভিহিত করতে শুরু করল। পার্টি কংগ্রেসে দলের খসড়া রাজনৈতিক প্রস্তাবে এই কথা বলা হয়েছে।

অজ্ঞে নকশালদের সঙ্গে সরকারের আলোচনা ভেঙে যাওয়ার পর সি পি এমের এই ধরনের মনোভাব ভবিষ্যতে শাস্ত্রপ্রক্রিয়ায় বাধা হয়ে দাঁড়াবে কী না, তা এখনই বলা কঠিন। তবে জনযুদ্ধ ও এম সি সি'র মিলনের পর পশ্চিমবঙ্গে কতটা প্রভাব পড়বে সেই আশঙ্কা থেকেই যে দল সুর চড়া করেছে তাতে সংশয় নেই। কিন্তু এটাও ঘটনা যে, নকশালেরা সন্ত্রাসবাদী কী না, তা নিয়ে সি পি এমের সঙ্গে অন্য বাম দলগুলির সুর মিলছে না।

অতীতে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার দেশের বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলের উগ্রপন্থীদের 'সন্ত্রাসবাদী' বলে উল্লেখ করলেও নকশালদের করত না। পরে লালকৃষ্ণ আডবাণীর জমানায় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রক জনযুদ্ধ ও এম সি সি'কে 'সন্ত্রাসবাদী'দের তালিকায় নিয়ে আসেন। কেন্দ্রে কংগ্রেস সরকার আসার পর ফের মনোভাবের পরিবর্তন হয়। এমনকী সরকারের অভিন্ন ন্যূনতম কর্মসূচিতেও 'মাওবাদীদের' সম্পর্কে নরম মনোভাব নেওয়া হয়।

অজ্ঞপ্রদেশ সরকার মাওবাদীদের সঙ্গে আলোচনায় বসলে তখন অন্য বামদের সঙ্গে সি পি এমও তা স্বাগত জানিয়েছিল। সেই পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে পশ্চিমবঙ্গের নকশালদের সঙ্গে আলোচনার সম্ভাবনা নিয়ে প্রশ্ন করা হলে প্রকাশ কারাত বলেছিলেন, রাজ্যে তারা তেমন কোনও শক্তিই নয়। ঠিক তার পরেই জনযুদ্ধ ও এম সি সি মিলিত হয়ে সি পি আই (মাওয়িস্ট) তৈরি করে।

এখন দলের খসড়া রাজনৈতিক প্রস্তাবে সি পি এম নকশালদের সম্পর্কে ফ্লোড প্রকাশ করে বলেছে, ধ্বংসাত্মক কাজকর্মের সময় তারা 'বুর্জোয়া দল ও বাম দলগুলির' মধ্যে কোনও ফরাক করে না। সি পি এমের বক্তব্য, নকশালদের কাজকর্মের মধ্যে রয়েছে 'মানুষের গণতান্ত্রিক অধিকার

দলন করা' ও 'গ্রামীন উন্নয়নের জন্য টাকা আত্মসাৎ করা'। এরপরেই দল বলেছে, "তাদের নৈরাজ্যবাদী-সন্ত্রাসবাদী হিংসা রাষ্ট্রকেও সমস্ত গণতান্ত্রিক আন্দোলনের উপর এবং পুলিশকে জনগণের উপর পীড়ন বাড়াতে অজুহাত জোগায়।"

এর পর দুই প্রধান মাওবাদী নকশাল সংগঠনের মিলনে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করে সি পি এম বলেছে, এর ফলে পশ্চিমবঙ্গেও তাদের সক্রিয়তা বাড়তে পারে।

সি পি এমের এই মূল্যায়ন অবশ্যই সেই সব মাওবাদীদের সম্পর্কে যারা নির্বাচনে অংশ নেন না এবং বন্দুক হাতে লড়াই করেন। এটাও ঘটনা যে সি পি এম সরাসরি তাদের 'নৈরাজ্যবাদী-সন্ত্রাসবাদী' হিসাবে চিহ্নিত করেনি; তাদের হিংসাত্মক কাজকর্ম সম্পর্কে ওই বিশেষণ ব্যবহার করেছে। কিন্তু এ থেকে একথা স্পষ্ট যে, কেন্দ্রীয় স্তরেও সি পি এম মাওবাদীদের সম্পর্কে আগের থেকে অনেক কড়া মনোভাব নিল।

দলীয় সূত্রের বক্তব্য, এর মূল কারণ হল জনযুদ্ধ ও এম সি সি'র মিলনের পর পশ্চিমবঙ্গে কতটা প্রভাব পড়বে তা নিয়ে আশঙ্কা। পশ্চিমবঙ্গের চাপেই দল আরও কড়া হচ্ছে বলে জানিয়ে দলীয় সূত্রে বলা হয়েছে, অজ্ঞপ্রদেশ শাখা কিন্তু এতটা কটর মনোভাবাপন্ন নয়।

সি পি এমের এই মনোভাবকে অন্য বামেরা পুরোপুরি সমর্থন করছে না। নরম মনোভাব নিয়েছে সি পি আই-ও। দলের অন্যতম শীর্ষ নেতা জি রাজা বলেন, "আমরা বিষয়টাকে উন্মুক্ত রেখেছি। এতে পরিবর্তন হবে কি না তা স্পষ্ট হবে আমাদের পার্টি কংগ্রেসের পর।"

আর এস পির নেতা অবনী রায়ও বলেন, "ওদের গণতান্ত্রিক প্রক্রিয়ায় ফেরানোর উপরই বেশি জোর দেওয়া দরকার।" ফরওয়ার্ড ব্লকের সাধারণ সম্পাদক দেবব্রত বিশ্বাস বলেন, "আমরা বাম ঐক্য বলতে বৃহত্তর ঐক্য বুঝি। তবে যারা গণতান্ত্রিক প্রক্রিয়ায় নেই তাদের সঙ্গে ঐক্যের প্রশ্ন আসে না। তবে সি পি এম যা বলেছে, সে নিয়ে মতামত জানাব ৫-৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি দলীয় বৈঠকের পর।"

PM, Sonia for talks with naxalites

By Our Special Correspondent

25/1 HD 11 J.P.P. CPIM

NEW DELHI, JAN. 24. The Congress today emphasised that the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, and the United Progressive Alliance chairperson, Sonia Gandhi, have indicated that peace talks between the Andhra Pradesh Government and the naxalite groups should continue unhindered.

Stating this at a press meet here at the party headquarters, the AICC general secretary, Digvijay Singh, said the Congress had asked the State Government to conduct a probe into the encounters and establish whether they were genuine or fake.

Mr. Digvijay Singh met the Union Home Minister, Shivraj Patil, today and discussed the stalled peace talks and related issues.

He said the talks were a commitment made by the party to the people of the State and appealed to all sections to bring about some kind of understanding so that the talk process resumed immediately.

"We have promised peace to

the people of Andhra Pradesh and would like this to continue as it had during the last eight months...would like both the State police and naxalites to exercise restraint, avoid confrontation," he said

Mr. Digvijay Singh, who was in touch with the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, said that the Congress was keen that the peace talks get started again so that basic issues of governance, land reforms, rights of forest dwellers could be addressed. This was necessary so that a comprehensive action plan could be drawn within a time-frame and monitored by people who were acceptable to both sides.

"After all, the naxalites are also our own people, misguided maybe and followed the path of violence quite contrary to the Congress ideology. Any person killed by either of them [police and naxalites] is a loss to community and we would not like this to continue," he said adding that the issues raised by naxalites were extremely relevant.

He had asked the State party chief, K. Keshav Rao, to send a team of senior leaders to meet the families of all those, including naxalites, who were killed in these encounters.

He also had a word with the Union Minister and Telengana Rashtra Samiti Chief, K. Chandrasekhara Rao, and that both the TRS and Congress were one on the issue of peaceful negotiations with naxalites.

Congress condemns TDP MLA killing

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN. 24. The Congress today condemned the killing of the Telugu Desam MLA, Paritala Ravi, and said the party has never subscribed to violent activities. "We would like the culprits to be caught and punished as soon as possible," the party said adding that according to his information the slain legislator was also involved in some "activities" and there was tension between two groups.

25 JAN 2005

THE HINDU

Six killed as Naxal groups clash

11-12
24/1

Latehar (Jharkhand): Six extremists were killed on Sunday in clashes between armed activists of two banned underground Naxal groups at Khaida village in Latehar district of Jharkhand, police said.

Activists of the CPI (Maoist) and Sangharsh Janmukti Morcha traded gunfire in the wee hours resulting in the killing of six persons, director general of police M V Rao said.

Senior police officials have reached the spot and a search was on to flush out ultras remaining in the area.

After returning from the

spot, superintendent of police, Latehar, M S Bhatia told newsmen that the Sangharsh Janmukti Morcha members allegedly sprayed bullets on the activists of the armed squad of the CPI (Maoist) when they were sleeping at a place at Bodah village and fled. The killings, he said, were a sequel to a decade-old feud between the two outfits over "area supremacy."

One Naxalite, who survived the attack, has been admitted to the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences in Ranchi, Bhatia said. PTI

NAXALITE MOVEMENT

Forcible Stifling Of The Tribal Voice

By AMIYA K SAMANTA

SRB 2/11
Communist parties all over the world tend to splinter and the Indian Communist party is no exception. But recently CPI (Maoist) has come into existence by merger of two strong groups namely Maoist Communist Centre and CPI-ML (People's War). This unusual development is ominous, as the new party has given a strong impetus to militancy and violence.

In Uttar Pradesh CPI (Maoist) guerrillas attacked a forest range office and killed two forest guards, and two days later on 21 November they blew up a police vehicle killing 19 policemen in Chandraprabha jungle in Chandauli district. On 5 January they blew up another police vehicle killing SP Mongher and six police personnel. Killing and blowing up of railway stations and other government buildings are going on in central Bihar, Jharkhand, and other states including West Bengal.

Exploitation

It is significant that the Naxalites are now by and large holding sway over the people living in the jungles and hills of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal and they have spread to Uttar Pradesh. The forests have been the habitat of the Adivasis and the Dalits for centuries. They gather food, collect drift wood, leaves, and often cut timbers in forest for domestic use and practice shifting cultivation known as jhum or podu. The forest people cannot destroy the forest as it has been woven into the texture of their life.

Tribal rights in the forest were first threatened in the 19th century when landowners and businessmen started their exploitation of the forest. This provoked a few spontaneous tribal rebellions, which were quickly put down; but few could perceive their hurt feeling and none tried to redress their grievances. Besides, the Indian Forest Act of 1927 seriously disrupted the tribal-forest relationship by introducing the concept of Reserve forest, which led to the extinction of the right of the Adivasis unless the claims were

The author is a former member of the Rabindra Bhavan management committee and former Director-General of Police, West Bengal.

established before the forest settlement officer. Thus, one fine morning, they lost their ancient rights and became alien in their own habitat. Incidentally, the first organised tribal movement — the Jharkhand movement — started in 1930 in the wake of the passing of the Indian Forest Act in 1927.

During British rule this law was perfunctorily enforced as

ment and wildlife protection laws and regulations have created larger protected areas designating the ancient Adivasi and Dalit settlements inside or adjacent to such areas as encroachments which, according to the law, are liable to be removed. Of late, the forest people's resentment against laws like the Wild Life Protection Act is becoming louder. The Naxalites



the then Federal government did not have the wherewithal to properly enforce it. But after its adoption in 1956 by the central and state governments, the enforcement has gradually become stricter. Besides, more such restrictive and rigid laws like Forest Conservation Act, Forest Protection Act, the Wild Life Act of 1972 and a plethora of other central and state legislation have made the forest inaccessible to forest people.

Harassment

The harshness of implementation is being felt by Adivasis and Dalits who live on forest produce. The Adivasi preserves have been encroached by development projects like road and dam construction, mineral extraction and mine operation. Even the judgment of the Supreme Court in 1997 declaring that the state has no right to grant on lease any forest land, including government forest land, has been largely ignored.

According to a recent survey, more than four million people live inside the area notified as protected and many more millions live in the vicinity. Environ-

have demanded modification, if not the total abolition, of the Forest Act.

Their hurt feeling is aggravated when forest contractors carry on their depredations with impunity while the forest people are generally debarred from entering the protected forest. The few who are allowed to collect twigs and leaves have to face harassment and insult. Forest settlement officers generally settle the forest land to outsiders who can pay rent and often more than that. The forced alienation of the tribal from the forest and forest land is complete and this has left a deep scar on their minds.

While political terrorism is one manifestation of the deep-laid frustration and anger of the forest people, the other manifestation is "social banditry" in the form of poaching in violation of the laws with the consent and support of the villagers. Such social banditry found its acme in the unprecedented depredation of Veerappan.

Hailing from a backward forest hamlet named Gopinathan in Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border and belonging to a

sect of the most backward Vanniya caste, he took to poaching of deer and elephant early in life in defiance of the forest and wild life laws. Veerappan killed several people, elephants in thousands, and from the clandestine trade in tusk and sandalwood and from ransom he is said to have collected crores of rupees, a sizable amount of which he spent for the poor Dalits and tribal and for improvement of forest villages. Such social banditry is not uncommon in the forest, and the forest mafia often utilise bandits to subserve their own interest.

Dialogue

In 1998 the Naxalites of Andhra Pradesh had a dialogue with the state government for distribution of land occupied by the poor tribal people in the forest villages. The government had agreed to regularise them. Even after more than a year when the government did not do anything, the Naxalites resumed their campaign of violence and terror. In the talks held in November 2004, identical issues were on the top of the agenda and the government once again agreed to implement them. But given the current political scenario in the state, it is doubtful whether the government will be able to muster courage to affect the desired land settlement ignoring the resentment of the land owning community who constitute the support base of the political party in power.

The emergence of Naxalite terror in West Bengal has been puzzling to observers since it is believed that successful land reform has taken the wind out of the Naxalites' sails. While land reform and partial introduction of the Arbari system of forest management have failed to restore the tribal-forest relationship in the forest regions of the state, it may be noted that the denial of political space to a dissident political ideology in a democratic set-up often provokes defiance and militancy. Merely by branding the rebels as rowdies under a political cover out to destabilise a stable government may not be adequate to alienate them from their constituency of support. Forcible stifling of the voice of protest is as potent a cause for rebellion as the exploitative agrarian system.

Naxalite groups pull out of peace talks

By Our Special Correspondent

HYDERABAD, JAN 17. The CPI (Maoist) and Janashakti, two main naxalite groups in Andhra Pradesh, today announced their decision to withdraw from the three-month-old peace talks initiated by the State Government.

A joint statement issued by leaders of the two outfits said the decision was in protest against the intensified combing operations by 'Greyhounds,' the elite force of the police, and the "encounter killings taking place on a daily basis." Denouncing the Rajasekhara Reddy Government's policies as "anti-people," they gave a call to the people to "wage a war to establish a new democratic society."

The strongly-worded statement came barely two hours after a Cabinet meeting resolved to go in for the second round of talks with naxalite leaders and initiate other conciliatory measures such as slowing down the combing operations and asking the police to observe restraint.

The statement was signed by the CPI (Maoist) State Committee secretary, Ramakrishna, the North Telangana Special Zonal Committee secretary, Jampana, the Andhra-Orissa Border Special Zonal Committee secretary, Sudhakar, the Janashakti State secretary, Amar, and senior leader, Riyaz.

Four of these leaders had participated in the first round of peace talks held here from October 15 to 18. They said they accepted the Government's formal invitation for

talks to find a solution to the problems facing the State such as restoration of democratic rights, land distribution, the World Bank's diktats and a separate Telangana. "But the Government did not conduct itself with responsibility during the talks."

These developments, they said, proved that the ruling classes would not resolve people's issues through talks. They accused the Government of trying to suppress the naxalite parties in the name of negotiations.

Minister's plea

Within hours of the announcement, the Andhra Pradesh Home Minister, K. Jana Reddy, appealed to the naxalites to reconsider their decision since the Government remained committed to continuing the peace talks. Talking to reporters, he urged them to view the recent encounters as "unfortunate incidents."

He assured them that there would not be combing operations nor any repression. Asserting that the police had been

instructed to avoid excesses, he said the Maoists should also see that there was no loss of life or destruction of property. They should also desist from carrying weapons while visiting villages.

The Minister said he would consult political leaders and mediators in the talks to create a congenial atmosphere for holding the next round. As this process would take a fortnight, he asked both sides to observe

restraint.

There was some respite from violence on Monday after three consecutive days of encounter killings and reprisals by naxalites resulting in the death of 10 persons, including nine extremists and a sarpanch. Maoists burnt a bus and destroyed two liquor shops in Guntur district. A bandh called by the Janashakti evoked partial response in various districts, except the agency areas of Warangal.

HP-1 (8) J.P.P. CPIM

THE HINDU

18 JAN 2005

নকশাল বিধায়ককে খুন করল মাওবাদীরা

দেবজিৎ ভট্টাচার্য • রাঁচি

১৬ জানুয়ারি: ঝাড়খণ্ডে সিপিআই (এমএল)-এর একমাত্র বিধায়ককে আজ দিনেদুপুরে গুলি করে খুন করেছে দুকৃতীরা। নিহতের নাম মহেন্দ্রপ্রসাদ সিংহ। বিধায়ক খুনের পিছনে মাওবাদীদের হাত রয়েছে বলে পুলিশ দাবি করলেও সিপিআই (এমএল)-এর তরফে কোনও সুনির্দিষ্ট অভিযোগ করা হয়নি। নির্বাচনের মুখে বিধায়ক খুনের ঘটনায় রাজ্যে জনপ্রতিনিধিদের নিরাপত্তা নিয়ে তোলপাড় শুরু হয়েছে।

পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, গিরিডি়র বগোদর কেন্দ্রের তিন বারের বিধায়ক মহেন্দ্রপ্রসাদ আজ দুপুরে সারিয়া থানা এলাকার ডিঙ্গি গ্রামে ভোটপ্রচারে গিয়েছিলেন। গ্রামটি জেলা সদর থেকে প্রায় ৮০ কিলোমিটার দূরে জঙ্গল লাগোয়া এলাকায়। সেখানে একটি জনসভার পরে মহেন্দ্রপ্রসাদ গুলিকয়েক দলীয় কর্মকর্তাকে নিয়ে স্থানীয় একটি প্রাথমিক স্কুলের মাঠে কথা বলছিলেন। পুলিশ জানিয়েছে, বেলা সাড়ে ৩টে নাগাদ একটি মোটরসাইকেলে চেপে দুই যুবক সেখানে এসে বিধায়কের সঙ্গে কথা বলতে চান। মহেন্দ্রপ্রসাদ এগিয়ে গেলে চালকের পিছনের যুবকটি মোটরসাইকেলে বসা অবস্থাতেই চাদরের তলা থেকে এসএলআর বার করে পর পর গুলি চালান। খুব কাছ থেকে গুলি করায় ঘটনাস্থলেই বিধায়কের মৃত্যু হয়। পুলিশ জানিয়েছে, তাঁর সারা শরীরে ১০টি গুলির চিহ্ন পাওয়া গিয়েছে। এর পরে মোটরসাইকেলটি জঙ্গলপথ দিয়ে গ্রামের বাইরে চলে যায়।

সম্মা পর্যন্ত দলীয় কর্মী-সমর্থকেরা নেতার মৃতদেহ আটকে রেখে বিক্ষোভ দেখান। সিপিআই (এমএল) সমর্থকদের সঙ্গে পুলিশের খণ্ডযুদ্ধ বেধে যায়। এক দল কর্মী রাস্তা অবরোধ করেন। দোকানপাট বন্ধ হয়ে যায় বগোদরে। ঘণ্টা খানেক পরে পুলিশ গোটা এলাকার দখল নেয়। রাত সাড়ে ৭টা নাগাদ পুলিশ বিধায়কের

মৃতদেহ থানায় নিয়ে আসে। পুলিশ জানিয়েছে, মাওবাদীদের হত্যা-তালিকায় ছিলেন মহেন্দ্রপ্রসাদ। তা সত্ত্বেও সরকারি দেহরক্ষী নিতে রাজি ছিলেন না। সিপিআই (এমএল) নেতার বক্তব্য ছিল, পুলিশের ঘেরাটোপে বড়জোর ছ'মাস বেঁচে থাকা যায়। জনপ্রতিনিধি হয়ে পুলিশ নিয়ে ঘুরলে মানুষের কাছে ভুল বার্তা পৌঁছায়। সেই মানুষের মধ্যে থাকাকালীনই দুকৃতীর গুলিতে ঝাঁঝরা হয়ে গেলেন মহেন্দ্রপ্রসাদ।

এই ঘটনার পরে জনপ্রতিনিধিদের নিরাপত্তা নিয়ে রাজ্য সরকারকে কাঠগড়ায় দাঁড় করিয়েছে বিভিন্ন রাজনৈতিক দল। এমনকী, বিজেপি নেতা, ঝাড়খণ্ডের প্রাক্তন মুখ্যমন্ত্রী বাবুলাল মারাডিও সমালোচনার সুরে বলেন, “মাওবাদীরা ক্রমেই শক্তিশালী হয়ে উঠছে। সরকারকে আরও কঠোর হতে হবে।” জেএমএম প্রধান শিবু সোরেন বলেন, “রাজ্যের মানুষ কতটা অসহায় অবস্থায় দিন কাটাচ্ছেন, এই ঘটনা তা চোখে আঙুল দিয়ে দেখিয়ে দিল। কংগ্রেস বিধায়ক সাওনা লাকড়ার অভিযোগ, “নির্বাচনের দিকে তাকিয়ে বিজেপি মাওবাদীদের বিরুদ্ধে তল্লাশি-অভিযান বন্ধ করে দিয়েছে।”

অন্ধ্র হত ২ নকশাল। হায়দরাবাদ থেকে পিটিআইয়ের খবর। অন্ধ্রের ওয়ারাঙ্গল জেলায় আজও পুলিশের সঙ্গে সংঘর্ষে মারা গিয়েছেন দুই সিপিআই (মাওবাদী) কর্মী। মৃত দুই ব্যক্তিকে এখনও শনাক্ত করা সম্ভব হয়নি বলে পুলিশ জানিয়েছে। তবে পাল্টা হামলা চালিয়েছে নকশালরাও। তাঁরা কুনুল জেলায় একটি সরকারি বাসে আগুন লাগিয়ে দিয়েছে। আগুন লাগানোর আগে বাস থেকে যাত্রীদের নামিয়ে দেওয়ায় কেউ হতাহত হয়নি। পরপর এ ধরনের বিক্ষিপ্ত হিংসার ঘটনা দ্বিতীয় দফায় আলোচনার পথে বাধা হয়ে দাঁড়াবে বলে মনে করা হচ্ছে। কালই নকশাল-অধ্যুষিত এলাকাগুলিতে বিশেষ সতর্কতা জারি করেছে রাজ্য সরকার। জনপ্রতিনিধিদের পুলিশ-প্রহরা ছাড়া বেরোতেও বাধা করা হয়েছে।

Joint STFs for nine Naxalite-hit states

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Jan. 16. — In a bid to undertake more coordinated operations against Naxalites, the government is exploring the possibility of setting up joint special task forces (STFs) in nine Naxalite-hit states.

The proposal was placed at the second meeting of the Special Task Force, headed by the Union home ministry's special secretary (internal security), Mr Anil Chowdhry. The STF was set up to counter the growing problem of Naxalite violence. "Constitution of joint STFs among the Naxalite-hit states will go a long way in overcoming the problem of state boundaries coming in the way of coordinated anti-Naxalite operations," said a senior home ministry official.

The valuable experience of the joint task force of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka police in operations launched to neutralise notorious criminal Veerappan was shared with the participants at the meeting and useful tactical lessons

drawn from it, the official said.

The home ministry has decided to step up its assistance to the states in effectively meeting the challenge posed to internal security by Naxalites. These include increasing deployment of Central police forces and arranging specialised training in guerrilla and jungle warfare at facilities of such forces.

The government would also provide — better technological support for improving defensive and offensive armoury of state police forces, their communication network, and funds for security-related items.

Besides senior officers from the Intelligence Bureau, the Union home ministry and the CRPF, the meeting was attended by nodal officers for anti-Naxalite operations in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. During the four-hour deliberations, the situation in these states was taken stock of. In-depth analysis



File photograph of a Naxalite rally. of emerging trends on this front in each of the states was made and suitable strategy to deal with the situation on all fronts chalked out.

It was observed that although there was a slight decline in incidents of Naxalite violence in 2004 as compared to the previous year, the increase in attacks on police by Naxalite groups, particularly by laying landmines, was an area of concern.

The increasing trend of Naxalite violence in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra was also taken note of. //

Naxals kill Jharkhand CPI-ML leader

Agencies
Giridih, January 16

IN THE first incident of poll-related violence in Jharkhand, veteran CPI-ML leader Mahendra Prasad Singh was today gunned down by suspected CPI (Maoist) ultras near Saria in Giridih district.

The police said that at least three suspected motorcycle-borne CPI (Maoist) ultras shot the three-time MLA from Bagodar constituency while he was addressing an election meeting, killing him on the spot.

Singh received three bullets on

the neck, according to eyewitnesses at Durgidhaya village under Saria police station.

Hundreds of CPI (ML-Liberation) activists gathered on the spot after the leader was shot dead while the party workers were shifting the body to its office at Bagodar.

Shopkeepers spontaneously downed their shutters in reaction to the killing. There was no sight of any policemen around and the gate of the police station at Saria was found locked from inside.

Meanwhile, the party flag at CPI-ML headquarters in Patna

was lowered after news of Singh's murder spread.

State party secretary Ram Jatan Sharma termed the killing as "politically motivated" and demanded immediate arrest of the MLA's killers.

Singh, who had filed his nomination from Bagodar on Saturday for the first phase of polls on February 3, won the seat thrice — in 1990, 95 and 2000. The 51-year Leftist leader is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

When contacted, Jharkhand home secretary J.B. Tubid said he had received the information and

asked the Deputy Commissioner of Giridih to send more details.

'Naxalites biggest challenge'

Saying that Naxalite violence is the biggest problem that the state is facing, Jharkhand Governor Syed Sibte Razi today underlined the need for a well chalked-out strategy to combat the menace.

The state, boasting of 40 per cent of the total mineral reserves in the country, was now faced with a very serious challenge to development activities with 18 of the 22 districts plagued by Naxalite ac-

tivities, Razi said in Lucknow.

Although the Jharkhand government was doing its best to deal with the problem, a special strategy was required to deal with the menace, he said.

Responding to a question, Razi said he would take up the matter with the government after the Assembly elections in the state.

Describing the appalling infrastructure in the state as another challenge for the state, Razi said there was acute shortage of potable water and roads and only 8000 of its 32,000 villages had so far been electrified.

Andhra red alert over Naxalites ^{16/1} Six CPI(Maoists) shot dead

Ashok Das
Hyderabad, January 15 ^{16/1}

THE MUCH-HYPED peace talks involving Naxalites and the government in Andhra Pradesh – the outcome of which the entire country was eagerly waiting for – is dead.

The ceasefire over, the police have renewed its offensive against the extremists by killing as many as seven Naxalites in the past 48 hours, even as Naxalites killed two people, including a Congress leader and a police constable.

While the Naxalites have vowed to kill 'a hundred persons' for every Naxalite killed, the police sounded a red alert all over the state on Saturday, expecting a huge backlash. The police have advised ministers, MLAs, MPs and other public representatives not to travel to Naxalite-dominated areas and strengthen their security.

Meanwhile, six CPI(Maoist) Naxalites were killed in an exchange of fire with the police in two places today. The police were fired upon at two places – near Chintala village in Prakasam district and at Bukkalingsayapalli in Mahboobnagar district – and, in retaliatory fire by the police, three Naxalites were killed at each place.

Earlier, on Friday night, Naxalites belonging to the CPI-Marxist-Leninist (Janashakti group) shot dead the

Congress sarpanch (village head) of Rudrangi village, in Chandurthi mandal of Karimnagar district. Some armed Naxalites barged into the house of Ganga Raj Lingaiah and forcibly took him to the village outskirts. Later, they pumped three bullets, killing him on the spot.

The Janashakti Naxalites have claimed that the Congress sarpanch was killed in retaliation to the killing of their comrade in a "fake encounter" by the police in Warangal district a few days ago. They warned they would kill 100 people for every Naxalite killed in fake encounters and said they would target Congress leaders with landmines.

Alleging the government had conspired to scuttle the second round of talks and, thus, given the green light to the police for conduct combing operations and indulging in killings, the Janashakti representatives demanded a judicial inquiry into the recent encounters. They also wanted the government to suspend the combing operations and resume the talks.

Chief Minister YSR Reddy, on the other hand, has accused the Naxalites of fouling up the peaceful atmosphere by indulging in violent activities. He cited the killing of a TDP worker in Mahboobnagar, a BJP cadre in Guntur, a blast in Visakhapatnam district as instances.

Naxalite talks break down after bloodspill

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad, Jan. 15: The spectre of Naxalite terror loomed menacingly over Andhra Pradesh tonight as Maoists declared there was no point in sticking with peace talks after eight of their colleagues were gunned down.

The rebels were killed in two encounters with police in violence that surged suddenly after a relative lull for seven months. The Maoists claimed the state police had violated all norms of their truce with the government, stepped up pa-

trolling and openly hunted them down.

In a strongly-worded letter to the state home minister K. Jana Reddy and forwarded to newspaper offices, CPI (Maoist) secretary Ramakrishna said he had "given up all hopes" of continuing the talks.

Andhra Pradesh DGP Swarnjit Sen immediately declared a red alert in 12 Naxalite-infested districts, cancelled the leaves of all constables and officers and warned his forces of Maoist plans to attack police stations and government offices.

"I cannot say anything

right now. The top priority for us is to protect the lives of policemen and take all precautionary measures," he said.

All elected representatives have been advised not to venture out of their homes on their own. "If they want to travel in their districts and constituencies, they should inform the police and go with escorts only," Sen said.

This afternoon, the rebels clashed with police in a big way after the expiry of the December 16 ceasefire. The big encounter took place near Siddayapalli in Mahboobna-

gar district, about 130 km from Hyderabad, in which five Maoists were shot dead.

A few hours earlier, three others, including a woman, were killed in the Nallamala forests near Srisaillam, 240 km from here.

There were also reports from Adilabad and Khammam, on the border with Chhattisgarh, that Maoists had been exchanging fire with the police all afternoon.

Deputy superintendent of police of Markapur in Prakasham district, A.V. Rama Rao, said: "Police reached the Nallamala forests

on information of extortion by the Maoist rebels. One claymore mine, several pistols and five kit bags have been seized from the spot after exchange of fire."

The sudden surge in Maoist violence has spread fear in the Karimnagar and Warangal districts with several Congress leaders quitting their villages and making a beeline for the district headquarters. Many condemned the government for "reviving the counter killings of extremists".

"The government is very vague and ambiguous in its

policy towards the Maoists. It has made things difficult for elected representatives in Naxalite-affected districts," Congress legislator D. Sridhar Babu, who represents Manthani Assembly segment in Karimnagar district, said.

Earlier, chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy took stock of the situation in a meeting with home minister Reddy and senior police officers. The coordination committee for peace talks also met at the residence of convener K.G. Kannabiran.

The home minister defended the police action, saying

they were only doing their duty of maintaining law and order. "The second round of talks can begin only after the creation of a conducive atmosphere. Not right now," he said.

The chief minister said that unless the Maoists give up arms and stop roaming the villages with arms, talks would not be resumed. "The Maoists cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds," he said.

The Maoists have called a three-day bandh in all Naxalite-dominated districts starting tomorrow.

16 JAN 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

Six Maoists killed in Andhra Pradesh

By Our Special Correspondent

HYDERABAD, JAN.15. Six Maoists were shot dead in two alleged encounters with the police in Mahbubnagar and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh today.

The incidents escalated tension in the naxalite-affected districts forcing the political leaders to flee the villages even as the police sounded a red alert. Elected representatives, including Ministers, have been advised not to venture into violence-prone areas and to take precautions for their safety.

Police stations in vulnerable areas have been fortified. The Superintendent of Police of Karimnagar, Rajeev Ratan, sought permission to intensify the combing operations.

These incidents come close on the heels of the gunning down of a Congress sarpanch, Ganga Rajaiah of Rudrangi village in Karimnagar district, late on Friday night. He was killed in retaliation to the "encounter death" earlier in the day of Nar-simhulu, Janashakti dalam commander, by the police in Avunur village of Mustabad mandal, also in Karimnagar.

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, today expressed the Government's resolve to continue talks with the Maoists and the Janashakti. However, he made it clear that naxalities would not be allowed to carry weapons.

The CPI(Maoist) secretary, Ramakrishna, expressed serious reservations over the continuation of the talks. In a statement, he accused the police of creating obstacles by resorting to "fake encounters."

Immediately after the encounters, Dr. Reddy went into consultations separately with

the Home Minister, Jana Reddy, the Director-General of Police, Swaranjit Sen, the APCC president, K. Keshava Rao, and the members of the Ceasefire Monitoring Committee. He urged the Committee to prevail upon the naxalites to lay down arms.

The encounters climaxed a fortnight of intermittent violence involving killings by naxalites as well as the police. Since the New Year began, three encounters have taken place in Warangal, Prakasam and Guntur districts. The Maoists shot dead a home guard and a BJP worker in reprisal in Guntur district.

THE HINDU

16 JAN 2005

Naxalites want villagers to vote in panchayat polls

Aloke Banerjee
Kolkata, January 12

IN A significant change in tactic, the newly constituted Communist Party of India (Maoist) has decided to allow villagers to vote and choose their own representatives in panchayat.

The Naxalites — who have so far boycotted all forms of parliamentary elections — are displaying this liberty in the panchayat polls in Chhattisgarh. The CPI (Maoist) came into existence when the Peoples' War merged with the MCCI.

Party insiders describe



Revolutionary writer Varvara Rao (right) with another Naxalite leader in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

the decision to allow villagers to participate in the polls as unprecedented but insisted that the new experi-

ture, the very purpose of the Andhra Pradesh government behind its decision to hold dialogues with Naxalites.

A senior CPI(Maoist) leader told *Hindustan Times* that villagers with Naxalite presence in Chhattisgarh have been asked "to unanimously elect one candidate each for the panchayat, *janpad* panchayat and district panchayat", elections to which would take place on January 15, 20 and 23 respectively.

"The villagers have been telling us that once they boycott polls, they are immediately identified as Naxalites. The young men and women

are then arrested and the families denied all forms of loans," he said.

"The villagers themselves want to vote, to avoid police harassment. We decided not to deny them their democratic right," the Maoist leader said. He admitted that it was a decision that was unprecedented in the 30 years of Maoist movement in the country. Even during the last panchayat polls in the state, the Naxalites had not allowed the villagers to vote.

'Maoists insignificant' CPI(Maoist) politburo member Prakas Karat, however, said, after the three-day cen-

tral committee meeting of the party, though Maoists were infiltrating into states, even in north India, they had no political influence.

"The Maoists are only moving with some armed squads in areas such as UP, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. They have no political base," Karat insisted.

Asked why Maoists were gaining strength even in the Marxist-ruled West Bengal, the CPI(M) leader said, "They are only creating law and order problems. They have no political influence. The situation in Andhra, however, is different."

Bihar govt rules out talks with Naxal groups

Patna
6 JANUARY

TALKING tough after the Munger blast that killed the superintendent of police and six others, Bihar government on Thursday ruled out talks with Naxalites and said it would set up a special cell to deal with the menace. "The blast targeting the policemen has forced us to rethink how to tackle the Naxalite menace. The present atmosphere is not conducive for holding talks with the Naxalites," chief secretary K. A.H. Subramanian told reporters here.

Police launched an intensive combing operation on Thursday and recovered 10 landmines from the explosion site in Munger where CPI(Maoist) ultras detonated a landmine by a remote control on Wednesday ripping apart the police vehicle which was carrying SP K.C. Surendra Babu and six others on their way back from an operation against the outlawed Naxalites near Ganta (Bhimbandh) in Munger.

Mr Subramanian said the explosion was a retaliatory action by the CPI(Maoist) as it had been banned by the government from holding its rally here on December 9. In view of the ultra Left menace in the state, the government was now considering setting up a special Naxal cell in the police headquarters. "We have

an IG at present who supervises operations against Naxalites. But we will soon have a full-fledged Naxal cell to effectively check extremist violence," he said. Special measures were being taken to ensure fair, free and peaceful poll in the Naxal-hit areas in the state, which is scheduled to go to the hustings in February.



Rabri Devi consoles the wives of killed policemen

The combing operation, which began in full swing on Thursday, was being supervised by Bihar director general of police Narain Mishra, IG (Bhagalpur) N.C. Dhondiyal and DIG Rajesh Chandra. One company each of BSF and the CRPF have been deployed. Police said the Naxalites took away two SLRs, one carbine, two pistols, two revolvers and several rounds of ammunition after the blast.

—PTI