



# CPI(Maoist) Information Bulletin-1

: March 31, 2008



## PLGA's Historic Raids in Nayagarh

15th of February 2008 will go down as an unforgettable Red Letter Day in the annals of the Indian revolutionary movement. By carrying out a massive tactical counteroffensive against the enemy and seizing over a thousand arms and over one lakh rounds of ammunition the PLG had created a new chapter in the armed agrarian revolutionary guerrilla war in India. It signifies a great leap in the ongoing people's war led by the CPI(Maoist) in India. It also becomes another great milestone in the development of the PLGA pointing to another leap in the direction of its transformation into the PLA.

The Maoist guerrillas struck simultaneously at five places in Nayagarh district—three police stations, a police training school, a police outpost, and the district armoury. 13 policemen were annihilated during the raids as they persisted in firing at the Maoists despite several warnings for surrender. Another three policemen including an assistant commandant of the Orissa Armed Special police were annihilated when they attacked the Maoists in the forests near Goshama.

The heroic and death-defying multiple raid by PLGA guerrillas in Nayagarh had unnerved the reactionary fascist ruling classes of India who sent six companies of central paramilitary forces besides a massive police force within hours to attack the retreating guerrillas. IAF helicopters were pressed into service.

The Chief Minister of Orissa, Naveen Patnaik, who has been acting

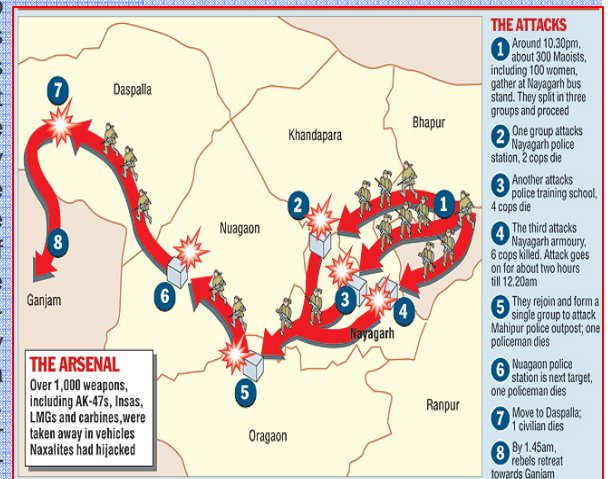
as a loyal agent of the imperialist MNCs and the big comprador houses of India ever since he had come to power, tried to boost up the sagging morale of his beleaguered police force by claiming that most of the arms and ammunition seized by the Maoists had been recovered. This is an outright lie as the guerrillas had carried away all the sophisticated weapons which they had seized while leaving behind the relatively low-quality weapons they had used during the raids. The Maoist guerrillas had also burnt these weapons along with all the vehicles used by them to transport the weapons after the raids (see photo). They had to leave behind some of the weapons seized due to the logistical problem of carrying such a huge quantity over long distances. The fact was they had not anticipated such a huge cache of arms. Orissa's Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik further boasted that his government had unleashed the biggest anti-Naxal offensive in the country.

In the state assembly, Navin Patnaik said that "an intensive combing operation is on and it will continue for a long time. We have arrested many Naxals and we hope to arrest more soon. 20 of them were killed. The current operations are the biggest ever anti-Naxalite offensive in the

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### OPERATION



country, backed by IAF choppers on constant watch from the sky. The police station will be fortified and the vacancies filled up very soon."

By the end of the month, however, it became evident to everyone that Naveen Patnaik's valiant claims were, after all, the boasts of a Don Quixote. Although there was some confusion initially on account of

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the continuous Goebbellian propaganda by spokespersons of the ruling classes and police top brass



**People taking a look at the ammunition boxes at the district armoury and Police Training School, at Nayagarh**

that most of the arms were recovered and Maoists were arrested or killed, it took only a few days for the world to realise the hollowness of these claims.

*“The police have not had anything to show as their success except for the recovered ammuni-*

papers carried reports of how the “biggest offensive” had turned out to be the biggest fiasco with no Maoists

having been arrested or killed contrary to the claims by the government. Those who were arrested were only innocent people. The so-called fierce exchange of fire in Goshama forest in Kandhamal district was actually a big blow to the police forces and it was reported in some news papers that as many as 18 OSAP

personnel might have been killed in the incident instead of three and that it was suicidal to have gone after the Maoists when terrain was to their advantage. Not a single Maoist was killed contrary to the claims by the government.

The police forces had to be withdrawn from the forests of

their stronghold areas. The two IAF Chetak helicopters were taken off, Greyhounds from AP and the CRPF forces were withdrawn after a fortnight of futile operations. Fatigue factor due to prolonged operations in the forests were mentioned as a reason for their withdrawal. The blow suffered by these forces at Goshama was the real reason.

In fact, this was indirectly admitted by the IG (Operations), S. S. Hansdah, when he spoke to the press on the fifth day of combing operations about the change in the police strategy after the losses suffered in Goshama. “Instead of chasing the militants in jungles, the force will now wait for the enemies to surface as per the new strategy,” an officer involved in the operation said. “We do not want to sacrifice more personnel by directly confronting the militants and raiding their hideouts.”

The immensely successful Nayagarh multiple raids demonstrate how a weak people’s army can achieve tactical victories over a numerically superior enemy by strictly following the principles of guerrilla warfare as enunciated by comrade Mao. This is proved by a series of tactical victories in the recent past such as Koraput, Giridih, R Udayagiri, Ranibodili, etc. All these successful tactical counteroffensives by the Maoist guerrillas effectively refute the theories of skeptics that revolutionaries cannot make headway faced with the mighty Indian state with its modernised army and paramilitary having superior training and weaponry.



**Old rifles and ammunition abandoned by retreating guerillas.**

*tion and arms, many of which the Maoists torched before abandoning them”, wrote a newspaper. Several*



**A vehicle left behind**

Kandhamal as the massive combing operations had reached a dead-end and there was no hope of finding the Maoists who had safely retreated to

## How the guerrillas took on the enemy

The counteroffensive operation in Nayagarh is a logistical challenge for the guerrillas as hundreds of fighters had to travel in the plains for hours to reach the town and also carry the huge arsenal of arms and ammunition back to their bases in the forests. It is only through meticulous planning and execution under the direct leadership and guidance of the Central Military Commission of the CPI(Maoist), and the active assistance of the people of the area, that such a massive tactical offensive operation could become successful. PLGA forces travelled distances of over 300 km to reach the site of attack. At around 10.30 on the night of February 15, the guerrillas, divided into five teams, launched simultaneous assaults on pre-determined targets taking the police by surprise. The targets included Nuagaon and Daspalla police stations and the Mahipur police outpost. They blocked all roads leading to the town before launching the assault on the reserve police office, the town police station and the district armoury (all located in adjacent buildings). In spite of their presence in the town in big number they did not attract attention as they moved in small groups in plainclothes and reached the town.

The guerrillas appealed to the people of the town over public address system that they should switch off lights and stay indoors. They were assured that no harm would be done to them as the present operation was meant only for helping the masses to liberate themselves from the tyranny and oppression of the exploiting

classes. It took over three hours for the guerrillas to complete the operations and they retreated without suffering a single casualty. The stop parties of PLGA ensured that reinforcements of the enemy forces did not come to the rescue of the policemen. Six policemen were killed at a police reserve which houses the district armoury, four at the police training school, and two at the Nayagarh police station in the heart of the town. Two more policemen were killed when the guerrillas attacked another police outpost and two police stations on their way back. While retreating



Gutted remains of Nayagarh armoury

from Nayagarh, the guerrillas also attacked a small police outpost at Gallery village in Ganjam district.

“Before leaving, the guerrillas regrouped near a bus stand, shook hands with stunned residents, had tea at a roadside stall and gave Rs 500 to a beggar”, reported a paper.

In fact, additional forces did not attempt to reach the scene of operations due to fear of landmines and ambushes by guerrillas. It was only the next morning that massive combing operation jointly by the

Orissa special police, AP Grey Hounds and CRPF was launched with the assistance of some helicopters of the Indian Air force.

The first move of the guerrillas was to surround SP Kumar's house, preventing him from coming out. The SP could not even communicate with his forces. The guerrillas arrived in the town in buses, trucks and on motorcycles, residents said. They burnt many jeeps and two-wheelers and documents belonging to police and ransacked the residence of inspector A R Champatiray at Daspalla.

A total of 1200 special police personnel, 4 platoons of CRPF and three units of AP Greyhounds participated in the combing operations.

In an encounter in the Gosama forest bordering Ganjam and Kandhamal districts on February 17, three personnel of the elite Special Operations Group (SOG), including one Assistant Commandant of OSAP, were annihilated. The guerrillas safely retreated to their bases in the forest with the active assistance of the masses, who acted as their eyes and ears, and by fighting heroically with the encircling forces and breaking the encirclement. The claim by Naveen Patnaik and other spokespersons of the ruling classes that at least 20 Maoists were killed in the combing operations turned out to be a big lie as not a single body of the Maoists was recovered by the police. They tried to save their face by saying that the Maoists had taken away the corpses of their comrades.

**Naveen Patnaik's call for talks is sheer hypocrisy!**  
**No question of giving up arms as long as exploitation and oppression persist!!**  
**We shall continue to arm the masses with arms seized from enemy!!**  
**—Press Release by CPI(Maoist)**

On 24<sup>th</sup> February, the Orissa Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that he was prepared for talks with the Maoists if they gave up arms. This call for abandoning arms as a precondition for talks is quite amusing, to say the least, as it had come particularly in the wake of the daring Nayagarh multiple raids in which over a thousand arms were confiscated by the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army led by our Party. It is relevant to point out in this context that his claim of having recovered 80% of the arms and 70% of the ammunition seized by the Maoists is sheer humbug and an attempt to boost up the sagging morale of his mercenary police force. Most of the arms and ammunition had safely reached the Maoist bases breaking the encirclement attempts by the anti-Naxal special police and central paramilitary forces guided by helicopters.

The call of Naveen Patnaik to the Maoists to give up arms is as naïve, or rather as foolish, as someone asking him to give up exploitation and oppression of the people of Orissa and stop being a servile manager of the imperialists and comprador capitalists. Asking the Maoists to give up arms, while announcing in the same breath, the setting up of another five India Reserve Battalions in the state and equipping the forces with the most sophisticated weaponry, is like the devil itself citing scriptures. The CC, CPI(Maoist), considers the proposal of talks by the Orissa government as a mere publicity stunt and reaffirms its commitment to spread the flames of armed struggle throughout the state of Orissa which is being reduced to a backyard of the imperialist MNCs and comprador big business sharks.

Ever since Naveen Patnaik assumed office as the Chief Minister of Orissa he has been serving as a trusted agent of imperialist and comprador capital sucking the blood of the people of Orissa and draining the mineral and natural wealth of the state. His hands are stained with the blood of the poor adivasis of Kalinganagar where he acted as the hatchet man of the Tatas. To defend Korea's anti-national POSCO steel he continues to step up his fascist attacks on the people struggling against the project. His government had signed MOUs worth almost two lakh crore rupees for looting and draining the wealth of people out of Orissa. Lakhs of poor adivasis and other sections of peasantry are displaced by the mining and other industrial projects, SEZs etc., by the government of Naveen Patnaik while the ruling class politicians and bureaucrats pocket huge commissions in return for their loyalty.

It is at the behest of these anti-national leeches that Naveen Patnaik had unleashed fascist repression against the Maoist movement, arresting and murdering revolutionaries and their sympathizers. Just as it is impossible for Naveen Patnaik to scrap all the MOUs signed with POSCO, the multinational sharks and the compradors like the Tatas, Mittals, Ambanis, Jindals etc., just as it is impossible for him to stop being a loyal agent of the imperialist and comprador capital, and the feudal forces in the countryside, so is it impossible for Maoists to lay down arms.

Our armed struggle will continue as long as exploitation, oppression and suppression persist. Demanding the Maoists to lay down arms and

come for talks is only the ravings of a mad man. At best, it is a cheap publicity gimmick to win over a section of the people.

The Central Committee, CPI (Maoist), appeals to the progressive, democratic organizations and individuals and the entire people of Orissa to realize the hypocrisy and hollowness behind Naveen Patnaik's call to the Maoists to give up arms as a precondition for talks. It calls upon the people at large to unite to wage a militant mass movement to throw out POSCO, Tata Steel and other anti-people projects that are draining the natural wealth of Orissa while displacing hundreds of thousands of people from their hearths and homes.

The CPI(Maoist) reassures the people of Orissa that it will be in the forefront of their every just struggle and will intensify the armed struggle to throw out the feudal forces, imperialists, comprador big business and their agents like Naveen Patnaik in order to help the masses liberate themselves from the clutches of these leeches. And for this our PLGA, with the active participation of the masses, will seize the arms from the enemy as it had done in Nayagarh and earlier in Koraput, R Udayagiri etc., and will arm the masses to spread the people's war throughout Orissa. The fascist suppression campaigns by the state and central governments cannot stop this irresistible march of history.

Azad,  
Spokesperson,  
Central Committee,  
CPI (Maoist.)

February 26, 2008.

## How the reactionary rulers plan to counter the Maoists

The reactionary ruling classes of India, with the active guidance and material assistance from the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists, have devised, and begun to implement, a multi-pronged strategy to suppress the Maoist movement in the country. India's Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, an arch-stooge of the imperialists, had declared time and again that 'Left-wing extremism' posed the single biggest internal security threat to the country (read 'to the reactionary Indian rulers'). Several counter-insurgency measures were initiated, meetings of the DGPs and Chief Ministers take place at regular intervals, a Joint Task Force was set up, coordination between the various states and the centre was improved, security forces were trained in counter-insurgency and jungle warfare for which special training schools were set up, and intelligence agencies conduct surveillance in virtually every state where the Maoist movement has a presence.

An empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) was formed in December 2006. Now, besides the four layers of monitoring mechanism already in existence, a fifth layer—a Task force headed by the union Cabinet Secretary is being set up. And now, the Centre had announced that it will assist the states in raising another 35 India Reserve battalions (IRB) to tackle the Maoists in addition to the 33 battalions of CRPF already deployed against the Maoists. 13 of these battalions are deployed in Chhatisgarh alone along with several thousand local police and SPOs. It is planning to deploy another 13 battalions of CRPF to suppress the Maoist movement in Chhatisgarh (Dandakaranya). The media has been gagged under the draconian Chhatisgarh Special Powers Act. Civil rights leaders like Dr. Binayak Sen are placed behind bars. In Jharkhand, around 17,000

policemen received training with the central para-military forces and 55 companies of the state police force have been converted into a special anti-Naxal force known as "Sengail". The police-population ratio in the state had increased over two-fold in the period between 2004-2006. Several new police stations are under construction. Private vigilante gangs are set up, funded and trained by the state to murder Maoist revolutionaries and their sympathizers.

Immediately after the Nayagarh multiple raid Orissa Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik announced 10 measures to tackle the Naxalites, including fortification of police stations and armouries, and creation of a new battalion. The other measures announced by him include filling up of all vacancies at the earliest, creation of 1,300 posts of constables and 300 posts of other ranks for the special armed police, strengthening of the special operation group by sanctioning 1,000 posts, and setting up five Indian Reserve battalion after obtaining the sanction of the Centre. The reactionary ruling classes can think of nothing else but brute force to deal with an issue that is related to the land, livelihood and liberation of the vast masses of Indian population from imperialist and feudal exploitation. By declaring Naxalism as the single biggest internal security threat, the Prime Minister had actually declared a war on the vast majority of the poorest sections of society as it is their problems that the Naxalites are taking up and trying to find a solution. Naxalism is a solution for the country's ills while it is a problem to the reactionary ruling classes who thrive like leeches sucking the blood of the people. The media, as a faithful servant of the ruling classes, is getting paranoid with every Maoist success. **"Destroy Maoism-use overwhelming force in this war"** crowed The

Pioneer. Its Editorial reminded one of the Nazi press of Hitler: *"Bullets must be met with bullets and the Maoists should be neutralised with the use of overwhelming force. To pursue any other path would not only be ill-advised, but disastrous for the affected States and the nation as a whole."*

The remedy it suggested reflects the dominant thinking of the Indian ruling classes who are directly under the tutelage of their master in Washington, George Bush: *"Three points need to be addressed to make the anti-Maoist campaign effective. First, the Union Home Ministry must wake up from its deep slumber and pro-actively provide assistance to the State Governments by way of additional security forces, especially CRPF. Second, the State Governments should swiftly move to fill up vacancies in the police and the Special Operations Groups that have been set up for counter-insurgency operations. Third, intelligence gathering and sharing has to improve: At present, the State Governments are working in isolation; they should pool their resources and share information. Like fighting jihadi terrorism, battling Maoist extremism is an asymmetrical war in which the amorphous enemy has the upper hand. The only way to rob Maoists of their advantage is to gather, process and share quality intelligence - and unleash a savage assault on those who wield the gun to promote their blood-soaked ideology that has no place in a democracy."*

Notoriously known as salwa judum has made the lives of the adivasis miserable and insecure. The state-terrorist campaign In the past three years, the salwa judum goons, along with the police, have burnt or destroyed over 700 hamlets of the adivasis,

contd. in page 6

## What they said after Nayagarh

Several former IPS officers termed the restrictions imposed by the National Human Rights Commission on aerial strikes on the Leftwing guerrillas by the security forces as 'illegal' and 'discouraging'. Former Assam-cadre IPS officer Ashok Sahu told *The Pioneer* that aerial attack was the need of the hour as the rebels are hiding in dense forest after spreading mayhem in Nayagarh. "I think, the Commission has no legitimate right to intervene in the combing operations being carried out by the Orissa Government," he said.

"Aerial bombing using satellite inputs should be the approach to track down the fleeing guerrillas. The ground forces should be used only to encircle the jungles and mountains that were suspected to be housing the Maoists", former IG of Police Anadi Sahu said. The way NHRC suddenly intervened to stop aerial bombing made policemen and the general public feel that terrorists have stronger human rights than the innocents they kill," Sahu, a former MP said. "We have the technology to track down a single gun bearing extremist inside a jungle through satellite imaging. Why not use it along with aerial attack to cut casualties of the police forces," they questioned.

In the wake of Maoist attack in Nayagarh, policemen in Orissa demanded declaration of the entire state as "Naxal-affected" instead of identifying only some districts as prone to Maoist violence. Blaming the State Government for the recent upsurge of Naxalite violence, the Orissa Police Association (OPA) and Orissa Havildar, Constable and Sepoys' Confederation, in a joint press conference here, demanded adequate fortification of police stations and armoury.

"Naxalites normally strike where they are strong. But we are worried after the raid in Nayagarh, which is not a Maoist stronghold. This is alarming," home secretary Prasad Ranjan Ray said at Writers' Buildings after discussions with chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee and chief secretary Amit Kiran Deb.

"We have put all police stations in West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia on alert. Vigil has been intensified in the state's 54 jails," Ray said. Over 80 Maoists are lodged in the state's prisons, with Midnapore Central Jail housing 30.

IG (headquarters) J.C. Chattopadhyay said reinforcements had been sent to Birbhum, Nadia and Murshidabad, too.

Both Orissa DGP G.C. Nanda and later chief minister Naveen Patnaik claimed that over 400 of the 1,000 arms taken away by Maoists in last week's daring raid at armouries in Nayagarh had been recovered in combing operations in the Gosama forests. But in reality, most of these were 3.3 rifles either destroyed or rejected by the Maoists, admitted a senior police officer involved in the operation that's being carried out jointly by Greyhound forces from Andhra, the CRPF and the state police. Also no Maoists was arrested today. Even though the establishment sought to put it differently. (The Telegraph February 19, 2008)

Expecting a surprise attack on the city by the Maoists, the State Government has directed the Police Commissioner to strengthen the security in the city. "If Maoists make a surprise attack, we are prepared to repulse it," said Home Secretary TK Mishra. (The Pioneer) Police Commissioner Binoy Behera said security had been strengthened in the city. Security around the armoury has been reinforced. "If at any point of time a group of 500 Maoists attack the city, we still can give them a befitting reply," he said, adding that it was not easy for any group to attack the city. All the entry and exit points to the city have been virtually sealed. "An intensive checking is going on all the suspected vehicles coming to the city," he said. However, sources said Khurda District Police Administration had also intensified its security near Chandaka and Banpur forest which are in close proximity of the city.

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murdered over 700 people, raped over a hundred women, and also committed indescribable atrocities on the adivasi masses in the name of countering the Maoists.

Having failed to achieve its objective of containing the Maoist movement in Dandakaranya, the government is now setting up police camps in close proximity to one another in what is called as "carpet security system".

The Indian Army is directly involved in training and guiding the anti-Naxal special forces in Chattisgarh. Unmanned aerial vehicles fly over the forests in Dandakaranya trying to locate guerrilla training camps. Huge funds are allotted for monitoring the remote areas of intense armed struggle through Global Positioning System (GPS). Surveys are being carried out for the construction of an airport in the Maad region (known to outside

Abhujmaad or the unknown forest)—a stronghold of the Maoists. Hundreds of school buildings are being constructed to serve as police camps. There is talk of Constitutional changes to give even more draconian powers to the police forces to enact massacres in Maoist areas, including aerial bombing. The stage is thus set for an all-out brutal attack in Dandakaranya, to be followed by other areas of intense class struggle.

## News from Battle-field



### Maoist guerrillas attack Netarhat police camp in Jharkhand:

On February 29<sup>th</sup> night, hundreds of Maoist guerrillas attacked the camp of Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) at Netarhat in Gumla district in Jharkhand. The exchange of fire between the Maoist guerrillas and the police-CRPF personnel continued for several hours. 13 companies of paramilitary forces were sent as reinforcement along with senior police officials. As many as seven IPS officers were deployed to lead the State's security force. Jharkhand government also pressed State's chopper, *Dhurwa*, in air surveillance to give more tactical support to the anti-naxalite operation in the region. Roads connecting Netarhat plateau were closed for two days as a result of the fierce gun battle between State Security forces and Maoists.

### Convoy of Kanker district Collector and SP attacked by Naxalites in Chhattisgarh

21 Feb 2008, PTI

RAIPUR: Maoists have attacked the convoy of District Collector and District Superintendent of Police of Narayanpur in Chhattisgarh. However, both the officials escaped unhurt. When the top officials of the district were on a tour of Rainar area in the interiors of difficult terrain of Abujhmad in the district, about 300 kms from here, Naxalites opened fire on their convoy on February 21st night, Bastar police said.

"One of the bullets hit the third vehicle from the car of the SP and the Collector and broke its window pane," they said, adding no one was injured in the accident.

When contacted, SP Narayanpur Ajay Yadav confirmed the incident but refused to give any further details. However, sources said both the officials were returning to the district headquarters Narayanpur after attending a grievance redressal meeting in Rainar village when the incident took place.

### 6 policemen injured in mine blast

March 27: A policeman and five jawans of the Bomb Disposal Squad of Chhattisgarh police were injured in a land mine blast triggered by Maoists in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh on March 27.

When a joint police party of CRPF and State police was on a search operation in Manpur police station area, the

Maoists set off the land mines near Sendhawadi village, about 140 km from the state capital.

One Assistant Sub Inspector and three head constables and two constables and a civilian driver of the Bomb Disposal Squad of the State police were injured.

### Maoists seize explosives, take away officials

March 27: Ahead of the Chhattisgarh bandh, on March 27, Maoists seized a truck load of explosives and abducted some officials in Durg district. The Maoists entered the Mahamaya iron ore mines of from the mines of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) unit of the Bhilai Steel Plant, located about 160 km from Raipur, seized explosives and took away some officials. The officials were later let off.

### 5 CRPF jawans injured in naxal ambush

Raipur: Five CRPF personnel were injured seriously in an ambush by armed naxals in a forest in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh on Monday. About 150 naxals attacked a joint police party of the CRPF and the district forces when the security personnel were on a de-mining and area dominance operation in the Jharghati jungle, about 350 km from here, Superintendent of Police Ajay Yadav said. The gunbattle was over and a combing operation was on, he said. — PTI

### Guerrillas raid Bansjor outpost in Simdega: one policeman killed, seven injured

January 2, 2008

One policeman was killed and seven others injured, two of them critically, in the early morning raid of the outpost at Bansjor in Simdega district on the Orissa-Jharkhand border by a detachment of PLGA. The Naxals also entered Biramitrapur and fired at a police station. The in-charge of the outpost, Amar Nath Paswan, was one of the injured. The Maoist guerrillas also blocked the road at Kerai Ghati by placing wooden logs across and planted a landmine to prevent policemen from moving in. When a Jharkhand police team, led Simdega SP D.B. Sharma, reached Keria Ghati, a gunbattle ensued which lasted for three hours.

## News from Battle-field



### Notorious social-fascist leaders and police informers annihilated in Midnapore

On 13 March Maoists shot dead DYFI leader and CPM member Gandhi Mahato at Angarkuria in West Midnapore's Jamboni. Before firing the bullets, the guerrillas told Mahato that he was being "executed" for being a police informer. He is the fifth CPM member to be eliminated since CPI (Maoist) state secretary Somen was arrested last month. The leader of the armed guerrillas told Mahato that he was going to be killed. "You are a police informer. All the local residents are scared of you so they don't dare speak up. We have decided in public court that you have no right to live." Mahato was accused in at least seven cases, from snatching to train dacoity, over the last four years. But police had allegedly let him off after he quit Jharkhand Party (Naren) and joined CPM last year. He had come to CPM fold, hoping for better security, but in vain.



In the earlier incidents in the same area, Maoists annihilated CPM zonal committee member Sisir Chatterjee (52) at Mangalkot in Buwdwan district on January 2. In another incident, CPM leader Balahari Maji (45) was killed near Purulia on the same day. Within a few hours after killing the CPI-M leader in Purulia, another CPI-M leader, Ramprasad Mondol, was shot dead in Nadia's Chapra police station area in broad day-light at 11 am. The state government admitted that it had failed to counter the Maoists in some rural pockets of the state. The home secretary, Prasad Ranjan Roy said at Writers' Buildings that they had asked those leaders who faced threat to their life not to go to the interiors. Instead, they were asked to stay in the urban areas.

On February 23, another CPI(M) local leader involved in several attacks against the Maoists, Karam Chand Singh, was annihilated at noon in a school in West Midnapore's Belpahari district.

### Maoists raid notorious NSS leader's village in Dumaria:

Maoist guerrillas swooped over Janigora village in Dumaria under Ghatshila sub-division late on Friday night.

The guerrillas, reportedly more than 100, surrounded the house of Dhanai Kishku, the secretary of anti-Naxalite outfit, Nagarik Suraksha Samiti. Kishku had taken a lead role in the operation against the Maoists on the night of February 14. Kishku had fled to Musaboni when the guerrillas carried out the raid.

### Maoists attack police picket during Palamu bandh

#### Pioneer News Service | Ranchi

Around four hundred rounds were fired on a police picket during the Palamu bandh called by Maoists on Tuesday. No casualty was reported in the firing incident on a police picket at Lathia village of Hussainabad area by the Maoists.

Although market areas and schools remained closed, people remained to their houses fearing any untoward incident and long route buses abstained from traversing on the roads.

Maoists had called the Palamu circle bandh following the arrest of their senior leaders by the police. Security arrangements had been beefed up as the entire Palamu circle is Naxal infested area.



## News from Battle-field



### Police, Maoists exchange heavy fire in Malkangiri

Pioneer News Service | Malkangiri

The police and Maoists on Tuesday exchanged gunfire at Tonsilguda under Motu police station. While speaking to *The Pioneer* District Superintendent of Police Satish Gajbiye said that acting on a tip off that Maoists were holding a meeting around 4:45 pm a Special Operation Group and other security personnel rushed to the spot and challenged the Maoists.

While the rebels fired about 150 rounds from automatic weapons and Light Machine Guns, the police retaliated with more than 100 rounds after which the militants retreated and fled from the spot. A SOG personnel has received minor injuries in the encounter. But there were no reports of any casualties from the Maoists side.

### Maoists, police engage in fierce gunbattle

Pioneer News Service | Bermo

**March 3:** A fierce gun battle ensued between Maoist cadre and a joint contingent of Bokaro police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) near Checharia village in Upparghat area under Nawadih police station.

Following reports of training being imparted to the cadre of Maoists in the remotely located Checharia village in Upparghat area, joint raids were launched early on March 3rd morning.

Checharia, adjoining the sprawling yet dense forest, is close to Giridih-Bokaro district border. Two teams of security forces comprising personnel of the CRPF, Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) and local police entered the jungles of Checharia in Nawadih block. Maoists exploded a powerful landmine but no casualty was reported. Bokaro Superintendent of Police (SP) Priya Dubey confirmed that the Maoists continued to fire on police parties in the Upparghat forest area till way past afternoon. CRPF Commandant VS Sharma confirmed that the Maoists still had control over several villages adjacent to Jhumra Hills and Upparghat forest area

### Cop shoots self, claims naxal attack

**GADCHIROLI:** Desperate for a transfer from the naxal-infested part of Vidarbha, a police constable shot himself on Republic Day and tried to project it as a Maoist attack. The constable, identified as Anand Kulkarni, 30, is posted in Etapalli village of the district for the last 10 years. He was reportedly disturbed about the health of his parents, residing in Pune.

The young constable created quite a flutter during a sports festival, which was meant to be a confidence-building measure about government schemes, on Republic Day at around 11.45 am, when he limped into the ground from some nearby bushes and shouted that he had been hit by a Maoist's bullet when he was answering nature's call. Police officers who were led to the spot by the injured cop grew suspicious when they found a bullet buried in the ground besides a cartridge, a water bottle and a bullet-riddled handkerchief. Meanwhile the constable was rushed to the District General Hospital.

When questioned at length later about how one bullet ended up buried in the ground, seemingly fired from high in the sky, Anand spilled the beans. He said he had fired a shot into his left thigh and another in the air in a disturbed state of mind.

## Maoists Call for Bandh against Dumaria encounter

The CPI-Maoist had called 24-hour state-wide strike to protest killing of seven of its cadres at Bhitaramda in Dumaria last week. Police and members of Nagrik Suraksha Samiti (the village defence committee) had killed the cadres in a joint operation on February 14. Two of the martyrs were women cadre.

According to media reports the bandh districts of Singhbhum-Kolhan and evoked. The shops and establishment remained closed. The police offering effective security. Even the post offices and other Government under-areas of West Singhbhum, East Singhbhum transportation of iron ores from mining parts of country were badly affected. At the Dhanbad division of East Central Rail- than Rs 4 crore as no loading of coal hap- preferred to remain off the National High- diverted for the safety of passengers un- Eastern Railway (SER) but many passengers did not prefer to travel in the local trains. There was deserted look at Ranchi railway station, bus-stands including private.



*Jawans on patrol in Palamau district on Bandh day on February 21*

was total in the Maoist-infested a mixed response in urban areas. closed in rural areas, despite the Government offices such as banks, taking remained closed at remote and Palamu. Long-route buses, heads in West Singhbhum to other eas affected by the bandh included way, which suffered a loss of more pened at 12 places. Trucks too, way No 2. Although the trains were der Ranchi Division of the South Eastern Railway (SER) but many passengers did not prefer to travel in the local trains. There was deserted look at Ranchi railway station, bus-stands including private.

Following the encounter several villagers sympathetic to the Maoists were forced to flee the villages of Bhitara Amda and Fuldungri situated on the foothills of Ranijharna fearing attacks by the police and state-sponsored NSS vigilante gangs and JMM. Most of them belong to the ALL Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) which is targeted by the rival JMM.

The Superintendent of Police Naveen Kumar Singh, who was the master-mind behind the attacks on Maoist sympathisers, pleaded ignorance about the exodus and declared : *"We are going to set up a permanent police picket at Bhitara Amda to ensure the safety of all villagers. No one need panic."*

Even as the SP was issuing assurances to dupe the people, members of a human rights body, People's Union for Civil Liberties, who had been to Bhitara Amda village for an on-the-spot-visit on Sunday were roughed up and harassed by a section organised by the NSS leader Shankar Hembram.

## Fierce gunbattle in Parasnath Hills leaves 3 securitymen dead & 4 injured:

**Ranchi::**In a fierce gunbattle between Maoists and security personnel, two CRPF men and one constable of the Jharkhand Military Police (JMP) were killed and four others were injured near Parasnath Hill in Giridih district on Friday. Those killed were CRPF havildar Balaji Mangraj, constable Desh Pandey and JMP's Manoj Thapa from Punjab, Maharashtra and Jharkhand respectively. The four injured—Jharkhand police Sub Inspector Pramod Pandey, constable Jai Prakash Mahato and CRPF constables Rakesh Kumar and Gurupal Singh — were rushed to the Ranchi Apollo hospital. Giridih SP Murari Lal Meena dispatched a contingent of security forces on Wednesday to launch a crackdown on the rebels, following a tip-off from the state intelligence. A section of the Maoists were holding a meet at Parasnath Hill. Rs 10 lakh would be paid as compensation to the kin of the dead soldiers, DGP V D Ram said.

## Bandh against comrade Somen's arrest:

Sunil, secretary of CPI (Maoist) Nadia-Murshidabad-Burdwan area committee, gave a call for shutdown in the three districts of Nadia, Murshidabad and Burdwan as a protest against "police atrocities", asking why Somen was "kidnapped" by police when he is the "leader of a political party and not a terrorist". "The state doesn't have the guts to ban our organization," Sunil said in a press statement.

## Punishments of police informers carried out by the Maoist guerrillas

**Malkangiri:** A Congress sarpanch and police informer, Gayadala Prakash Rao, was annihilated in Baleru village under Bhamini tehsil in Andhra Pradesh, by the Konda Baredi squad of PLGA of Andhra Orissa Border Committee. It was just a stone throw distance from the Gajapati- Rayagada. 10 other businessmen were let off after serving a warning. All of them were found guilty by a people's court held in the village. In a similar incident on February 23, another informer of Yekamguda Sana Inni village was annihilated by the same squad.

**Khammam:** A local Congress leader, Payam Lakhmaiah (38), was stabbed to death by CPI Maoist cadres in Sampathnagar village of Tekulapalli mandal on.....

The police said that a six-member action team of Maoists from Kothaguda (Warangal district) struck at his house at 10 p.m. and killed him in the presence of his family members. The naxals left behind a letter branding him a police informer.

**Vishakha:** Samireddy Ganesh (30), was killed by Maoists near Pulusumamidi village on the G. Madugula -Maddigaruvu road in the Visakha agency area. A note left on behalf of east division secretary Jagadeesh branded Ganesh as a police informer.

**Karimnagar:** Maoists struck with a vengeance by killing three former naxalites by branding them police 'informers' in the interior Borlagudem village of Mahamutharam mandal on January 27, 2008. A month prior to this, on December 27 last year, the action team members of CPI(Maoist) annihilated a Congress leader, Mumtaz Ali Baig, in Mahbubpalli village of Mahamutharam mandal, who was acting as a police informer.

**Vizianagaram:** On March ...Markendeya Chowdhury of Nagulabeda, an interior village on the Andhra-Orissa border, under Narayanapatnam police station limits in Koraput district, was annihilated for serving as a police informer.

**Gaya:** In the first week of January 2008, hundreds of Maoists raided the house of a police spy, Shambhu Yadav, at Garbaiya village under the Barachatti block in Gaya district and set his house on fire. They asked the inmates to vacate the house before setting it on fire. Grains, clothes and other valuables worth more than Rs 2 lakh were destroyed.

On 12 January, the guerrillas raided Hayesadi village and seized 64 cell phones from the villagers. The police had been supplying mobile phones to some villagers asking them to pass on information about the movements of the Maoists. The Maoists warned of dire consequences if anyone used the mobile phones for sending information to the police. In Aurangabad, Rohtas and Kaimur districts also Maoists beat up several police informers and let them off with warnings.

## Maoists call for a militant movement for separate Telangana state

*From The Hindu, January 2008*

*"TDP shedding 'crocodile tears' on separate statehood"  
'BJP conveniently forgot Telangana when in power at Centre'*

**HYDERABAD:** Maoists have called for building a militant movement for achieving statehood for Telangana, pointing out that all political parties were raking up the issue only with an eye on winning the next elections. In a hard-hitting statement issued here on Tuesday, the CPI (Maoist) spokesman in Andhra Pradesh, Janardhan, said political leaders from Telangana region were now being forced to speak in favour of carving out a separate State in view of the growing aspirations among the people of Telangana region.

Mr. Janardhan accused the Congress of backstabbing the people of Telangana as it had supported the separate Telangana demand before elections and then abandoning it later. Telugu Desam Party leaders like T. Devender Goud, who had opposed the separate Telangana demand, were now too shedding 'crocodile tears.' The BJP, which had taken up the issue now, had conveniently forgotten the issue when it was in power at the Centre. Similarly, the TRS which had threatened to make all its elected representatives resign from their posts, was also not willing to tell people why it had kept quiet for past four years.

## News from the enemy camp:

### UP sets up special force to fight Naxals

March 22, 2008 **Express News Service**

**LUCKNOW, MARCH 21** : Following reports that Naxalites had expanded their activities to seven more districts of the state, the Uttar Pradesh Government has set up a separate Special Task Force (Extremists), to be headed by a DIG-rank officer, to tackle the problem.

Earlier, Naxalite activities were confined to Sonebhadra, Mirzapur and Chandauli districts of Uttar Pradesh. However, now central agencies have noticed their presence in seven other districts, including Allahabad, Chitrakoot, Deoriya, Banda and Ballia.

“The problem is acute in Allahabad and Chitrakoot districts as the Naxalites here have almost completed their preliminary stage of growth and now have their units,” a source said.

The authorities fear that Ballia would be high on the Naxal agenda given that it shares a border with Bihar’s Buxar district, which is also highly Naxalite infested. They are expected to target Ballia’s Scheduled Castes, in the name of breaking the existing feudal base in the district. “It would also not be tough for the Naxalite leadership to expand their base to Ballia’s neighbouring district Ghazipur, as the latter has been a stronghold of the Communist movement in the past,” the source explained. The fears of Naxalite expansion in Uttar Pradesh have been confirmed by several arrests in the past few days from different parts of the state.

“The arrested cadres informed interrogators about their efforts to take left-wing extremism to remote areas. The Bundelkhand region comprising Chitrakoot, Banda and Mahoba has been their target for a long time. They also see the potential to take their movement to Jhansi,” the source added.

### Naxal threat tops agenda, says new Maharashtra DGP

**MUMBAI/THANE, MARCH 3 (The Indian Express)**: Indicating the seriousness with which Maharashtra views the Naxal threat, the state’s new police chief, A N Roy, said on March 3—in his very first interview since taking over on March 1 — that it was one of the key issues on his agenda and that he would visit some of the worst-affected regions this week to take stock of the fight against the extremists. Top intelligence sources have been warning about the growing Naxal threat in Maharashtra and suspect that their frontal organisations have begun spreading their tentacles in rural Thane, an industrial district barely 100 km from the country’s financial capital.

### Paramilitary forces to be armed with anti-material rifles

24 Feb 2008, 1008 hrs IST:PTI

**NEW DELHI**: To give paramilitary forces a decisive edge in anti-Naxal operations, special units of CRPF will soon be equipped with higher fire power, Anti-Material Rifles (AMR). These sophisticated weapons which are ideal for busting caves and concrete hideouts, have so far only been provided to the army. The AMRs are designed for damage and penetration. Large calibre AMRs can also be used for remote explosive ordinance disposal. Special disrupter rounds filled with water, aerogel or foam could be developed for this role and these are the requirements of the paramilitary forces are looking at.

"We have submitted these indigenous made rifles to the para-military forces for evaluation," Sadpita Ghosh, Chairman Ordnance Factories Board (OFB), an umbrella grouping of 39 ordnance factories spread across the country, said. He indicated that the initial offer could be upto 2,000 of these specialised Rifles.

## Salwa Judum: Supreme Court castigates the Chattisgarh government for arming civilians and escalating violence

On March 31, 2008, the two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, after hearing the PIL filed by petitioners—sociology professor Nandini Sundar, reputed historian Ramachandra Guha and retired bureaucrat EAS Sharma—castigated the BJP government in Chattisgarh for setting up armed groups to counter the Naxalites. It observed that it tantamounts to the state itself abetting the crime when these armed civilians commit murders and the state is liable to be prosecuted for abetting murder. *"The allegation is that the state is arming private persons. You can deploy as many police personnel or armed forces to tackle the menace. But, if private persons, so armed by the state government, kill other persons, then the state is also liable to be prosecuted for abetting murder,"* said Justice K G Balakrishnan and Justice Aftab Alam. The petitioners had sought a series of directions—withdraw state support to salwa judum, probe excesses, register FIRs relating to crimes committed by Judum activists and compensate and rehabilitate those who suffered at their hands.

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocates Ashok Desai and TR Andhyarujina, said that the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had recently given a scathing report on the sorry state of affairs at the camps in the crossfire between Naxals and Salwa Judum have been rehabilitated.

The petitioners said the 'Salwa Judum' was launched to combat naxalites but in reality these activists conducted frequent raids on villages and attacked and killed suspected naxalite sympathisers; torched their houses and looted livestock. They had sought a direction to the Chhattisgarh government to refrain from supporting, associating, encouraging or promoting in any manner the activities of the 'Salwa Judum' and to order an impartial enquiry to go into the atrocities committed by the group.

The counsels for the petitioners submitted that over 50,000 persons were kept in camps in villages, and pleaded for appointment of an independent committee to visit these camps and report about their plight.

The Chhattisgarh government on Monday justified in the Supreme Court the constitution of 'Salwa Judum' (self-defence groups) saying, *"It is not State sponsored but a people's initiative to combat the menace of naxalites."* *"The naxalities are torching police stations and are posing a biggest challenge.*

*The internal security of the nation was involved and the petitioners were trying to eulogise naxalism and naxalite activities,"* the counsel for the government said and sought the dismissal of the petition.

The Supreme Court adjourned the case to April 15. The case was earlier heard in January and February.

## Social-fascists arrest women comrades for putting posters

On March 24, the social-fascist CPM-led Left Front government in West Bengal arrested five women comrades — Kanika Debnath, Manju Mondal, Minu Saha, Puja Mondal and Bishnupriya Baidya — in Baghajatin in south Calcutta for putting up posters allegedly "inciting people to wage war against the state". The posters demanded release of the front ranking Maoist leader Himadri Sekhar Sen, known as Somen, and that he be declared a political prisoner. The women, who were initially detained, were later arrested and charged with Section 121 IPC (anti-national activities). The sections of the IPC under which they have been held deal with criminal conspiracy, waging war against the state and sedition. One of the women, 35-year-old Kanika Debnath alias Soma, had been arrested by the CID earlier on similar charges but released on bail as the police could not establish the charges within the stipulated three months.

They are members of a women's organization—Nari Mukti Sangh. A spokesperson for the Nari Mukti Sangha said the charges were "trumped up". "There is nothing seditious in the posters that we put up," said Kalpana Mukherjee.

"Our posters were against the CPM for its atrocities on women across Bengal, especially in Nandigram. Ours is not a banned organisation, which is why we were putting up posters in a crowded platform at eight in the evening and not in the dead of the night. In the posters, we had also demanded that our comrade, Somen, be released from prison," Mukherjee added.

The police refused to display the posters and said they would be produced in court during the trial.

## Police chalk out red flushout plan

RANJAN DASGUPTA

**Ranchi, Feb. 15:** Emboldened by yesterday's Dumaria encounter in which a wanted Naxalite was killed and buoyed by the addition of five companies of paramilitary forces in the state's forces, police headquarters here has come up with a comprehensive plan to launch a major offensive against CPI (Maoist) strongholds.

Prepared by director-general of police Vishnu Dayal Ram, the blueprint envisages segregating Naxalite-hit areas across the state into eight zones and then tackling each zone to flush out rebels. The zones include Jhumra Pahar (Bokaro), Parasnath (Giridih), Saranda (West Singhbhum), Ghatshila (East Singhbhum), Chatra-Hazaribagh, Garhwa-Palamau, Giridih and Ranchi-Khunti-Gumla.

The DGP refused to elaborate his anti-Maoist plan. "It's an internal matter and cannot be discussed," said Ram.

The police would concentrate on one zone at a time to flush out the Maoists and destroy all their infrastructure. The logic of this eight-way bifurcation comes from the police's understanding that all Naxalite activities are carried out from these zones, which are also used as safe havens. Police officers privately concede that in all these eight vulnerable areas, the rebels are well-entrenched.

For instance, they have created bunkers for shelter and have stockpiled arms and ammunition. In some areas, training camps are being organised for new recruits.

What has undoubtedly acted as a morale booster is the Centre's decision to send additional five companies of para military forces to be used along with the existing 30 CRPF companies and the special task force.

## Shivraj Patil visits Chattisgarh: Announces more forces to suppress Maoists

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 13: The Chhattisgarh Government's strategy against Naxalites will come under close scrutiny when Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil visits the state on Thursday. The visit, barely two days after a detailed review of the state's performance on the anti-Naxal front, comes amid persistent requests from Chhattisgarh for additional central paramilitary forces.

The state Government's plans for targeted intervention in the worst-affected Dantewara and Bijapur districts will also be reviewed. The Home Ministry, along with the tribal welfare and rural development ministries, are already trying to determine the nature of intervention needed as part of existing schemes in the two districts, official sources said.

The state has sought five additional battalions of central forces. The current deployment of central forces, essentially the Central Reserve Police Force, is 13 battalions or roughly 13,000 personnel. The ministry has agreed to provide five more battalions to neighbouring Jharkhand for anti-Naxalite operations, but it is yet to make up its mind over Chhattisgarh's request. "The minister will discuss the matter with Chief Minister Raman Singh and DGP Vishwaranjan in Raipur tomorrow," an official said.

The utilisation of existing central forces is also expected to be discussed threadbare since the ministry feels many personnel are being used for law and order and static duties like guarding police stations and other Government buildings. "The Central forces have to be used exclusively for anti-Naxal operations," the official pointed out. The ministry is not very enthused over CRPF personnel being used for opening roads either blocked or suspected to be mined by Naxalites, sources said.

The state Government, on the other hand, has claimed considerable success in its anti-Naxal operations, maintaining they had pushed them to the southern-most part of Chhattisgarh. But it is under pressure when it comes to high level of vacancies in the police force — the figure is nearly 10,000 at the moment — and unsatisfactory utilisation of funds under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme.

## Security cover for Jharkhand ministers in Delhi:

Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil has taken cognisance of security threat to Jharkhand ministers in absence of police escorts for them in Delhi. Barring Governor and chief minister, no one from the state is provided security cover in Delhi and the state ministers have been demanding the same since long.

Talking on phone Jharkhand's special representative in Delhi, of a Minister rank, Bijendar Goel said he called on Patil on Wednesday and the Union Minister has agreed in principle to provide security cover to Jharkhand Ministers in Delhi. Goel has also urged the Home Minister to expedite delivery of bulletproof vehicles for use in the Maoist-hit State. Patil has assured to talk to his counterpart in the Defence Ministry, he said.

On Chief Minister Madhu Koda's instruction, Goel also demanded additional companies of Central Reserve Forces, which Patil refused to oblige at first. Delhi has recently agreed to provide five additional companies of para-military forces, but they seem insufficient for Jharkhand where 22 of the 24 districts are badly affected by Left wing extremism, Goel told the Union Minister. Patil has asked for chart of deployment of existing central reserve forces in Jharkhand before taking any decision on deploying further companies in the State. But, the Union Home Minister has agreed to meet Koda to discuss the issue, Goel said.

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Science and Technology Minister Chandraprakash Choudhary expressed happiness over Patil's assurance. "We give information about Delhi visit in advance, still no security is provided there. It is common sense that if we have threat here in Jharkhand, Delhi cannot be safe for us," he said. Many of the Ministers are on the hitlist of extremists and they can become easy prey while in Delhi, he added. The minister hopes he will not have to move without security the next time he visits the national capital.

Patil has agreed for providing security cover, but Jharkhand Ministers who are used to move like VVIPs within the State are bound to get demanding now. The Ministers move within Jharkhand in albatti vehicles (SUVs with beacon) with black cats (since the dress of the specially trained commandos who accompany the ministers is black despite notice from Delhi to change the colour). The cavalcade of a Minister has many vehicles including a pilot, a shadow and a tailcutter and it would not be surprising if they demand the rutba in Delhi too, said a senior IAS officer. After having created a hype over security threat in Delhi, the ministers have already succeeded in getting something and their demands will increase gradually, he added. Earlier, Sahi had claimed, "*Dilli me jhapp se mua dega to pata bhee nahi chalega* (I can easily be killed in Delhi and no one will know).

### **CPI(Maoist) West Bengal Secretary Somen arrested:**

On February 23, comrade Somen, 52, the secretary of the West Bengal state committee of CPI (Maoist) was arrested by plain-clothes detectives on a railway platform in North 24-Parganas' Hridaypur, 25km from Calcutta, as he was talking to associate Dilip Mandi alias Deba last evening. After his arrest, CID officers took Somen to several palaces in North 24-Parganas. He was first taken to Barasat's Nabapally in search of Sanjit Karan alias Ramen Roy, his close aide.

Around 1.30 pm, on the 24th, comrade Somen, whom the media described as "*The man who gave the Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee government sleepless nights*", was taken to the Barasat court amid tight security. The entire court premises was cordoned off to thwart any attempt by the Maoists to free their leader. Armed policemen escorted the vehicle that brought comrade Somen to the court. He has been charged with waging war against the state, sedition and conspiracy. The public prosecutor appealed to the court that he should be sent to police custody for interrogation to get vital clues about other Maoist leaders in the state. A Barasat magistrate remanded comrade Somen in police custody till March 7.



Comrade Somen has been charged with seven offences, including waging war against the state, criminal conspiracy and carrying arms illegally. A Serampore court remanded Deba till February 28. Com. Somen is likely to be charged for 135 attacks, including the killings of 43 CPM men and 27 security personnel, between 2001 and 2008, sources said. In all these cases, the press statements issued by the Maoists following the attacks were signed by him.

Following the arrest of comrade Somen, security of all CPM leaders in four maoist affected police stations of Binpur, Lalgah, Belpahari and Jambani in West Midnapore district has been beefed up. CPM leaders have been told to cancel political programmes — or hold them at very short notice, at best — and spend nights in different places. Policemen have been asked to step up vigil and never follow the same route during patrols. They have also been told not to approach any suspicious object without being escorted by bomb disposal squads. According to the police, those leaders who did not get security earlier were also covered from Sunday,

### **Mahasweta Devi condemns police tactics**

**KOLKATA, Feb. 26:** While the CPI-M leaders have been offering bouquets to police officers for arresting two senior leaders of the CPI (Maoist), intellectuals including Magsaysay award winner, Mahasweta Devi came down heavily on the state government today, alleging policemen have been "terrorising political workers" and harassing their family members on the plea of launching a crackdown on Maoist terror module.

Speaking to the Media at the Kolkata Press Club this afternoon, Mahasweta Devi said, several people have joined CPI (Maoist) and lent their support to the Maoist outfit because of aggression on poor people by the ruling party in the state for a long period of time.

"People have joined CPI (Maoist) after facing torture for a long period of time," she said. "Those who have joined CPI (Maoist) have not done anything wrong. Where will they go, if the state government doesn't stop aggression on the common people? Go and read the history of revolution. If you do so, you will come to know that people had to declare war against the rulers after facing sustained torture to change the society," said the writer.



## Chhattisgarh and AP special police forces stage fake encounter in Pamedu to boost the sagging morale of the police!

### Red Homage to the seventeen Maoist guerrillas!!

In the early hours of March 18, the AP Greyhounds and the Chhattisgarh police, in a joint operation, murdered 17 Maoists near Darelli village in Pamedu tehsil in Bijapur police district of Chhattisgarh. More than 1000 troops were said to have been involved in this attack. Rumours were afloat regarding the names of the dead with the media speculating CCM Jampanna, Ganesh, Chandranna to be among the dead. But, as it turned out, none of them were there and only two bodies could be identified. The entire conspiracy stood exposed within a few days. The exercise, like the "heroic" Battle of Longowal by the Indian Army, seemed to have been enacted with the sole purpose of boosting the sagging morale of the police forces after a series of defeats at the hands of Maoist guerrillas over the past two years.

After the fiasco of state-sponsored salwa judum terror campaign and a series of setbacks to the massive police operations in Chhattisgarh, the police were badly in need of such an operation to show off some victories. In fact, every offensive move of the state's security forces and their much-trumpeted "Operation Area Domination" had met with failure. The horrible atrocities committed by the Naga and Mizo Battalions, the CRPF and the elite anti-Naxal police force in Chhattisgarh, besides the death and destruction caused by the lumpen gangs of salwa judum, had only further fueled the anger and resistance by the people led by Maoists in entire Dandakaranya. In the past one year almost 250 policemen and SPOs were wiped out by the PLGA guerrillas in Chhattisgarh.

Virasam leader Varavara Rao has condemned the 'fake encounter' saying the government's efforts to suppress the revolutionary movement through such encounters will not succeed. Demanding that a case under section 302 of IPC be booked against the cops responsible for the encounter, he said it was a joint operation by the AP police and their Chhattisgarh counterparts with the Centre chipping in. The Virasam leader said the latest encounter came when the AP High Court has reserved its judgment on whether or not to book cases of culpable homicide against the policemen involved in encounters. Balladeer Gadar said it was inhuman as police killed those who were in deep sleep. TRS leader and former Union Minister K Chandra Sekhara Rao termed the incident as a fake encounter and demanded an enquiry by a sitting Judge of High Court. He condemned the YSR government for having broken off the talks with Maoists and creating indiscriminate bloodshed. The leaders of CPI, and the two tribal organizations, *Nagara Bheri* and *Tudum Debba*, condemned the incident as a fake encounter and condemned the various opposition parties for their silence over the ghastly incident. They said that political leaders will not be allowed into the tribal hamlets if they continued with such anti-tribal attitude.



*Not a scene from Pinochet's Chile but from YSR's police raj. Bodies of Pamedu martyrs were wrapped in plastic sheets and shifted to Konta government hospital for post-mortem. Bodies were deliberately allowed to putrefy to avoid identification by their families.*

In terms of losses in number the Pamedu encounter is the biggest in the history of the Maoist Party. In 1992 fourteen new recruits were murdered by the police in Pagideru in Khammam district. Ten comrades became martyrs in the Manala encounter in Karimnagar district in 2004. The March 18 attack has been touted as a turning point in counter-insurgency operations in Chhattisgarh. The police tried to create confusion by spreading rumours that top leaders like Jampanna and Ganesh might be among the dead. No media personnel were allowed to visit the so-called site of the encounter. In fact, fearing exposure of the cold-blooded murders committed by these cowards, they hastily shifted the bodies to Konta hospital and completed the fake post-mortem. They were to have been taken to Bhadrachalam as all of them belonged to AP but the authorities conspired to take them to Konta fearing reprisals from the Maoists and fueling mass fury. They did not publish the photographs in the newspapers, which is generally the norm, and claimed that there was none to identify and claim the bodies. However, representatives of Amaraveerula Bandhumitrula Committee visited



Konta, but could identify only two of the 17 martyrs—Khammam district committee member Sagar, and his daughter Vennela—due to the putrefied state of the bodies of the deceased. Speculation was on regarding the names of the dead with some papers writing that LOS commanders of Chintoor and Velerpadu in Khammam, Raghu and Bhaskar, and Kodi Manjula, Marri Ravi and Challagarige Swami were among the dead. However, a clarification by comrade Ganesh, the secretary of Khammam-Karimnagar-Warangal (KKW), on the 25<sup>th</sup> over phone to a Telugu daily, daily, Andhra Jyoti, confirmed that all these comrades were actually alive.

Thus even to this day it is not clear as to who were the dead. This is the first case where the police succeeded in hushing up the names of the dead through their heinous methods of allowing the bodies to putrefy and not permitting the media to the site of the encounter. Such cases are perhaps rare in history and one hears of them under dictators like Pinchet of Chile.

The conspiracy of the governments of Chattisgarh and AP for cremating the bodies secretly in Chattisgarh were foiled when revolutionary poet Varavara Rao moved a petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court requesting that the bodies should be shifted to the MGM Hospital in Warangal because most of the Maoists dead were from Warangal and Karimnagar district. The High Court ruled that it was the responsibility of the State Government to handover the bodies to the families if any persons from the State were there among those killed.

A statement was released in the name of CC spokesperson Janardhan which claimed that the Maoists were poisoned by a covert agent of the police and were murdered when some of them fell unconscious. He called for a bandh on 26<sup>th</sup> of March. Later a joint press release by the secretaries of DKSZC and NTSZC, comrades Kosa and Chandranna, issued a statement calling for bandh of the two states of Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh on March 31. On both days bandh was observed in several parts of the two states. Gumada railway station in Vizianagaram district was blasted by Maoist guerrillas on the 26<sup>th</sup> March as a mark of protest against the fake encounter.



**MUMBAI:** At least eight naxalites were killed and five others injured in a series of skirmishes with the police in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra during the last week of February 2008.

One policeman was also killed in action. Maharashtra Director General of Police P.S. Pasricha told reporters that the action was executed by the Anti-Naxalite Operations (ANO) Cell of the state police. He said that he could confirm that eight naxalites' death but the toll could be higher on their side.

## CPI (Maoist) denies police charge

VISAKHAPATNAM: The banned CPI (Maoist) has denied the police charge that it has brought Guttikoyas from Dandakaranya area to carry out brutal killings of Girijans in the Visakha agency area.

"There is no truth in the propaganda being carried out by the police and the party will not stoop to such a low. It is also unfortunate that Girijan tribes are being provoked to act against one another," CPI (Maoist) Andhra-Orissa Border Special Zone said. People watching the activities and policies of the party in Eastern Ghats would not believe such a charge, the party added.

## CC, CPI (Maoist), condemns the outright degeneration and betrayal of revolution by Lanka Papireddy and expels him from the Party!

On February 2, Lanka Papiraddy alias Latchanna alias Naresh, a member of our Central Committee, had deserted the Party and the movement and surrendered before the enemy citing ill-health as a reason. It is indeed shocking to all Party members and the revolutionary masses to see such degenerate behavior and extreme political weakness from a member of the highest committee of our Party. However, if one looks at the history of our Party one will not be surprised to see some leaders getting degenerated in course of the development of the revolutionary war. This happens when they are not able to mould themselves to the needs of the movement and place their personal interests above the interests of the Party and people. Papireddy, in spite of being in the CC, has not displayed the consciousness of even a primary Party member. He behaved in the most irresponsible way, firstly, by committing a mistake of a very serious nature, and then, deserting the movement instead of undertaking sincere self-criticism and striving by all means to come out of his weaknesses. Ill-health is only a plea to hide his degeneration and betrayal of the revolution. The CC condemns this arrogant behavior and degeneration of Papireddy and expels him from the Party.

The CC, after analysing the weaknesses and deviations in Papireddy in the wake of his misbehavior with a woman comrade, passed a resolution in Dec 2007 demoting him to ZC level and transferring him out of the state where he had been working. It hoped that given his seniority he will display maturity and seriously rectify his mistakes by immersing himself in the class struggle. The CC has tried to save him by retaining him in the Party provided he realises his serious weaknesses and strives to come out of these and take measures to transform himself into a genuine revolutionary. But instead of undertaking deep self-criticism of his weakness and assuring the CC and the entire Party that he would make all efforts to rectify and come out of the weakness, he placed conditions for continuing in the Party and the movement. He also cited some reasons such as problems with his wife to justify his degeneration. **What are the main reasons for his immediate desertion and betrayal?**

Firstly, in spite of being in the revolutionary movement for a long period, he has not transformed and moulded himself into a proletarian revolutionary. Petty-bourgeois and feudal values and attitudes continued to remain strong. His behavior towards woman comrades reflected the strong patriarchal trend in him. In mid-2004 he was issued a serious warning about his patriarchal attitude, irresponsible and provocative behavior with a woman comrade.

Secondly, even though he was fully aware of his mistakes and weaknesses he did not make any attempts to come out of these. His petty-bourgeois false prestige became a hurdle for undertaking sincere self-criticism and get rid of his weaknesses. This false prestige had quite often come to the fore during his earlier work in Dandakaranya and was criticized by comrades many a time.

Thirdly, his ego and individualism, lack of respect for collective committee functioning, putting on airs about his general knowledge and political depth, his sectarian approach towards others, bureaucratic style of functioning, etc had increased in recent years. He has infatuation for his own capabilities while underplaying the better capabilities of other comrades.

Fourthly, due to the above-mentioned weaknesses he began to lose confidence on revolution especially after seeing the series of losses suffered by the Party in recent years. He was not confident of playing his role in overcoming the present unfavourable situation and countering the countrywide coordinated cruel counter-offensive of the enemy. Defeatism overtook his mindset and being self-centred and individualist he had lost faith in the capacity of the Party and masses in defeating the enemy offensive.

Due to above-mentioned reasons it is not surprising that Papireddy, after serving as a revolutionary and also as a leader for a long period, has surrendered to the enemy, betrayed the revolution and turned into a counter-revolutionary. The weaknesses and mistakes which were once a secondary aspect of his revolutionary life have changed qualitatively and become principal aspect while the revolutionary character transformed into a secondary aspect; thus a revolutionary and a revolutionary leader has turned in to non-revolutionary and also a counter-revolutionary. No revolutionary, however exemplary be his/her past history, can last for long without intense internal struggle against his/her non-proletarian ideas and weaknesses.

To continue as a life-long revolutionary one has to transform oneself to suit the needs of the revolution; it is the law of revolutionary dialectics which operates in society and individuals including revolutionaries and a revolutionary party. Those self-seeking, careerist leaders who put themselves above the party, revolution and oppressed masses and gloat over their self-claimed intellectual talents and individual capabilities will be consigned to the scrap-heap of history. Through his surrender, Papireddy has become another addition to the list of betrayers and self-seeking opportunists in our party history such as Sathyamurthy, Murali, Bharath, etc.

Papireddy will serve as a negative teacher to the entire rank and file of the Party and the revolutionary masses. The internal struggle within oneself is far crueler, arduous and daunting than class struggle against the enemy class. It needs great courage and determination. And most important of all, it needs deep conviction on the ideology of MLM, faith on the oppressed masses and the Party.

Let us show utmost contempt and hatred towards renegades who run away from the people's cause for their own selfish interests. Let us advance along the bright red path blazed by the sacrifices of our beloved martyrs who had laid down their lives by upholding Communist values and practice until their last breath.

Azad,  
Spokesperson,  
Central Committee,  
CPI(Maoist)

## Jharkhand police-NSS armed goons murder seven Maoist guerrillas

In the early hours of February 14, the Jharkhand police along with the private armed gang of Nagarik Suraksha Samithy caught seven Maoists, including two women comrades, and murdered them in a so-called encounter. The incident occurred in Ranijharna near the village of Bhitara Amda under Dumaria PS limits. The place of the so-called encounter is at a distance of 9 km from Dumaria. The police force had reached the place during the night upon receiving information from its agents in the village. Armed goons of NSS accompanied the police. Information was provided by a covert who acted as a sympathizer of the Maoists while he was actually in the pay of the police.

Bhita Amda incident is the biggest after the Lango massacre in 2003 when NSS mercenaries murdered 11 Maoists after luring them into the village in the name of resolving the land problem of a poor peasant. When the guerrillas entered the village uncaught, tied up and murdered after beating them up severely. From then on the police continued the *sendra* campaign in Jharkhand with the aim of wiping out the Maoists. The NSS was set up by the police to carry out the *sendra* campaign. In a daring action in March 2007 the Maoist action team shot dead one of the main leaders of this campaign, Sunil Mahato, who was the JMM MP from Jamshedpur in broad daylight when he was watching a football match. Several leaders and activists of NSS were punished after the Lango murders.

Comrade Vikas, Putus, Malathi and four others were among the martyrs. Comrade Vikas hails from Purulia district and had completed his engineering from Jadavpur university in Kolkata. He was an able organizer and had won the confidence of the Party cadre and the people of the area at large. He had once escaped from the NSS goondas who had caught him in last April in Chakari village. Upon hearing the news other PLGA guerrillas attacked the armed goons, annihilated four of them and secured the release of comrade Vikas. He was said to be one of the participants in the attack on Sunil Mahato.



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## Prachanda to contest Nepal election

**KATMANDU, Jan. 18:** The leader of Nepal's former communist rebels announced today he will be a candidate in a key election in April, an indication the group will not block the planned polls for a second time.

Prachanda, leader of the former rebels widely known as Maoists, said he would run in two constituencies—one in Katmandu and another in Rukum—in the mountainous midwest. Election laws allow candidates to run in more than one place, increasing their chances of winning. Prachanda, who uses only one name, said the party's central committee decided earlier this month that he would be a candidate.

The election for the Constituent Assembly, which is to rewrite the constitution and decide Nepal's political future, is scheduled for 10 April. Formation of the assembly is a key element of a 2006 peace agreement under which the rebels ended their decade-old armed revolt, in which more than 13,000 people died, and joined mainstream politics. PTI

## Maoists say they will take up arms if elections are put off again

**Kathmandu, January 20:** Accusing the monarchy of using agitating groups in Terai to disrupt the crucial Constituent Assembly polls, the Maoists in Nepal have threatened to take up arms again if the April 10 vote is put off for the third time even as two Madhesi groups announced a fresh stir.

*"The cremation of the institution of monarchy will be done with the holding of the Constituent Assembly polls,"* CPN-Maoist's second in command Baburam Bhattarai said at a joint election rally in the eastern Nepal town of Biratnagar.

*"But the royalists are trying to use some legitimate demands of the Terai as a means to disrupt the polls. If the Madhesi people danced to their tune and disrupted the polls, the achievements they have made so far through democratic movement would slip away from their hands,"* he said.

The Maoist leader said monarchy was already *"dead"* with parliament passing resolution declaring the country a republic, subject to ratification by the Constituent Assembly.

*"Maoists have locked up their arms but they are still capable to make bombs and use arms in case the polls are sabotaged,"* he said referring to the guerrilla army that was confined to cantonments under UN supervision following the 2006 peace deal.

Nepal's Terai region, which witnessed large scale violent protests last year from Madhesi community which is demanding greater share in the country's politics and economic resources, appeared to be on the boil again ahead of the polls with two groups announcing a fresh stir.

The Samyukta Madhesi Morcha and Madhesh Terai Loktantrik Party have announced protest programmes in southern Nepal from Jan 23 claiming that the seven-party unity government was ignoring their demands.

## CPN(M) Chairman Prachanda fears assassinations:

**KATHMANDU:** The chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), Prachanda, expressed fears that there was a possibility of high-profile political assassinations in his country.

*"A series of murders and counter-murders could take place in a run-up to the Constituent Assembly polls,"* said Prachanda, talking to journalists in the capital.

*"In the coming days, there could be assassination of important political figures in Nepal, something like the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto."* He claimed that he had received credible information in this regard. *"Several groups have entered the capital for the purpose.*

Prachanda announced on January 18 that he will be a candidate in a key election in April, an indication the group will not block the planned polls for a second time. He said he would run in two constituencies—one in Katmandu and another in Rukum—in the mountainous mid-west. Election laws allow candidates to run in more than one place, increasing their chances of winning.

Prachanda, who uses only one name, said the party's central committee decided earlier this month that he would be a candidate.

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(Continued from page 23)

they refuse to see the indescribable atrocities being committed daily in Chattisgarh in the name of *salva judum*. For such pseudo-intellectuals masquerading as media reporters, massacres of poor adivasis, rape of tribal women, burning down of entire hamlets by *salva judum* goons and state's armed forces are only collateral damage in the holy war unleashed by corporate big business and MNCs for plundering the mineral wealth in the vast tribal tracts in the country. Citing the case of Andhra Pradesh, he recommends similar exclusive intelligence gathering mechanism, police's informant networks, the prompt dispatch of the elite commando force called Greyhounds to the forest areas where the militants go into hiding and, above all, minimal political intervention. The article is useful for it reveals the thinking of those who oppose the interests of the people and the revolutionaries who lead them and suggest measures to defend the status quo.

### 3. Taking On Naxals: Both Hands Tied (A seven-part article in The Indian Express)

*"Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calls it the most serious internal security threat the country faces. The toll in Naxalite violence has surged over the last two years to almost one death each day. The Sunday Express reporters travel to police stations in the heart of Naxal country in six states. To find out how and why security personnel at the frontlines of this war are little more than sitting ducks",* says the paper in its introduction to the seven-part write-up which appeared in *The Indian Express* from February 24 to March 2, 2008.

The Indian Express article does not throw much light on the overall state of the security forces in these states but gives an idea of how the police set up exists at the PS level by examining one police station in each of these states—Koylibeda in Kanker district in Chattisgarh, Banke Bazar in Gaya district in Bihar, Motu police station in Malkangiri district in Orissa, Tamar PS in Ranchi district in Jharkhand, Jaravandi's fortress-like station in Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, and the highly-modernised Neelwai PS in Adilabad in Andhra Pradesh with its Internet, mineral water plant, and a siren system that enables all police chiefs, including State Director General of Police, to hear it in case of emergency. The conditions in the police stations in the various states are quite a contrast—from the high-tech police stations in Andhra Pradesh where "unlike in most other states, each police station has a three-storey structure, with sentry positions at three levels that help the police cover a far wider area" to the stations like Banke Bazar in Bihar which have electricity just for two hours, broken down generators, and relatively less modernized weaponry and infrastructure.

Describing the situation around Banke Bazar, the paper writes: *'Every man in uniform here acknowledges that the writ of the state is limited to a radius of just 3-4 km around the police station though its jurisdiction spreads across a radius of 15 km. "Beyond that, we hardly tread," says a Bihar Military Police (BMP) jawan.'*

The last part tries to paint the Maoist movement as a terrorist organization by saying: *"Naxals shift their gaze to urban areas, think of car bombs and suicide missions".* And it tries to create a scare among the urban dwellers by asserting "Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calls it the most serious internal security threat the country faces. *"At a time when Naxalites and their sympathisers are trying to infiltrate the industrial belts around Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and cities right up to Jammu, new evidence suggests that they are also trying to build urban guerrilla warfare capabilities like rigging remote-controlled explosives devices in cars, even human bombs".* The evidence, it says, is found in a laptop seized from a Naxal called Jayant alias Kunal arrested by Jharkhand police on August 12 last year. It does not require much common sense to see through this police story. Would anyone note down such things even if we suppose, for the sake of argument, there is a plan to carry out such missions?

### ***Hindu fascist murderous gang (RSS)'s chieftain Sudarsan terms Maoists a major demonic force! Hear! Hear!***

**BERHAMPUR:** The RSS chief K.S.Sudarsan termed Maoists a major demonic force out to destroy peace, harmony and integrity of the country. Speaking at a public meeting organised at Khallikote Autonomous college stadium, Mr. Sudarsan called upon the RSS cadres of Orissa to thwart nefarious plans of Maoists. He termed present breed of Maoists as mindless violent beings who only propagate animosity. Mr Sudarsan also alleged that Maoists were involved in the violence that occurred in Kandhamal district in recent past.

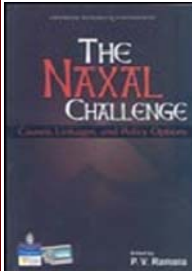
**Comment:** *Is the genocide of over 2000 innocent Muslims in Gujarat by your Hindu fascist hordes meant to build peace, harmony and integrity of the country, Mr. Sudarsan? The history of your RSS is the history of communal violence in India right from the mindless sermons of your Guru Golwalkars and Hedgewars. You sow communal hatred in every word you utter. Who is propagating animosity, my dear chieftain of neo-Nazi thugs masquerading as swayam sewaks?*

## Recent Books and Articles on the Maoist movement



**Red Sun: Travels In Naxalite Country**  
 By Sudeep Chakravarti  
 Penguin/Viking  
 Pages: 320; Rs. 495

This is not a book on the history of the Naxalites or the Maoist movement but, as the writer himself claims, a travelogue to understand the movement. The book was two years in the making and the writer had travelled to some states with considerable Naxalite presence, spoke to bureaucrats, police officials, political leaders and ordinary people. The best part of the book is the first hundred or so pages that deal with the state terror in Dandakaranya in Chattisgarh. The atrocities of salwa judum are well exposed by citing from documents and fact-finding reports. The weakness of the book lies in lack of interaction of the writer with the actual leaders and activists of the Maoist party who are in the thick of the movement. There are quite a few factual errors which could have been avoided with better homework. The book would have been more interesting and meaningful if it included a few photographs and charts. Overall, it makes interesting reading and forcefully tells why Naxalism will grow stronger and expand to the urban areas too due to the wretched conditions of the vast majority of the masses in India. He has propounded his own theory of Out-Lands and In-lands or City States i.e. two Indias with the total segregation of the haves and have-nots. Ideological biases of the writer are reflected in his comments on Mao, GPCR and post-revolutionary societies. A more detailed review of the Book will be published in the next issue.



**THE NAXAL CHALLENGE**  
 Causes, Linkages and Policy Options  
 Edited by P.V. Ramana,  
 ORF-Pearson Longman  
 17 NOVEMBER 2007

The Papers in the book present the opinions of several bourgeois scholars and writers on the social and economic causes of the Naxalite movement and the political approach to resolve the Naxalite problem.

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ARTICLE NO. 2506 4 MARCH 2008

### Concepts of Left-wing Extremism

Report of IPCS (Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies) Seminar held on 23 February 2008

**The speakers at the IPCS Seminar analysed and discussed the various facets of Naxalite movement and made suggestions. The deliberations are quite interesting. The papers present the varying perceptions of the ruling classes towards Naxalism. But the most positive aspect is the assertion that Naxalism cannot be referred to as terrorism. Will this serve as an eye-opener to Manmohan Singh and his likes? The highlights of the discussions are as follows:**

India's propensity for insurgency can be explained by three factors: the degree of inaccessibility of an area, the strength of separate social identity of its population, and the amount of external unifying influence on it. A remote area, due to forests, rugged mountains, inhospitable terrain or extreme climate, inhibits penetration by the state into its population and provides excellent havens for insurgents. Inaccessibility of an area inhibits economic development and causes a sense of relative deprivation among the population. It further affects the relative power position of its politicians in the state's politics thereby enhancing the sense of exclusion among the population

The counterinsurgency debate in India revolves around the security versus the development approach and the defensive versus the offensive approach

Notwithstanding the fact that terrorism has several definitions, Naxalism cannot be referred to as terrorism. Terrorism is the use of terror to target civilian non-combatants for the purpose of creating terror. The Maoists in India are following a revolutionary strategy and have not targeted civilians.

Since every insurgency functions in its unique set of conditions, the Andhra Pradesh model of counterinsurgency is most suited to India rather than the Israeli or the British models. Even for developing intelligence, the Andhra model is most suitable as it encompasses strengthening the local police force and close coordination among the security agencies in the state. The creation of Greyhound, however, was indeed based on the Israel model and has proved to be very useful.

Empowered task forces can play a crucial role in opening up the areas under Naxal control and facilitate development. A comprehensive force consisting of construction forces, electric and hydro-electric engineers and armed battalions have to move kilometre by kilometre together and take control of the land. Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have adopted this approach but will take time to show results.

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1. In its issue of March 2, 2008, The Sunday Indian ran a cover page article on the Maoist guerrillas in Dandakaranya under the caption Guerrillas of the Mist after its Executive Editor Sanjay Basak and Deputy Photo Editor Ranjan Basu spent 10 days among the guerillas in the "impregnable forests of Dandakaranya"

The magazine also covered an Interview with Sonu, a member of the central committee of the CPI(Maoist) and KPS Gill, the former DGP of Punjab, and who failed to achieve any result during his tenure as a special advisor to the Chattisgarh government in 2006-07.

Answering a question on transforming guerrilla war into mobile war, comrade Sonu explained: "Today we are in the process of transforming from guerilla warfare to mobile warfare. Guerilla warfare means common people would take up arms to fight the modernised forces. Mobile warfare means we move forward in large formations with complete military skills and tactics. In guerilla warfare we hit and run, in mobile warfare we stand our ground and fight the enemy."



Com. Sonu

The essence of Gill's views can be summed up from his interview thus: "The police in Chhattisgarh have been given armoured vehicles. Merely adding a few battalions and giving them armoured vehicles is hardly upgrading security. The police station, which is the basic unit in this regard, has to be strengthened and enabled to meet whatever threats emanate within the area of jurisdiction. This has unfortunately not been done anywhere and this is the reason why the situation continues to deteriorate." This is the "carpet security system" which he wanted to implement in Chattisgarh and succeeded to some extent.

The long write-up, with lots of photographs of the Maoist guerrillas gives an insight into the daily lives and aspirations of the Maoists. Though lacking in-depth analysis and an overall picture of the Maoist movement the writers had tried to present the life of guerrillas as they saw it. Their own difficulties and fears during their 10-day-long stay with the guerrillas makes interesting reading. Commenting on the mind-set of the guerrillas they say: "Born into abject poverty, misery, these young boys and girls have lost their fear of death. We found them joking about ambushes, laughing about encounters and teasing the one, who fled during a shootout."

They also state how the Maoists are running a parallel government: "In this tribal belt, the Maoists are also running a parallel government called, Revolutionary Government. They have ministries like Finance, Judiciary, School and Culture, Forest and Health."

## 2. Red Terror

In its issue of February 1, 2008, the Weekly magazine India Today ran a cover story on (read against) the Maoist movement entitled "Red Terror". As the title itself indicates, the article is completely biased and written with an aim to project the Maoist movement as a grave threat and danger to the country's security and projecting as a terrorist movement. The ingrained bias is seen in the very first editorial by the editor-in-chief Aroon Purie, who, while introducing the cover story, describes the Naxalites as the most dangerous: "The threats to India's internal security have been a matter of growing concern, from Punjab militancy to insurgency in the North-east, Islamic Jihadi groups, Dawood Ibrahim and his D Company.

"But the one which is the longest running, least publicised and probably the most dangerous is by the Naxalites or Maoists. It is only in recent times, however, that the Naxalite menace is being treated by the Centre with the seriousness it deserves."

Amarnath K Menon, another pet-dog of the reactionary classes of India, begins his attack vomiting venom: "It is sub-rural terror masquerading as revolution. Taking full advantage of the stoic passivity of a soft state, it has become the biggest killing machine of the country." The Indian state, to his blinkered eyes, is a soft state for

(Continued on page 21)

## PLGA demonstrates its potential to transform guerrilla war into mobile war

By successfully carrying out a series of tactical counteroffensives against a vastly superior enemy force since 2004 the PLGA has demonstrated its tremendous potential to transform itself into the PLA and guerrilla war into mobile war. Several of these offensives were undertaken by Battalion-sized formations and the battles with the enemy force lasted for hours. And eventually the Maoist guerrillas succeeded in achieving their objective of wiping out the enemy forces and/or seizing the entire arsenal of the enemy after forcing them to surrender. Koraput led these big counteroffensive operations when six police establishments including two police stations, police superintendent's office and the district armoury were attacked simultaneously and over 550 arms were seized. The entire guerrilla force retreated with the arms after inflicting casualties to the enemy.



In Giridih 185 arms were seized in November 2005 when almost 200 Maoist guerrillas raided the homeguards training centre. Two days

Historic Jail Break in Jehanabad, Nov 2005

later an equal number of Maoists attacked the Jehanabad Jail and set free hundreds of prisoners after snatching some arms. Earlier in June a simultaneous raid was



remains of the police camp smashed by Maoist guerrillas in Ranibodili in March

carried out in Madhuban in North Bihar. In March 2006 several prisoners were set free and three officials were captured in a daring raid by guerrillas on a police station, an OSAP camp, district Treasury, tehsil office and a Jail in R Udayagiri town in Gajapati district in



Height is not a deterrent to PLGA

Orissa. In March 2007 at least 68 policemen including several Special Police Officers were wiped out and around 50 arms were seized by Maoist guerrillas in Ranibodili in Dantewara district in Dandakaranya.

In the last week of June 2007 around 200 guerrillas carried out a simultaneous raid on Rajapura



IAF helicopter scouring for Maoist guerrillas after Nayagarh raids

police station and Baghaila police outpost in Bihar's Rohtas district seizing around twenty weapons and annihilating five policemen and injuring an equal number. Then there are several others such as the daring raid on CISF camp in Khasmahal in Bokaro in April 2007, attack on several centres in Riga in Sitamarhi district in North Bihar, Urpalametta attack in Dantewara wiping out 24 policemen, Tadametla, Toggudem and Banda ambushes in south Bastar annihilating 33 policemen and so on. In all, about 247 policemen were annihilated, 183 injured and 337 arms seized by PLGA in various parts of the country in one year from December 2006 to November 2007.