

# Maoists spread reach & strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**Asannagar, June 20:** Maoist guerrillas today struck outside their bastion for the first time, gunning down in a Nadia village two tribal CPM leaders who refused to quit the party.

Clad in black combat outfits and brandishing muskets, the gang of 20 swooped on Chandpur, about 120 km from Calcutta, in the wee hours and pumped bullets into Swapan Sardar, 38, and his neighbour Uttam Sardar, 39.

The killings have shocked the CPM rank and file because this is the first time that the guerrillas have strayed outside their Bengal stronghold of Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore.

Around 2 am, the gang ringed the houses of the duo, both members of the local CPM branch committee and dragged them out, all the while abusing them and screaming why they had not quit the CPM.

"*Shala. CPM-er neta hotey chash? Ebar dekhbi CPM korar ki phol* (You want to be CPM leaders? Now you will know the result of working for the CPM)," a rebel yelled before opening fire.

Uttam was the first target. Three rounds were fired on him from close range, killing him on the spot. Swapan tried to escape but was chased and caught in a jute field and bumped off.

Before melting into the darkness, the guerrillas raised slogans: "*Maobad zindabad* (long live Maoism), *Maobadider thekiyey rakha jabena* (Maoists can't be stopped)."

A team from Kotwali police station landed in the village within 30 minutes of the strike. No arrests have been made yet.

Nadia police superintendent R. Rajshekharan said the duo had been killed because they flouted the Maoist diktat to quit the CPM before the Assembly polls.

"The guerrillas had threatened Uttam and Swapan with dire consequences if they dared disobey their order. But they disobeyed as they were strengthening the party's organisation among local fishermen and daily labourers."

S.M. Sadi, a district secretariat member overseeing CPM affairs in Krishnagar, said: "We are extremely worried. We want the police and the administration to take steps to ensure such incidents don't recur. We want security to be stepped up for our party leaders and workers."

■ See Pages 8 and 6

THE TELEGRAPH

1973

# Orissa bans

# CPI(Maoist), affiliates



Targeting the state: Time to fight the ban?

## Package for those who are willing to surrender

**HIMANSHU S. Sahoo**  
Bhubaneswar, June 9

ORISSA GOVERNMENT clamped a ban on Maoists on Friday after the Cabinet approved proposals outlawing the CPI (Maoist) and seven of its frontal organisations in the state.

The Cabinet meeting, chaired by chief minister Naveen Patnaik, also unveiled a rehabilitation package for Naxalites who shun extremism and surrender to begin life afresh.

The seven frontal organisations declared unlawful are Daman Pratirodh Mancha (DPM), Revolutionary Democratic Front (RDF), Chasi Mulia Samiti (CMS), Kui Lewenga Sangha (KLS), Jana Natya Mandali (JNM), Krantikari Kissan Samiti (KKS) and Bal Sangam. These outfits provide platforms to Naxalites to propagate their ideology, the government believes.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, chief secretary Subas C. Pani said the ban was implemented as per Rule-16 of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act-1908.

Home secretary Santosh Kumar said, "The government found that the activities of these frontal organisations posed danger to peace in the state".

As many as 14 of the 30 districts of Orissa are already having a heavy presence of Naxalites. They are Malkangiri, Rayagada, Koraput, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nowrangpur, Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Dhenkanal and Jajpur.

Kumar said the ban came in response to a series of Naxalite attacks and killing of security personnel in the 14 districts. Maoists killed at least 45 security personnel over the past four years in the state, he added.

Under the surrender policy rolled out by the government,

Rs 10,000 will be paid to any Naxalite willing to surrender and the amount may go up to Rs 20,000 if one surrenders with arms and ammunition.

The government has, de facto, agreed to pay for the arms and ammunition surrendered: Rs 10,000 for an AK-47 or an IN-SAS rifle; Rs 5,000 for a revolver; Rs 3,000 for a remote control or an improvised explosive device (IED); Rs 1,000 for each hand grenade; and Rs 5,000 for every wireless set.

Even in cases involving minor offences against those who surrender, the cases would be withdrawn, the home secretary said. The government will also allot homestead land and house-building grant up to Rs 25,000 to those who surrender, apart from a special assistance of Rs 15,000 for marriage or their children.

The government will arrange bank loans up to Rs 2 lakh for

Naxalites who surrender with a subsidy of Rs 50,000 on repayment of the loan.

Other benefits announced to motivate Maoists for surrender include free medical treatment for the extremist's family in government hospitals within Orissa and exemption of admission fees and free textbooks up to high school, officials said.

Reacting to the ban, convener of Damana Pratirodh Manch, Dandapani Mohanty, said, "I condemn the decision. The DPM is not at all a Naxalite organisation. During the last three years, we had been holding agitations in the interest of people."

He added, "The Naxalite movement is not a campaign by terrorists. It's a purely socio-economic and political movement. The decision to ban the CPI (Maoist) and the seven organisations, including ours, reflects the fascist attitude of the government".

## Skeletons seized

Dhaka, June 9

BORDER GUARDS in north-west Bangladesh have seized eight human skeletons believed to have been robbed from graves in India, officials said on Friday.

The eight skeletons, found in two bags in a forest in Rajshahi district near the border with West Bengal, can sell for up to thousands of dollars at medical colleges, said Captain Khaled of the Bangladesh Rifles Border force. "It's likely they would have been sold illegally to medical colleges or laboratories in Bangladesh", he said.

Khaled said 10 skeletons were seized in January and 15 in 2004 but there had been no reports of any being found last year.

AFP

01 MAY 2006

# Maoists hijack boats, take 9 hostage

## Daring Naxalite operation in Nagarjunasagar lake

**ASHOK Das**

Hyderabad, April 30

IN A daring operation, members of CPI (Maoist) hijacked two government boats with nine members of the crew at Nagarjunakonda island within Nagarjunasagar dam in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday.

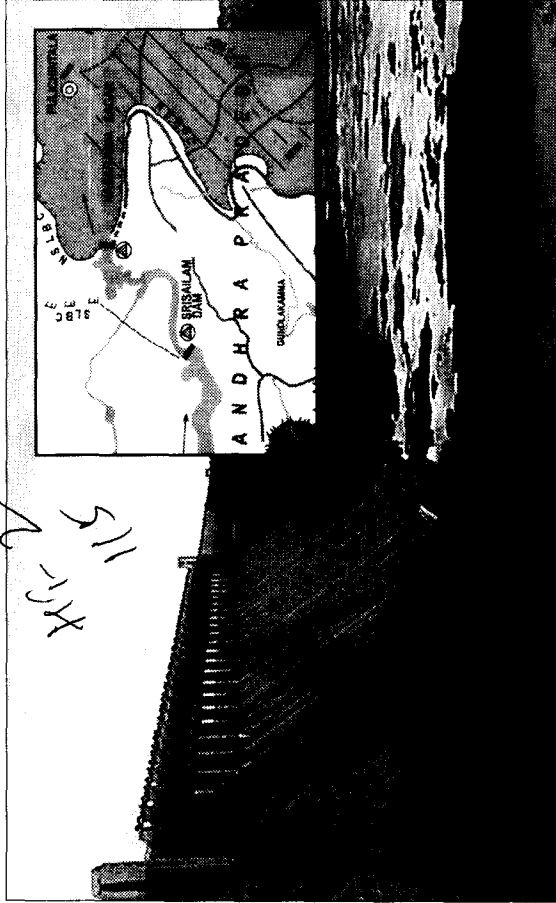
The Maoists were lying in an ambush at the berthing ghat of the island that houses a famous Buddhist museum named after renowned 11th century Buddhist teacher Nagarjuna.

The police shot dead four of the Naxalites who hijacked the boats, a late night report said. The encounter took place on river Krishna. The Maoist action was in retaliation to the recent killing of nine of their comrades in an encounter with security forces, police sources said.

Guntur SP Shivdher Reddy told *Hindus-*

*tan Times* the Maoists took over the boats after 234 tourists disembarked to go to the museum, half a kilometre away. The Maoists commandeered the crew to travel upstream of Krishna river towards Nallamalla forests adjoining Srisaillam reservoir, which is considered a stronghold of the erstwhile People's War Group (now the CPI-Maoist). The Maoists left no ransom note or conditions for the release of the crew and the boats. The stranded tourists were later brought back on private boats.

Intelligence officers said the Maoists must have taken the boats to extricate some of their colleagues stuck inside Nallamalla forests. The police had launched a massive combing operation from three sides to flush out Maoists from the Nallamalla area in the recent past. With the police closing in, the Maoists had been left with the as the only exit route.



A file photograph of the dam on Nagarjunasagar lake and (inset) map of the area.

Intelligence officers also felt that the Maoists might drop the members of the crew en route or after the operation. They were unlikely to cause harm to them as it might antagonise the locals. The police in Guntur have asked the government to lend them a helicopter to launch an operation to track the boats.

## Police picket blown up

MAOISTS BLEW up a police picket at Khukri village in Giridih district even as a suspected woman Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security forces in Garwah district. Giridih SP Arun Kumar Singh said 40 ultras reached the picket around 2 am on Sunday, planted can bombs and dynamites and triggered the blasts.

About 20 police personnel manning the picket were asked to vacate it on Saturday following a directive from the police brass, the SP added. The picket had been set up in 1991 after Maoists perpetrated a massacre in the area.

The suspected woman Naxalite was killed in a fierce encounter between the security forces and the Maoists at Sukhnadi village in Garwah on Saturday.

PTI, Giridih

# Naxals attack relief camp, kill 4 guards

HT-3 12/15

PRESS Trust of India  
Raipur, May 13

## Aerial attacks

FOUR VILLAGE Special Police Officers (SPOs) were killed and three others injured when around 300 heavily armed Maoists attacked a relief camp in Dantewada district of Chattisgarh on Saturday, sources in the police said.

Nagaland Armed Police personnel, camping in the same locality, retaliated and the exchange of fire with the ultras continued for over an hour in Injeram.

After Naxalites stepped up attacks in June last year, about 50,000 people had deserted their villages and taken shelter in government-run relief camps in Dantewada. About 6,000 villagers are now living in such camps at Injeram, the sources said.

In a separate incident, at least two villages were abducted by Maoists on Friday, when they had gone to their village, Akhurguda, in Dantewada, the police said. Recently, the Maoists had abducted 52 villagers of Manikonta in Dantewada district and killed 15 of them.

The Union home ministry has approached the Cabinet committee on security with a proposal for an aerial offensive to beat down the extreme Left. The three-dimensional strategy is for launching aerial attacks when required, providing aerial cover to ground forces and hot pursuit of Naxals along their lines of retreat from one state to another. This is part of the Centre's plan for a pre-Monsoon offensive against Naxalites by diverting to the affected states the 75,000-strong paramilitary forces hitherto deployed for the poll duties. *HTC, New Delhi*

14 MAY 2006

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# শান্তি আলোচনায় ফিরতে চান অশ্রুব নকশালরা

অগ্নি রায় • নয়াদিল্লি

১৪ মে: রাজ্য সরকারের সঙ্গে আলোচনা বর্ধ হওয়ার দেড় বছর পরে ফের আলোচনার মাধ্যমে শান্তির পথে ফিরতে চাইছে অন্ধপ্রদেশের নকশাল সংগঠন। এবং সরকারের সঙ্গে মধ্যস্থতার প্রস্তুতি তারা 'আলফা মডেল'কেই সামনে রাখতে চাইছে। সংগঠনের তরফে ইন্দিরা গোস্বামীকে (আলফার সঙ্গে কেন্দ্রের মধ্যস্থতাকারী) লেখা একটি চিঠিতে সে কথা জানানো হয়েছে।

চিঠিটি লিখেছেন জনযুদ্ধ এবং মাওবাদীদের ছাব্বিশ বছরের পুরনো মুখপত্র 'বীরাসম' 'রেভোলিউশনারি রাইটার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশন'-এর বর্তমান সাধারণ সম্পাদক টি কৃষ্ণবাবু। বলা হয়েছে, অসমের সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য ইন্দিরার প্রয়াস অত্যন্ত 'প্রেরণাদায়ক'। আলফা নেতারা এখনও সরাসরি সরকারের সঙ্গে আলোচনা না করলেও ইন্দিরার মাধ্যমে কেন্দ্রের সঙ্গে তাদের নির্বাচিত প্রতিনিধি দলের দু'দফা বৈঠক হয়ে গিয়েছে। জুনে বসবে তৃতীয় দফার আলোচনা। সেই প্রক্রিয়ার সারমর্ম এবং সজ্ঞাবনা অন্ধ্রের নকশাল নেতারা খতিয়ে দেখতে চান। জুনের দ্বিতীয় সপ্তাহে ওই সংগঠনের একটি সম্মেলনে ইন্দিরাকে আমন্ত্রণ জানিয়ে বলা হয়েছে, ইন্দিরার সঙ্গে বিষয়টি নিয়ে তাঁরা আলোচনা করতে চান।

বীরাসম রেভোলিউশনারি রাইটার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের প্রেসিডেন্ট এই মুহূর্তে জেলে। সংগঠনটি দায়িত্ব সামলান নকশাল নেতা ও কারি বরবরা রাখা। আর এক প্রভাবশালী নকশাল নেতা গদরও সংগঠনটির সঙ্গে প্রত্যক্ষ ভাবে যুক্ত। কিছু দিন আগে পর্যন্ত এই সংগঠনটির উপর নিষেধাজ্ঞা জারি ছিল, তবে এখন তা উঠে গিয়েছে। সংগঠনের প্রকাশ্য অফিসে ৯ ও ১০ জুন, ইন্দিরা বলেছেন, "ওঁদের চিঠি লিখে জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি যে, আমি অনুষ্ঠানে যোগ দেব। আমি বরবরারই পিছিয়ে থাকা মানুষের জন্য কাজ করতে চেয়েছি। এ ক্ষেত্রেও তাই উৎসাহিত বোধ করছি।"

## আমন্ত্রণ ইন্দিরা গোস্বামীকে

পরিবেশের প্রসারের সঙ্গে সশস্ত্র আন্দোলনের প্রসারও প্রয়োজন আছে বলে পুলিশি ব্যবস্থারও প্রয়োজন আছে বলে জানিয়েছিল কেন্দ্র।

আলফার সঙ্গে সরকারের আলোচনার সফল রূপকার ইন্দিরা গোস্বামীর মধ্যস্থতায় নকশাল সমস্যার সমাধানে শেষ পর্যন্ত কোনও সূত্র বেরোবে কিনা, তা এখনও স্পষ্ট নয়। কিন্তু সংশ্লিষ্ট মহলের বক্তব্য, এই সূচনা নিঃসন্দেহে একটি পরবর্তনের সূচক। এর আগেও বরবরা রাও-গদরের আলোচনায় বলেছিলেন। তাঁদের বক্তব্য গদরের আলোচনায় বলা হয়েছিল, "আলোচনা অবশ্যই হওয়া দরকার। মানুষের আকাঙ্ক্ষা চরিতার্থ করার জন্য তা জরুরি।"

কেদ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী শিবরাজ পাটিলের বক্তব্য, "নকশাল সমস্যা সম্পর্কে ব্যাপারে একটি সার্বিক মতাকা হয়েছে। সবাই মনে যে এটি নিষ্ক আইনশৃঙ্খলার সমস্যা নয়। তাই এর মোকাবিলা করা উচিত রাজনৈতিক, অর্থনৈতিক এবং নিরাপত্তার দৃষ্টিকোণ থেকে। রাজ্য যদি মনে করে তারা শান্তি আলোচনা চালাবে, তা হলে তারা যে কোনও ধরনে তা চালাতে পারে।" তবে সরকারের যাবতীয় চেষ্টা সত্ত্বেও আলোচনা সফল হয়নি। রাজ্য সরকারের দাবি ছিল অস্ত্র ছেড়ে আলোচনায় আসতে হবে। সেই দাবি মেনে যেমনি মাওবাদীরা। বরঞ্চ বারবার হিংসার ঘটনা ঘটেছে। চলেছে দমন নীতিও।

তবে সব মিলিয়ে আশাবাদী ইন্দিরা। অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশের সমস্যা নিয়ে চিন্তাভাবনা করার পাশাপাশি তিনি মনে করিয়ে দিচ্ছেন, অসমের কংগ্রেস ফের নির্বাচিত হওয়ার পর আলফা সমস্যার আশু সমাধান ঘটবে। জুন মাসেই কেন্দ্রের সঙ্গে তৃতীয় রাউন্ডের বৈঠক বসবে আলফার নির্বাচিত জনপ্রতিনিধি দল। সজ্ঞাবনা রয়েছে, এই বৈঠকের পূর্বে আর কোনও প্রতিনিধি নয়, সরাসরি আলফার প্রতিনিধিরা বৈঠকে বসবে সরকার পক্ষের সঙ্গে। সে ক্ষেত্রে বৈঠকটি নয়াদিল্লিতে না হয়ে দেশের অন্য কোনো জায়গায় হতে পারে।

15 MAY 2006

# Naxals kill 12 in Gadchiroli

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Nagpur:** In a ghastly incident, 12 members of a marriage party were killed in a powerful land mine blast triggered by Naxalites in Gadchiroli district early Tuesday morning. Among the dead were two women, two teenage girls and eight men, including driver of the jeep. The victims were from nearby Chhattisgarh state which shares border with Gadchiroli and were returning home after a wedding on this side.

Around 4.30 am, guests from Paka-hanjor village in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh were returning after attending a marriage at Sundernagar in Mulchera tehsil of Gadchiroli. Barely, 12 km from the border between the two states, near Halewara village in Etajpalli taluka, Naxalites blew up the Mahindra jeep in which the eight persons were travelling.

"It is a most condemnable incident and shows how Naxalites do not hesitate in targeting innocent civilians," said Gadchiroli SP Shirish Jain talking to TNN. This is the first case of its



The marriage guests were travelling in a convoy of four vehicles and the Naxalites targeted the third vehicle. With Maoists violence on the rise in the most backward and tribal dominated district of Maharashtra, police are known to use civilian vehicles to escape attention of Maoists

kind in the Naxalite-affected Gadchiroli district where a marriage party was attacked. "Probably the Maoists mistook it for a police vehicle and blew it up," said Jain who rushed a police party led by additional SP S Rokade to rescue survivors if any.

The marriage guests were travelling in a convoy of four vehicles and the Naxalites targeted the third vehicle. With Maoists violence on the rise in the most backward and tribal dominated district of Maharashtra, police are known to use civilian vehicles to escape attention of Maoists. Last week, Naxalites had planted a

pressure bomb underneath a tree trunk blocking the road in the same taluka. Seven tribals were injured in the blast when the police allegedly asked them to remove the road block.

The Naxal attack came a day after a fierce encounter between the police and the Maoists in which at least three of the left rebels were reportedly killed. Earlier on April 19, a PSI and a constable were killed when the Naxalites blew up an anti-landmine vehicle in the district. On March 13, a similar attack was launched on another landmine vehicle but all the 12 police personnel in it had a lucky escape.

17 MAY 2006

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# Naxals call for economic bandh in 6 states

MANOJ PRASAD/VIVEK DESHPANDE  
RANCHI/CHANDRAPUR, MAY 24

**T**HE latest in the Naxal armoury is what they call economic blockade. As part of this strategy, the Naxalites have called, through posters, for a three-day blockade across six states — Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh — beginning May 26. The Jharkhand Police have declared a red alert after the discovery of CPI (Maoist) Leninist posters.

"Police *hosh me awo, garib ko satana bandh karo* (wake up police, stop torturing the poor)," read posters put up by the Maoists along the roads in Chatra district.

While the rebels are expected to block the movement of minerals by rail and road in their areas of influence in the six states, in Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), bordering Madhya Pradesh and Andhra, the Naxalites have already embarked on an arson drive setting afire five trucks in one night and blocking several roads in the district by laying trees across them.

One of the pamphlets in circulation in the Naxal-infested Gumla district in Jharkhand

## Naxals warn against police recruitments

**CHANDRAPUR:** The Naxalites have issued a stern warning to the tribals that anyone trying to join the police force during the forthcoming recruitment drive beginning on May 30 would be killed. "We will be filling up about 300 posts during the drive," Shirish Jain said. "We have ensured that those willing to come over to Gadchiroli for the drive would be given a safe passage from their villages," he added.

The SP said the response this time was going to be overwhelming as certain relaxations were provided to wards of police informers and those killed in the Naxal violence. For them Class XI-pass criterion has been eased to Class VII-pass.

Asked if the move would help the militants identify and target police informers, Jain said, "We have thought about it and we would be doing every thing discretely."

Most of these states had signed MoUs to set up industrial units... the land of the poor will be acquired and minerals exploited to feed these plants. Our agitation is a protest against the imminent displacement of the poor and the looting of minerals."

Taking no chances, the police are chalking out their strategy to deal with the unprece-



**Naxals have time and again shown they have the ability to strike where it hurts most**

dented agitation. DGP V D Ram said, "We are gearing up to effectively deal with them and maintain law and order".

In Jharkhand, the issue of mineral exploita-

tion and displacement of locals, as part of the implementation of the 44 MoUs signed with private companies in the past five years, is a touchy issue. The CPI, CPI(M), CPI(M), JMM and several members of the Catholic and Protestant Church have opposed implementation of the MoUs.

"The problem is becoming trickier by the day. It needs to be dealt with firmly by a coordinated effort of the states and the Centre," said Naveen Kumar, a Ranchi University lecturer who has done extensive research on Left extremism in Palamau.

In Gadchiroli, Naxalites burnt two trucks on the intervening night of May 23 and 24 on the Dhanora-Hattitola road and the Murumgaon-Sawargaon road each.

They also set fire to a truck carrying a marriage party on the Malewada-Yerkad road after asking the members of the party to get down, said Gadchiroli police sources.

The rebels blocked at least five other roads by putting trees across them. Chandrapur Superintendent of Police Shirish Jain told *The Indian Express* that economic blockade was an entirely new thing to have been started by the Naxalites. "We haven't heard of anything of this kind before."

25 MAY 2006

# US offer to fight Naxals: CPM wants Chhattisgarh to say no

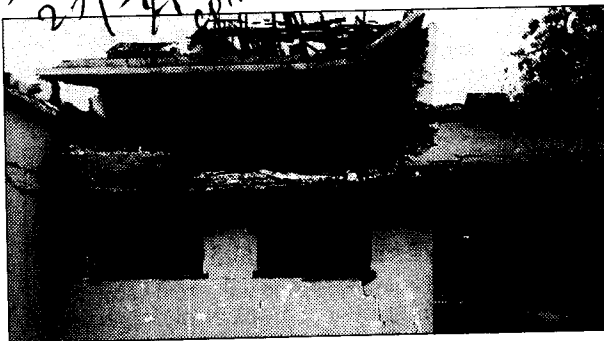
AGENCIES

NEW DELHI/RAIPUR, MAY 26

THE CPI(M) today expressed concern over Chhattisgarh government welcoming a US offer to assist in anti-Naxal operations and asked the Centre to warn the state government to desist from such a move.

Two American diplomats offered to help the state government remove thousands of mines planted by Naxals and train its police force to battle the insurgents during their Thursday visit, B K S Ray, senior state official for home affairs, said today.

Reacting to this offer the CPI(M) Politburo said in a statement: "The US has no business in involving itself in internal security and law and order issues. The attitude of the BJP state government is condemnable as no state government has the right to involve



A tourist bungalow damaged in a blast by Naxals at Kharagpur in Bihar on Thursday. PTI

foreign countries in internal security matters." The CPI(M) asked the Centre to immediately clarify the situation and ask the state government to desist from such activities.

"It should also convey to the US Embassy that such involvement in the politics and internal security matters of India is unacceptable," the party said.

A US Embassy spokesman denied the offer had been made, but said American officials had discussed law enforcement among other issues

during the trip.

David Kennedy said Washington was already coordinating with India in law enforcement and counter-terrorism. "All cooperation is coordinated at the federal level in New Delhi," he said.

The CPI(M) also condemned yesterday's terrorist attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir and said the state government and the administration "have been unable to take effective steps so far to check these attacks".

## 3 CRPF jawans injured

RAIPUR: Three CRPF personnel were injured in two separate Naxal-related incidents in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, police said on Friday.

"The Maoists on Friday fired from locally developed rocket launchers at the CRPF camp at Kurusnar in Narayanpur police district injuring two CRPF jawans," said Bastar Range IGP T J Longkumer. The stone splinters hit one constable and a cook when Maoists fired four rockets from the nearby jungle, Longkumer said.

In another incident, the Maoists and the CRPF engaged in a gun battle near Pawrol village of Bijapur police district on Thursday, during which CRPF jawan Kulwinder Singh sustained bullet injuries, he added. — PTI

It also asked the Centre to assist the Jammu and Kashmir government to help security forces identify and crackdown on the terror network.

27 MAY 2006

INDIAN EXPRESS



# Highway to fight Maoists

## 1,200-km road across 12 Orissa districts to combat Naxalites

**SOUMYAJIT Pattnaik**  
Bhubaneswar, May 30

THE CENTRE has agreed to provide funds for building a two-lane highway passing through 12 Naxal-affected districts of Orissa to facilitate operations against the Left-wing extremists. This 1,200-km road in Orissa will be part of the 2,215-km-long Vijaywada-Ranchi highway.

Works minister A.U. Singhdeo told Hindustan Times, "The Planning Commission - through the ministry of road transport and highways - has asked the state government to take up the work of the Orissa portion of the Vijaywada-Ranchi highway. The Centre will provide funds for this highway from the Additional Central Assistance and Inter-State Connectivity schemes. It will be a two-lane road with a width of 10 metres".

The highway in Orissa will pass through 12 Naxal-affected districts: Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Boudh, Sambalpur, Angul, Deogarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj.

The highway, according to sources, will provide "focussed targets for the security forces and facilitate anti-Naxal operations". It will also help the security forces carry out joint inter-state operations against the Left-wing extremists in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand. Besides, the highway will "improve transportation network and minimise journey time in Naxal-affected areas, integrate Adivasis into mainstream society and administration and lead to the improvement of industrial activity along its influence zone".



Map not scale

Graphics: PRASANTA DAS

The highway will help the administration counter Naxalites, who are capitalising on inaccessibility, poor infrastructure and a lack of communication facilities in the affected areas. The highway

will emerge as a North-South corridor, running mainly through the Naxal-affected tribal districts.

The highway will run parallel to the Kolkata-Chennai NH-5. It will help spur economic growth and

provide improved security, apart from protecting population centres and hubs, sources added. Part of the NH-221 inside Andhra Pradesh and part of the NH-32 and NH-33 inside Jharkhand would become part of this main arterial network, sources said.

In Orissa, Naxal groups currently operate in jungle terrain stretching across the state from the Eastern Ghats in the South to Serenda forest in the North. Since this road will come up in the Naxal heartland, construction of this road will pose a big security challenge to the Orissa government. A senior official said, "The engineers, contractors, technical staff and labourers will be provided adequate security during the construction phase to carry out the work without any fear".

There are several instances in the past couple of years when Naxal groups have raided the camps of construction companies building roads in Orissa's affected areas and even abducted site supervisors. Sometimes, even construction equipment has been set on fire.

### Two Maoists killed

Two suspected Maoists were gunned down and three others arrested in an encounter between security forces and the Maoists near the Andhra Pradesh-Orissa border on Tuesday. A joint team of Andhra and Orissa police was conducting a combing operation in the forests near Tekguda Colony in Kalimela police station area of Orissa's Malkangiri district when the Naxalites fired at the policemen. Two Naxalites were killed in retaliatory fire.

31 MAY 2006

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Naxal backlash: 15 abducted Judum members killed

Among victims, seven were special police officers; 35 hostages set free

ABHIRAM GHADYALPATIL  
RAIPUR | APRIL 29

FOUR days after police failed to trace villagers abducted by Naxalites, a search party today found the bodies of 13 of the 52 hostages, within hours of the Maoists releasing the remaining 35 tribals. The bodies were found in Manikonta village in Jagdalpur district, the same place where police had found bodies of two other hostages yesterday.

Of the tribals killed, seven were Special Police Officers (SPO) appointed by the state police as part of the Salva Judum strategy to counter the Naxalites, sources said. "Almost all bodies have multiple injuries. Most of them have been stabbed with sharp weapons. Since we have appointed some tribals as SPOs under Salva Judum, Nax-

## Take stern steps, Centre tells Chhattisgarh

NEW DELHI: Terming as "barbaric" the killing of 15 out of the 52 people abducted by Naxalites in a Chhattisgarh district on Tuesday, the Centre on Saturday asked the state government to deal "most sternly" with the perpetrators of the attack and intensify combing operations to nab them. "The Home Ministry has asked the state government to counter such inhuman and senseless acts of violence most sternly and to further intensify search and combing operations in the area to nab the Naxalites responsible for the brutal killing," a Home Ministry spokesman said.

—PTI

alites have been consistently targeting them," a senior police official who was part of the search operations said.

In an apparent attempt to target the security forces, the Maoists had placed pressure-bombs below the bodies of the 13 villagers. As police tried to remove the bodies, five explosions took place. However, no one was injured in the incident, as the police party was apprehensive of such a move and had initially dragged the bodies

with the help of ropes.

Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh and Leader of Opposition in the Chhattisgarh Assembly Mahendra Karma, who is leading the Salva Judum movement, have left for Manikonta.

It was on Tuesday that Naxalites of the Communist Party of India (Maoists) abducted 52 villagers who had left Dornapal relief camp in Jagdalpur for Manikonta to fetch foodgrains. Two of them were released the next

day but search parties sent by the police could not trace the whereabouts of the remaining hostages.

On Friday evening, villagers of Manikonta spotted two bodies and informed the police. This led the search team to launch an extensive hunt in the village in which they found 13 bodies.

All 52 abducted tribals were natives of Manikonta which is the heartland of Naxalite activity as well the Salva Judum counter-offensive. Leader of Opposition Karma told *The Sunday Express*: "This is an indication that Naxals are fast losing their credibility among the tribals and they have resorted to mindless violence... The Maoists think such reckless violence will force Salva Judum to stop but the movement will not stop at any cost," Karma said.

# Centre chalks out anti-Naxal blueprint

**RAJNISH Sharma**  
New Delhi, April 26

WITH CHHATTISGARH replacing Andhra Pradesh as the main centre of Naxalite activity in the country, the Union ministry of home affairs has been forced to have a fresh look at its strategy to deal with Naxalite violence in the state. An elaborate blueprint of a massive operation against the CPI (Maoist) cadres in Chhattisgarh was thrashed out at a two-hour meeting chaired by home secretary V.K. Duggal with KPS Gill, newly appointed security adviser to Chhattisgarh chief minister Ram Singh and senior officials from the MHA, besides senior state officials.

In an indication of the deteriorating situation in Chhattisgarh on account of increasing Naxalite activity, the state government officials, sources said, in fact, went on to compare the Naxalite situation in Chhattisgarh with militancy in Kashmir Valley. The MHA, however, assured a concerned state government that it had already decided to launch an extensive operation against Naxalites in the state.

The Centre will rush an estimated 60 companies of paramilitary forces, which

have been pressed into election duty in the four states. These forces will be rushed to Chhattisgarh immediately after the last phase of polling ends on May 8. Although, the CRPF will be pressed into service during the anti-Naxalite operation, the possibility of the BSF being used in the offensive has not been ruled out. BSF chief A.K. Mitra, too, attended Wednesday's meeting.

"The idea is to begin the operation in May and finish it before the monsoon sets in, since the forces can't carry out any operation in heavy rains in the dense jungles of Dantewada, which is the worst-affected region in Chhattisgarh", an official said.

Both Gill and Chhattisgarh police chief O.P. Rathore have been asked to examine the MHA's plan in detail and, if required, suggest changes within the next eight days. During the operation, the paramilitary forces will also be provided air cover by IAF helicopters.

Sources said intelligence inputs indicated that the reason for the sudden spurt in Naxalite violence was that CPI (Maoist) activists from Andhra Pradesh had crossed over in large numbers since the Greyhound commandos of Andhra Police launched a fresh offensive against them.

## The colour is Red

**Chhattisgarh takes over from Andhra Pradesh as the country's Naxal hotbed**



**130 & 39**  
villagers  
policemen

...killed in Naxal attacks in Chhattisgarh in 2005

## FROM BAD TO WORSE

■ Naxals attacks have shot up since June 2005 when people began supporting the Salwa Judum, a government-backed peace movement against the Naxals

■ CPI(Maoist) activists from Andhra crossed over in large numbers since the Greyhound commandos of the Andhra Police launched a fresh offensive against them.

## HITTING BACK

■ If the Reds are baying for blood, the Centre has an action plan ready:

■ 60 companies of paramilitary forces, on poll duty, will be rushed to the state after May 8

■ Though the CRPF will lead the operations, the BSF is likely to add to the force

■ Home ministry has agreed to help with additional forces and even air support

## OTHER PLANS

■ The Army will help Chhattisgarh set up a counter-terrorism school

■ Raise a special CRPF commando unit from the 30,000 personnel deployed in the 12 Naxal-affected states

## Maoists on rampage

### AGENCIES

Jamui, April 26

BANNED CPI (Maoist) rebels went on the rampage on Tuesday night, blasting a railway cabin in Bihar's Jamui district and railway tracks in adjoining Munger district, disrupting movement of trains for several hours.

Railway sources said CPI (Maoist) rebels, who have called a bandh in Jamui, Munger, Banka and Bhagalpur districts in protest against alleged police atrocities on their cadres, blasted the railway cabin at Narganjo Halt station in Bihar's Jamui district.

Sources said an unspecified number of Naxalites arrived at Narganjo Halt station cabin, under Asansol division of the Eastern Railway, chased away the staff and blasted the one-room cabin with dynamite, causing severe damage to the building and failure of the signalling system. Traffic was restored after about 10 hours. The

naxalites also blasted railway tracks at Dashrathpur station, in Munger district, around 3.30 am, leading to disruption of train services.

# 11 policemen killed in Chhattisgarh naxal attack ✓

## Home Ministry seeks report

988  
RAIPUR: In a major strike on Sunday, activists of the CPI (Maoist) killed 11 policemen, including an officer, in an attack on a police post in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

About 70 naxalites came to the Murkinar police outpost in a bus and started attacking the policemen. Eleven died on the spot, sources said.

### Weapons looted

The naxalites looted most of the weapons, including one LMG, three AK-47s, 15 .303 rifles, one mortar and one mortar launcher.

State Chief Secretary Ram Prakash Bagai said the victims belonged to the State armed police.

Among them were one section commander, two head constables, one constable and seven Special Police Officers.

Three SPOs and one constable were seriously wounded, the sources said, adding that police reinforcements reached the spot and search operations were on.

80-1  
174  
Director-General of Police Om Prakash Rathor said the police had also inflicted heavy casualties on the naxalites.

### Caught unawares

Although 22 policemen and 31 Special Police Force personnel were present at the outpost, about 550 km from the capital, they were caught unaware by the suddenness of the attack, the sources said. — PTI

### Constant touch

UNI reports from New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry has sought a report on the attack.

A Home Ministry spokesman said the Ministry was in constant touch with the State Government.

"Pursuit of culprits is on and the State Government has assured the Centre that all necessary action will be taken," the spokesman said.

The State, over the last three months, has witnessed the largest number of civilian casualties in naxal attacks.

APR 25 1975

THE HINDU

# Naxal bid to extend sway in south cause for concern

Emphasis on planning on the lines of the military

Vinay Kumar

**NEW DELHI:** Naxal groups have been attempting to increase their activity and influence in some parts of Karnataka, Kerala, Uttaranchal and Tamil Nadu, a concern voiced by the high-level Standing Committee of Chief Ministers of States hit by naxal-violence.

In the first quarter of this year, Chhattisgarh accounted for over 40 per cent of naxal violence and 65 per cent of the casualties — 172 incidents and 137 casualties. The high level of violence there was attributed to action by security forces and the ongoing anti-naxalite campaign "Salva Judum" in Dantewada district.

Thursday's meeting here, presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, also expressed concern that naxalite groups laid greater emphasis on planning on the lines of the military.

Increasing attacks on railway infrastructure and disruption of train services were said to be new trends. Another disturbing aspect, Union Home Minister

- **Increasing attacks on rail infrastructure**

- **Multiple attacks on police, security apparatus**

- **Affected States to launch joint operations**

Shivraj Patil said, related to simultaneous, multiple attacks, particularly on the police and the security apparatus as was seen in Gajapati in Orissa, Jehanabad in Bihar, Giridih in Jharkhand and in Dantewada district.

#### Strategic response

The Centre is likely to evolve a strategic and technical response to the naxalites' increasing resort to improvised explosive devices and landmine blasts for causing heavy casualties. As indicated by the Prime Minister, the affected States will soon launch joint operations. Sources said the police chiefs were asked to evolve a framework of the joint command for operations cutting across State boundaries.

The States were asked to reach a broad consensus to constitute three or four joint task forces under a single command and control to intensify intelligence operations.

As many as 25 battalions of Central paramilitary forces were deployed in the affected States on a long-term basis to supplement their efforts at responding to naxal violence and instilling a sense of security. As a special gesture, these forces were given free of cost for three years from July 1, 2004. This exercise involved an expenditure of Rs. 1,100 crore.

#### Menace in Haryana too

The naxal menace now extends to a dozen States, affecting 509 police stations. For the first time naxal activity has been recorded in two police stations in Haryana. The menace has spread to nearly 40 per cent of the country's geographical area with the affected population going up to 35 per cent. Areas in many States, which looked too obscure to fall for naxal influence, are today witnessing naxal activity.

Security and intelligence experts point out that naxal groups have been picking the Centre's interests such as targeting Central forces and an attack to hijack a train in Jharkhand. This is a worrisome scenario.

#### Regrouping, consolidation

After the CPI(Maoist) came into being in September 2004, naxalite groups are reported to be trying to woo other splinter groups.

They have consolidated their front organisations into a "Revolutionary Democratic Front" to intensify their mass contact programme.

Fresh recruitment of cadres is also reported and the naxalite groups sustain their fraternal and logistics links with Nepalese Maoists, though there are no strategic and operational ties as yet.

It has been noted that development activities are not undertaken in some naxal-affected areas mainly due to extortion and threats from the cadres. Even contractors are not taking up development projects there.

14 APR 2006

# 'Red Corridor' may spill over onto other states

**RAJNISH Sharma**  
New Delhi, April 13

The growing influence of CPN (Maoist) Naxals in Nepal may spill over to India, making Naxalism — which is currently restricted to 13 states in the country — a nationwide phenomenon. This was the concern expressed by at least two chief ministers — Nitish Kumar of Bihar and Raman Singh of Chhattisgarh — at the meeting of chief ministers of Naxal-dominated states, chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here on Thursday.

The issue of stepped-up violence of CPN (Maoist) in Nepal was discussed at length after it was raised by Nitish Kumar, who was of the view that the increased Naxal activity in Nepal would eventually "spill over" into India since the two countries shared an extremely porous border.

The Bihar chief minister, sources added, urged the Centre to initiate im-

mediate measures since the infiltration of Naxalite cadres from Nepal would not only create trouble for the states along the Indo-Nepalese border, but would have very serious ramifications and convert Naxalism into a country-wide menace. In fact, even the intelligence agencies have warned the government that the CPN (Maoist) cadres were planning major strikes in Nepal, following which they were keen to extend greater support to their associates in India. There are reports that CPN (Maoist) Naxals had already infiltrated into Bihar and Uttaranchal, where they were running training camps.

Sources said Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh, too, expressed concern over the increased Naxal activity in Nepal and demanded that deployment along the border should be enhanced. "In fact, Raman Singh al-

most stopped short of demanding that the Indo-Nepalese border be virtually sealed to check infiltration from Nepal", a senior official said. Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh have been the worst-affected by Naxal violence. Admitting that Nepalese Naxalites posed a serious threat to India's internal security, the government has agreed to revamp the deployment of paramilitary forces along the border. Home minister Shivraj Patil said,

"We're increasing the presence of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) along the border with Nepal. The Union home ministry, which, till now, had been hinting at "ideological links" between CPI (Maoist) activists in India and CPN (Maoist) cadres in Nepal, now admits that the two outfits have much stronger connections by way of providing training, arms and finances to each other.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the Naxalite problem as the biggest internal security challenge.

Speaking at the chief ministers' conference, Singh suggested the setting up of a unified command in the areas that are badly affected by Naxalite violence and a dedicated task force on the pattern of the Grey Hounds of Andhra Pradesh to deal with the problem. The Prime Minister also suggested a two-pronged strategy of effective police response and socio-economic development of the Naxalite-affected areas to be given high priority.

The PM also asked the state governments to consider undertaking joint operations with other states and adopt a proactive approach in dealing with the menace of Maoism without causing undue harassment to the common man. "Effective police response doesn't mean that we need to brutalise the Indian states", the PM remarked.



ARVIND YADAV/HT  
Maharashtra chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh at the meeting of chief ministers of six states in New Delhi, convened to address the Naxalite problem.

# No difference between naxalism, terrorism: Chhattisgarh Minister

“Naxals frustrated with ‘Salwa Judum’; anti-naxal movement not halted”

**BHOPAL:** Chhattisgarh Revenue and Culture Minister Brijmohan Agrawal on Tuesday pointed out that little difference has been left between naxal menace and terrorism.

“Though naxalism is traced to economic and social causes, it has been reduced to an activity much like terrorism aimed at spreading fear and terror,” Mr Agrawal, who was here on a day’s visit, told reporters.

He said the recent spurt in violence targeting innocent people by naxals, who were frustrated with spontaneous anti-naxal ‘Salwa Judum’ movement, proved that there was no difference between terrorism and naxalism. Mr Agrawal said the movement has not been halted, as no spontaneous movement ever does. He said the naxal problem was spread across 16 States and could be dealt with

Centre’s initiative by developing a coordinated strategy.

The Minister said police faced difficulties in tackling naxals due to lack of training in guerilla and jungle warfare.

However, steps were being taken to deal with the problem and an institution -- third of its kind in the country -- has come up in Kanker district in Chhattisgarh to impart training in guerilla and jungle warfare.

He denied impact on flow of visitors at tourist spots due to naxal activities and added that the Chhattisgarh Government will shortly enter into tourism exchange-related agreements with Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Orissa governments.

Communist Party of India (Maoist), strongly opposed to setting up of mega projects, fa-

the vast natural resources of the region as its benefits would not percolate down to the locals.

## Maoists oppose mega projects

“It’s not development. It is an express highway to speed up exploitation,” said Kosa, who is also the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee Secretary.

Claiming that the mining operations of the NMDC in Bailadila had only resulted in the rich iron ore from the region being exported to Japan for the last many years, he said, “What they have left for the local people are just air and water pollution.”

Kosa said the people of Bastar have realised that these projects were not in their long-term interests. These major companies, which use modern technology, would not be in a position to give

employment to local people while the domestic small units would be able to generate more employment opportunities as they required more manpower, he argued.

Kosa said the poor living in the remote villages and forests of Bastar region require basic amenities like drinking water, health and education facilities and land for cultivation.

“There are several hundred schools and health centres in the villages where teachers and doctors do not report for duty but collect their salaries even without visiting their place of posting,” the Maoist leader said.

“If the Government wants development, it should first address these issues,” he said and promised to extend all possible help to teachers and health workers. --UNI

- **‘Lack of training in guerilla, jungle warfare for police’**

- **‘No impact on flow of tourists’**

- **Mega units an express highway to speed up exploitation: Maoist leader**

voured small industrial units which will not pose any threat to resources in tribal Bastar region, a top Naxal leader said in Abujhmarh, Chhattisgarh on Tuesday.

Speaking at a formal ‘press meet’, CPI (Maoist) Central Committee member Kosa said the present development model of encouraging mega industrial units would only help siphon off

# Naxals take hi-tech war far and wide

By Vishwa Mohan & Subodh Ghildiyal/TNN

**New Delhi:** As if a hostile neighbourhood and long unresolved borders with Pakistan and China were not enough, India is under siege from within. Heavily-armed Naxalites pose an internal security nightmare with well-trained guerrillas bleeding the country from Uttaranchal in the north to Kerala in the south.

Gone are the days when Naxalites had to depend on the traditional bow and arrow and country-made arms while taking on the might of state agencies. They are now well-equipped to fight security forces and strike at will anywhere in as many as 170 districts across 14 states using sophisticated weapons like INSAS, AK-47 and SLR rifles, and explosives ranging from locally available Gelatine sticks to smuggled RDX.

Figures available with the home ministry clearly suggest that the Maoists have a strength of nearly 10,000 guerrillas with over 20,000 modern weapons, looted from security agencies over the years. Besides, they have unestimated numbers of country-made arms procured mainly from Munger in Bihar and Gorakhpur and Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.

An official explained that the number of modern weapons, which also include double-barrel and single-barrel guns besides small pistols of different bores, could be more as the existing figure carries only those details forwarded to the Centre by nine Naxal-affected states and CRPF—the main Central force deployed for anti-Naxalite operations in these areas.

Though the government reports do not figure out the extremists' external linkages, they point to logistic links with the North-East insurgent groups, mainly Ulfa, explaining availability of smuggled RDX to Maoists.

Contrary to the Union home ministry's public posturing, fear in new areas, particularly Uttaranchal, is genuine. A concerned administration has mounted strict vigil on the Left-wing organisations which have mushroomed in a state, which has old Left links. Their mounting political-cultural

functions are being seen with skepticism. With three districts, Pithoragarh, Udham Singh Nagar and Champawat, sharing a border with Nepal, an unhindered influx is seen as a potential time-bomb.

Fear over the spread of Naxalism in the hill state emanates from its difficult and sparsely populated terrain. While governance has eluded the villagers, it is virtually impossible to keep a tab on 'Maoist workers' active in villages to win over people through social work. The visible failure of governance, officials say, is being tapped to what could be a dangerous effect.

**Gone are the days when Naxalites had to depend on the traditional bow and arrow and country-made arms while taking on the might of state agencies. They are now well-equipped to fight security forces and strike at will anywhere in as many as 170 districts across 14 states using sophisticated weapons**

Having mounted a vigil on the possible Naxal masterminds, the state, in a fresh directive, has decided to dry the Naxal support base by seeking to revive people's confidence in governance. District magistrates and SPs have been asked to visit villages once a month along with officials of other departments and discuss problems faced by people. Special attention is being paid to giving bank loans. "Government has to become visible," said an official.

The expansion of Naxal influence in new areas, beyond the traditional 'red corridor' of the compact revolutionary zone (CRZ), has also been attributed to the phenomenal growth in their armed cadres which has increased from 7,200 in 2004 to nearly 10,000 by March this year. Naxalites are going from strength to strength and recent incidents bear testimony to this fact. They not only looted arms and ammunition after attacking police stations in Hazaribagh,

Latehar and Chatra in Jharkhand but also attacked the heavily-guarded National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) store in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh and looted 50 tonnes of explosives, mainly Gelatine, last month.

Earlier in November last year, over 1,000 armed extremists attacked Jehanabad jail and freed 250 of their cadres after forcing the Bihar police to run for cover.

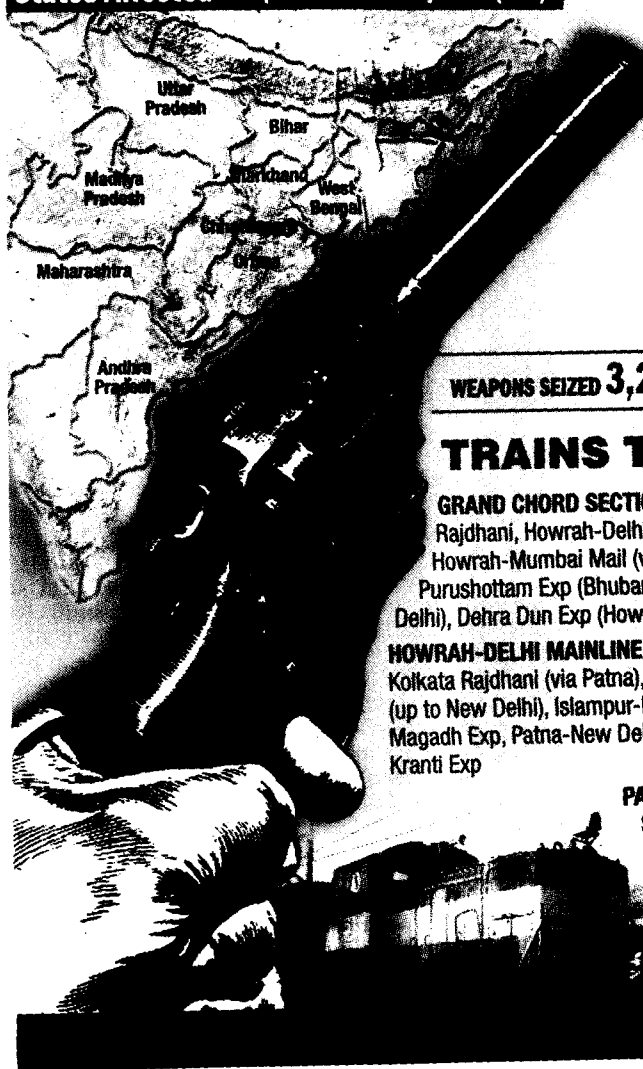
Similarly, the Orissa police too could not match the might of the armed Naxalites in Ramagiri Udaigiri in Gajapati district last month when nearly 500 of them attacked the sub-jail and freed 40 of their cadres, besides looting arms and ammunition.

## Red Reign

The Maoist menace is threatening to get out of control. Will the states get their act together?

ARMED NAXALITES: **10,000**  
OVERGROUND CADRES: **45,000**  
EXCLUDING ARMED CADRES

States Affected Compact Revolutionary Zone (CRZ)



### ARMOURY

- INSAS, SLR and AK-47 rifles, single and double-barrel guns; small arms of different bores; country-made weapons (all looted from different state police and Central forces)
- Country-made weapons are mainly procured from Munger in Bihar and Gorakhpur and Ghazipur in UP
- Estimated number of modern weapons possessed by them — 20,000 (security agencies arrived at the figure on the basis of what they lost during Naxal raids in the past 15 years)
- Explosives used by Naxals — gelatine sticks and RDX
- For IED blasts, Naxals use steel milk cans, steel pipes, plastic buckets, drums, tubelight frames and mud pots as containers

WEAPONS SEIZED **3,238** AMMUNITION SEIZED **41,678** (till March 25, 2006)

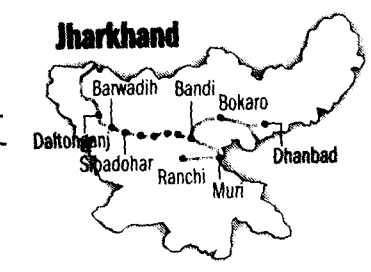
### TRAINS TARGETED BY MAOISTS

**GRAND CHORD SECTION:** Kolkata Rajdhani, Howrah-Delhi Kalka Mail, Howrah-Mumbai Mail (via Gaya), Purushottam Exp (Bhubaneswar-New Delhi), Dehra Dun Exp (Howrah-Dehra Dun)

**HOWRAH-DELHI MAINLINE (VIA PATNA):** Kolkata Rajdhani (via Patna), Patna Rajdhani (up to New Delhi), Islampur-New Delhi, Magadh Exp, Patna-New Delhi Sampurna Kranti Exp



**PATNA-GAYA SECTION:** Patna-Dhanbad Ganga-Damodar Exp, Palamu Exp (Patna-Daltonganj)





washingtonpost.com

## India's Ragtag Band of Maoists Takes Root Among Rural Poor

By John Lancaster  
Washington Post Foreign Service  
Saturday, May 13, 2006; A01

BASTAR FOREST, India -- He's 30 years old, speaks English and is conversant in the language of e-mail and the Internet. Friendly and self-confident, he could be a manager in a call center, or perhaps a software engineer on one of India's gleaming high-tech campuses. But "Comrade M," as he asks to be called, prefers a different line of work: waging war on the Indian state.

Age to print



Armed with a battered Lee-Enfield rifle that he laughingly describes as "senior to me," the university graduate in an olive-drab uniform with a red star on the breast was one of about 30 Maoist guerrillas encountered recently in this remote forest in east-central India.

Drawing recruits and support from indigenous tribespeople known as *adivasis*, the ragtag band of young men and women is part of a larger revolutionary movement whose audacious, if anachronistic, goal is to replace India's parliamentary democracy with a communist system straight out of Chairman Mao Zedong's Little Red Book.

Once dismissed as little more than an irritant, the Maoist movement is gaining ground in this country of more than 1 billion people, feeding off anti-government hostility in some rural areas and highlighting the uneven nature of India's unprecedented economic boom. Analysts say the movement consists of about 10,000 regular fighters, with several hundred thousand supporters. The rebels are known as Naxalites, after the eastern town of Naxalbari where the movement began in 1967.

During the recent encounter with the rebels in the state of Chhattisgarh, a visitor witnessed a rally of at least 2,000 tribal supporters, many armed with axes and bows and arrows, gathered next to a concrete plinth topped with a hammer and sickle. The rally took place in a stand of tall trees about six hours' walk from the nearest paved road.

The Maoist commander in the area, who goes by the name Kosa, said the movement had not been deterred by the triumph of capitalism in China and other formerly communist countries.

"When a scientist doesn't get the desired results from an experiment, he doesn't just abandon the experiment," he said. "Every movement has its ups and downs. There are defeats as well as victories. We should learn from the failure of Maoism in China and move ahead."

Following a long period of relative quiet, the Naxalites in the past several years have expanded their presence to 13 of India's 28 states, according to official estimates, spurring talk of a "red corridor" extending from Nepal, which is battling a Maoist insurgency of its own, down through the wooded heartland of central and southern India. The Maoist rebels in India and Nepal have acknowledged ideological ties, and security officials suspect logistical collaboration as well.

Equipped with homemade bombs and rifles looted from police stations, the Indian rebels have staged increasingly bold attacks, such as seizing a passenger train for 12 hours in the eastern state of Jharkhand in March. They function in some remote districts as a parallel government, complete with makeshift courts and police. Their violent tactics have turned parts of Chhattisgarh, among other states, into virtual no-go areas for the government, thwarting plans for corporate mining operations in forests that many adivasis regard as their own.

Last month, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the Naxalite movement as "the single biggest internal security challenge ever faced by our country" -- no small claim in a nation with many insurgencies, including the long-running Islamic rebellion in Kashmir.

Singh said the rebels draw strength from "deprived and alienated sections of the population" and "are trying to establish 'liberation zones' in core areas where they are dispensing, or claiming to be dispensing, basic state functions." He called for redoubled efforts to promote development and better governance, as well as better intelligence-sharing among Naxalite-afflicted states and improved training and equipment for police and paramilitary forces.

The Naxalites are proliferating despite the rapid growth of affluence in the country. Driven by industries such as software and outsourcing, the boom has helped expand the middle class, its aspirations reflected in such entertainment fare as "Who Wants to Be a *Crorepati*?" -- India's version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" The streets of major cities are clogged with new cars, and developers are gobbling up surrounding fields for shopping malls and housing developments.

But the boom has bypassed much of rural India, where more than 70 percent of the country's 1.1 billion people live. Though some rural areas, such as the fertile agricultural states of Punjab and Haryana, are doing reasonably well, others -- especially in the central and eastern parts of the country -- are beset by water shortages, poverty and caste discrimination.

Against that backdrop, the death toll from Naxalite violence has jumped from 483 in 2002 to 669 last year, according to the Home Affairs Ministry.

In Chhattisgarh, the Naxalite movement has found abundant recruits among adivasis angered by police harassment, dismal or nonexistent government services and collusion between corrupt officials and criminals engaged in illegal logging. According to government data, 165 people died in Naxalite-related violence last year, and the bloodletting has continued: Last month, Naxalite rebels abducted 50 members of a pro-government militia called the Salwa Judum, then murdered 13 of them by slitting their throats, police said.

"They're absolutely ruthless killers," a senior Chhattisgarh security official, B.K.S. Roy, said by telephone from the state capital, Raipur. "I've never seen this kind of brutality in my life before, the way they strike and kill Salwa Judum members. They're hacked to death, heads severed from bodies."

Roy said the Naxalite movement's numbers were growing in Chhattisgarh, where the state last year set up a school to train police in jungle warfare and counterinsurgency tactics. "A thousand commandos are already ready for operations," Roy said. "We want a big striking force."

Human rights monitors have also criticized the Naxalites' methods, accusing them of forcible recruitment, extortion and the abduction and killing of "class enemies" and villagers suspected of colluding with the state. At the same time, they have denounced members of the Salwa Judum, which means "Peace Initiative," as vigilantes who rape, torture and kill villagers thought to be sympathetic to

the rebels.

Contacted through intermediaries, the Naxalites agreed to meet with a foreign reporter and several Indian journalists in the heavily forested Bastar district, where the rebels maintain a large presence. Youthful Naxalite supporters met the visitors at a prearranged point and guided them into the woods.

Winding through dry, scraggly forests, the route occasionally passed clusters of grass-roofed huts, many with crude animal pens fashioned from tree branches. The hike eventually ended in the rebels' camp, which was littered with weapons, sleeping rolls and solar panels for charging batteries. Fighters greeted their guests with a handshake and a "red salute" -- a clenched fist raised to the temple.

They were under the command of Comrade Kosa, a swashbuckling figure with a warm, if wary, manner and a folding-stock Kalashnikov assault rifle. Members of the group asked to be identified only by first names.

Kosa, 48, was the only fighter in civilian dress, which he accented with a Calvin Klein baseball cap adorned with a red metal star. He said he had been with the movement since 1977, when he dropped out of a technical institute where he had been studying in the neighboring state of Andhra Pradesh. He has been fighting in Chhattisgarh for 26 years, he said, and now commands a force of about 700 guerrillas, nearly half of them women, supported by several thousand tribal militiamen.

Kosa holds a political title, secretary of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, a state-level body that answers to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), the Naxalites' banned political affiliate.

In honor of their guests, the rebels had erected a small bamboo enclosure decorated with hand-painted slogans such as "Down With Salwa Judum" and "Stop Corrupting Adivasi Culture to Make it Market Culture Under the Guise of Tourism." Uniformed cadres sang a song that included the line "America and Japan are big exploiters of this country."

Despite their isolation in the woods, Kosa and his aides keep abreast of current events by listening to shortwave radio broadcasts. Sanjeev, 35, a university dropout who has been with the movement since 1987, asked reporters for advice on how to "upload" Naxalite propaganda onto the Internet, to which he said he had occasional access. The visitors were provided with CDs purporting to contain evidence of Salwa Judum atrocities.

The rank and file was made up mostly of adivasis, several of whom said they joined the movement out of anger toward local authorities.

"I've never seen a hospital in any of these villages," said Nirmala, a slender, short-haired woman in her twenties who joined the movement four years ago and now serves as one of Kosa's bodyguards. "There are schools, but there are no teachers. The government says the adivasis, my people, have no rights over the forests."

Another adivasi rebel, Neela, said she was radicalized at the age of 12, when police arrested her father for illegally clearing a small patch of land and imprisoned him for three years.

A broad-faced woman with a ready smile, the 25-year-old Naxalite said she spoke only her local tribal dialect when she joined the movement a decade ago. Fellow cadres taught her how to read and speak Hindi, she said, and eventually she joined the movement's military wing. A member of a nine-person

squad who carries a walkie-talkie and a single-shot rifle, Neela said proudly that she had taken part in 10 military operations, including one in which a mine was detonated beneath a vehicle carrying paramilitary troops. Four of them died, she said.

"They come into villages, beat up men, rape women," she said of the paramilitaries. "I don't feel bad at all about killing them."

Comrade M, the university graduate and a squad leader, said the rebels typically laid ambushes for "our friends in khaki uniform" using mines triggered by camera-flash devices.

Military operations aside, the Naxalite rebels also engage in small-scale development projects, such as digging wells and small reservoirs and training villagers in rudimentary health care, according to Kosa and his aides. They maintain an active political and propaganda wing, publishing a newsletter and holding rallies.

At the massive forest gathering, women from a Naxalite cultural troupe swayed and sang. Then Kosa and several other speakers addressed the crowd over a makeshift public address system powered by car batteries. Watching from the sidelines, Neela, the Naxalite foot soldier, said she had "complete confidence" that the revolution would one day succeed.

"I don't know about a guaranteed time frame," she said, "but I know it will happen."

*Special correspondent Muneeza Naqvi contributed to this report.*

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## জহানাবাদে স্টেশন দখল করল নকশাল

■ দলীয় নেতাদের গ্রেফতারের প্রতিবাদে রাতের অন্ধকারে স্টেশন দখল করল বিহারের নকশাল জঙ্গিরা। স্টেশনমাস্টারকে হুমকি দিয়ে সেখান থেকে তাড়িয়ে দেয় তারা। ঘটনাস্থল জহানাবাদের কাছে পটনা-গয়া লাইনে নদৌল স্টেশন। পরে অবশ্য পুলিশ দাবি করে, খবর পাওয়ামাত্র পটনা থেকে তাদের স্পেশাল টাস্ক ফোর্স নদৌলে যায়। শেষ পর্যন্ত রাতেই নকশালদের হটিয়ে স্টেশনটিকে দখলমুক্ত করা গিয়েছে।

বিকালে পটনার কাছে কঙ্করবাগ এলাকা থেকে স্পেশাল টাস্ক ফোর্স গ্রেফতার করে প্রথম সারির দুই নকশাল নেতা বৃন্দ সিংহ এবং গুড্ডু শর্মা। গুড্ডু জহানাবাদ জেল-ভাঙা অভিযানের পান্ডা। ধৃত নেতাদের 'সাজানো সংঘর্ষে' পুলিশ হত্যা করবে, এই আশঙ্কাতেই নকশালেরা স্টেশন দখল করে বলে একটি সূত্রের খবর। স্টেশনমাস্টারের কথায়, এই অভিযানে এসেছিল অস্ত্রত আট জন সশস্ত্র জঙ্গি। স্টেশন দখলের জেরে পটনা-গয়া লাইনে ট্রেন চলাচলে বিঘ্ন ঘটে। আটকে পড়ে বেশ কিছু ট্রেন। এদের মধ্যে গঙ্গা পটনায় আটকে থাকা দামোদর-খানবাদ এক্সপ্রেস, জহানাবাদে আটকে থাকা গয়া-পটনা প্যাসেঞ্জার অন্যতম। তবে পুলিশ ও রেল সূত্রে জানানো হয়, ট্রেন চলাচলও দ্রুত স্বাভাবিক করার চেষ্টা চলেছে।

02 APR 2006

ANADABAZAR - HIRIKA

# Naxalite violence under control, says Duggal

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(Mojan)  
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## Local resistance groups to be trained in self-defence

Vinay Kumar

**NEW DELHI:** The Government on Friday admitted that naxalite violence had been on the rise this year in Chhattisgarh, but claimed that the situation in 12 other naxal-affected States was by and large under control.

Briefing newsmen after chairing a day-long meeting of the Coordination Centre, Union Home Secretary V.K. Duggal, however, said the situation could worsen if steps were not taken on the socio-economic and security fronts.

### More civilian casualties

He said violent incidents in the first quarter of this year had gone down by 18 per cent. Compared to 475 incidents last year, there were only 391 incidents this year, though the number of casualties had gone up to 157, against 114. "The number of security personnel killed by March 30 this year is 47 as against 45 of last year's period. There have been more civilian casualties, the intensity was also higher," he said.

If Chhattisgarh were to be excluded, the number of incidents

- **Violent incidents in first quarter this year down by 18 per cent**

- **Chhattisgarh has borne brunt of naxalite attacks this year**

- **States asked to fill police vacancies**

- **Security Related Expenditure scheme to be extended**

and casualties would come down at least by 50 per cent. In Chhattisgarh, which bore the brunt of naxalite attacks in the first quarter of this year, as many as 162 incidents were reported against 97 of last year. "In this year's incidents 105 casualties took place, including 27 of security personnel. Last year, during the same period, three civilians and six security personnel were killed," he said. In Chhattisgarh, naxalites vent their ire on 'Salwa Judum' campaign activists. Mr. Duggal said local resistance groups would be trained in self-defence

and given adequate police protection. The role of such groups in containing naxal violence was discussed at length during the meeting. There was a consensus that they were useful. "However, care needs to be taken to ensure that such local resistance is encouraged in an area effectively dominated by security forces so that people there are not rendered susceptible to naxalite attacks," he added.

### Four-pronged strategy

The meeting, attended by police chiefs and Chief Secretaries of 13 affected States and a number of Central Ministries, also discussed the recent naxal attacks on Railway property, including the detention of a passenger train in Latehar in Jharkhand on March 13. A four-pronged strategy was discussed to strengthen the Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police, State police and intelligence agencies.

To a query on the measures to strengthen police forces, Mr. Duggal said that as the first step all States have been asked to fill up existing vacancies which often

run into a few thousand. Bihar was making efforts to fill 17,000 vacancies, Jharkhand recently recruited 11,000 constables and still 1,000 vacancies remain, while Andhra Pradesh had about 6,000 vacancies.

### 'Expedite land reforms'

The meeting decided to extend the scheme of Security Related Expenditure (SRE) for naxal areas by another five years in which Rs. 250 crore has been earmarked. The States were also asked to speed up implementation of land reforms. Another area of concern was streamlining delivery mechanisms for implementation of schemes such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee, Bharat Nirman, Backward Districts Initiative and Prime Minister Rural Roads Scheme.

### Manmohan to address

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil are scheduled to address the meeting of the Standing Committee of Chief Ministers to control naxal menace here on April 13.

01 APR 2006

# Maoist-wary USA & UK warn citizens off Bengal, 4 more states

**Pranesh Sarkar**  
in Kolkata

March 31. — The British High Commission in India and the US Department of State have cautioned citizens of their countries visiting India to be careful of violence in Maoist-hit areas of five states, including West Bengal.

The warnings appear in travel advisories on the web sites of the US State Department and the British High Commission. It is clear from the sites that although concerned state governments have repeatedly tried to project Maoists as a fringe group

that has little effect, their activities are gradually drawing international attention.

The web site of the British High Commission in India, [www.ukindia.com](http://www.ukindia.com), last updated on 21 March, spells out a guide for British visitors to India. The site clearly mentions that "violent Left-wing extremist groups are active in the rural areas of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Orissa".

The site also states: "Since February 2006, Maoist rebels have carried out several attacks in Chhattisgarh, resulting in fatalities. These attacks, which are becoming more frequent, are believed to be connected to the forthcoming local election scheduled to take place between 17 April and 8



be connected to the forthcoming local election scheduled to take place between 17 April and 8

May 2006." Incidentally, West Bengal is the only state among the five named which will be going to the polls during the period specified.

Not only Maoists, the recent problems that surfaced on the India-Bangladesh border, a large portion of which falls in West Bengal, have also figured in the warning list. "Most visits to eastern India are trouble-free but you should be aware of the risk of violent crime in the rural areas of Bihar and Jharkhand. There have also been occasional skirmishes on the India-Bangladesh border and

civilians have been killed in the crossfire. Travellers to the North-east should check for updates to Travel Advice and keep themselves up to date on developments in the region," reads the site.

Not only the British High Commission in India, the US Department of State also warned its citizens who wish to travel India about Naxalite activities in the east, central and southern India, including West Bengal. The site, <http://travel.state.gov>, reads that Left-wing Maoist extremist groups called "Naxalites" are

active in the region and US citizens should exercise appropriate caution. The Naxalites have a long history of conflict with state and national authorities, including attacks on police and government officials, the web site states. The Naxalites have not specifically targeted US citizens, but have attacked symbolic targets that have included American companies. Groups claiming to be Naxalites have blackmailed American organisations, and in one instance a small bomb that exploded at an American corporation's production

site was thought to have been part of an extortion plot, the site reads.

The site also reads that two Naxalite groups, the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI), and the People's War Group (PWG) were added to the list of "Other Terrorist Organisations" in the US State Department publication, *Patterns of Global Terrorism 2003*. They merged in October 2004 into one organisation, under one leadership, and regional affiliates are active in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and West Bengal.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

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## Beyond law and order

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9 APRIL  
11 2006

**U**nion Home Minister Shivraj Patil has virtually sprung a surprise by tabling in Parliament a policy note on dealing with the naxalite problem. It is unfortunate that there has been no discussion or consultation with the affected States, not to speak of a consensus. Of course, Mr. Patil and his Ministry must be in constant touch with the naxalite-affected States, and the Home Secretary chairs a special cell and periodically meets the State Directors General of Police. At a time when the Chief Ministers of the "naxalite corridor" States extending from Andhra Pradesh to West Bengal have been calling for a national policy to deal with the problem, Mr. Patil has stopped with placing a document on the table of the House. There is nothing new in the 14-point policy, except a statement that there will be no peace talks with naxalite groups unless they agree to give up violence. Land reforms have been identified as a priority area and political parties advised to strengthen their base and activities in the "infested areas." The policy acquires significance in the context of the surge in violence in recent weeks in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Not only was a passenger train "hijacked" by a naxalite group, but the attack on people's movements such as the Salwa Judum in Chhattisgarh, has unnerved even the tribal population, whose cause the extremists are supposed to espouse.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's bold initiative of having a dialogue with representatives of the Maoist groups, showed up the extremist outfits as being not really serious about addressing substantive issues. Moreover, the neighbouring States started complaining that naxalite activities in their areas were on the rise. Eventually, the talks broke down and the Maoists were back in business with greater vigour. The storming of a prison in Bihar to release detained naxalites, the attack on the Salwa Judum activities, and the most recent landmine explosion that killed some policemen have all had a chilling effect on public and administrative morale. It is time that not only the Centre but also the State Governments put in place a coordinated plan to deal with the problem. Protection of innocent people and public property that ought to get paramount importance has been pushed down in the scale of priorities by, among other things, provision of security to VIPs. The task of bringing about much better coordination and cooperation among the States brooks no delay, especially in areas such as sharing of intelligence and close monitoring of the borders. The State police must break away from their law and order mindset and adopt a positive and friendly approach so as to win the confidence of those sections of the population that remain alienated from the administration and provide a support base for the naxalites. Of course, permanent peace requires bringing the Maoists to the negotiating table and encouraging them to join the political mainstream.

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THE HINDU



# Code Red: Naxals the biggest threat

Rural hinterland may be overrun



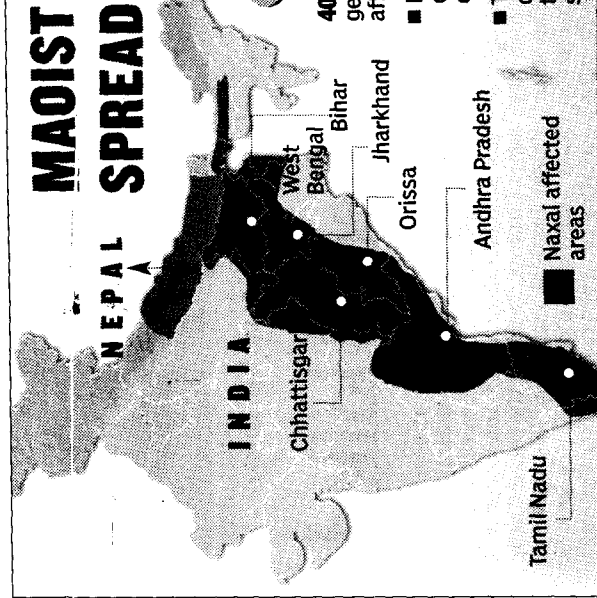
**Ajit K. Doyal, IC**  
Former Director,  
Intelligence Bureau

even greater threat to India than militancy in Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast. What makes it so?

If we assume a high intensity militancy erupting in J&K, Punjab and all the states of Northeast simultaneously the total area affected would be 11.09 per cent of the country's geographical area and 4.51 per cent of its population. Life in the rest of the country would largely remain normal. In contrast, the LWE today already affects nearly 40 per cent of the country's geographical area and 35 per cent of its population. This is nearly four times the combined area of J&K, the Northeast and Punjab, and eight times the population. Unless some master strategic response is formulated and executed, the nation may find most of its rural hinterland overrun by an avalanche

### Strategy of encirclement

The Maoists strategise that having entrenched themselves in the rural India they would be able to choke the urban is-



### MAOIST SPREAD

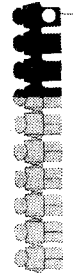
If we assume a high intensity militancy erupting in J&K, Punjab and all the states of Northeast simultaneously the total area affected would be 11.09 per cent of the country's geographical area and 4.51 per cent of its population. Left-wing extremism already affects an area four times bigger, with eight times the population.



40% of the country's geographical area is affected by some form of Left-wing extremism

In the last four years there has been an accretion of over 40% in LWE cadre strength from estimated 5,000 in 2001 to over 7,500 in 2005.

Till 2001, more than 60% of their weapons were country-made guns which have now been substituted by AK series of rifles, grenade launchers, sten guns, carbines, etc.



35% of India's population is affected by some form of Left-wing extremism

In 2004, 1,533 incidents of Naxal violence resulted in 566 deaths

In 2001, 1,208 incidents of Naxal violence resulted in 564 deaths

Graphic: SANJAY KAPOOR

There are unconfirmed reports of their having received training assistance from LTTE, particularly in respect of fabrication of IEDs. While in 2001, 48 training camps were being run by them, the number increased to over 78 in 2005. As part of their structural re-organisation, the earlier, loosely constituted armed groups, with a nebulous command and control system, are being substituted by companies and platoons. The People's Liberation Guerrilla Army, of CPI (Maoist) is being structured on the model of People's Guerrilla Army of the PWC. Their acquisition of new weapons with qualitative upgradation is a cause for concern. Till 2001, more than 60 per cent of their weapons were country-made guns which have now been substituted by AK series of rifles, grenade launchers, Sten guns and carbines.

## Six Naxalites, CRPF jawan die as Maoist mayhem continues

PRESS Trust of India  
Raipur, March 26

NAXALITE VIOLENCE continued unabated in Chhattisgarh on Sunday as six Naxalites and a special police officer (SPO) were killed and a Maoist hideout busted after a gunbattle between Naxalites and police in Bijapur district. In another incident, a CRPF jawan was killed and another injured when a pressure bomb went off near Godwinapal, 350 km from here, in Narayanpur district. The incident happened when a CRPF party was engaged in clearing a road that was blocked by the Naxalites by uprooted trees.

Also on Sunday, the Chhattisgarh government transferred the Pakhanjur police station house officer, a sub-inspector and some constables for not reaching the spot where 13 traders were killed and four injured in a landmine explosion detonated by Maoists on Saturday.

Armed Naxalites raided Telipenta village, about 550 km from here, under Kutur police station and killed an SPO and seriously injured a former sarpanch among others, besides setting some houses afire.

When a police party was proceeding towards the spot, they were confronted by Naxalites and both were locked in a gunbattle in which six Maoists were killed, police said.

In the incident near Godwinapal, two CRPF jawans came in contact with the pressure bomb. They were rushed to the nearby hospital, where one of them succumbed to injuries and another was shifted here for further treatment, police said.

### Bid to blow up police station foiled

In Medininagar, Jharkhand, police foiled a Naxalite bid to blow up a police station in Garwah by arresting a self-styled sub-zonal commander of CPI (Maoist), along with 49 detonators in Palamu district on Sunday.

standings with the extremists for electoral gains.

While strategic threats posed by the LWE to Indian polity, Constitution and economic interests are important, the concerns at the security level are immediate and pressing. In the last four years, there has been an accretion of over 40 per cent in its cadre strength from an estimated 5,000 in 2001 to over 7,500 in 2005. In the last year alone, over 1,000 new cadres joined the Naxalite movement.

### Politicians, their allies

Only the political parties have an antidote to outdo the Left extremists in this game by accessing the people, providing them leadership in fighting injustice, real or imaginary, though demagogically acceptable means. Unfortunately, the divisive politics of the country are more a cause than the cure of the problem. Further, quite often political parties arrive at secret un-

derstandings with the extremists for electoral gains.

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# Pre-empting Naxals

9/11/11  
M...  
27/11  
Welcome CRPF move

The state governments will have reservations, but the Central Reserve Police Force's establishing its own intelligence apparatus along the Naxal corridor is to be appreciated. For this unit could plug the critical gap between the national intelligence agencies (pre-occupied with political snooping) and those of the state forces which, traditionally, are reluctant to share their inputs. Since the CRPF has 29 of its battalions committed to anti-Naxal operations across eight states it is imperative that intelligence gathering is at the core of a "grid" it develops. Theoretically the CRPF would be operating as an adjunct to the state forces, the reality is that it has to play the lead role and cannot be dependent on the local police for the information necessary to "carry the fight" to the adversary. If its role is to be pro-active (as it should be) then it must have the means to plan beyond state boundaries and acquire inputs vital to the formulation of comprehensive plans.

An ideal situation would have the state police forces coordinating their action, carrying out their tasks with unwavering determination and the Central outfit providing the additional muscle. Ground realities, alas, are from ideal hence the CRPF has no option but to assume the pivotal position. It is so obvious that, as in the north-east, the state governments lack the political will to direct their police to go whole hog. That actually causes lower and middle level policemen to allow the Naxals' writ to run, and since the latter make pretence to emulate Robin Hood, even the cops turn sympathetic. All that makes things so much more difficult for the CRPF since it is deprived of the "ear to the ground". It is to be hoped that once its own system is in place its response will prove effective. The Naxal threat is turning increasingly serious, but somehow no grand strategy to deal with it has emerged. The strategy, obviously, will involve much more than a "military" response, yet the Centre cannot sit back and do nothing more than provide special funds for the state police, it must ensure a qualitative upgrade.

2/11/11  
THE STATESMAN

26 MAR 2006

# Naxals kill 13 villagers in Chhattisgarh

**JAGDALPUR:** In stepped-up violence, 13 villagers were killed and four injured on Friday when CPI (Maoist) naxalites triggered a landmine at Godha village, about 12 km from Pakhanjur, in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh.

Police sources said the victims, mostly local traders, were returning to Pakhanjur from a weekly market when the naxalites blew up their jeep.

The attack comes nearly a

month after an incident where two trucks carrying tribals were ambushed by the ultras in Dantewada district killing 26 villagers and injuring over 50 others.

Pradeep Gupta, District Superintendent of Police, Kanker, said the bodies of the victims were lying scattered at the blast site and three seriously injured had been referred to the medical college hospital in Raipur.

M.W. Ansari, Inspector-Gen-

eral of Police, Bastar range, told UNI that the blast seemed to be aimed at terrorising villagers to ensure that the anti-naxal campaign, "Salwa Judum," now focused in Dantewada district, did not spread to other areas of Bastar region.

Mr. Ansari said paramilitary forces had been sent to carry out combing operations in the nearby forests. State Home Minister Ramvichar Netam visited the

spot and announced Rs. 2 lakh ex-gratia to the family members of each of the deceased besides Rs 10,000 each for performing the last rites. Earlier, Mr. Netam, who came along with Director-General of Police, O.P. Rathore, had to confront the angry villagers, who raised slogans against the government.

The Communist Party of India (Maoist) cadres had stepped up violence in the region after

the campaign against the naxal movement began nearly six months ago.

The deceased were identified as Vipuldas (24), Manish Majumdar (25), Rafiq Khan (25), Tapman Majumdar (28), Govind Chand (28), Chintaram Rajag (38), Kalachand (38), Kiran Bagchi (40), Arun Birpal (42), Vishnu Dev (45), Pradeep Shah (52), Vipul Dutt (53) and Sudhanshu Kudu (60). — UNI

10.1 26/3

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10.1 26/3

# Maoists storm jail in Orissa, free 40 prisoners

## Three officials taken hostage from police station

Staff Reporter

**BHUBANESWAR:** A large number of armed Maoists stormed a sub-jail in R Udayagiri town of Gajapati district and freed 40 prisoners early on Friday.

They also attacked the local police station and an armed police camp killing three policemen before fleeing with a large cache of arms.

The naxals took hostage the Officer-in-Charge of the police station, Ranjan Mallick, and jailor Rabinarayan Sethi. District Collector Binod Bihari Mohanty, who was camping at the local inspection bungalow, escaped the attack.

### 200 extremists involved

More than 200 extremists along with an equal number of supporters raided the town from all sides after snapping telephone lines and disrupting electricity supply. The raid that started around 5 a.m. continued till 7.30 a.m.

The Maoists simultaneously attacked the State Armed Police camp, jail, police station, treasury, tehsil office and a telecom tower spreading terror in the town.

In the exchange of fire between the two sides at the police camp, at least three naxalites, in-

- **Morning raid by extremists, supporters lasts over two hours**

- **Simultaneous attack on police camp, jail, treasury and tehsil office**

- **Second major Maoist attack in southern Orissa in recent years**

cluding a woman, were killed, but the bodies were taken away by the ultras, Director-General of Police Suchit Das said.

### Loot arms

The arms looted from the police camp included 25 self-loading rifles (SLRs), a pistol, a light machine gun and an AK-47 rifle, sources said.

The ultras, who ransacked the police station, burnt stamp papers worth nearly Rs. 40 lakh in the treasury.

Basanta Singh, one of the 40 prisoners released by the Maoists, returned to the jail after the ultras went inside the nearby forests.

Of the three policemen killed, two died on the spot and one died while being taken to a hospital in Berhampur. Another policeman injured in the attack is

undergoing treatment.

Although senior police and administration officials reached R Udayagiri to take stock of the situation, there was no information on the whereabouts of the police official and the jailor taken hostage by the extremists till evening.

The naxal attack, similar to the incident in Bihar's Jehanabad district in November last, is the second major Maoist attack in southern Orissa in the recent years.

Three years ago, the naxalites had raided the district head-quarter town of Koraput and looted arms and ammunitions from the district armoury.

### Issue raised in Assembly

The R Udaygiri issue was raised in the State Assembly by the Opposition legislators who blamed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the "failure" of the law and order machinery in the State. Mr. Patnaik is holding the Home portfolio.

Meanwhile, a labourer was killed and six others were injured when a landmine went off near Kankadahada Ghati, 15 km away from R Udayagiri. The accident occurred when the authorities were clearing the landmines laid by the naxalites.

THE

# Maoist bomb hoax delays trains

Statesman News Service

KOLKATA/MIDNAPORE, March 23. — Passengers on three trains were kept waiting for more than four hours early this morning, while police searched the tracks for bombs supposedly planted by armed men posing as Maoists.

According to South Eastern Railway officials, armed men threw a piece of paper, stating bombs had been placed on the tracks, into a railway cabin man's shed at Bhadutola level crossing soon after midnight last night.

The railway employee manning the cabin warned the Salboni station manager, from where the Howrah-bound Chakradharpur passenger train was due to leave. The train's departure was stalled.

The corresponding Chakradharpur passenger, which runs from Howrah to Chakradharpur, and the Howrah-bound Nilachal Express were also stopped at Midnapore and Bishnupur stations, respectively. Police

searched the tracks for four hours but did not find any bombs.

Mr Tushar Bhattacharjee, IG (Rail), said: "Security personnel swung into action immediately and launched a search for explosives on the tracks. But no suspicious objects were found. The search continued for four hours."

The West Midnapore superintendent of police and Kharagpur superintendent of railway police, also arrived on the spot. Mr Saroj Kumar Sil, station manager (Howrah), SER, confirmed that the three trains were detained for security reasons.

After the alert was lifted, the Chakradharpur Passenger left Salboni for Howrah at 4-56 a.m. while the Chakradharpur-bound train and the Nilachal Express resumed their journey at 5-30 a.m. and 5 a.m., respectively.

The incident throws a challenge to the newly revamped Special Operation Group of the state police which is carrying out combing operations to prevent Maoist attacks in Belpahari, Salboni, Lalgar, Binpur

and Goaltore police station areas of Midnapore West.

In a press release issued at Belpahari today, "Bikash", CPI (Maoist) general secretary of Midnapore West, Bankura and Purulia called on the people to grab their right to "jal, jungle and jomi" (water, forest and land) through armed agrarian revolution by boycotting the upcoming Assembly poll on 17 April.

"Go ahead to achieve the target of capturing state power", it stated. "It has been proved that voting is not the path of people's liberation from the exploitation which has been entrenched by the mock Marxists in Left-ruled West Bengal. The only road to end exploitation is Naxalbari — the road treaded by Tilka-Birsa-Sidho-Kanu."

The release demanded the "paramilitary forces be removed to usher in a peaceful atmosphere ... to enable the people to cast their valuable votes fearlessly. In that case, they may take part in the poll or abstain. This is what is called their democratic right."

24 MAR 2006

THE STATESMAN

# Maoists demand information on prisoners

## Statesman News Service

MALDA, March 22. — After the hunger strike, Maoist activists now demand information about all imprisoned fellow activists in various jails arrested on the charge of "waging war against the state".

Sources said today that one Maoist activist, Mr

Animesh Chakraborty, has been on hunger-strike for the last three days and that the Maoists may soon appeal to the Court seeking the status of all Maoist prisoners, who are presently in jail, based on the Correctional Services Act 2000.

The Maoist activist, Mr Animesh Chakraborty, has been on hunger strike continuously in phases,

while he was in the Malda, Jalpaiguri and Siliguri jails in north Bengal for the same issue.

On 5 March, he was transferred to Midnapore Central jail from the Malda jail in connection with a case for waging war against the state, recorded in Shalboni.

Reportedly, out of 10 cases against, he has bail in four, all of which were

initiated by north Bengal police.

One case, however, which was initiated in Malda in connection with a murder in Harishchandrapur in the 1990s, will start in April.

Animesh had threatened to intensify the hunger strike after the jail minister allegedly commented: "They would not be treated as political pris-

oners".

Animesh Chakraborty reportedly wrote a letter to the jail minister, Mr Biswanath Choudhury, from Malda in the first week of March pointing out that under the section 24(6) of the West Bengal Correctional Service Bill 1992, they had a right to know the status of the Maoist prisoners.

In a letter, Chakraborty

also claimed that he had studied the situation in various villages in Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia and Jalpaguri and found that croplands were in the clutches of capitalists.

He also alleged that no implementation of *Dharmagol* had taken place, as declared in the election manifesto in 1978 by the ruling state government.

# Maoists attack after siege

**Kathmandu, March 20** (Reuters): At least 16 people, including 13 soldiers, were killed in a new outbreak of violence in Nepal today, a day after Maoist rebels ended a crippling road blockade, the army and witnesses said.

The soldiers and a rebel were killed in a gun battle in Kavre district 80 km east of Kathmandu early in the day as the guerrillas attacked soldiers on their way to fix water supply lines disrupted by the Maoists.

There was a gun battle for nearly two hours and we have recovered the body of one

rebel. We have lost 13 boys," an army officer said.

Elsewhere, two civilians were killed in a bomb blast near the eastern town of Biratnagar, 550 km from Kathmandu, local journalist Bickram Neupane said. The bomb had apparently been left by the rebels on a bridge to enforce the road blockade that they ended yesterday.

Today packed buses and trucks loaded with supplies were again rolling across the country after the six-day disruption to commerce and transport across the Himalayan nation.

But even as the Maoists ended their siege of Kathmandu and other towns after an appeal from the country's seven main political parties, they endorsed a new series of protests planned for early next month.

The rebels and the parties also reaffirmed their "strong commitment" yesterday to a deal they struck last November to work together against King Gyanendra, who seized power last year.

The blockade had choked supplies since Tuesday, raising prices of essential goods, causing fuel shortages and leaving thousands stranded

across the nation.

"Passengers carrying their bags are running to catch buses, and trucks loaded with goods have started moving since early morning," said Sagar Adhikary, a resident of Narayanhath.

Maoists had mainly enforced the blockade by threatening reprisals against anyone who broke it. They also set up some roadblocks and sporadically attacked vehicles.

The rebels also called off a general strike planned for April 3, but endorsed a strike called by political parties beginning on April 6.

## Buddha Boy

**Kathmandu, March 20 (PTT):** The meditating Nepali boy, believed to be the reincarnation of Buddha, surfaced briefly after seven days, his followers claimed today.

Ram Bahadur Momjon, 16, also known as Buddha Boy, was seen at 8 am yesterday about 3 km southeast of his meditation spot at Rajgadh in Bara district. However, after talking to some people he disappeared again saying that he would return only after six years.

# মাওবাদী সন্ত্রাস রুখতে ত্রিমুখী কৌশল নেওয়ার ভাবনা দিল্লির

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, নয়াদিল্লি, ১৬  
মার্চ: পশ্চিমবঙ্গ-সহ বেশ কিছু রাজ্যে  
মাওবাদী সন্ত্রাসের ঘটনাকে রীতিমতো  
'উদ্বেগজনক' হিসাবে বর্ণনা করা হল  
কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রকের বার্ষিক (২০০৫-  
০৬) রিপোর্টে। সেখানে দেওয়া তথ্য ও  
পরিসংখ্যানে দেখা যাচ্ছে, দেশ জুড়ে  
মাওবাদী হামলায় সাধারণ মানুষের মৃত্যু  
চার বছরে লাফিয়ে লাফিয়ে বাড়ছে।  
বাড়ছে পুলিশের মৃত্যুর ঘটনাও।  
রিপোর্টে উদ্বেগ প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে,  
নেপালের মাওবাদীদের সঙ্গে এ দেশের  
মাওবাদীদের যোগসূত্র বেড়েই চলেছে।  
রিপোর্টে নয় রাজ্যের ৭৬টি জেলার  
কথা বলা হয়েছে, যারা 'নকশাল সন্ত্রাসে  
মারাত্মক ভাবে জর্জরিত।' রাজ্যভিত্তিক  
পরিসংখ্যানও দেওয়া হয়েছে। তাতে  
দেখা যাচ্ছে, ২০০৩ সালে পশ্চিমবঙ্গে  
মাওবাদী সন্ত্রাসের ঘটনা ঘটেছিল ৬টি।  
২০০৪ সালে বেড়ে হয় ১১ ও ২০০৫  
সালে বেড়ে ১৪টি। অন্ধ্রপ্রদেশ,  
ছত্তীসগড়, ওড়িশা, বিহার, ঝাড়খণ্ড,  
পশ্চিমবঙ্গের মতো রাজ্যে মাওবাদী  
সন্ত্রাসে মৃত্যুর ঘটনা ধারাবাহিক ভাবে  
বেড়েছে। ২০০২ সালে নিহতের সংখ্যা  
ছিল ৪৮২। ২০০৩ সালে ৫১৫, ২০০৪  
সালে ৫৬৬, ও ২০০৫ সালে ৬৬৯

জনের মৃত্যু হয়। মাওবাদী সন্ত্রাসের  
লক্ষ্যস্থল চিহ্নিত করে রিপোর্টে বলা  
হয়েছে, 'পুলিশ পোস্ট, রেল স্টেশন,  
সরকারি সম্পত্তিতে হামলা হচ্ছে।'  
মাওবাদী সংগঠনগুলির সঙ্গে নেপালের  
মাওবাদীদের যোগাযোগের ঘটনাকে  
বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দিয়ে বলা হয়েছে, "চার  
বছরে বিহার, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ, উত্তরপ্রদেশ,  
পশ্চিমবঙ্গের বিভিন্ন প্রান্তে অন্তত ১৪০  
জন লুকিয়ে কাজ করছে।" এই সন্ত্রাসের  
মোকাবিলা সরকার কী ভাবে করবে,  
তার দিক নির্দেশিকা দেওয়া হয়েছে ওই  
রিপোর্টে। একটি ত্রিমুখী কৌশলের কথা  
ভেবেছে স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রক। বলা হয়েছে,  
'আর্থ-সামাজিক ভাবে পিছিয়ে থাকা  
মানুষদের কাজে লাগানোর চেষ্টা করছে  
মাওবাদীরা। নিয়ে আসছে হিংসার  
পথে।' এই অবস্থায় কেন্দ্রের লক্ষ্য,  
● উপক্রম রাজ্যগুলিকে আরও  
শক্তিশালী করা। অর্থাৎ, গোয়েন্দা  
সংস্থার পরিসর, কার্যক্ষমতা, সমন্বয়  
বাড়ানো, পুলিশের হাত শক্ত করা।  
● প্রশাসনিক যন্ত্র শক্তিশালী করা।  
ফলে, মানুষের স্কাভ-অভিযোগকে  
বেশি স্বচ্ছ, সংবেদনশীল উপায়ে দেখা  
সম্ভব হয়। এলাকার আর্থসামাজিক  
উন্নয়নের দিকে নজর দেওয়া। মাওবাদ-

উপক্রম এলাকায় কর্মসংস্থান বাড়ানো।  
মাওবাদী প্রচার, দর্শন এবং হিংসাকে  
রোধ করার জন্য সমাজের মধ্যেই  
প্রতিরোধ সংগঠন গড়ে তোলা।  
● মাওবাদী সংগঠনগুলির সঙ্গে  
ক্রমাগত আলোচনার চেষ্টা জারি রাখা।  
যাতে জঙ্গিরা অস্ত্র ত্যাগ করে শান্তির  
পথে আসে।  
এই কৌশলগুলি নিয়ে আলোচনা  
করতে এবং ভোটের আগে পশ্চিমবঙ্গ-  
সহ মাওবাদী প্রভাবিত রাজ্যগুলিতে  
নতুন করে হামলা ঠেকাতে উচ্চ  
পর্যায়ের বৈঠক ডেকেছে কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র  
মন্ত্রক। ৩১ মার্চ দিল্লিতে কেন্দ্রীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র  
সচিব ডি কে দুগ্গলের নেতৃত্বে এই বৈঠক  
হবে। সেখানে রাজ্যের উচ্চ পর্যায়ের  
অফিসারেরা উপস্থিত থাকবেন।  
পশ্চিমবঙ্গের অভিযোগ, রাজ্যে হামলা  
চালিয়ে মাওবাদীরা ঝাড়খণ্ডে আশ্রয়  
নেয়। উপক্রম রাজ্যগুলির মধ্যে সমন্বয়  
তৈরির যে চেষ্টা কেন্দ্র করেছিল, তা ব্যর্থ  
হওয়ার ফলেই এই ধরনের ঘটনা  
বারবার ঘটেছে বলে মনে করছে স্বরাষ্ট্র  
মন্ত্রক। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ ও ঝাড়খণ্ডের মধ্যে  
এই সমন্বয়ের কাজটি সুষ্ঠু ভাবে গড়ে  
তোলার ব্যাপারেও গুরুত্ব দেওয়া হবে  
ওই বৈঠকে।

17 MAR 2006

AN... ..



# Naxalites rule where police fear to tread

By Sonali Das/TNN

Ranchi: If the Naxalite attack in Jehanabad last year was to free dozens of comrades and key leaders from jail, Monday evening's ambush of a passenger train in the remote and densely-wooded Latehar district of Jharkhand was a tiny post-it sticker. But the message was loud and clear: Naxals can strike when and where they want to.

If Maoists in Jharkhand didn't say that expressly by leaving leaflets or spray-painting it on the train, their cadres in neighbouring Chhattisgarh did. They told the six policemen whom they abducted and later released over the weekend that their kidnapping was not aimed at causing any harm but just to drive home a point and that is to demoralise the police force.

And the tactics appear to be working in large swathes of Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, through which the Maoists have carved out a corridor along which their writ largely runs. Take Monday evening for instance. It's not that policemen couldn't reach the train on which passengers were held hostage. It would have been trudge, but police officers said they didn't even try to get to the train because it was clearly a trap to lure cops into a minefield. The cops didn't go there until the guerrillas had left, along with the landmines which they took on their way out.

"We decided against sending the force in the thick of the night since the area had the advantage



Security personnel guard the train which was seized by Naxals, at Latehar on Tuesday

of a thick forest cover and a tricky hill terrain. We had the information that Naxalites had laid landmines all along the way to blow up the police," said special branch DIG B C Verma.

But Verma insisted it wasn't cowardice that kept the police force indoors until dawn. He said the decision was "strategic".

The district police led by Latehar SP and a huge posse of CRPF reached the spot only around 6 am the next morning, three hours after the Naxals had melted away and more than 11 hours after the train was taken hostage.

It's the same story in other areas where policemen barricade themselves in their thanas and

don't even dream of venturing out after dusk, leaving the terrain pretty much open for Maoist to rule the roost.

Jharkhand police chief V D Ram denies the state had ceded vast tracts to the Naxals by failing to protect the villagers. "It is not true that the Naxals can strike and paralyse the system anytime they liked," he said, explaining the Naxals were crafty enough to choose soft targets on highways and deserted railroads. "They are well aware of their strengths and weaknesses."

It's not that the police aren't doing anything. Monday's attack was to coincide with a bandh call given by Maoists to protest the death of Jagannath Koeri, a zonal commander who was killed in a police encounter recently. Police describe Koeri as the mastermind behind several major attacks in the Patan and Chhatarpur areas of Palamu division, and he was also an expert in landmines. He carried a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head, Ram said.

Whatever the causes — fear or neglect — Maoist numbers have swollen in recent months and their attacks spiralled. It has gone from strength to strength after the People's War Group (PWG), known for its guerrilla expertise, and the MCC, which enjoyed organisational superiority, joined hands to become CPI (Maoists) last year. Since the Jehanabad jail break in Bihar, Naxalites have executed several operations in Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand, where the Palamu division has become their favourite stomping ground given its difficult terrain and thick forest cover.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

16 MAR 2006

# Happy end to Naxals' train hijack drama

AMITABH Srivastava and VISHAL Sharma  
Ranchi/Latehar, March 15

AROUND 10 hours after they laid siege to a train in Latehar district of Jharkhand, taking 110 passengers hostage, Naxalites abandoned the train early on Tuesday and escaped into the nearby thick forests.

Police forces and the railway officials reached the Barkakhana-Dehri-Mughalsarai passenger train, parked forcibly by the Naxalites at Auntikheda, in the morning and "rescued" the passengers. DGP V.D. Ram said the passengers were safe.

## RED ALERT

### Time to meet

The Centre has convened a meeting of chief secretaries and DGPs of 13 Naxal-hit states on March 31 to discuss the recent attacks. Union home secretary V.K. Duggal has called the meeting, a spokesman said. The Centre is in touch with Jharkhand government

The train was on its way from Barkakhana in Jharkhand to Mughalsarai when over 40 armed cadres of the CPI (Maoist) overpowered the two drivers and the guard around 7.30 p.m. on Monday.

The Naxalites roughed up the driver, damaged the engine and cut off communication by snatching the walkie-talkies from the guard and the drivers.

The DGP said the Naxalites wanted to lure the police into a trap and had planted at least a dozen landmines on the approaches.

"We deliberately decided against moving the police parties during the night," he said. "They also wanted to use the passengers as a shield against police firing."

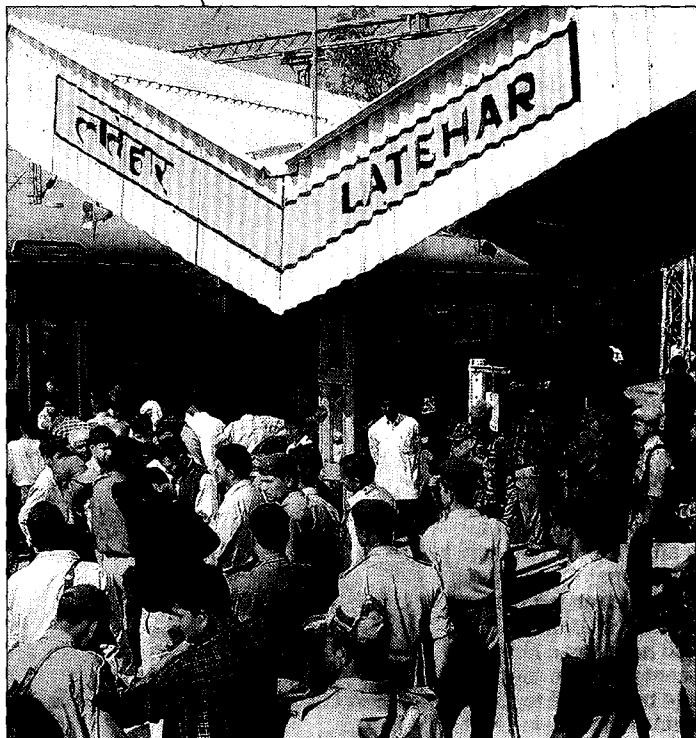
After parking the train, the Naxalites took position in the dense forest, waiting for the police to come. But they abandoned the train once it was clear that the police had seen through their plan.

"They knew that without the cover of darkness they will be no match to the police firepower," the DGP said.

Latehar SP Subodh Prasad said the Naxal action was in protest against the death of one of their self-styled commanders in a police encounter in Palamu district on March 3.

Train services, meanwhile, resumed in the Barwadi-Mughalsarai sector. Already, more than a dozen trains, including the Tata-Jammu Tavi Express, were running late by 12 hours.

However, the railway authorities have geared up to streamline the services.



A train arrives at Latehar station in Jharkhand after the hijack drama. AP

## Tight security

AGENCIES  
Ranchi/Raipur, March 15

A DAY after Naxalites abandoned the local train they had seized on Monday night in Latehar, life in the district remained unaffected, with people dancing to the tunes of Bhojpuri folk songs and exchanging sweets to mark Vasant Utsav.

Holi was celebrated in Chhatisgarh amid elaborate security without any Naxalite-related or other incident. Commandos and armed policemen have been deployed in all sensitive areas of the state since Tuesday to ensure a peaceful Holi.

Governor Lt-gen. K.M. Seth, chief minister Raman Singh and his council of ministers are not celebrating the festival be-

cause of the massacre of tribals by Naxalites and stepped up Maoist violence in the state. The 'open house' at Raj Bhawan during Holi was not organised.

### Maoist held

A self-styled zonal commander of the banned CPI (Maoist) - wanted in connection with the attack on the Jehanabad sub-jail on the night of November 13, 2005, in which Naxalites freed nearly 390 inmates, including several (Maoist) cadres - and his associate were arrested by the police in Bihar's Jehanabad district late on Tuesday night.

Acting on a tip, the police arrested Satyendra Yadav and aide Kesar Yadav from their hideout in the Naxalite-hit district.

# সিপিএম নেতার বাড়ি মাওবাদীদের হানা

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, মেদিনীপুর: লালগড়, বেলপাহাড়ির পর এবার শালবনিতে হামলার ছক কষেছে মাওবাদীরা। সোমবার রাতে শালবনির সিপিএম নেতা বিকাশ রায়ের বাড়িতে হানা দেয় মাওবাদীদের স্কোয়াড। কিন্তু বিকাশবাবুকে বাড়িতে না পেয়ে তাঁকে খুনের হুমকি দিয়ে জঙ্গলে ফিরে যায় তারা। পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, হানা দিয়েছিল ১৫-২০ জনের একটি সশস্ত্র দল। এই ঘটনায় এখন আতঙ্কে ভুগছেন শালবনির সিপিএম নেতারা।

সিপিএমের শালবনি জোনাল কমিটির সম্পাদক অজিত ভূঁইয়া বলেন,

“কয়েকজন মাওবাদী দুকুতী বিকাশ রায়ের বাড়িতে হানা দিয়েছিল। গ্রামবাসীরা জেগে যাওয়ায় তারা ভয়ে পালিয়ে যায়।”

বিকশবাবুর বাড়ি পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর জেলার শালবনি থানা এলাকার বাঘপিছলা গ্রামে। তিনি শালবনি জোনাল কমিটির অন্তর্গত পিঁড়াকাটা লোকাল কমিটির সদস্য। এর আগে দু'বার তাঁর উপর হামলা চালিয়েছে মাওবাদীরা। একবার তাঁর গায়ে গুলি লাগে, একবার গুলি লেগেছিল তাঁর পায়ে। পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, মাওবাদী হামলার ভয়ে রাতে এলাকার কোনও সিপিএম নেতা-ই বাড়ি থাকেন না। সোমবার রাতে বিকাশবাবুও বাড়িতে ছিলেন না। ওই রাতে বাঘপিছলা গ্রামের লাগোয়া আসনাবনি গ্রামে হরিনাম সঙ্কীর্তন চলছিল। ফলে দুই গ্রামের মানুষই জেগেই ছিলেন। মাওবাদীরা এসে প্রথমে গ্রামের কয়েকজনের কাছে

বিকশ রায়ের বাড়ি কোথায় জানতে চায়। তাদের মাথায় টুপি, জলপাই রঙের পোশাক ও হাতে অস্ত্র দেখে গ্রামবাসীরা ভয়ে বাড়ি দেখিয়ে দেন। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে খবর চলে যায় হরিনাম সঙ্কীর্তনের আসরেও। সকলে এক যোগে শঙ্খধ্বনি ও চিৎকার করায় গ্রামবাসীরা এক জায়গায় জড়ো হন। পরিস্থিতি বেগতিক বুঝে মাওবাদীরা জঙ্গলের দিকে পালিয়ে যায় বলে পুলিশ ও গ্রাম সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে।

সম্প্রতি লালগড় ও বেলপাহাড়ি থানা এলাকার কয়েকটি গ্রামে বাড়ি থেকে তুলে নিয়ে গিয়ে সিপিএম নেতাদের খুন করেছে

মাওবাদীরা। পুলিশের অনুমান, একই কারণে এবার শালবনিতে হানা দিয়েছিল তারা। কিন্তু গ্রামবাসীরা সজাগ থাকায় তারা কিছু করতে পারেনি। সি পি এম সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, শালবনির নেতাদের আগেই সাবধান করা হয়েছিল। রাতে বাড়িতে থাকতে বারণ করা ছাড়াও, দিনের বেলাতেও দলের সক্রিয় নেতাদের জঙ্গল লাগোয়া এলাকায় বা জঙ্গলের রাস্তা দিয়ে যেতে নিষেধ করা হয়। এই ঘটনার পর আতঙ্কিত হয়ে পড়েছেন শালবনির সিপিএম নেতারা। যদিও একথা মানতে চাননি সিপিএমের শালবনি জোনাল কমিটির সম্পাদক অজিত ভূঁইয়া। তিনি বলেন, “মাওবাদী দুকুতীরা সব সময় হানা দিতে পারে। ওদের উদ্দেশ্যই খুন করা। সেকারণে আমরাও কিছু সাবধানতা অবলম্বন করেছি। দলের নির্দেশ মতোই মতো স্থানীয় নেতারা কাজ করছেন।”

**শালবনি**

16 MAR 2006

ANANDABAZAR PATRICKA

# Maoists hijack passenger train

Dipankar Bose  
in Ranchi

March 13. — Armed Maoist extremists hijacked a passenger train in Latehar district of Jharkhand around 7.30 p.m. today. There is no information about the exact number of passengers held hostage or the condition they are in. A railway ministry official said a light engine train had reached nearby Kumendi with Railway Protection Force personnel on board. They are awaiting the district superintendent of police's orders to start rescue operations.

Most senior officers believe that the extremists had stopped the train with the express purpose of making police sit up and eventually send troops to rescue the passengers. They don't rule out the possibility of the Maoists having booby trapped the paths leading to the spot where the train had been stopped or even that of the rebels engaging police in a battle on the hilly tracts.

Senior district police officers as well as RPF officers have rushed to Latehar from neighbouring Daltonganj, Barkakhana and Palamu towns.

Officers believe the 628BDM Mughalsarai-Barkakhana passenger train was hijacked around 7.30 p.m. when wireless communication between the railway officials at Barwadih

## Plan panel package

NEW DELHI, March 13. — With the Maoists threatening to set up a "Red Corridor" from "Pashupatinath Mandir in Nepal to Tirupati in south India", the Planning Commission has approved an additional Plan package of Rs 313 crore for Chhattisgarh to combat Naxalism with tribal welfare programmes. — SNS

station and the driver and the guard of the train lapsed.

"We were first alerted by a guard of a goods train who had spotted several persons circling the passenger train that was stationary on the tracks. When he tried to take a closer look along with the driver of his train, they were pelted with stones. But the guard did note that not a single light shone out of any window of the passenger train," said a senior East-Central Railway official at Barwadih station. The hold-up has caused three passenger trains to be halted at Daltonganj and other stations and many more to be diverted to other routes.

The Maoists had called a bandh today in Palamu Division comprising Latehar, Palamu and Garwah districts, to protest against the killing of the rebel group's Palamu zonal commander, Jagannath Mahato alias Jagannath Koeri. Koeri died on 3 March during Operation Thunderbolt

that the state police conducted with the Central Reserve Police Force in Palamu. The Maoists, who believe that Koeri had been murdered in cold blood, had vowed to avenge the death of their leader.

The Latehar SP, Mr Satish Kumar, said: "According to preliminary reports, armed Maoist extremists stopped the train between Hehegara and Kumendi stations on the railway's busy Coal India Chord section." "Due to heavy deployment of troops, the bandh passed off peacefully in all three districts, though traffic movement was slightly affected. The extremists probably chose this time of the day (evening) and a target like a train to make their presence felt. A strategy is being worked out and more forces, including CRPF jawans, are being sent to Latehar," he said. On the darkness inside the train, the SP said: "A technical snag could have caused the lights in the coaches to go out. We will be in a position to get a better picture only by early tomorrow morning."

The Union home ministry is closely monitoring the development. The joint secretary (internal security) has alerted the Union home secretary, Mr VK Duggal, to the siege. Mr Duggal has sought a report from the director-general of Jharkhand police.

# Maoists say sorry, snatch cops

## OUR BUREAU

**Hyderabad/Raipur, March 12:** Maoists have apologised to the tribals of Chhattisgarh for the landmine blast on February 28 in which over 30 people died. But the rebels threatened to intensify attacks on a government-backed anti-Naxalite group.

"Our targets were only the special police force and the corrupt Salwa Judum (the government-supported body) activists who were causing havoc in the villages, not the innocent tribals," according to a statement attributed to Ganapathi alias M. Bhaskar Rao, the secretary of the CPI (Maoist) central committee.

The statement said the Salwa Judum activists had coerced the tribals in Chhattisgarh to join their "alleged peace yatra".

A truck carrying the peace rallyists was blown up in one of the worst instances of Nax-

alite violence in the country. The unofficial death toll was put at 50.

"The tribals are happy with the peaceful atmosphere created by the Janata Sarkar (people's administration) of the Maoists. It is the corrupt Salwa Judum that is provoking them against the Maoists," the three-page statement released in Hyderabad said.

In Chhattisgarh, the rebels dealt another blow to the government by taking six policemen hostage in a daylight operation in Dantewada district.

The Maoists have demanded immediate withdrawal of security forces, including the Nagaland Armed Police, and an end to the state-sponsored villagers' campaign for safe release of the hostages.

The six policemen — four from Dantewada and two from the special armed force — were travelling from Chintagufa to Dornapal in a private

bus when the armed Maoists intercepted them near Kankerlanka, about 100 km from the district headquarters, around 12 noon.

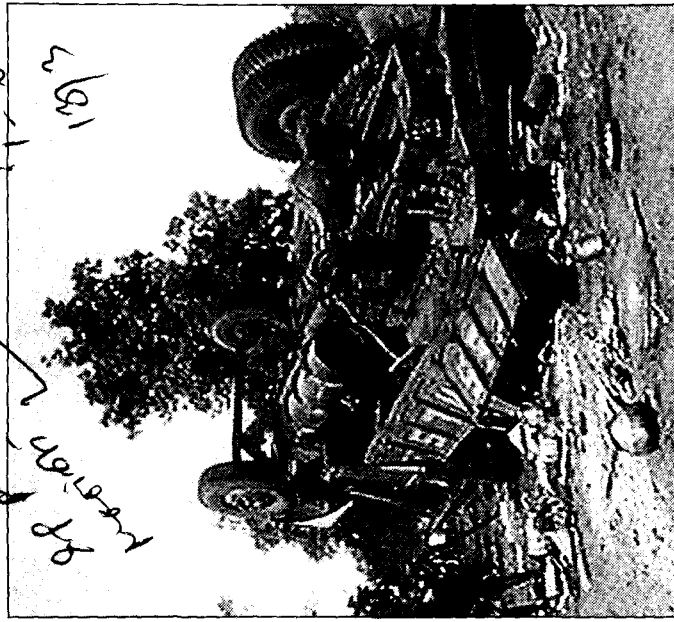
The rebels started checking the vehicle and soon identified the six policemen, who, said sources, were unarmed as they had gone to purchase rations.

The bus, with 29 passengers, was plying between Jagargunda and Dornapal.

Before forcing the policemen inside the forest, the rebels handed over a letter to the bus driver and asked him to take it to Chintagufa police station.

The rebels threatened to kill the policemen if the government did not withdraw immediately the forces fighting against them in the state.

They also demanded that Salwa Judum, several of whose supporters have been killed so far, be wound up immediately.



The truck that was blown up in February. (PTI)

## Maoists Vs Militias

Salwa Judum is against norms of civil society

PARTS of Chhattisgarh are witnessing a strange sort of militarisation that is depriving people of their basic political and economic freedoms. On one side are Maoists claiming to represent the interests of oppressed tribals and waging a violent war against arms of the Indian state. Opposed to them are political forces which resist the process of democratisation. They also speak the language of violence. Unfortunately, the Indian state has preferred to actively support the latter. Salwa Judum is a state-sponsored movement to fight Maoists by arming village youth. It was launched by a local Congress MLA and later endorsed by the state's BJP government. Salwa Judum, which translates as peace campaign, has led to the militarisation of society at grass roots. Caught in this spiral of repression, people have been denied access to democratic institutions and means of political expression. Scores of people have migrated from this zone of armed conflict. The rest of India can no longer ignore this spectacle of violence and bloodshed. Maoists have killed more than 60 people in Chhattisgarh since January. They must realise that politics which reduces human beings to dispensable entities in a war of attrition has nothing liberating about it. Such ideology does not address the social and economic deprivation of oppressed people or posit an alternative paradigm of governance that is more egalitarian.

The state is no less guilty. It appears to have abdicated its role as a facilitator of democracy. Private militias can't be allowed to maintain law and order. Initiatives like Salwa Judum strike at the roots of democracy. They legitimise violence as an instrument of political expression and governance. Maoist politics seeks to exploit the failure of democratic institutions towards addressing the social and economic concerns of poor peasants and tribals. The political mainstream has failed to address them. In many cases, democratic spaces have been appropriated by the very interests that are inimical to social change. This contradiction has to be addressed politically. The battle against Maoists has to be fought in the realm of ideas, and not with weapons. In a democracy, power does not flow from the barrel of a gun.

10 MAR 2005

THE TRIBES OF INDIA

# Maoists kill villagers at CPM party meet

HT Correspondent  
Midnapore March 9

MAOISTS BARGED into a CPI(M) meeting in Belpahari on Wednesday night and shot dead two villagers.

The attack revived memories of Saturday's attack at Lalgah where a CPI(M) activist had been gunned down after attending a party meeting. "You have held enough meetings," the Maoists had said before opening fire.

In Wednesday's attack the casualties were not even CPI(M) members. They were ordinary villagers who were attending a meeting called by Satyen Soren, convener of a CPI(M) booth committee, at his home. Suddenly six armed Maoists in olive green combat uniform barged in.

At first they threatened them with dire consequences for conducting such meetings despite repeated warnings. Then they began assaulting them. Satyen pleaded with the Maoists but that

only triggered an indiscriminate shooting. Jaladhar Mahato and Humai Murmu, who were standing in front, died on the spot.

One bullet also hit Satyen and he collapsed on the floor. The others in the room managed to flee. The Maoists too fled. It was all over in 20 minutes.

West Midnapore SP Ajay Nand rushed to the spot to find Jaladhar and Humai lying in a pool of blood.

"Satyen was writhing in pain. He was rushed to the Jhargram hospital and admitted there. His condition is critical," Nand said.

Preliminary investigation suggests it was the handiwork of the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) rebels from neighbouring Jharkhand. The Maoists have called for a boycott of the April 17 polls in West Midnapore. "The MCC is working jointly with the Maoists to terrorise voters ahead of the polls in Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore," Nand said.

# Anti-Naxal panel: Jharkhand minister draws MLAs' flak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
RANCHI, MARCH 6

**JHARKHAND** Home Minister Sudesh Mahto was cornered today as Assembly Speaker Inder Singh Namdhari joined an MLA in questioning him over the proposed high-powered committee to tackle the Naxalite problem.

Mahto had made an announcement in the House on December 16 last year on the formation of the committee.

Joining in a question raised by BJP MLA Kochhe Munda, Namdhari sought to know whether any initiative had been taken in this regard, to which Mahto replied that he would submit a report about it in the ongoing Budget session.

The committee would go to

**Seven killed in Chhattisgarh Naxal attacks**

**RAIPUR:** Seven people were killed and 26 injured when hundreds of Naxals carried out attacks in Bastar region and blew up a bus in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, police said here on Monday.

Five people were killed and 20 injured when Naxals attacked relief camps, a police station and Basaguda village in Bastar region, about 500 km here, on Sunday night. Abducted five villagers were also abducted, police said. Additional police personnel have rushed to Bastar region and the entire area has been cordoned off.

In Bijapur district, two persons were killed and six injured when Naxals blew up a bus in a landmine blast near Timapur today, state Intelligence Chief Sant Kumar Paswan said. —PTI

the root of extremism and suggest policies which could bring about a permanent solution to end the Naxalite problem.

Munda sought to know from the minister whether Torpa and Raniya blocs in Ranchi district were Naxal-dominated and whether the government had plans to set up police pickets there. The minister admit-

ted that the blocs were Naxal-hit, but brushed it off, saying there was no problem in maintaining law and order there.

Asking how police would be able to anticipate crises sitting in their offices, Namdhari directed the minister to enquire from the officers about the distance between police stations and difficult terrains.



# 23 killed in Maoist attack

Toll likely to go up; activists of anti-naxalite campaign targeted in Chhattisgarh

2-P.P. region  
11/3  
110-14

Staff Reporter

**BHADRACHALAM:** At least 23 persons were killed and 50 others injured as Maoists triggered a landmine blast targeting a lorry carrying some civilians and activists of 'Salva Judum' — an anti-naxalite campaign near Erraboru village (close to the interstate border with Andhra Pradesh) in Dantewade district of Chhattisgarh around 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday. According to reports reaching here, about 20 of them died on the spot and 30 of the injured were in a serious condition. The injured were airlifted from the forest village and admitted to the community hospital in Bhadrachalam.

One of the injured died in the hospital. He was yet to be identified. So was the case with those killed on the spot. The lorry was carrying about 70 persons — all mobilised from Palliguda village

in Kunta Taluk for the Salva Judum rally. A majority of them were tribal youths and they were shouting anti-naxalite slogans when the incident took place. The injured were not in a position to speak out as to what had really happened. The hospital authorities said they were in a shock.

## Police visit injured

Some of the injured lost their limbs, while others suffered burns. The toll might go up further, they said. Senior police officials from Chhattisgarh including M.N. Ansari, IG and the Dantewada Superintendent of Police, Praveen Das, who reached the temple town immediately, visited the injured in the hospital along with the Khamnam Superintendent of Police, Rajeev Kumar Meena and DIG (Warangal range), B.L. Meena.

The Salva Judum activists were

the target of the Maoists' dalams operating along the interstate border as they took the anti-naxalite campaign deep into the interior villages including the Maoist heartland seeking their support in their fight against the left wing extremist groups. Thousands of the tribal youths from the remote villages of South Bastar took part in a rally organised recently in the taluk headquarters of Kunta under the aegis of Salva Judum, a campaign being spearheaded by Mahendra Karma, MLA of Dantewada and the leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh.

The rally incited anti-naxalite feelings to such an extent that political leaders who had been identified with the Maoists for one reason or the other, deserted their villages and took shelter in the Bhadrachalam area as the Salva Judum rally entered their villages last week.



**HELPING HAND:** A person injured in the landmine blast in Chhattisgarh being taken to Bhadrachalam for treatment.

## গ্রামবাসীদের

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, ভুবনেশ্বর ও  
সংবাদসংস্থা, রায়পুর, ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি: নকশাল-  
বিরোধী আন্দোলনে অংশ নেওয়ার অপরাধে  
গ্রামবাসীদের চরম শাস্তি দিল মাওবাদীরা।

নকশাল নির্মূল করার দাবিতে আয়োজিত সভা  
থেকে ফেরার পথে হুত্তীসগড়ের দাঁতেওয়াড়া  
জেলার দারভাঙড়ায় গ্রামবাসীদের একটি ট্রাক  
ল্যাডমাইন দিয়ে উড়িয়ে দিল মাওবাদীরা। ওই  
ট্রাকের আরোহী ১০০ জনই নিহত।  
হয়েছেন বলে স্থানীয় সত্বে ববরা। তবে রাজ্য  
পুলিশের কর্তারা জানিয়েছেন, ওই ঘটনায়  
নিহতের সংখ্যা ৫৫। আহত হয়েছেন ৪০ জনেরও  
বেশি। তবে এই ঘটনায় ঠিক কত জন হতাহত  
হয়েছেন, তা নিয়ে রাত পর্যন্ত বিতর্ক রয়েছে।

নকশাল-বিরোধিতা জোরদার করতে আজ  
ডোরনাপালের ইরারবোর অঞ্চলে আয়োজন করা  
হয়েছিল একে সভার। গ্রামবাসীরা সেখান থেকেই  
৩টি ট্রাকে ফিরছিলেন কোর্টার দিকে। পথে একটি  
ট্রাক ল্যাডমাইন দিয়ে উড়িয়ে দেয় জঙ্গিরা। অন্য  
২টি ট্রাক থেকে যাত্রীদের নামিয়ে আশুন ধরিয়ে  
দেওয়া হয়। এর পরে প্রায় ১০০ জন গ্রামবাসীকে  
অপহরণ করে সাবরি নদী পেরিয়ে ওরিয়া  
এলাকায় দিকে চলে গিয়েছে নকশালেরা।

দাঁতেওয়াড়ার পুলিশ সুপার প্রবীর দাস  
জানান, পুলিশ যাতে গ্রামবাসীদের উদ্ধার করতে  
ঘটনাস্থলে পৌঁছতে না পারে, তার জন্য বিভিন্ন  
জায়গা থেকে জঙ্গিরা অনেক ক্ষণ ধরে পুলিশের

## ট্রাক ওড়াল মাওবাদীরা, আশঙ্কা হত ১০০

উপরে যথেষ্ট গুলি বৃষ্টি করে। আহতদের প্রথমে  
কোঁটা হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করা হয়। এদের মধ্যে  
কয়েক জনের অবস্থা আশঙ্কাজনক। পরে তাঁদের  
হেলিকপ্টারে করে অন্ধপ্রদেশের ভদ্রাচলমে  
সরকারি হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করা হয়েছে।  
আজকের ঘটনার জেরে অন্ধপ্রদেশে চূড়ান্ত  
সতর্কতা জারি করা হয়েছে। হুত্তীসগড়ের  
স্বরাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী এবং ডি জি পি-কে নিয়ে সন্ধ্যায়  
কর্তারে ঘটনাস্থল পরিদর্শন করতে গিয়েছেন  
মুখ্যমন্ত্রী রমন সিংহ।

এই ঘটনার পরে 'সাধারণ মানুষের বন্ধু এবং  
প্রশাসনের শত্রু' তকমাটা মাওবাদীদের গা থেকে  
উঠে যাবে কি না, সে প্রশ্ন উঠছে কয়েক দিন  
ধরেই রাজ্য জুড়ে নকশাল-বিরোধিতা নতুন মাত্রা  
পেয়েছে। ডোরনাপালে আজ জমা হয়েছিলেন  
উপজাতি সম্প্রদায়ের বহু মানুষ। পৃষ্ঠপোষক  
হিসাবেই পরিচিত উপজাতি মানুষের এই  
মনোভাব সম্ভবত মানতে পারেনি মাওবাদীরা।

হুত্তীসগড়ের শাসক বিজেপি এবং বিরোধী  
কংগ্রেস সম্প্রতি হাত মিলিয়েছে নকশাল-দমনে।  
তারা পুলিশ বা নিরাপত্তারক্ষীদের উপরেই শুধু  
নির্ভর করছে না। তাদের লক্ষ্য, আম জনতাকে  
মূল শক্তি হিসাবে ব্যবহার করা। দিনদুয়েক আগে  
প্রায় ৩ হাজার গ্রামবাসী টাঙি, বল্লম, রাইফেল

বাইথালিয়ায় নকশাল হানায় জাতীয় উন্নয়ন পরিষদের একটি  
শাখায় ৮ জন সিআরপিএফ জওয়ান নিহত।

১১ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০৬  
৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০৬  
১ জন কনস্টেবল  
নিহত, ৪ জন আহত। অস্ত্র লুট।

৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০০৬  
১১ জন সিআরপিএফ জওয়ান নিহত।

৯ অগস্ট, ২০০৫  
দাঁতেওয়াড়ায় বিরোধী দলের নেতা মহেন্দ্র কর্মার দুই  
আস্ফীয়েক হত্যা করে নকশালেরা।

১৯ এপ্রিল, ২০০৫  
দাঁতেওয়াড়ায় নকশালদের হাতে কংগ্রেস নেতা হুশারাম  
সরকম মৃত।

নিয়ে নকশাল-বিরোধী মোগান দিতে দিতে  
বিজাপুর জেলার দক্ষিণ বস্তার জেলার উপজাতি-  
অধ্যুষিত এলাকাগুলিতে টহল দেয়। তৈরি হয়  
'সলভা জুদুম', অর্থাৎ, নকশাল ঠেকাতে সাধারণ  
মানুষের বিশেষ বাহিনী। গ্রামবাসীদের নিরাপত্তার  
দিকটি নিশ্চিত করতে মিছিলের সঙ্গে ছিল আধা-  
সামরিক বাহিনী। সাত ঘণ্টা ধরে এই বিজয়  
মিছিল নকশাল-অধ্যুষিত নানা এলাকা পরিক্রমা  
করে। নিজেদের লৈকিক জয় হয়েছে বলেই তখন  
মনে করেছিলেন গ্রামবাসীরা।

কিন্তু সংশ্লিষ্ট মহলের ধারণা, নকশালেরা সময়  
নিচ্ছিল। সাধারণ মানুষকে যে ভাবে প্রশাসন  
তাদের বিরুদ্ধে ব্যবহার করছে, তার প্রতিবাদ করে  
নিজেদের ভিত কতটা মজবুত সেটা দেখাতে  
প্রস্তুত হচ্ছিল তারা। তার পরেই প্রতিশোধ নিতে  
শক্তি প্রদর্শন শুরু করে তারা। বিভিন্ন গ্রামে  
বাসিন্দাদের উপরে অতর্কিতে হামলা চালিয়ে  
হত্যা করে জঙ্গিরা। সে সব বিচ্ছিন্ন ঘটনার পরে  
নকশালেরা আজ নির্দিষ্ট পরিকল্পনা করেই বড়সড়  
হানা দিয়েছে বলে করছে পুলিশ। সন্ধ্যা পর্যন্ত  
অপহৃত গ্রামবাসীদের খোঁজ মেলেনি। তজ্জাশি  
চলছে, হামলাকারীরা অস্ত্রের দিকে পালিয়েছে  
বলে সশেহ করা হচ্ছে।

আজকের পরে হুত্তীসগড়ে আঞ্চলিক অর্থেই  
বিজেপি-কংগ্রেস-আম জনতার মিলিত শক্তির  
সঙ্গে মাওবাদীদের লড়াই শুরু হয়ে গেল বলে  
মনে করা হচ্ছে।

# Maoists miss target, kill 4

OUR BUREAU

Feb. 26: Maoists stunned Bengal in the middle of poll preparations, killing at least four people by blowing up a police vehicle in West Midnapore on the second anniversary of a similar strike in the same area.

The site of the landmine attack in Belpahari is hardly 45 km from that of a carnage on the eve of the New Year when CPM district secretariat member Rabindranath Kar and his wife were burnt to death in the neighbouring Purulia district.

Today's explosion occurred around 5 pm at Naakrachhara, 225 km from Calcutta, when a van hired by the police hit the landmine.

The van, carrying at least 14 people, was returning from a medical camp organised by the police as part of a public relations drive in Maoist strongholds. Four people — the driver, a helper, a home guard and a constable, all aged between 25 and 40 — died on the spot while six have been admitted to hospital with injuries.

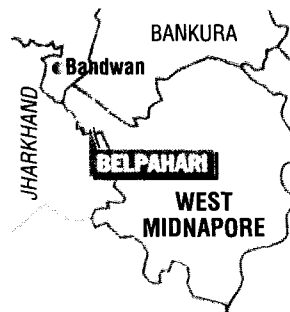
The West Midnapore superintendent of police, Ajay Nanda, had also attended the camp and a jeep carrying him had passed through the same spot two-and-a-half hours ago, prompting police to believe that he was the real target.

Nanda had launched a crackdown on the Maoists in Belpahari, a bastion of the rebels who had carried out a strike on a police jeep in 2004,

killing eight security personnel. That attack was also carried out on a February 26.

However, following the police clampdown, Belpahari had fallen quiet and the extremists had shifted focus to the neighbouring Bankura and Purulia districts.

CPM state secretary Anil



Biswas said in Calcutta tonight that the Maoists' target was the police officer. "The Maoists so far have killed 19 police and security persons. The administration should be more vigilant since the guerrillas appear to have targeted senior police officials and CPM leaders," said Biswas.

The guerrillas had placed the landmine on a stretch of road near an irrigation canal. The explosion lifted the vehicle off the ground several feet.

As soon as he was told of the blast, Nanda rushed back to Belpahari. In the morning, Nanda had led a 30-member team, including two doctors, to the medical camp in Barshol. The officer left around 2 pm. The van that was blown up was the last to leave.

THE TELEGRAPH

2-10-2006

# মাওবাদীদের নয়া কব্রিডর মিলন, ১১টি ফাঁড়ি বন্ধ পুরুলিয়ায়

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা: মাওবাদী হামলা ও বন্দুক লুণ্ঠের জেরে কাটাড়ি-সহ পুরুলিয়ার ১১টি ফাঁড়ি থেকে রক্ষী ও অস্ত্র তুলে নিল পুলিশ। সেই সঙ্গে বাঁকুড়া ও পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের বেশ কিছু ফাঁড়িও আপাতত তুলে দেওয়ার কথা ভাবা হচ্ছে।

মঙ্গলবার সকালে আড়শার কাটাড়ি ফাঁড়ি যুরে সেখে রাজ্য পুলিশের আইজি (পশ্চিমাঞ্চল) বর্গীভূত বসু বলেন, “ওই সব জায়গায় ফাঁড়ি রাখা এই মতুর্তে কতটা সঙ্গত তা পর্যালোচনা করতে হবে।” বন্দুক লুণ্ঠে পুলিশের মনোবল কিছুটা ধাক্কা খেয়েছে বলেও তিনি কবুল করেছেন। বিনা বাধায় আত্মসমর্পণ করায় কাটাড়ি ফাঁড়ির চার রক্ষীর বিরুদ্ধে তদন্ত হচ্ছে।

ফাঁড়ি তুলে নেওয়ায় তীর প্রতিক্রিয়া জানিয়েছে স্থানীয় রাজনৈতিক মহলের একাংশ। ফরওয়ার্ড ব্লকের জেলা সম্পাদক তথা আড়শার বিধায়ক নিশিকান্ত মৈত্রী বলেন, “সাধারণ মানুষের কাছে কী বার্তা পৌঁছবে? এতে তো পরোক্ষে মাওবাদীদেরই উৎসাহিত করা হল।” ঘটনাচক্রে, এ দিনই বামশোয়ান গার্লস স্কুলে মাওবাদীদের পোস্টার পড়ায় ছাত্রীনিবাস খালি করে দেওয়া হয়েছে। অন্যদিকে, বাঁকুড়ায় সারেস্কায় ব্যাঙ্কে ডাকাতি ও পুলিশের বন্দুক

লুণ্ঠের ঘটনায় মাওবাদীরাই জড়িত বলে এ দিন স্পষ্ট জানিয়েছেন ডিআইজি (মেদিনীপুর রেঞ্জ) গঙ্গেশ্বর সিংহ। পুলিশ সূত্রের খবর, পুরুলিয়া-বাঁকুড়া-পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরে সম্প্রতি জনা চল্লিশ নতুন সদস্য নিয়েছে মাওবাদীরা। এক পুরনো সদস্যের নেতৃত্বে নতুনরাই ডাকাতি করেছে। আড়শায় বন্দুক লুণ্ঠ করতে বাঁকুড়ার দলমা থেকে মাওবাদী স্কোয়াড এসেছিল। তবে স্থানীয় কিছু নতুন সদস্যও হামলায় ছিল।

সজাব্য হামলার আশঙ্কায় কয়েক দিন আগেই পুরুলিয়ার কাঁড়খণ্ড সীমানা ঘেঁষা চারটি ফাঁড়ি থেকে বন্দুক ফিরিয়ে নেওয়া হয়েছিল। দুটি ফাঁড়ি তুলেও দেওয়া হয়। কিন্তু আড়শায় হামলা হতে পারে পুলিশ ভাবেনি। আইজি বলেন, “কাটাড়ি খুবই সুরক্ষিত ফাঁড়ি ছিল। এখান থেকেও বন্দুক লুণ্ঠ হলে ফাঁড়ি রাখা না-রাখা সমান।”

কাটাড়ি ছাড়াও রাতারতি লখুড়কা, চাকলতোড়, সুকলাড়া, চেলিয়ামা, লাড়া, চরপটিয়া, টামনা, মহেশনদী, সিরকাবাদ, কুস্তাউর প্রভৃতি ফাঁড়ি তুলে দেওয়া হয়েছে। ডিআইজি-র অবশ্য দাবি, “ফাঁড়িগুলি পাকাপাকি তুলে দেওয়া হয়নি। পরে শক্তি বাড়িয়ে ফের বসানো হতে পারে।”

সোম ও শুক্রবার আড়শায় হাট কসায় বাইরের লোকজনের আনাগোনা থাকে। মাওবাদীরা সেই সুযোগটাই কাজে লাগায়। দুই নতুন সদস্যের মাধ্যমে ব্যাঙ্কে জড়িয়ে ‘চোর সন্দেহে মারধরে’র অভিযোগ জানাতে তারা ফাঁড়িতে ঢুকে নিজমুঠি ধারণ করে।

অস্ত্রাগারের সামনে গদা বন্দুক হাতে পাহারা দিচ্ছিলেন এক এনভিএফ কর্মী। তাঁকে শাসিয়ে বন্দুকটি তারা কেড়ে নেয়। আরও কয়েক জন কর্মী ভিতরে থাকলেও তারা গুলি চালাননি বলে অভিযোগ। হামলায় জখম এনভিএফ কর্মী বৃন্দাবন গরুই বলেন, “আমি জল আনতে যাচ্ছিলাম। হঠাৎ কয়েক জন ছুটে এসে আমার মাথায় মারো।” কার্ঘ্যত বিনা বাধায় আটটি বন্দুক ও ২০০ রাউন্ড গুলি লুণ্ঠ করে ‘মাওবাদ জিন্দাবাদ’ স্লোগান দিয়ে মাওবাদীরা অযোধ্যা পাহাড়ের দিকে চলে যায়।

মাওবাদীরা অযোধ্যা পাহাড়ের দিকে যাওয়াতেই পুলিশ চিহ্নিত। কাটাড়ি থেকে রেললাইন পেরিয়ে চার কিলোমিটার গেলেই পাহাড়। ওপারে কাঁড়খণ্ডের সরাইকেলা-খরসঁওয়া জেলা। আইজি বলেন, “ওই জেলা পুরোপুরি মাওবাদী অধুষিত। বন্দুক লুণ্ঠ করে দলটি সে দিকেই গিয়েছে।” ওই দিক থেকে

মাওবাদীরা রাজ্যে না-তোকায় আড়শা এত দিন উপক্রমত এলাকার তালিকায় ছিল না। সম্প্রতি তা মাওবাদীদের নতুন ‘কব্রিডর’ হয়েছে বলে পুলিশের সন্দেহ। এ দিন সিপিএমের জেলা সম্পাদকমণ্ডলীর সদস্য মহম্মদ ইব্রাহিম ও জেলা কমিটির সদস্য অনাথ বন্দোপাধ্যায়ও বলেন, “পুলিশের কাছে কী খবর আছে জানি না, তবে অযোধ্যা পাহাড় দিয়ে মাওবাদীদের নতুন করিডর হচ্ছে।”

সারেস্কায় ব্যাঙ্ক ডাকাতির জেরে তিন জেলার উপক্রমত এলাকার ব্যাঙ্কে সতর্কতা বাড়ানো হচ্ছে। বাঁকুড়ার সারেস্ক, রানিবাঁধ, পুরুলিয়ার বামশোয়ান, বোরে, পুষ্কার পাশাপাশি পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের বেলপাহাড়িতেও বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হচ্ছে। আধাসামরিক বাহিনী ছাড়াও সাপা পোশাকের পুলিশ ব্যবহার করা হচ্ছে। গ্রামীণ শাখায় অতিরিক্ত টাকা মজুত না-রাখার পরামর্শও দেওয়া হয়েছে। বেলপাহাড়ির বেশ কয়েকটি গ্রামীণ শাখায় এত দিন গ্রহণ করা ছিল না। পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের পুলিস সুপার অজয় নন্দ বলেন, “বেলপাহাড়ির ব্যাঙ্কগুলিতে দিনে-রাত্রে নজরদারি থাকবে।” এ দিন দুপুরে কাটাড়ির একটি রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব ব্যাঙ্কে গোটে তালী বুলতে দেখা গিয়েছে। পরিচয় দেওয়ার পরেই

তালী খোলা হয়। বোরো থানার একটি রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব ব্যাঙ্কের খতিদুয়ারা শাখার ম্যানেজার বলেন, “গ্রহণের দায়িত্বে থাকা দুই রক্ষী এক মাস যাবৎ আসতেন না। পুলিশ বলেছে, সাপা পোশাকে ব্যাঙ্কের উপরে নজর রাখা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু আমরা ভরসা পাচ্ছি না।”

এ দিন উত্তেজনা ছড়ায় বামশোয়ানেও। দুপুরে বামশোয়ান গার্লস স্কুলের ছাত্রীনিবাসের দেওয়ালে লাল কালিতে লেখা একটি পোস্টার মেলে। অবিলম্বে হস্টেল খালি করে না-দিলে পরিণতি খারাপ হবে বলে তাতে হুমকি দেওয়া। তলায় লেখা ছিল ‘মাওবাদী’। বলরামপুরের সার্কল ইন্সপেক্টর অসিত পাণ্ডে বলেন, “এটা মাওবাদীদের কাজ বলে মনে হয় না। কারা করল খতিয়ে দেখাছি।”

তবু জায়গাটা বামশোয়ান হওয়ায় স্কুলের ছাত্রী ও শিক্ষিকারা আতঙ্কিত হয়ে পড়েন। প্রধান শিক্ষিকা বীথিকা চট্টোপাধ্যায় বলেন, “আতঙ্ক ছড়িয়ে পড়ায় ৬০ জন আবাসিক ছাত্রীকে বাড়ি যেতে বলা হয়। বলা হয়েছে আগামী সোমবার আসতে।”

সত্বেক রবি কব হত্যার প্রতিবাদে গণতান্ত্রিক মহিলা সমিতি এ দিন বামশোয়ানে ‘মিস্কার সমাবেশ’ করেছে।

# Maoists deal double blow

Statesman News Service 1/12

PURULIA/BANKURA, Feb. 13. — Armed Maoists played up in two West Bengal districts today, taking away five rifles, three muskets and light cartridges from a police camp at Kantadih in Purulia about 6.45 pm after a six-member gang of them had ended a 10-minute daylight raid on the Allahabad Bank branch at Sarenga, Bankura, getting richer by Rs 90,000.

The Kantadih raid scarcely lasted a longer while, the rebels helping themselves to the arms and ammunition without the policemen on duty being able to resist them. The camp is about 15 km from the heart of the town, where the superintendent of police, Mr R Shivkumar, rushed after the event.

Police, helped by the CRPF, are combing the area. Mr Banibrata Basu, IG (western range), and Mr Gangeshwar Singh, DIG (Midnapore range), were on their way to the camp when the last reports came in. The raid over, the Maoists sped towards Jharkhand. There were no reports of any policeman being injured.

The Bankura incident marked Maoists' first attack on a financial institution, which took place about 1.15 pm. The money taken, the rebels simply ran into a nearby jungle, prompting police to search it. There were only three clients on the bank premises when the Maoists struck. They bound two constables on security duty hand and foot and tied them to the grille the bank's door was fronted with and, brandishing fire-arms, started looting the place.

According to Mr Rajesh Kumar Singh, SP, Bankura, the petrified bank manager gave away all the cash deposited till then. While leaving, the extremists left Bengali leaflets touting Maoism and took care to snap the bank's telephone lines. The bicycles they had ridden to the bank were later found in the Lalgarh jungle where they disappeared. Police interrogated the bank's employees, who said the Maoists had shouted slogans typical of them. And, while escaping, they made no mistake about taking away the rifles of the policemen they had left immobilised.

Police suspect that the Lalgarh squad of Maoists, hiding in Jharkhand after the widely chronicled Majhgeria bloodbath, were at it again.

## Prachanda

Asserting that Maoists in Nepal had no "working relationship" with Naxalites in India, rebel leader Prachanda today said they only share an ideological relationship.

"Since they are Communists and we are Communists (too), we have an ideological relationship... we meet from time to time and have discussions," he told BBC, adds PTI from Kathmandu.

THE STATESMAN

# টাকা নয়তো সন্তান পুবে খাটানোর নামে দিন, চাপ গ্রামে গ্রামে টানা হচ্ছে স্কোয়াডে

সুমন ঘোষ • মেদিনীপুর

হয় টাকা দিন, না হলে বাড়ির ছেলে বা মেয়েকে দিন। দলের ক্যাডার বাড়িতে গ্রামবাসীদের কাছে এভাবেই আবেদন জানাচ্ছে মাওবাদীরা। যদিও টাকা আদায়ের চেয়ে কমবয়সীদের দলে টানাই তাদের লক্ষ্য।

পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর, পুরুলিয়া ও বাঁকুড়া—এই তিন জেলার মাওবাদী উপক্রম এলাকাতেই এই ঘটনা ঘটছে বলে পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে। গ্রামবাসীরা জানিয়েছেন, মাওবাদীরা এসে এলাকার অনুন্নয়নের কথা বলছে। তার বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলন করার জন্য টাকা চাইছে। দেওয়া সম্ভব নয় জেনেও গরিব দিনমজুর পরিবারের কাছে বেশি টাকা দাবি করছে। দিতে পারবেন না জানানোর সঙ্গে সঙ্গেই চাইছে বাড়ির ছেলেমেয়েদের।

ভয়ে অবশ্য পুলিশের কাছে এ ব্যাপারে এখনও পর্যন্ত কেউ লিখিত অভিযোগ করেননি। পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের জেলা পুলিশ সুপার অজয় নন্দ শুক্রবার বলেন, “আমাদের কাছে কোনও অভিযোগ আসেনি। তবে ওরা তো এমনই করবে! পুলিশ চারদিকে কড়া নজর রাখছে। না হলে গ্রাম থেকে জোর করে ছেলে মেয়েদের তুলে নিয়ে গিয়ে তাদের হাতে অস্ত্র তুলে দিত।”

যাঁদের বাড়িতে উঠতি বয়সের ছেলে-মেয়ে রয়েছে তাঁদেরই ‘টার্গেট’ করছে মাওবাদীরা। পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে, দিনে বা রাতে কেউ একজন এসে ওই ব্যক্তিকে জানিয়ে যাচ্ছে রাত

১০টায় জঙ্গলের নির্দিষ্ট কোণে জায়গায় দেখা করতে। ভয়ে তিনি যেতে বাধ্য হচ্ছেন। বেলপাহাড়ি থানা এলাকার এক গ্রামবাসীর কথায়, “প্রথমে মাওবাদীরা গ্রামের অনুন্নয়নের কথা, লড়াইয়ের কথা বলছে। তারপর বলছে, ‘দল চালাতে, অস্ত্র কিনতে অনেক টাকা খরচ। পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা দাও।’ বলছি, গরিব মানুষ। অত টাকা পাব কোথায়। ছেলেমেয়ে নিয়ে সংসার চালাতেই হিমশিম খাচ্ছি। একথা বলার পরই বলছে, ‘তাহলে ছেলেটা বা মেয়েটাকে দাও। আমাদের দলের হয়ে কাজ করবে।’ আমি ভেবে দেখব বলে চলে এসেছি। তবে ওরা এখনও কোনও জোরজার করেনি। বলুন তো, নিজের ছেলে বা মেয়েকে কেউ দিতে চায়।” তাই আতঙ্কের মধ্যে দিন কাটছে অনেকের।

পুরুলিয়ার এক পুলিশ অফিসারের কথায়, “গরিব জেনেও এক যুবককে মাওবাদীরা প্রথমে ২০ হাজার টাকা দিতে বলে। যখনই সে টাকা দিতে পারবে না বলেছে, তখনই মাওবাদীরা তাকে জানায়, ‘তুই আমাদের দলে যোগ দে। তোদের উন্নয়নের জন্যই তো আমরা লড়াই করছি। তোরা আমাদের দল করবি না কেন?’ ওই যুবকও ভয়ে পুলিশকেও কিছু জানাতে চাননি। পুলিশের অনুমান, সব জায়গায় মাওবাদীরা এই পদ্ধতিতেই ‘রিফ্রুট’-এর চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে। এই কায়দায় মাওবাদীরা যাতে দল ভারি করতে না পারে সেদিকে তীক্ষ্ণ নজর রাখছে।

অমিতাভ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় • বাঁকুড়া

‘পুবে’ খাটাতে নিয়ে যাওয়ার নাম করে জঙ্গলমহলের ছেলেমেয়েদের মাওবাদী স্কোয়াডে টেনে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে দালালেরা। সাম্প্রতিক কিছু ঘটনায় তদন্ত চালাতে গিয়ে পুলিশের তেমনই ধারণা হয়েছে। পুলিশের দাবি, বেলপাহাড়ি থেকে ধৃত মাওবাদী বিমলা সর্দার ও সুলেখা মাহাতোকে জেরা করার পরে তাদের এই ধারণা আরও দৃঢ় হয়েছে। ওই সব দালালের খোঁজখবর নেওয়া শুরু হয়েছে।

রাজ্যের মাওবাদী অধ্যুষিত তিন জেলার মধ্যে বিশেষত পুরুলিয়া ও বাঁকুড়ায় প্রচুর লোক শুধা মরসুমে রুজির খোঁজে গ্রাম ছাড়েন। ওই সব এলাকায় রোজগারের প্রধান উপায়

পাতা এবং শুকনো ডালপালা এনে সামান্য টাকায় বিক্রি করা। বছরের একটা সময়ে সামান্য চাষাবাদ হলেও সেচের ব্যবস্থা না-থাকায় তা মূলত বৃষ্টিনির্ভর। ফলে শুধা মরসুমে যখন পূর্বের জেলাগুলির দো-ফসলি, তিন-ফসলি জমিতে রীতিমতো চাষ হচ্ছে, জঙ্গলমহলের মাঠ ফাঁকিই পড়ে থাকে। টান পড়ে পেটেও।

এ কারণেই শীতের মুখে লরি, ট্রাক্টর বোঝাই করে বর্ধমান-সহ পূর্বের অন্যান্য জেলায় কাজের খোঁজে যান পুরুলিয়া ও বাঁকুড়ার বিপুল সংখ্যক মানুষ। এঁদের একটা বড় অংশ খেতমজুরের কাজ নেন, হুগলি-হাওড়ার নানা ইটভাটাতেও অনেকের

কাজজোটে। স্থানীয় কথায় একেই ‘পুবে খাটাতে যাওয়া’ বলে। মরসুমের শেষে বেশির ভাগই আবার যে যার গ্রামে ফিরে আসেন। এই যাওয়া-আসার সময়ে রানিবাঁধের বাসগুলিতে তিলধারণের জায়গা মেলে না।

স্থানীয় সূত্রে জানা যায়, পশ্চিমের পশ্চাৎপদ এলাকা থেকে সন্তায় মজুর সংগ্রহের জন্য পুবের সম্পন্ন চাষিরা অনেকে দালাল লাগান। পুলিশের দাবি, স্কোয়াডে সদস্য আনার লক্ষ্যে মাওবাদীরাও এখন একই ভাবে দালাল ব্যবহার করছে। ‘পুবে’ নিয়ে যাওয়ার নাম করে কমবয়সীদের তারা মাওবাদী সংগ্রহে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে। তাদের সরাসরি টাকা দেওয়ার আশ্বাস দিচ্ছে মাওবাদীরা। সেই টোপ গিলে অনেকেই কাজে লেগে পড়ছে। বেশির ভাগই আর ফিরতে পারছে না।

পুলিশ কর্তাদের বক্তব্য, “মাওবাদী স্কোয়াডের কাজে পয়সা আসলেও শক্তি নেই। ফলে বিশেষত মেয়েরা ফিরে আসতে চাইছে বারবার।” পুলিশ না বললেও যে ভাবে ফিরে এসেছে বেলপাহাড়িতে বিমলা সর্দার এবং সুলেখা মাহাতোরা। তবে মাওবাদীরা জঙ্গলমহলের গ্রামগুলিতে যে অসহায় মানুষের পাশে থাকে তা তারা এত জোরার মধ্যেও জানাতে ভোলেনি। পাশাপাশি তারা জানিয়েছে, ‘টাকা পাচ্ছি। কিন্তু আমরা বাড়ি ফিরতে চাই। আধপেটা খেয়ে যেমন বাড়িতে ছিলাম তেমনই থাকতে চাই।’ তবে পুলিশ বা প্রশাসন যাই বলুক না কেন, ওই জঙ্গলমহলের এখনও উন্নতি বলতে তেমন কিছুই হয়নি।

## মাওবাদী কৌশল

# DANTEWADA FLASHPOINT | Mining PSU's explosives depot looted Naxals kill 8 CISF jawans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 10

**E**IGHT CISF jawans were killed and nine injured in a Naxal attack at an explosives depot of the National Mineral Development Corporation in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district early today.

The ultras escaped with a huge quantity of explosive materials and weapons from the depot at Hiroli near Kirandul, about 550 kms from here, state Director General of Police Om Prakash Rathor said.

Dantewada police sources said about 400 armed Naxalites made off with a huge quantity of ammonium nitrate, a high grade explosive, stocked in the depot for use in mining operations. The



insurgents also took away two wireless sets, 14 self-loaded rifles (SLRs), one 9 mm pistol and other ammunition, Rathor added.

After triggering several

blasts, the Maoists, who outnumbered the security men, opened indiscriminate fire on the CISF jawans guarding the depot, killing eight and injuring nine security men. Before

the strike, the Maoists had cut off the depot's communication network by targeting the power supply line, hampering rescue work later on, the sources said.

The local police reached the spot a couple of hours after the attack. The exact amount of the explosive materials looted from the depot will be known after investigation, they said.

On Monday, Naxalites killed nine jawans in Kotacheru area of the same district and injured an equal number of security personnel from the Naga Battalion, engaged in anti-Naxal operations in the area. In another incident on the same day, Maoists raided Arra police station in Jashpur district and killed two policemen, injured eight others and stole their weapons.

INDIAN EXPRESS

## পুলিশের আশঙ্কা ছিলই

# বেলপাহাড়িতে

## মাওবাদীদের

### সঙ্গে লড়াই

নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা, ঝাড়গ্রাম ও পুরুলিয়া: পুলিশের আশঙ্কা সত্যি প্রমাণিত করে মঙ্গলবার বিকেল থেকে পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুরের বেলপাহাড়ির বাড়িয়াম জঙ্গলে পুলিশের সঙ্গে মাওবাদী জঙ্গিদের গুলির লড়াই শুরু হয়। রাত পর্যন্ত সংঘর্ষ চলে। অন্তত দু'জন জঙ্গি-সহ বেশ কয়েক জনকে আটক করেছে পুলিশ। স্থানীয় সূত্রে আরও জানা গিয়েছে, ওই সংঘর্ষে অন্তত দু'জনের মৃত্যু হয়েছে। যদিও পুলিশ কর্তাদের তরফে এর সমর্থন মেলেনি।

লুঠ হওয়ার আশঙ্কায় ঝাড়খণ্ড সীমানা লাগোয়া চারটি ফাঁড়ি থেকে আয়েয়াস্ত্র সরিয়ে নিয়েছিল পুরুলিয়া জেলা পুলিশ। দু'এক দিনের মধ্যে মাওবাদীরা আঘাত হানতে পারে বলে পুলিশের কাছে খবর ছিল। সেই আশঙ্কা মতো মঙ্গলবারই সংঘর্ষের ঘটনা ঘটল বেলপাহাড়ির জঙ্গলে।

এ দিন সকালে বেলপাহাড়ি থানায় খবর আসে, ডাঙরডিহির কাছে বাড়িয়াম জঙ্গলে ১০-১৫ জন রান্না করে থাকে। এস ডি পি ও (ঝাড়গ্রাম) অজয় ঠাকুর এবং বেলপাহাড়ির আই সি সুজিত ঘোষ বাহিনী নিয়ে ওই এলাকার কাছে পৌঁছন। জঙ্গলে ঢুকে তাঁরা বুঝতে পারেন, তাঁদের আর টি সেট কাজ করছে না। পুলিশের একটি দল জঙ্গলের ভিতরে রয়ে যায়। অন্য একটি দল আর টি সেট পাল্টাতে বেলপাহাড়ি থানার দিকে ফিরতে শুরু করে। থানামুখী দলটি হঠাৎ দেখতে পায়, দু'জন জঙ্গলের মধ্যে দিয়ে দৌড়ে পালিয়ে যাচ্ছে। ধাওয়া করে তাদের ধরে ফেলে পুলিশ। দু'জনকে জেরা করে পুলিশ নিশ্চিত হয়, জঙ্গলের মধ্যে আরও অনেকে আছে। তখনকার মতো দু'জনকে নিয়েই পুলিশ থানায় ফিরে আসে। এর পরে বিকালের দিকে পুলিশ সুপার অজয় নন্দার নেতৃত্বে পুলিশবাহিনী চারটি দলে ভাগ হয়ে জঙ্গলে ঢোকে এবং জঙ্গিদের ঘিরে ফেলে। দু'পক্ষে সংঘর্ষে শুরু হয়। কিছু ক্ষণ পরে জঙ্গিরা পালিয়ে যায় বলে পুলিশ সূত্রে জানা গিয়েছে। ঘটনাস্থল থেকে প্রচুর অস্ত্রশস্ত্র, ২৫০ রাউন্ড গুলি ও নথিপত্র বাজেয়াপ্ত করেছে পুলিশ। ডিআইজি (মেদিনীপুর রেঞ্জ) গঙ্গেশ্বর সিংহ বলেন, “ওখানে মাওবাদীদের স্কোয়াড ঘুরছিল। পুলিশ চ্যালেঞ্জ জানাতে তাদের সঙ্গে সংঘর্ষ হয়। তবে হতাহতের খবর নেই।”

এই দিন দুপুরেই পুরুলিয়ার জেলার পুলিশ সুপার আর শিবকুমার বলেছিলেন, “মাওবাদীরা দু'এক দিনের মধ্যে হামলা চালাতে পারে বলে আমরা জানতে পেরেছি।” রাইফেল সরিয়ে নেওয়ার প্রসঙ্গে তিনি বলেছিলেন, “ওই সব ফাঁড়িতে দু'তিনটি করে রাইফেল ছিল। চারদিকে যা ঘটছে তাতে ওই সব জায়গায় রাইফেল রাখা আপাতত নিরাপদ বলে মনে করছি না আমরা।” সোমবারই ছত্তীসগড়ে পুলিশ চৌকিতে হামলা চালিয়ে প্রচুর অস্ত্র লুঠ করা হয়েছে। পুলিশ সুপার জানান, কিছু ফাঁড়ি থেকে বন্দুক সরানো হলেও জামতোড়িয়া, পুন্দাগের মতো কিছু জায়গায় ফাঁড়ির শক্তি বাড়ানো হয়েছে। পুরুলিয়ার উপকণ্ঠে বেলগুমা পুলিশ লাইনে অস্ত্রাগারেও বিশেষ সতর্কতা জারি করা হয়েছে।

জেলা পুলিশ সূত্রের খবর, মফসসল থানার চাষমোড়, জয়পুরের আলকুশা, বরাবাজারের সিঞ্জি ও বাঘমুন্ডির সুইসা ফাঁড়ির পুলিশকর্মীদের বন্দুক আপাতত ফিরিয়ে নেওয়া হয়েছে। জয়পুর থানা এলাকায় অনেক দিন মাওবাদী তৎপরতা রয়েছে। সিঞ্জি ফাঁড়ির এক দিকে মাওবাদী অধ্যুষিত বোরো থানা, অন্য দিকে বান্দোয়ান। বাকি দু'টি ফাঁড়িও ঝাড়খণ্ড সীমানা লাগোয়া। প্রতিটিতে দু'তিন জন পুলিশকর্মী ও কিছু লাঠিধারী এনভিএফ কর্মী আছেন। চারটি ফাঁড়ি ছাড়াও পুরুলিয়া-মানবাজার রুটে কেন্দ্রা থানার তালতলা ও পুষ্কা থানার পায়রাচালি পুলিশ ক্যাম্প থেকেও রাইফেল তুলে নেওয়া হয়েছে। পুলিশের একটি সূত্রের মতে, মাওবাদী হামলা হলে ওই সব ফাঁড়ি বা ক্যাম্পের রক্ষীদের পক্ষে তা সামাল দেওয়া অসম্ভব, উল্টে রাইফেল খোওয়া যাবে। সেই কারণেই সেগুলি সরিয়ে নেওয়া হয়েছে।

আয়েয়াস্ত্র সরিয়ে নেওয়ায় মাওবাদী মোকাবিলা দূরে থাক, এলাকায় আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বজায় রাখাও যে পুলিশকর্মীদের পক্ষে শক্ত হয়ে দাঁড়াতে তা-ও উড়িয়ে দিচ্ছেন না পুলিশ কর্তারা। তবে বন্দুক থাকলেও যে বিরাট কিছু ফারাক হবে স্থানীয় বাসিন্দাদের অনেকেই অবশ্য তা মানতে নারাজ। তাঁদের অভিযোগ, ১৮ জানুয়ারি রাতে বান্দোয়ান থানার কাছে একটি যাত্রার আসরে আশুন লাগানো ও লুঠপাটের সময়ে পুলিশ আসেনি। কর্তারা পরে জানান, লুঠের ভয়ে পুলিশ বন্দুক নিয়ে যেতে পারেনি। পুলিশ সুপার বলেন, “উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষের নির্দেশেই রাইফেল সরিয়ে নেওয়া হয়েছে।” গঙ্গেশ্বর সিংহ বলেন, “আমরা কিছু নির্দিষ্ট পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে চলছি।”



# 12 cops die in Naxal strike in C'garh, J'khand

By Law Kumar Mishra/TNN

**Raipur:** Maoist guerrillas raided a police station and exploded a landmine leaving at least 12 policemen dead and 21 injured in two separate attacks early Monday in the Naxalite-racked belt that weaves its bloody path through Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Arrah police outpost, 500 km from here in north Chhattisgarh, was the target of the first attack. Around 2 am, an armed group of about 100 Maoists raided the post, gunning down three policemen and injuring 12 others. The injured were admitted to district hospital at Jashpur, from where they were to be air-lifted to Raipur for better treatment.

Police said violence continued till 4 am on Monday. Armed Maoists burnt the police station, located near the Jharkhand border, and looted 22 arms, including AK 47, SLRs and .303 rifles. All the policemen were sleeping at the time of the attack. Before leaving, the extremists detonated a wireless tower at the police station, snapping all communication links.

On the Andhra Pradesh border, the Maoists caused landmine blast at Bheji on Indrepal-Sukma road in Dantewara district of Chhattisgarh, 500 km from here. Nine jawans of the Nagaland Armed Battalion, currently deployed in counter-in-

surgency operations, were killed. Nine others who were in the vehicle were wounded. The blast took place around 10 am, when the Nagaland policemen were returning after an operation, police said.

This was the second major attack on the security agencies in Dantewara since October last year when Maoists had killed 25 CRPF jawans in a landmine blast in Gandalur.

Ranvijay Singh Judeo, descendant of the erstwhile royal family of Jashpur and chairman of the Chhattisgarh State Youth and Sports Commission, told TOI that he had forewarned the government about the attack in Jashpur.

Police too admitted about intelligence inputs of possible Maoists attack in Jashpur.

Home minister Ram Vichar Netam said there were unconfirmed reports of some Maoists being killed in Jashpur district, as the police team that reached the spot found some blood-stains outside the post. However, these reports were not confirmed. The state police has sought help of Gumla and Simdega police stations in Jharkhand to locate the "injured Maoists." Netam said the police would continue its campaign against the Maoists, both in Bastar and Surguja areas and more policemen would be deployed in the police stations.



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# বান্দোয়ানে নির্মীয়মাণ অতিথি নিবাস উড়িয়ে দিল মাওবাদীরা

সমীর দত্ত • বান্দোয়ান

সিপিএম নেতা রবীন্দ্রনাথ কর হত্যার রেশ কাটতে না-কাটতেই ফের বান্দোয়ানে আঘাত হানল মাওবাদীরা। ৩০ ডিসেম্বর রাতে ওই হত্যাকাণ্ডের পর পুলিশের যে কুচিয়া-ক্যাম্পের বিরুদ্ধে নিষ্ক্রিয়তার অভিযোগ উঠেছিল, রবিবার রাতে তার কাছেই দুয়ারসিনিতে একটি নির্মীয়মাণ সরকারি অতিথি নিবাসে বিস্ফোরণ ঘটায় মাওবাদীরা। যদিও ওই ঘটনায় কেউ হতাহত হননি।

প্রত্যক্ষদর্শীদের দাবি, ২০-২৫ জনের একটি সশস্ত্র দল ওই কাণ্ড ঘটায়। বিস্ফোরণের জেরে নির্মীয়মাণ দোতলা বাড়িটির ব্যাপক ক্ষতি হয়েছে। সিঁড়ি ধসে গিয়েছে। নীচের ঘরগুলির অনেকটা ভেঙে পড়েছে। কী জাতীয় বিস্ফোরক ব্যবহার করা হয়েছে তা বলতে পারেনি পুলিশ।

তাদের সন্দেহ, বাঁকুড়ার বারিকুল এবং গুড়পানায় সিআরপিএফ শিবিরে বিস্ফোরণ-কাণ্ডের মতো এ বারেও ধ্বংসস্থাপে বোমা রেখে গিয়েছে মাওবাদীরা। ঘটনাস্থলে গিয়েও ভেঙে পড়া ঘরে ঢোকেননি জেলার পুলিশ সুপার আর শিবকুমার। তিনি জানান, খবর দেওয়া হয়েছে বন ডিসপোজাল স্কোয়াডকে।

প্রত্যক্ষদর্শীদের দাবি, “বিস্ফোরণের পরে ওরা নিজেদের মধ্যে বলাবলি করছিল, ‘এখানে কিছুতেই পুলিশ-ক্যাম্প করতে দেব না। জেলার ছেলেরা গাছতলায় পড়বে, আর পুলিশ থাকবে দোতলায়—এ হয় না।’ এসপি-র দাবি, “প্রাথমিক তদন্তে আমাদের অনুমান, এলাকায় নিজেদের অস্তিত্ব জাহির করতেই এ কাণ্ড করেছে ওরা। ওরা হয়ত ভেবেছিল, দুয়ারসিনিতে পুলিশ শিবির করা হবে। তাও এই বিস্ফোরণের কারণ হতে পারে।”

প্রত্যক্ষদর্শীদের দাবি, ঘটনাস্থলে বেশ কিছু পোস্টার এবং লিফলেট ছড়িয়ে রেখে যায় মাওবাদীরা। যদিও এসপি জানান, কেবল তিনটি পোস্টার মিলেছে। তাতে ২৬ জানুয়ারি মাওবাদীদের ডাকা ভারত বন্ধ সফল করার ডাক দেওয়া হয়েছে। তবে বিকাল পর্যন্ত ওই এলাকায় তল্লাসি চালায়নি পুলিশ। এসপি বলেন,

“কর্তৃপক্ষের সঙ্গে কথা বলে ঠিক হবে, কী ভাবে তল্লাসি-অভিযান শুরু হবে।” মাওবাদীদের কোন স্কোয়াড এ কাজ করেছে জানতে চাওয়া হলে, তিনি বলেন, “ব্যাপারটা এখনও পরিষ্কার নয়।” যদিও পুলিশ সূত্রের খবর, উদ্ধার হওয়া একটি লিফলেটের অংশবিশেষে দেখা গিয়েছে, তা প্রচার করছে সিপিআই (মাওবাদী)-এর পশ্চিম মেদিনীপুর-বাঁকুড়া-পুরুলিয়া জোনাল কমিটি। রাতে আইজি (পশ্চিমাঞ্চল)

চলছিল মার্বেল বসানোর। প্রশাসনের দাবি, মাস দু'য়েকের মধ্যেই কাজ সম্পূর্ণ হয়ে যেত। রবিবার রাতে বাড়িটিতে ছিলেন কেয়ারটেকার উপেন্দ্রনাথ সিংহ এবং তিন মার্বেল মিশ্রি অরুণ মাহাতো, সঞ্জয় কুস্তকার ও বিরজু কুস্তকার। উপেন্দ্রবাবু ছিলেন একতলায় গেটের মুখের ঘরে। অন্যরা দোতলায়। উপেন্দ্রবাবু বলেন, “রাত ১২ টা নাগাদ জলপাই রঙের পোশাক, কালো জ্যাকেট পরা কয়েক জন ঘরে

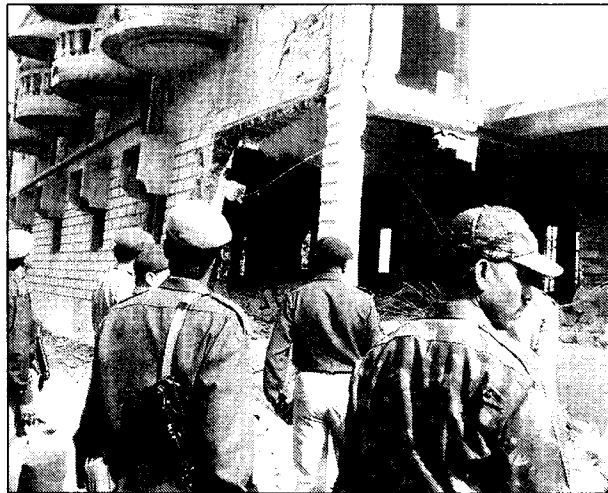
কানফটানো আওয়াজ পৌঁছয় ২০০ মিটার দূরে বন দফতরের কটেজের। রবিবার রাতে সেখানে ছিলেন সল্টলেক, খড়দহ এবং বারুইপুরের তিনটি পরিবার। তাঁরা মুখ না-খুললেও কেয়ারটেকার ত্রিলোচন মাহাতো বলেন, “বিস্ফোরণের আওয়াজে ঘুম ভাঙে। ভয়ে আর ঘুমোতে পারিনি।” একই অভিজ্ঞতা স্থানীয় চায়ের দোকানদার রবীন্দ্রনাথ মাহাতো, সত্যবান সিংহ, আনন্দ সিংহদেরও।

তিন মিশ্রি এবং উপেন্দ্রবাবু বলেন, “বিস্ফোরণের পরে ওরা ছইসল বাজিয়ে দলের সবাইকে এক জায়গায় জড়ো করল। অন্ধকারে বোঝা না গেলেও প্রায় ২০-২৫ জন ছিল। স্লোগান দিল, ‘মাওবাদ জিন্দাবাদ। ২৬ জানুয়ারির বন্ধ সফল করুন।’ পরে অতিথি নিবাসের বোর্ডে, সামনের বন্ধ চায়ের দোকানের গায়ে পোস্টার, লিফলেট লাগাল। আমাদের বলল, ‘আলো ফোটার আগে নড়বি না। আর খেয়াল রাখবি, সকালে সাধারণ মানুষ যাতে বাড়িটার ভিতরে না-ঢোকে।’ আধ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে সব কাজ শেষ করে নদীর পাড়ে জঙ্গলে ঢুকে যায় ওরা। কোন দিকে গেল, বুঝতে পারিনি।”

ভোর ৬টা নাগাদ ঘটনাস্থল থেকে বেরিয়ে অরুণবাবু এবং সঞ্জয়বাবু চার কিলোমিটার দূরে কুচিয়া পুলিশ শিবিরে খবর দেন। সকাল ৯টা নাগাদ ঘটনাস্থলে পৌঁছয় পুলিশ।

ঘটনাস্থলে দিয়ে দেখা যায়, প্রায় ৩০০ গজ পরিধি জুড়ে ছড়িয়ে রয়েছে ইট, কাঠ, কংক্রিটের চাঁই। অতিথি নিবাসের নীচের ঘর তিনটি মারাত্মক ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়েছে। সিঁড়ি ধসে পড়েছে। ফাটল ধরে গিয়েছে গোটা বাড়িতে। বেলা ১২টা নাগাদ এসপি পৌঁছেল তাঁকে নিয়ে অতিথি নিবাসের চারপাশ ঘুরিয়ে দেখান বান্দোয়ান থানার ওসি সাধন পাঠক। ওরা সাধারণ মানুষকে বাড়িটার ভিতরে ঢুকতে বারণ করেছে। প্রাথমিক ভাবে আমাদের সন্দেহ, ভিতরে ওরা বোমা রেখে গিয়েছে। বেলপাহাড়ির বন-ডিসপোজাল স্কোয়াডকে খবর দেওয়া হয়েছে।”

এসপি জানান, এই ঘটনা এবং ২৬ জানুয়ারি মাওবাদীদের ডাকা বন্ধের প্রেক্ষিতে জেলায় নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থার বিশেষ কড়াকড়ি করা হবে। সাহায্য চাওয়া হয়েছে বাঁকুড়া পুলিশেরও।



সেই অতিথি নিবাস ঘুরে দেখছেন নিরাপত্তাকর্মীরা।—সূত্রিত মাহাতো

বাণীব্রত বসু বলেন, “রাজ্য এবং বাঁকুড়া পুলিশ সোমবার বিকাল থেকে যৌথ ভাবে ঘটনাস্থল এবং লাগোয়া এলাকায় চিরুনি-তল্লাসি শুরু করেছে। কেউ গ্রেফতার হয়নি।” সিপিএমের জেলা সম্পাদকমণ্ডলীর সদস্য তথা রাজ্য কমিটির সদস্য মনীন্দ্র গোপ বলেন, “মাওবাদীরা পুরুলিয়ায় পর্যটনের বিকাশ চায় না। ওরা জনগণের শত্রু। তাই এই বিস্ফোরণ।”

জেলা প্রশাসনের উদ্যোগে বান্দোয়ান পঞ্চায়েত সমিতির তত্ত্বাবধানে বন দফতরের কটেজ লাগোয়া এলাকাতেই গড়া হচ্ছিল ওই ‘অতিথি নিবাস’। সাঁওতালি ভাষায় নাম ‘উমুল’ (পর্যটন)।

বান্দোয়ানের বিডিও তাহেফজ্জামান জানান, বাড়িটি গড়তে এ পর্যন্ত খরচ হয়েছে ৮ লক্ষ টাকার কিছু বেশি। উপরে চারটি এবং নীচে তিনটি ঘর তৈরি হয়ে গিয়েছিল। কাজ

টুকে আমাকে ঘুম থেকে ডেকে তুলে বলে, ‘বাইরে যা। আমরা এ বাড়িটা ওড়াব।’ কয়েক জনের হাতে আগ্নেয়াস্ত্র ছিল। বুঝতে পারি ওরা মাওবাদী।”

তিনি আরও বলেন, “ওদের জানাই, উপরে তিন মিশ্রি রয়েছে। ওরা তাদেরও বার করে আনে। পরে ওদের এক জন পিঠের ঝোলানো ব্যাগ থেকে কিছু একটা বার করে। বাড়ির চার কোণায় চার জন গিয়ে সেটা রেখে আসে। তার পরে সাতশুভুম নদীর পাড় পর্যন্ত অন্তত ২০০ গজ দূরত্ব তার বিছায়।” অরুণ মাহাতো বলেন, “তার বিছিয়ে হিন্দি-বাংলা মিশিয়ে ওরা বলল, ‘তোরা আমাদের সঙ্গে নদীর পাড়ে চল। না-হলে চোট পাবি।’”

সঞ্জয় কুস্তকার বলেন, “ওরা নিজেদের মধ্যে কার কাছে নতুন ব্যাটারি আছে, খোঁজ করছিল। ব্যাটারি পাওয়ার পরেই বিস্ফোরণ ঘটায়। আওয়াজে কানে তালা লেগে যায়।”

## Centre to set up anti-Naxal wing

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Jan. 13. — The Centre today announced the setting up of a separate wing to regularly monitor the Naxalite activities and further strengthen state police organisations to curb Naxalism.

The decision was taken during the 19th coordination committee meeting of all Naxal-affected states' chief secretaries chaired by the home secretary.

The home ministry has also decided to coordinate with the rural development, tribal welfare and panchayati raj ministries to carry on social and economic development in these areas. State governments would be provided with extra forces and intelligence to tackle the Naxal menace, the home secretary, Mr VK Duggal, said.

The main job of the Naxal wing

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would be to coordinate with state police forces to carry out joint operations and finalise a complete action plan to intensify police action against Naxalites and boost up their infrastructure.

The state governments have also agreed to establish and upgrade their dedicated intelligence wings to gather and share intelligence on Naxalism. They would also draw up a time-bound plan for strengthening vulnerable police stations in Naxal-affected areas with additional manpower, modern weaponry, communication equipment and well protected buildings. It has also been decided to enhance sharing of intelligence inputs among themselves, and ensure strict enforcement of existing laws and instructions for control and regulation of manufacture, movement, storage, detection and tracing of explosives and detonators.

JHARKHAND OPERATION LASTS FOR 72 HOURS

# Maoist training camp busted

Stateaman News Service

## Cash-strapped cops

RANCHI, Jan. 3. — The Jharkhand police have busted one of the biggest training camps of the Maoists in the Saranda forest area after a major operation, which lasted for 72 hours.

A joint combat force constituted of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP), state police officers from eight police stations and special force personnel from Ranchi and neighbouring Chaibasa, raided a remote corner of the forest area late on 31 December night, after receiving specific information that the Maoists were running a major training facility in the forests, close to the Kayangdera village of Sonuwa police station area of West Singhbhum district, and to the Rania police station borders of Ranchi district.

According to senior state police officers, the training camp had been located there for a few months but remained undetected even during aerial surveys of the forest area, as it was extremely well camouflaged behind the thick growth of forest and surrounded by hills. The police team crossed eight hills on the way to the camp.

"There was a brief exchange of gunfire as the forces led by Mr Navin Kumar Singh, superintendent of police, Chaibasa and Mr Madhusudan Bari, DSP, Khunti area, arrived near the training camp. Once the extremists found that they would be overpowered, they managed to escape under the cover of darkness through the jungles, leaving behind most of their belongings," said a senior state police officer.

The officer said that documents seized from the training camp suggest that Maoist extremists were planning a major attack either on the Khuntisub-jail or on the Simdega jail on the lines of "operation jailbreak," which they had executed in Jehanabad. The documents also indicate that the Maoists were planning to attack selective targets in Chaibasa, for

RANCHI, Jan. 3. — Central assistance to the five-year-old Jharkhand state has started to dry up considerably, following allegations of misdirection of funds earmarked for the modernisation of the state's police force. Senior officers at the state police headquarters feel that pressure from outside quarters has caused the drying up of Central funds that the state needs desperately to combat the ever-increasing menace of Maoist attacks. According to state police records, during the first fiscal of 2000-01, the state government had claimed Rs 36 crores from the Centre to set up a credible and well equipped police force. "Those were the days when anti-state activities of the PWG and MCC were at an all-time high and the Central government was generous enough to sanction even more than what was demanded", a senior officer said. — SNS

which the ultras wanted to continue the training camp, capable of housing and hosting more than 200 people, till 15 January. Huge quantities of food, blankets, folding chairs and tables, tents, generator sets and other articles of daily use have been seized from the busted camp.

"From the nature of the stocks in the camp, we feel that there were at least 150 cadres undergoing training in the camp, including women. The presence of cashewnuts and other such food items also indicate that some very senior leaders having access to such delicacies, were also present in the facility. We have seized lists of the sympathisers of the extremists from the camp and steps would soon be taken," added the officer.

The entire area surrounding the camp was booby-trapped with landmines. Watch towers had been erected on tree tops at regular intervals to keep a close watch on any movement close to the training camp, informed Mr Navin Kumar Singh, SP, Chaibasa. Mr Singh also said that extremists had planned an attack on seven neighbouring police stations to loot arms and ammunition.

THE STATESMAN

04 JAN 2006

# MAOIST DESIGNS

Remedial Action Must Be Taken Immediately

By JR MUKHERJEE

With Maoists from Nepal to Tamil Nadu subverting the government machinery and gaining control in a wide corridor across 13 states through a campaign of terror, their activities have become a serious threat to national security. This is all the more so because Maoist groups have joined to form a People's Guerrilla Army to launch a violent revolution. It is to be converted into a People's Liberation Army to overthrow existing governments.

The Maoists propose to expose, isolate and defeat all forms of social repression, particularly untouchability, feudalism and casteism and Hindu fascist forces, whilst exposing other fundamentalist forces. They propose to direct their struggle against the central and state governments, including the CPI and CPI-M and their allies.

## Sinister designs

The Maoists plan to resist expansionist designs of all imperialists, including India, the USA, all over the world. The Maoist designs become all the more sinister as they are being aided and abetted by Pakistan, Bangladesh and in all probability China, as part of the next phase of the proxy war campaign against India. They have developed links with terrorist and insurgent groups operating in India.

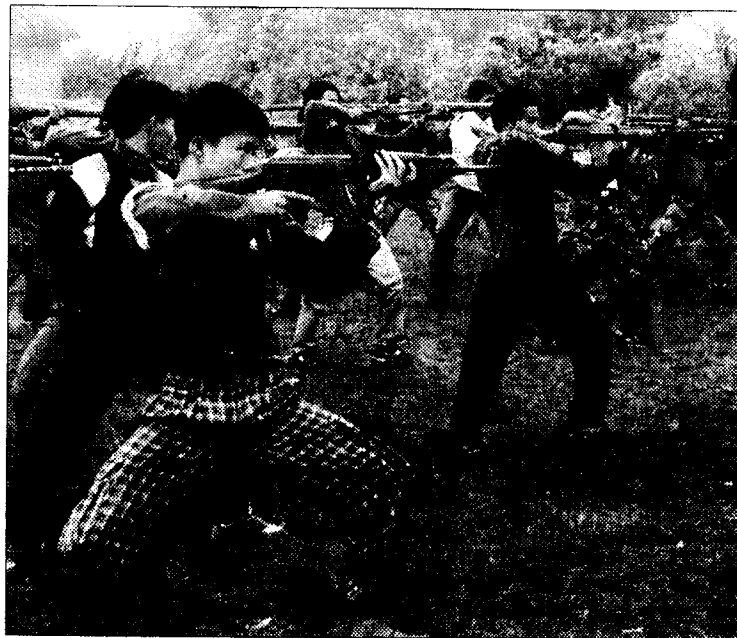
We have only ourselves to blame. It is clear that the Maoist rank and file are aggrieved over their exploitation by the rich and upper castes. We have Adivasis from the hills who perceive that the plains people have indulged in land grabbing for profit. They perceive Marwaris, traders, landlords, police and forest officials to be anti-poor and complain that politicians have made promises to obtain votes but have done little for them.

Lower castes from UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra have lost

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

their lands to the moneyed classes, are ill-treated and are socially and financially deprived. Discrimination against lower castes is especially common in the rural areas. Religious minorities are not getting a fair deal. Poor upper caste peasants are exploited by the rich upper castes. A caste war prevails between the lower

system have all contributed to socio-economic inequalities. With independence in 1947 there was great hope. Since it failed to deliver, there is deep anger. The Maoists contend that our present form of democracy has failed to improve the living conditions of people in villages and the poor.



and impoverished classes and the upper caste Bhumihars and Kshatriyas. These people are deprived of health care, electricity, water education, roads or other facilities.

There is rampant corruption; money allocated for development never reaches the interior areas. Rich and the upper castes continue to dominate politics and hold senior positions in the administration, police and business and control a disproportionate share of natural resources.

## Caste systems

The growth of the Maoist movement can be seen as a failure of the political leadership and the bureaucracy. This situation has been many years in the making. Inadequate rural development, over-population, corruption, absence of governance and strict adherence to the caste

The Maoists demand redistribution and allotment of land to landless peasants, particularly to those whose land has been grabbed in the garb of repayment of loans by money-lenders and landlords. It is reported that since independence only about 1.6 per cent of agricultural land has been redistributed owing to vested interests compared to over 30 to 40 per cent in other Asian countries, including China.

It is an established fact that our handicraft, cottage and rural-based industries are in a crisis with many units forced to close down owing to competition. Many Dalits and other lower classes are no longer in a position to engage themselves in trade. Consequently unemployment is increasing.

The demand, therefore, is for a self-reliant industry which will generate jobs. Today reportedly more than 40 per cent of the

people live below the poverty line in many areas. The demand is also for equal rights to women — interestingly the number of women cadres among Maoists is as high as 25-30 per cent. They want justice and democratic rights for religious and ethnic minorities, autonomy for tribals, creation of Telengana and Gorkhaland, development in backward areas, including coastal Andhra, prohibition, adequate provisions for health care and education for the poor and eradication of corruption.

## Early dialogue

It is imperative that remedial action be taken immediately. There should be early dialogue with Maoists simultaneously in all the affected states in a co-ordinated manner. This must be done even though the Maoists will try to use the period of dialogue and ceasefire to consolidate. In a nutshell, peaceful resolution must be given a chance. Land reforms must be initiated and it must be ensured that those who have been deprived get a fair deal. Our handicrafts and cottage industries sector needs to be protected, modernised and made competitive with government assistance.

There is the need to amend the Constitution to make our democracy more responsive. We need to ensure that the voice of minorities and the deprived sections are heard. It is imperative that a concerted drive be launched against corruption. Women must be given equality. We are not even able to pass the women's Bill in Parliament. We need to get our internal security act together and ensure that the Maoists in West Bengal, Bihar, UP bordering Nepal do not support the Nepalese Maoists.

As a last resort, should dialogue fail to make Maoists see reason, there would be little option but to use military force. This would have to be done in a co-ordinated manner across affected areas simultaneously such in the fashion of the operations of the 1970s against the Naxalites.

BLOODY END TO 2005

# Maoists kill CPM man, wife

SIN  
11/10/05  
9-8-P  
CP/M

Statesman News Service

**BANDWAN (Purulia), Dec. 31.** — Maoist terror claimed its most high-profile victim yet when former Purulia zilla sabhadhipati and top district CPI-M leader, Rabindra Nath Kar, 57, and wife Anandamoyee, 49, were shot dead in Bandwan today. Two security guards were injured in the attack.

Around 3 a.m., some 50 armed Maoists attacked the CPI-M leader's house at Bhomragarh village in Purulia's Bandwan block and shot the couple. The attackers then hurled petrol bombs at the house and triggered a blast. Soon, the house was on fire and the leader and his wife were burnt.

Though only 11 km from Purulia town, a dense forest fringes Bhomragarh, off Purulia's border with Jharkhand. Mr Mukul Kanti Sarkar, Purulia's magistrate, said the rebels had first raided the Kar house and carried out a search before firing the first shots.

Kar, who lived under a tight security cover, had armed guards stationed near his room. He had warned them that Maoists could strike any day. In protest against today's killing of its former zilla sabhadhipati, the Bandwan zonal committee of the Purulia district CPI-M called a 24-hour bandh from 6 a.m. today.

## Manipur I-G assassinated

**IMPHAL, Dec. 31.** — The Manipur Inspector-General of Police (Intelligence), Mr Tunglut Thangthuam, and a havildar were killed and two other policemen injured in an ambush by insurgents in Bishenpur district today, official sources said. Armed insurgents in a truck overtook the vehicle of the IGP in the Oinam area, 25 km from here, and fired indiscriminately, killing Mr Thangthuam and havildar Khamkhan Jam on the spot. The condition of the two injured policemen was stated to be critical. The People's Liberation Army claimed responsibility. **SNS**

Members of the CPI-M's district committee are now camping at Bhomragarh. Mr Upen Kisku, state backward classes welfare minister, also rushed there.

Soon after the killings, a large police contingent, including State Armed Police personnel, started combing the dense forests.

The posse was led by Mr Tapas Ranjan Ghosh, additional superintendent of police, Purulia. No arrests have been made yet. Police believe the Maoists came from Jharkhand and sneaked back into the neighbouring state after murdering the couple.

**More reports & photograph on page 4**