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News from Battle-field

Maoist guerrillas wipe out 15 policemen in Maharashtra in a daring day-light ambush

In one of the most daring attacks by Maoist guerrillas on the mercenary police forces in Maharashtra, 15 policemen including a sub-inspector were wiped out in the jungles of Markegaon village in Dhanora tehsil of Gadchiroli district, around 300 km from Nagpur, on the morning of February 1. After the successful ambush the Maoists retreated without any casualty. Markegaon is close to the Gyrapatti-Sawargaon road and around eight km from the Gyrapatti Katgul police outpost, which is along the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border.

The police sub-inspector killed has been identified as Bhupendra Gudgekar of Amravati. A number of cops took bullet injuries. A sources in Gadchiroli police said, *"The police party was heading towards Markegaon, some 45 km from Dhanora, to investigate into the January 30 arson committed by the Maoists, when the rebels attacked them. The police party was ambushed in such a manner that all the members, including head PSI Gudgekar, were killed on spot."*

The ambush took place at around 11.15 am. When a relief party reached the area to rescue the first team, it, too, was attacked, preventing immediate reinforcement. But by late in the afternoon on 1st, more than 3,000 police personnel were sent to Gadchiroli. The ambush itself was triggered after nearly 40 Maoists of Tippagarh Dalam torched a road-roller and a tractor pressed for building a bridge near Markegaon village on Sawargaon-Kotgul road, on January 30. The police party had left to investigate the arson attack and was heading for the spot for further investigation when they were ambushed in the dense forest. According to reports, the guerrillas had set up two ambushes for the cops. The first one at Kosmi let the unsuspecting police party pass to be engaged at Markegaon by the second ambush. The first one was activated when reinforcements were going in to help the first party thus preventing help from reaching the surrounded cops. The police, who were armed with eight AK 47s, two INSAS (Indian National Small Arms System), six self-loading rifles, one two-inch mortar and one pistol, retaliated, and the battle lasted for over an hour, in which a sub-inspector and 14 constables lost their lives. After the attack, the guerrillas seized eight self-loading and INSAS rifles, six AK-47 rifles and one two-inch mortar launcher.

Maharashtra minister of state for home Nitin Raut howled: *"Not satisfied with killing the cops, the Maoists also placed explosives on the bodies of dead cops. They also took away the weapons."*

The Maoist attack comes in the wake of a series of police raids on villages known to be sympathetic to the Maoist movement, arrests of several people who supported the revolutionary movement, fake encounter killings of innocent adivasis and continuous harassment of the people in Gadchiroli district. Just a week prior to the

attack 15 Maoist sympathizers were arrested by the Anti-Naxal Squad at Ettapalli taluka in Gadchiroli district. The district, bordering Chhattisgarh, has seen many a Maoist attack. In 2008, four police officers were killed in the Rajaram Khanla region of south Gadchiroli. In 2006, seven police officers were killed in a landmine blast at Bewartola in Gondia district. In 2005, blasts in Gadchiroli and Gondia districts killed 14 police officers. In 2003, a landmine blast killed five police officers near Gadchiroli's Hemalkasa village.

Interestingly, a camera cell phone seized from one of the dead constables in Markegaon showed the photograph of comrade Mynabai who was abducted by the police in May 2008. 52-year-old Mynabai was a popular leader from Kosimi village of Dhanora tehsil in Gadchiroli district. The district police and the Congress government in Maharashtra had lied that comrade Mynabai had died of heart attack. People knew that she was taken to Gyarapatti PS and kept there for some days, gang-raped by the policemen and eventually murdered. The photograph from the cell phone of one Amar Chouse reveals that comrade Mynabai was in a pathetic condition in police custody at least on May 22 when the photograph was taken. No wonder, these rapist policemen were even hacked to pieces after the ambush.



Maoist guerrillas annihilate 10 policemen in Bihar

In the biggest strike so far this year in Bihar, Maoist guerrillas wiped out ten policemen, injured three others and seized several weapons at a village in Nawada district on February 9.

Over 200 armed guerrillas of PLGA attacked a police team comprising district armed police, Special Auxiliary Police and Bihar Military Police personnel sent to Mahuliatand village to provide security at a function organised on the occasion of Ravidas Jayanti.

Four jawans each from SAP and BMP, sub-inspector of Kauakaul police station Rameshwar Ram and assistant sub-inspector I D Singh were killed on the spot in the attack. The Maoists took away 15 weapons, including five INSAS rifles, five SLRs, two AK-47s, one carbine and two revolvers of .38 bore besides 1,250 round cartridges and 45 magazines.

According to an eyewitness: *"Ram was asked on the public address system to come on the dais and garland Sant Ravidas's portrait. No sooner did Ram come back from the dais to take his seat in the front row of audience than bombs started exploding here and there. There was also firing from countrymade pistols. So swift and meticulous was the 30-minute operation that even before the cops could react, each one of them was overpowered by batches of 4-5 Maoists."*

The Bihar government has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 20 lakh to each of the 10 policemen killed in the naxal attack at Mahuliatand village. Additional Director

General of Police (Headquarters) Neelmani told reporters that the next of the kin of the policemen killed in the attack would be paid Rs 20 lakh including Rs 10 lakh as insurance money.

Bihar Police Men's Association demanded government jobs to the dependants of those policemen who were killed in Maoist attack, adequate compensation, including Rs 20 lakh and insurance money, besides other facilities to their dependents within a month.

Association president Jitendra Narayan Singh held the Nawada district administration responsible for the killing of the policemen. Singh charged the state government and police headquarters with shedding crocodile's tears over the killing. *"The association wants to know whether the state government and police headquarters have ever shown eagerness to know about increasing Naxalite activities across the state,"* said Singh.

He alleged that *"Senior officials rush to the spot and pay tributes to the slain cops. This is the only thing that is being done after every Naxalite attack,"* and that *"The state government has failed to chalk out any any permanent strategy to curb Naxalism. The police stations located in Naxalite areas do not have proper buildings or boundary walls."* He lamented that due to insensitiveness of the police headquarters, the dependants of the policemen killed in Jamui Naxalite attack could not get insurance claims.

Reports of repression and resistance from Dandakaranya

During the Assembly elections in Chattisgarh last November, people of Dandakaranya led by the CPI(Maoist) organised a massive boycott campaign notwithstanding the deployment of a huge number of central forces that was three times the number deployed in the preceding elections. Over 50,000 police and central para-military forces were deployed in the six districts of Bastar range alone thereby transforming the entire region into a police camp. Hundreds of adivasis were abducted and tortured and dozens of them were killed in so-called encounters. By creating such an atmosphere of terror the fascist BJP's Raman Singh government in the state dreamt that people could be coerced and intimidated into casting their votes in the election.

This terror tactic of Raman Singh, however, failed to bring the people to the polling booths. As reported in the last issue of our ***Maoist Information Bulletin (MIB-6)***, people enthusiastically participated in the boycott campaign, and in scores of booths not a single vote was polled. There was no electioneering by any political party in several hundred villages. Cases of bogus voting by the election officials and the CRPF officials accompanying them, who did not even go to the polling centres, had become publicized and repolling had to be ordered at several places. In one village of Gougonda repolling was held for the third time and, inspite of the deployment of over a 1000 policemen, only 10 out of the 711 voters cast their votes (See the detailed report in our last issue). Thus Raman Singh's BJP government in the state, assisted by the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre, completely failed to cow down the revolutionary masses of Dandakaranya.

After coming to power in the most-rigged election ever in Chattisgarh, Raman Singh stepped up his fascist suppression campaign, arresting, torturing and murdering adivasis suspected of being active or sympathetic to the Maoist movement. On January 8, it enacted what could perhaps be called the biggest ever fake encounter in the history of the revolutionary movement after the Naxalbari upsurge. It murdered 18 adivasis after abducting them from four villages falling under Gollapalli PS in South Bastar. The fake encounter stood thoroughly exposed before the people of the country but the Congress Home Minister at the Centre, Chidambaram, only talked of more fascist measures against the Maoists and patted the BJP government in Chattisgarh for its commendable job.

Of the 18 adivasi comrades who were murdered in the so-called encounter near Singaram village five were from Korraas Gudem: comrades Maadvi Idmaal, Maadvi Kanna, Maadvi Bheema, Yemla Admaal, Madakam Deve; eight were from Chenchem(Dantheshwari Puram): comrades Veko Bandi, Veko Joga, Maadvi Deva, Madakam Idmaal, Yemla Sukkaal, Muchchaaki Ganga, Veko Pojja, Muchchaaki Doole; four were from Singaaram: comrades Madakam Raaju, Madakam Seethe, Kaaram Lachcha and Kaaram Muththa; and one comrade named Vetti Aduma was from Mylasoor village. These four villages come under Singaram Janathana Sarkar. These villages played a historic role in defeating successive brutal attacks by the state's mercenary forces like the STF, CRPF, AP Greyhounds etc, as well as by counter-revolutionary gangs of Salwa Judum from mid-2005. Comrade Madakam Seethe was one of the leaders of the village RPC and played a prominent role in the movement. Most of these martyr comrades were active in the people's struggles and bravely confronted state-sponsored terrorism of salwa judum. Fascist Raman Singh government mobilized a huge contingent of STF, CRPF and hundreds of Salwa Judum gangsters from 3 Tehsils i.e., from more than 10 salwa judum camps, and attacked these four villages, arrested around 40 people, tied their hands and took them to a rivulet near Singaram. All of them were cruelly tortured (see the photographs given below), four women were gang raped, and finally shot dead 18 of them and took away three others who were missing since then. A few managed to escape and narrated the gory details of the massacre.

Again on 24th of January police, CRPF and SPOs attacked Dondem Paara, near Thakilod village in Indravathy Area and murdered five militia comrades. Two of the martyr comrades, Yenugu Odi and Sakru Lekam, were from Dunga village; two were from Gottum village (comrades Madkaam Raaju and Podiyam Manku); and one comrade, Madkaam Neelu, was from Javu Gunda village. A day prior to this, on the 23rd of January, comrade Mallu Podiyam from Kunjam Paara, a tola of Belnar village, was murdered by the police. In North & East Bastar, police shot dead several local activists and people, caused injuries to many and are continuously intensifying their suppression campaign in the past two months. In Thoynaar of East Bastar police-SPOs-salwa judum gangs fired on our people's militia in which four members were injured.

Now with Parliamentary elections scheduled for April 16, the saffron terrorist regime in Raipur, with the full support of the khadi terrorist regime in Delhi, and with the direction, advice and assistance from the global terrorist regime in Washington, has stepped up the brutal suppression of the people and the Maoist movement.

On the 1st of February, the heroic fighters of PLGA led by CPI (Maoist) carried out a daring day-light ambush on a police party near Markegaon in Gadchiroli in neighbouring Maharashtra, annihilated 14 policemen, seized an equal number of fire-arms, and enthused the masses of entire Dandakaranya while creating panic among the mercenary enemy forces. The daring ambush enthused the masses of Dandakaranya, and the adivasis of Gadchiroli in particular, who have been reeling under the brutal reign of terror unleashed by successive governments in Maharashtra. These policemen were involved in the gangrape and murder of 52-year-old comrade Mynabai in May last year. After the ambush Maoists found the photographs of comrade Mynabai from a cell phone of one of the dead constables. This exposes the repeated lies by the Congress government in Maharashtra and the SP of Gadchiroli that Mynabai had died of heart attack. The date of the photograph (May 22, 2008) makes it crystal clear as comrade Mynabai was abducted and taken away to the police camp a day prior to that. The Maoist ambush had thus wiped out all the khaki rapists too thereby drawing wide support from the people of the surrounding villages.

Soon after the ambush, Home Minister Chidambaram rushed in 3000 central forces to Gadchiroli to assist the local police and C-60 commandos in carrying out the suppression campaign christened as '**Operation Parikram**'. The goal of this operation was to create an atmosphere of terror by enacting mass rape of adivasi women and murders of youth. At least ten women have been raped by the CRPF, C-60 commandos and local police forces in the months of February-March. In Pavarvel village five policemen gangraped a woman and later threw her into jail saying she was a Maoist guerrilla. She was threatened not to open her mouth. In the first of March an adivasi youth by name Sukku was arrested from Goddalvai in Dhanora tehsil in Gadchiroli and murdered in cold blood. These Indian offsprings of Nazi Hitler later declared that a Maoist commander Sukku was killed in a "fierce encounter" between the police and the PLGA which lasted for over an hour and a half. Sukku was an ordinary adivasi living in his village.

In the meeting of the Chief Ministers of four states of Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, which took place in Delhi immediately following the Markegaon ambush, a plan for conducting joint operations by Maharashtra and Chattisgarh was drawn up. Under this plan thousands of police and central forces were sent to Rajnandgaon and Kanker districts in Chattisgarh. Huge contingents of police and central forces were deployed and new police camps were set up in several villages in Rajnandgaon such as Panabaras, Vasidi, Khadgaon, Kandadi, Seethagaon etc falling under Mohalla-Manpur area, and in Kapsi village in Kanker. These mercenary forces roam the villages, threaten people and seize chicken and food from the people, rape or behave vulgarly with women and create an atmosphere of terror.

On March 25 when the PLGA squad was holding a mass meeting in Gurped village in Bhanupratappur tehsil of Kanker district, the police reached the place based on information provided by a police agent and opened fire indiscriminately on the meeting. Fortunately the people fled and the PLGA squad retreated without any casualty.

On March 27, police attacked a village called Kulli in Badgaon area in Kanker district and burned the house and foodgrains of Mansingh. On the same day they attacked Katnaar village in Koilbeda area, beat up the people and arrested ten adivasi youth.

On April 5 the police terrorized the people in Lohar village in Koilbeda area by severely beating up seven youth. As a result of the cruel beatings one old man, who was over 60 years, died on the spot. Many adivasis locked their houses and fled the village after seeing the police. The police broke open the houses and looted the belongings of the people.

All these attacks by the police and CRPF are part of the plan to terrorise the people of Dandakaranya and force them to cast their votes in the bogus elections to the Lok Sabha on April 16. The reactionary rulers who swear by 'free and fair' elections, cannot enforce their election drama in the guerrilla zones and other areas of revolutionary struggle without resorting to brute force and terror tactics.

Faced with this counter-revolutionary terrorist campaign by the reactionary ruling classes, the PLGA led by the CPI(Maoist) has carried out heroic resistance by mobilizing the revolutionary masses against the enemy forces.

- On March 24, a police force comprising of 80 men led by the ASP of Narayanpur was proceeding towards Sonapur village in Maad division with the aim of creating terror in the *mela* that was taking place in the village. Brave warriors of PLGA attacked the police force near the village of Baasing killing one policeman on the spot (some reports put the dead at two). Two other policemen, including one SPO, were critically injured. Panic-struck the police did not dare to proceed further and returned to Narayanpur. The people were happy that the PLGA's ambush had pushed back the police and facilitated the successful conduct of the *mela* in Sonapur.

- On April 3, an action team of PLGA carried out a daring attack and shot dead Channuram Karma, a criminal Congress leader and nephew of the notorious salwa judum leader Mahendra Karma, at a railway crossing near Katiyararas, barely 3 km from Dantwara, the district headquarter. Channuram was the sarpanch of Faraspal village and was considered to be the right hand man of Mahendra Karma. He was involved in every cruel attack carried out by the police and salwa judum goondas on the people of West Bastar and was associated with every atrocity perpetrated by Mahendra Karma through his terrorist campaign called *salwa judum*. He was provided security with five policemen and moved very stealthily. But the PLGA, with the support of the people, tracked him down and annihilated him thus fulfilling a long-cherished aspiration of the people.

- On April 6, PLGA guerrillas carried out a daring attack on C-60 commandos near Muginer village in Dhanora tehsil of Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra. In the exchange of fire that lasted for an hour and a half, three C-60 commandos were annihilated and seven others were injured. To boost up the sagging morale of the Commandos and the policemen, the police top brass concocted stories of huge casualties on the side of Maoists. The SP of Gadchiroli, Rajesh Pradhan, claimed that 15 Maoist guerrillas were killed due to the 'brave' resistance put up by his mercenary commandos. But this brainless stupid officer of the Indian Police Service does not even know how to spin a lie. Nor has he any qualms or shame in uttering such blatant lies. Like Naveen Patnaik's policemen claiming that they had shot dead 20 Maoists in Goshama

after the multiple raids in Nayagarh in February 2008 when it was actually the SOG commandos who were wiped out by Maoist guerrillas, Rajesh Pradhan repeated a similar lie without bothering to explain why a single dead body could not be recovered and whether it was possible for the fleeing Maoists to carry away 15 bodies of the dead guerrillas.

- On April 7, a land-mine exploded by Maoist guerrillas just 2km from Bijapur, the district HQ in West Bastar, ripped apart a bullet-proof vehicle. Two policemen were killed on the spot and four others were severely injured. The target of the guerrillas was the district SP, Ankit Garg, who was proceeding from Bijapur to Bhopalapatnam escorted by two vehicles filled with policemen. His vehicle narrowly missed the mine as the vehicle behind came under the mine and was blown up. Thus the notorious blood-thirsty SP whose hands are stained with the blood of many innocent adivasis and Maoist fighters narrowly escaped the jaws of death this time but such anti-people creatures will ultimately be reduced to ashes in the raging flames of people's war.

- A bandh call in the three districts of Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Gondia was given by Maharashtra State committee, Gadchiroli division and Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee of CPI (Maoist) on April 10 in protest against the police raids in Markegaon, Bandhur, Kosmi, Katezhari and Gudekasa villages, arrest and harassment of adivasis. Banners ridiculing police operations like Sarvodaya and Parakram and condemning police atrocities in several villages in Dhanora tehsil such as Markegaon, Bandhur and Kosmi were put up across the countryside. The banners exposed the torching of houses by police commandos in Bandhur village and demanded immediate withdrawal of CRPF from Gadchiroli.

As the above reports show, Dandakaranya presents a picture of brutal repression on the one hand and heroic resistance on the other. It vindicates for the umpteenth time the universal truth that '**repression begets resistance**' and that more cruel the scale and magnitude of repression the more will be the resistance.

Maoist guerrillas blow up police jeep

A landmine blast was triggered by Maoist guerrillas near Magra village under Dumaria police station area of Gaya district on February 12 when a police patrol vehicle was passing through the area in the afternoon. However all six personnel in the police vehicle, including five members of the SAP, managed to escape. The police vehicle suffered heavy damage.

Maoists annihilate RSS leader in Kandhamal

Maoist guerrillas annihilated Prabhat Panigrahi, a local RSS leader, in Rudiguma village in Kandhamal district, on March 19.

Panigrahi played a nasty role during the Kandhamal riots by carrying out attacks on the Christian minority. His name figured in the hit list released by the Maoists after the district was rocked by anti-Christian violence following the murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in August 2008.

According to Kandhamal SP Praveen Kumar: *"Panigrahi was associated with the RSS. He was arrested for his alleged involvement in the communal violence but was released on bail on March 14."* Since his release, apprehending danger to his life, he had been spending each night at a different place. On March 19, he was in Rudiguma village. At about 2.00 am, around 15-20 armed Naxals tried to break open the door of the house Panigrahi had taken shelter in. He tried to escape but *"the Maoists shot him down,"* a police official said. The guerrillas left behind posters in the name of CPI-Maoist that said: *"All those who misuse religion to incite communal riots and interfere in the dietary habits (eg., oppose beef eating) of the local people will meet the fate of Saraswati."*

Maoists annihilate JD(U) leader in Munger

Maoist guerrillas took away a block unit president of ruling JD(U) on March 18 and shot him dead. The 42-year-old Haveli Kharagpur block JD(U) chief, Manoj Kumar Singh, was earlier warned by Maoists to desist from his anti-people activities.

Munger SP Sunil Kumar Naik said in view of intelligence inputs that Singh might be targeted by Maoists, he had requested the JD(U) leader to take shelter at the nearest police station at least during night for a few days. *"But Singh had declined the offer, saying his villagers were united and nobody could dare attack him,"* the SP said.

Reports said at least 50 Maoists wearing police uniform knocked the door of Singh's house around 11.30 pm and said the Kharagpur police station officer-in-charge wanted to meet him. Once the door was opened, the extremists barged into the house, caught Singh and dragged him out.

Maoists punish three police informers

Maoist guerrillas attacked the houses of Maharsingh Rama Naroti (40) and Hariram Jairam Madavi (30) in Lekurbodi village, some 15 kms from Korchi tehsil and shot them dead. They were identified as police informers and were warned not to indulge in such activities. But when they did not heed the warnings and continued to pass on information regarding the movements of Maoists and the revolutionary activists in the village to the Gondia police, they were punished on..... . On getting information the cops from Bedgaon police station reached the village and shifted the bodies to Gadchiroli for postmortem. In another incident on the same night a lumpen youth, Mangru Doke Parsa, from Dobur village in Bhamragarh tehsil, was annihilated by guerrillas for acting as a police agent. The elimination of these informers was a blow to the Gondia police who depend heavily on informers to track the movements of Maoists and to identify the local activists.

Maoists to oppose Nayachar hub

The Nandigram zonal committee of the CPI (Maoist) has decided to resist the state government's move to set up a mega chemical hub in Nayachar.

In a press release issued in the first week of March, the zonal secretary of CPI(Maoist) urged Opposition parties to put up a strong resistance against the state government's move to set up the chemical hub.

The press release read: *"There are barely 11,000 to 12,000 acres of land available in Nayachar. It requires 62,500 acres of land to set up a complete chemical hub. The government has prepared a secret plan to evict people residing in surrounding areas of Nayachar and grab the additional land required for the mega chemical hub. We are urging local people to come forward and foil the state government's plan to evict them from their plots."*

The Maoists charged the CPI-M of intensifying attacks in Nandigram recently, to force people to part with their plots in preparation for the chemical hub.

The press release states: *"To pave the way for the smooth acquisition of land for the mega chemical hub, the CPI-M is building cadres in Nandigram, Khejuri and other adjoining areas of Nayachar."*

The Maoists have also urged the people to oppose the proposed Coastal Zone Management Act of the Centre, alleging that the act would allow multinational companies more control over the coastal areas of the country, if it were to replace the existing Coastal Regulation Zone Act.

Maoists attack RPF, seize arms in Purulia

A team of 10 armed Maoists fired at four jawans of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) at Barabhum railway station, 25 km from Purulia town in Adra division of South Eastern Railway, in the last week of February. Constables SR Majhi and Mohammed Ansari died at Bokaro hospital following the attack. Two others were injured and admitted to hospital.

The four jawans were on their way to Adra and were boarding the 3302 Tatanagar-Dhanbad Subarnarekha Express when Maoists fired at them in broad daylight at 2.20 pm. The guerrillas took away all the arms and ammunitions from the RPF personnel.

Mr Om Prakesh Chaube, divisional railway manager of Adra, added: *"The RPF members had cash also, but cash was not the Maoists' target. They wanted the arms."*

The last reported Maoist attack took place on 3 February, when a local committee member of the CPI-M was killed at Balarampur, on his way to his village with his son and grandson.

Maoist ultimatum to Vedanta Alumina

CPI(Maoist) issued a warning to Vedanta Alumina company to immediately stop Bauxite mining near Miniguda in Rayagada district. Posters were put up in Lanjigarh, Raikal, Bijaya Mandali villages that people's courts will punish the management of Vedanata if they do not stop mining forthwith. Vedanta Alumina company was set up with a capital of Rs. 10,000 crores adjacent to Niyamagiri hills near Muniguda village. Adivasis are opposing the mining of bauxite in Niyamagiri hills. A truck of the company was burnt.

Maoists organise mass meetings along Andhra-Chattisgarh border

Several meetings were organised by Maoists along the border of AP-Chattisgarh to commemorate the martyrdom of 17 comrades who were murdered by AP Greyhounds in Kanchala in February last. Around 25000 adivasis from 40 villages attended the two-day meeting organised by the Maoists in Palachalam forest in the second week of February.

Villagers gherao members of CRPF camp

The villagers of Lingagada of G.Udaygiri block in Kandhamal district gheraoed the members of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp at the village and blocked the road passing through it for several hours on Friday.

The villagers became furious following manhandling of a local by a CRPF jawan. The villagers demanded the removal of CRPF camp from the area charging that the CRPF personnel were involved in similar activities. The villagers were pacified only after a team of police and administrative officials led by Baliguda sub-Collector, R.V. Krishnan and Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Sudha Singh, reached the spot and held discussions. The pacified villagers lifted the road blockade.

It may be noted that tension had mounted at Paburia village under Sarangagada police station in Kandhamal district on Feb. 1 when some Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans deployed in the area beat up two innocent youths.

The angry villagers got pacified when the CRPF personnel apologised for their misdeed.

On Friday 60 persons who had returned back from G.Udaygiri relief camp to their village Dakeri were not allowed to enter the village.

The tribals of the village opposed the entry of CRPF personnel into the village along with the returnees from relief camp. The villagers said they would not allow CRPF personnel camp in their village.

Massive protests against the arrest of comrade Ashutosh , member of the Central Military Commission, CPI (Maoist)

As soon as news of the abduction of comrade Ashutosh, a member of the CMC and CC, CPI(Maoist), on February 25 reached the Party cadre, PLGA fighters and the people, a massive wave of protests swept the four states of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa, where comrade Ashutosh was looking after military affairs. A 24-hour bandh was called in the four states on February 28.

Comrade Ashutosh was abducted by the Jharkhand police on February 25 when he was moving in a vehicle along with some other comrades from Rourkela. Following are reports of resistance by PLGA as part of the 24-hour bandh on Feb 28.

Two railway stations attacked in Orissa:

In the early hours of February 28, Maoist guerrillas struck at two railway stations in Sundergarh district of Orissa, blowing up the main office and signal control room of the Bhalulata station and Chandiposh station.

Railway traffic along the Rourkela-Ranchi and Howrah-Mumbai routes was disrupted after the incident. Some trains including long distance express trains had to be cancelled.



According to reports, a group of about 30 Maoists attacked the Chandiposh railway station, 35 km from Rourkela, between 2.15 am and 2.40 am, completely destroying the station's telephone system. Another group of about 40 armed guerrillas attacked the Bhalulata station, 35 km from Rourkela, at 3.40 am.

Ratanpur railway station and tracks blown up:

On 28th night Maoist guerrillas torched Ratanpur railway station in Munger district. Soon after they blasted railway tracks at Bhalui halt between Kiul and Jhajha on the Howrah-Delhi mainline around 2 am, disrupting rail traffic badly for hours. The attacks took place towards the end of the 24-hour bandh call given by Maoists in Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal to protest arrest of comrades Ashutosh, Bihari, central military instructor Sujoy and three others. Armed Maoists asked all the railway employees as well as the passengers to leave the railway station before setting it on fire. Following the attack, train services on Kiul-Bhagalpur section was badly affected.

In the second incident, the railway tracks up to 150 ft. were blown up at Bhaluhi. As a result of it, all express and mail trains, including Rajdhani Express, passing through the Howrah-Delhi mainline, remained stranded for about nine hours.

BJP leader shot dead by Maoists in Orissa

Senior BJP leader and former chairman of the Zilla Parishad, Nanda Kartami, was shot dead by Maoist guerrillas in Sikhpally village in Malkangiri district of Orissa on March 28. The guerrillas also torched the motorcycle in which Kartami was traveling. The BJP leader was returning home from Malkangiri when he was ambushed by the armed Naxals. The local BJP leaders raised a hue and cry that the law and order machinery had collapsed and the area was under Naxal control. The incident also sharpened the contradiction between the BJP and Naveen Patnaik's BJD. BJP decried that it had been campaigning against the failure of Naveen Patnaik who heads the home department and alleged that under his regime Maoists have made deep inroads in the state. The recent incident at Govindpally, the Podia outpost blast and now the killing of Kartami have established the fact that Mr Patnaik has failed to protect life and property of people in the state, they alleged.



Maoists blow up beat houses in Simlipal

In the early hours of March 29, Maoists blew up two forest beat houses and attacked a range office in the Simlipal reserve forest area of Mayurbhanj district. This is the first such attack on a tourist destination in Orissa, though no casualty has been reported.

More than a dozen guerrillas attacked the Barahakamuda beat house around 1am and blew it up using explosives. Later, they blasted Dhudruchampa beat house, some 10km from Barahakamuda.

After the twin blasts, the guerrillas gheraoed the Chahala range office, another few kilometres away. They destroyed the building and torched three forest department vehicles, including a jeep. The entire operation, according to the police, was completed in three hours.

Mayurbhanj superintendent of police P.K. Ranpise said that while Barahakamuda and Dhudruchampa beat houses remained inaccessible for tourists because of their remote locations, Chahala was frequented by adventure-seekers and often doubled up as a guesthouse. *"Though there has been no casualty, we cannot overlook the fact that a tourist destination has been attacked. It is an issue of serious concern,"* he said.



Police said it would take some time to reach the spot. *"Our team is finding it hard to negotiate the hilly terrain, particularly when they know that Maoists may have planted landmines everywhere,"* said Jashipur inspector-in-charge Ranjit Sahu.

13 SOG jawans injured in landmine blast in Gajapati

SOG jawan hurt in landmine blast near MV-66 village

Thirteen jawans of Orissa's elite Special Operation Group (SOG) were injured in a landmine blast triggered by Maoist guerrillas near Adaba in Gajapati district of south Orissa on the morning of February 16. Two seriously injured jawans were airlifted by helicopter to the MKCG Medical College in Berhampur for treatment.

Following the blast, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, southern range, R. P. Koche and Gajapati Superintendent of Police S. A. Khan rushed to the spot to monitor the investigation and combing operation. The incident occurred when the



policemen were on their way to Katama village under Adaba police station of Mohana block. The guerillas had planted the landmine under a culvert at '*Andhari Ghati*', about 4 km from Adaba.

The airlifted injured security personnel being treated at the MKCG

Medical College Hospital in Berhampur.

The commandos were travelling by a minibus on the Adaba-Paniganda road. The police force had organised a health camp at the Katama village as part of their attempt to win over the villagers, convert at least a few of them into police informers and wean the people away from the Maoist movement.

The guerrillas first allowed the bikes carrying policemen to pass through the culvert unscathed before targeting the minibus carrying the SOG jawans. But the jawans were lucky as the minibus missed the blast by a fraction of a second. But the blast was so huge that a large portion of the culvert got ripped off and fell on the roof of the minibus injuring the jawans.

Inspector General of Police Sudhansu Sadangi flew in with a helicopter from Bhubaneswar to airlift seriously injured commandos to the MKCG Medical College Hospital.

The road communication between Adaba and Brahmanigaon in Kandhamal district remained cut for several hours following the blast. Gajapati district borders Rayagada and Kandhamal districts. The last major Maoist violence in Gajapati district was in Feb 2006 when naxals had attacked and taken over R.Udaygiri town for several hours.

Maoists blast wall of jail under construction in Bihar

About 150 Maoist guerrillas have blown up a wall of a jail under construction in North Bihar's Sheohar district on February 15. No casualties were reported.

Maoist rebels attacked the under-construction prison in Sheohar late on the night of February 15 and triggered the blast after forcing the workers out of the building.

Though no casualties were reported, the incident has created panic among workers engaged in building the prison. Maoists left behind pamphlets that warned of more such attacks.

Maoist bandh in Malkangiri district against fake encounter

Bandh call given by Maoists was observed successfully in Malkangiri district on Saturday. On the previous night one commando of the Special Operation Group (SOG) was also seriously injured in a landmine blast triggered by Maoist guerillas near MV-66 village in the district.

Maoists put up posters and banners explaining that the bandh call was given in protest against the killing of three Maoists in an 'encounter' with Andhra police at Paparmetla in Malkangiri district last month. The Maoists said the victims of the fake encounter were innocents.

The impact of bandh was more evident in Kalimela and Motu police station areas of the district. The vehicular traffic between Malkangiri town and Kalimela came to a standstill. No vehicles came out on roads in Kalimela and Motu police station areas. The SOG jawan injured in the landmine blast was airlifted to Visakhapatnam from Kalimela for treatment. A team of SOG jawans had faced the blast of the landmine at around 1 am while they were patrolling near the MV 66 village under Kalimela police station on Friday night. SOG Jawan Maheswar Behera was seriously injured when a splinter of the landmine hit his thigh.

Naxals raze police outpost, damage BSNL tower in Malkangiri

Bulldozer used by Maoists to pull down the police outpost at Padia

Maoists razed a police outpost, a government building and damaged a BSNL communication tower at Padia in Malkangiri district in the wee hours of Wednesday. The guerrillas did not use any explosives for the damage at Padia. They seized a bulldozer kept in nearby area for the work of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and used it to pull down the police outpost. Then they set ablaze the battery room of the BSNL tower at the place.

In another development more than 1,000 members of Chasi Mulia Samity, a revolutionary mass organization, held demonstration in front of the Kalimela block office calling for the boycott of polls. They also handed over a memorandum to the Kalimela Block Development Officer (BDO) in which they also mentioned that they would boycott the polls as the government had failed to fulfill their demands.

Before leaving the place, the Maoists put up posters asking people of the area to boycott the coming polls. The posters also warned the political activists to refrain from campaigning or face the consequences.

Maoists seize Rs 99 lakh from SBI officials

PLGA guerrillas seized Rs 99 lakh from SBI staff when they were transferring the cash to the Chitrakonda branch from Malkangiri main branch, near the tunnel camp in the Chitrakonda ghat, on April 4. One bank official, two security guards and the driver-cum-owner of the vehicle were present when the incident took place.

According to newspaper reports, about 20 armed guerrillas intercepted the vehicle and asked the personnel present to vacate the vehicle. Then the guerrillas confiscated the cash while warning the accompanying people not to leave the place within next two hours. The Maoists reportedly shot photographs of the people accompanying the cash.

The buses were stopped when the operation took place and the passengers were told to boycott the ensuing polls. The Maoists also left some leaflets which asked the security personnel to leave the place.

3 policemen wiped out in Maharashtra

Two months after the daring ambush in Markegaon wiping out 15 policemen, Maoist PLGA guerrillas carried out another daring attack on a combined group of elite C-60 commandos and Special Action Group (SAG) on April 6. The exchange of fire which lasted for three hours in the hilly terrain of Mungner village in Dhanora tehsil of Gadchiroli district left three commandos dead. Several more commandos were seriously injured and were battling for their lives. Gopichand Netam, Dnyaneshwar Seph and Kalidas Wadde have been identified as the three cops who have been killed.

With elections to be held in Vidarbha on April 16, Maoists had stepped up their election boycott campaign in this district. They had also called for a bandh in Gadchiroli, Gondia and Chandrapur on April 10 to protest the continuing atrocities on the people by the Maharashtra police

The police force, which was led by Commander Munna Singh Thakur, had left Gadchiroli on April 5 on a patrolling operation. Thakur, who was involved in killing Maoist commander comrade Chikku in the Operation Parakram, was also hurt in the encounter.

Additional director general of police Pankaj Gupta, who is also chief of the state Anti-Naxal Operation cell, said that the commandos were patrolling Dhanora as a part of their regular operation when the exchange of fire took place.

"The heavily armed Naxals were in advantageous position in the hilly terrain. Commander Thakur's experience came handy in the crisis situation. The Naxals were tackled in a strategic manner by using the ammunition judiciously. Thakur ensured that the commandos advanced and try to corner the Naxals. The Naxals had rained bullets and also hurled mortars at the commandos. One of the commandos lost his life while trying to prevent the Naxals from fleeing with the bodies of their slain colleagues," boasted Gupta

Police admit Maoists had gained a psychological advantage after they had killed 15 cops in Markegaon on February 1st. Thereafter, they have kept up the tempo striking at targets dodging government security forces at various places. Until April 6, 46

attacks by Maoist guerrillas were recorded in the four Maharashtra districts this year. In 2008, the number until the end of April was just 24. The number of police informers eliminated this year was 16 which is three times more than what it was in the corresponding period last year.

Besides Markegaon, in October 2008 four policemen were eliminated by Naxals at Korepalli. Police could gun down only one Maoist this year while last year, seven Maoists were murdered by police in the first four months of the year. Police could also arrest only one Maoist till March this year. In 2008, police nine Maoists were arrested during the same period. Papers also reported that 102 Maoists and their supporters had surrendered till March 2008 but this year it is only seven.

Police admit Maoists had gained a psychological advantage after they had killed 15 cops in Markegaon on February 1st. Thereafter, they have kept up the tempo striking at targets dodging government security forces at various places. Until April 6, 46 attacks by Maoist guerrillas were recorded in the four Maharashtra districts this year. In 2008, the number until the end of April was just 24. The number of police informers eliminated this year was 16 which is three times more than what it was in the corresponding period last year. Besides Markegaon, in October 2008 four policemen were eliminated by Naxals at Korepalli. Police could gun down only one Maoist this year while last year, seven Maoists were murdered by police in the first four months of the year. Police could also arrest only one Maoist till March this year. In 2008, police nine Maoists were arrested during the same period. Papers also reported that 102 Maoists and their supporters had surrendered till March 2008 but this year it is only seven.

Police also admit Maoists have been fast gaining the support from the local villagers following the highly successful Markegaon ambush. In fact, the ambush itself could become successful due to the support from the people. At that time, the Maoist guerrillas had waited for five days, taking support of the villagers. Yet, the police could not get a single person in entire area to tip them off.

The Maoists took the steam out of Operation Parakram that was carried out with the aid of a BSF's chopper. State Anti-Naxal Operation chief Pankaj Gupta's strategy almost came to a naught due to poor leadership at ground level. "We are indeed losing out by being much too defensive. We are supporting the police with the intelligence inputs but can't fight the battle at the ground level. Leadership at the district level has to take it further," said Gupta. What this means is more offensive attacks, or in other words, more fake encounters and massacres of innocent adivasis for which the "bravery" of Maharashtra's ANO and special police forces are well-known. Maoist PLGA is preparing itself and the people at large to face the growing police onslaught and inflict greater damage to the mercenary C-60 commandos, Anti Naxal Operation group and other enemy forces.

BJP Leader shot dead in Malkangiri

Maoist guerrillas annihilated Manda Kandani, the former vice chairman of Malkangiri district Parishat, in the early hours of March 29. He was also the state convenor of

BJP in Orissa. He was attacked when he was returning on motorbike from Malkangiri to his native village of Kodiya. He was stopped near Iskapodi and shot dead. His two-wheeler was burnt. Malkangiri assembly ticket was almost finalized for Kanda.

Maoists annihilate an election candidate from Malkangiri

Maoist guerrillas carried out an attack on Somnath Madkami (55), a candidate of the regional 'Samruddha Odisha' party for the Assembly elections in Malkangiri. The incident coincided with Orissa Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's visit to the district on April 9 to attend rallies at Chitrakonda and Malkangiri amid tight security.

Somnath was taken from his house in Kalimela and his body was thrown near Arshaguda village. Somnath was a close relative of Nanda Kumar Kartami, former zilla parishad president of Malkangiri, who was eliminated by the Maoists on March 29. Kartami had left the BJP ahead of the polls. In the past, Somnath was also associated with the communal BJP.

Claiming responsibility for the annihilation of the two notorious elements, Nanda Kartami and Somnath Madkami, Malkangiri divisional committee secretary Ramal in a Press release, explained the misdeeds committed by them and the reasons why they were eliminated. The letter stated that Kartami had never been kind to the tribals. He has misappropriated money and rice from the food for work programmes.

Though a tribal leader, he has never raised his voice against the killing of innocent tribals by the police in the name of Naxals in the year 2008.

This apart, Kartami was trying to start Salwa Judum-like activities like those of Chhattisgarh in Malkangiri district with village Pedas and Pujaris. Somnath Madkami, the candidate for Malkangiri Assembly constituency on a Samruddha Odisha ticket, was killed for his anti-Naxal activities.

Five CRPF jawans wiped out by PLGA guerrillas in Khunti in Jharkhand

Five CRPF jawans were wiped out and another three injured by Maoist PLGA guerrillas in a meticulously executed ambush in Khunti on April 11. The ambush took place at around the same time when Congress president Sonia Gandhi was addressing a meeting in the same district in what was her first election rally in Jharkhand. The ambush took place inside Jalko forests of Khunti district under the Arki police station. The exchange of fire went on for three hours from around 9.30 AM to 12.30.

"It appears the rebels had already taken positions on the hills of the forests," said IG (provision) and state police spokesman S.N. Pradhan. *"While the jawans were passing through, they opened fire."*

The injured CRPF jawans, Jayram Ramdhi (35), Abhay Kumar Singh (30) and R.C. Das (30) were taken to Apollo Hospital in Irba in Ranchi.

Pradhan said the CRPF men, who had information about Maoists planning a strike

in the forests, had been told to scour the area. *"The CRPF men had been assigned to cleanse the area of Maoists after this information came in."*

Pradhan explained that it became difficult for the CRPF to engage the Naxalites in a counter-attack as they were atop the hill while the jawans were below. Much of the police force including Khunti superintendent of police Prabhat Kumar was tied up with security arrangements at the venue of Sonia's rally.

Former SIKASA leader comrade Mohammed Hussain arrested in Bokaro

Mohammed Hussain alias Singareni Shankaranna alias Sudhakar was arrested on the night of February 2 by Bokaro police. The raid team was led by inspector Vijay Kumar, presently working for the Special Task Force (STF), which had in May 2008 rounded up comrade Pramod Mishra, a PB member of CPI(Maoist). Comrade Hussain carries a reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head, dead or alive. The 58-year-old Hussain hails from Bijigiri Sherif village in Jammikunta tehsil of Karimnagar district in Andhra Pradesh (AP).



Comrade Hussain worked as a worker in KK2 mine in Mandamarri. He organised radical students and youth in Singareni area and was one of the founding members of Singareni Karmika Samakhya (Singareni Workers' Federation) in 1983. He provided leadership to the 56-day historic strike of Singareni workers in 1983 over wage board issue. Comrade Hussain was arrested in 1988 but escaped from jail in 1990. He later became a member of the special zonal committee of North Telangana and was incharge of Singareni coal belt organization. He was relieved from North Telangana after the merger of erstwhile CPI(ML)[People's War] and Maoist Communist Centre of India and was allotted to the industrial belt in Eastern India.

He was working in the industrial belt since the past four years and was arrested after his movements in Bokaro city became exposed to the enemy.

Bengal's Lalgarh on the boil again after CPI(M) goons kill three and state's threat to deploy police

A series of incidents in the first week of February had once again brought Lalgarh to the boil. On February 2nd, three tribals were killed and three others were injured at Khasjanganal in Rampur when a procession carrying the dead body of a CPM leader Nandalal Pal, who was annihilated by Maoists the previous day, clashed with members of the People's Committee against Police Atrocities (PCPA). The CPI(M) goons opened fire killing the three supporters of PCPA.

The PCPA had spearheaded a month-long agitation in November-December 2008 against police atrocities on local villagers that rendered large parts of Lalgarh inaccessible to the civil and police administration. Shortly after the agitation was withdrawn, its leaders called for a boycott of the police in the region until an unconditional apology was made for the atrocities committed.

Parts of Lalgarh have remained out of bounds to the police since then. The police were absent during the violence in Ramgarh. Police blamed the PCPA, CPM blamed the Maoists and the PCPA blamed the administration. Later, three CPM supporters were hit by arrows shot by the tribals. Three vehicles, carrying CPM supporters, were set ablaze and a police vehicle was damaged.

By the night of February 2nd, blockades were back in Lalgarh, with villagers throwing boulders and trees to cut off road links. The PCPA has threatened to renew its stir in the rest of West Midnapore as it had done three months back. PCPA supporters had put up blockades at Khairashuli, Birmadol, Baropelia and Dalilpur. Sidhu Soren of PCPA said the tribals were being provoked. *"For all these months, there has been no bloodshed in the villages, but now we are going to retaliate,"* he warned.

The committee leaders said the boycott of the police would continue. Road blocks would be set up at new places to make areas beyond Lalgarh inaccessible to the *"police as well as supporters of the CPI(M)."* They had also called a 48-hour bandh from February 4 across Paschim Medinipur and its adjoining districts – Purulia and Bankura – in protest against the violence on 2nd. The Communist Party of India (Maoist) has also called a 24 bandh in the three districts on 5th.

In view of the parliamentary elections the West Midnapore district administration made attempts to convince the leaders of Police Santrash Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC) to permit the entry of police in Lalgarh during the Lok Sabha election. The meeting between the two sides was held in Jhargram on March 24 but failed to arrive at a solution. The PSBPC leaders were firm on their decision of police boycott.

Authorities virtually pleaded with the PSBPC leaders, seeking their cooperation in holding the election smoothly in over 30 booths controlled by PSCPC, for which police presence was essential in the area as per the directive of the Election Commission.

District officials assured them that police would not launch any crack down in any of the villages there, nor harass any member of the PSBPC over previous issues. Police force would be withdrawn from the area as soon as the elections are over, officials promised. But the PSBPC leaders told the officials that they would inform their decision in this regard to the authorities after discussing the matter with the villagers, who were still aggrieved with police for not tendering an apology for the atrocities committed on innocent Adivasi women in November last year.

The district magistrate Mr NS Nigam and the SP Mr Manoj Verma, Mr Chattradhar Mahato, Mr Bhagabat Mahato, Mr Pratip Pratihari and Mr Shyamal Mahato of the PSBPC were present during the meeting.

Social Fascist CPI (M) itching for police action to repeat Nandigram in Lalgarh

Saying that it did not wish to repeat Nandigram where at least 14 people were killed in police action, the state government declared on March 24 that the flushing out of the Maoists during the run up to the polls will not "endanger" the common people of Lalgarh.

The state home secretary, Mr Ardhendu Sen said: *"This is a tactical issue we have to resolve since the Maoists are keeping the poor, innocent people in the forefront. We do not anticipate any law and order problem but there will be a confrontation with the Maoists. Action will be taken against the Maoists and not the common people."*

But any action against the Maoists has raised apprehension of a repeat of 14 March carnage.

The tribal leaders of the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities warned the government would have to accept responsibility if the resistance to the police resulted in casualties.

"We told the administration we'd inform them about our decision after talking to our leaders. But I am certain our decision will be to not allow the police to enter Lalgarh. The polls can be held without any police presence in Lalgarh. However, if the police forcibly enter the area, the people will resist. In that case, the government will be responsible for casualties," Chhatradhar Mahato said after the meeting at the Lalgarh subdivisional office.

On March 25 the tribal leaders threatened to boycott the elections if police forced their way into the villages.

"We have repeatedly said we won't allow security forces (for poll duty) in Lalgarh. But if the police or any other force make their way in and we fail to resist them, we will boycott the elections," said Chhatradhar Mahato of the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities.

Asked whether police action had resumed in Lalgarh, home secretary Ardhendu Sen said: *"The process of isolating the Maoists from villagers has already started. The task is difficult as the Maoists have strongholds in many villages."*

On March 25 a team of senior police officers led by inspector-general (western range) Kuldiep Singh made an aerial survey of Lalgarh and neighbouring Belpahari.

"We made the survey to work out the deployment of forces before the polls. We also wanted to assess the terrain and decide on the roads to be taken by the security forces," an officer said.

West Midnapore police chief Manoj Verma said the chopper survey, being carried out in the Maoist belt of West Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura, had revealed *"a shed made of hay and barricades made by piling stones"*, which looked like a guerrilla training camp from above.

Then on March 27, after its meeting in Lalgarh, People's Committee Against Police Atrocities formalised its decision to boycott the general election if its resistance to poll police failed.

"We have decided to boycott the polls if we can't prevent the security forces from entering Lalgarh for election duty," said Chhatradhar Mahato. The tribal leader threatened to block and dig up roads after the polls if the police entered Lalgarh.

In neighbouring Purulia, the tribals of Chhapragera on the Ayodhya hills held policemen looking for a man with suspected Maoist links hostage for almost six hours. Pratik Kit, the officer in charge of Balarampur police station, had to apologise to the villagers for the raid. The blockade was lifted after the police went away.

Again on April 6, People's Committee Against Police Atrocities threatened a "mass resistance" if the State government goes ahead with its plans to send the police into the Lalgarh area in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

"We have learnt our lesson from what happened in Nandigram [where police entered on March 14, 2007 resulting in firing and subsequent violence in which 14 persons were killed] and do not want to make the same mistake," said Chhatradhar Mahato, founder-leader of the PSBJC.

"We shall resist any such police move at Lalgarh and if there is any untoward incident the administration will be responsible," Mr. Mahato said .

His warning came a day after State's Home Secretary Ardhendu Sen said here that the government was working on a plan of police action that was to be finalised shortly to enable security forces to enter the Lalgarh prior to the elections.

The police have not been able to enter the Lalgarh for nearly five months since the PSBJC was set up early in November 2008 to protest alleged police excesses on local villagers during raids to arrest those responsible for an IED blast that narrowly missed Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee's convoy on its way back from Salboni.

Mr. Mahato said elections could be held without the police at the Lalgarh and that poll officials were free to enter the area for the purpose unescorted by police personnel. The PSBJC took out a procession on April 6 to protest against the government's plans to facilitate police entry into the Lalgarh.

In a bid to prevent the police from entering the area, the PSBJC has set up "check-points" near Lalgarh on the road that connects it with Jhargram. These "check-points" are being manned round the clock by PSBJC activists.

At a news conference in the leader Chhatradhar Mahato said: *is repeatedly threatening us would enter the area before the scared. Our people are all set to police operation. Thousands of forefront of our barricades. The them."*



Calcutta, committee *"The home secretary saying the police polls. But we are not face and resist the women will be at the men will be behind*

Tension has been mounting with the election date is fast in the area will take place on April 30 and the state government is bent upon deploying a huge force to enforce the elections. The EC has directed the state government to deploy the required force to ensure free and fair election in about 30 polling booths in the area.

every passing day as approaching. Polling

Daring attack by Maoist guerrillas on NALCO's armoury in Orissa leaves 11 CISF jawans dead

At least 11 CISF jawans died in a daring attack by Maoist guerrillas on a well-guarded armoury and bauxite mine of NALCO in Orissa's Koraput district on April 12. The bauxite mines, the biggest in Asia, are located in Damanjodi.

"Eleven CISF jawans posted at hilltop mines in Damanjodi were killed and 15 others injured in the gunbattle that continued for over five hours after the ultras struck last night," Director General of Police M M Praharaj said. He claimed that the bodies of four Maoists, including a woman, along with a light machine gun and a rifle were found at the site. The DGP's claim of having found the bodies of Maoists is most likely to be dubious as the police officials and government spokespersons in Orissa have a reputation for making such claims to boost up the morale of their men. Such a practice has become a general feature of the police in Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Bihar and Maharashtra also. Almost every such claim was found to be a hoax upon investigation. The bodies of the supposedly dead Maoists are hardly ever recovered for they are assumed to have been carried away by their Maoist colleagues amidst hot pursuit by the police forces. Or else, some innocent villagers are caught and murdered and their bodies are shown as those of Maoist guerrillas killed in encounter.

According to reports, over 200 armed guerrillas, including several women cadre, formed different groups and seized the CISF armoury in the mining area and took away around 16 rifles including some light machine guns. The well planned attack took place shortly after 9.30 pm on April 12.

The successful attack in Damanjodi and the seizure of weapons from the enemy proves once again that, by adopting the principles of guerrilla warfare and through meticulous planning and bold execution, a relatively weak and numerically small guerrilla force can score significant victories over the mighty Indian state which boasts of having the third largest army in the world, a formidable central para-military force, as well as specially-trained commando forces in various states. The daring raid on NALCO is a fitting answer to the reactionary rulers of India who have been claiming that Maoists have become weakened due to firm and well-coordinated offensive by the central and state forces in the various states.

By stepping up the repression on the Maoist revolutionaries and the people in the struggle zones, carrying out arrests and murders of Maoist leaders and cadres on a large scale in recent days, and disrupting the supplies of arms and ammunition, the ruling classes are day-dreaming that they can suppress the Indian revolution and our Party that is leading it. In Orissa, Naveen Patnaik government has unleashed a virtual reign of terror, arresting, torturing and murdering revolutionaries and all those who are opposing the displacement of adivasis and other people in the name of SEZs, huge mining projects and so-called development projects. Not learning lesson from the fiasco of salwa judum in neighbouring Chattisgarh, the BJD government in Orissa too is planning to raise several hundred SPOs and carry out a campaign along the lines of salwa judum with the aim of creating a massive blood-bath in the state.

Maoist revolutionaries and the oppressed people will carry out raids and attacks on the enemy forces in order to equip themselves with the arms of the enemy and also to defeat the brutal offensive by the Indian state and state-sponsored terror. Deriving inspiration from the successful raid in Damanjodi PLGA will undertake counteroffensive operations on a greater scale and intensity and with better coordination and will defeat the countrywide coordinated offensive by the Indian state.

Reports from Newspapers:

COBRA reaches Bastar to join anti-Naxal ops

Express News Service Feb 05, 2009

Raipur: Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) personnel have reached Chhattisgarh's tribal Bastar region, one of the worst Maoist affected regions in the country, to join the anti-Naxalite operations.

As many as 400 personnel of the CoBRA force are now based at a camp of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Masgaon and the remaining 657 personnel of the battalion are expected to be in Bastar by April this year, official sources said.

The Centre has agreed to provide two battalions of this newly raised commando force to tackle the growing Maoist threat.

The new force has young personnel with peak combat fitness have specialised training and carry modern equipment for guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare.

The Bastar region, in the southern part of Chhattisgarh, has emerged as the epicentre of Maoist activists with the rebels stepping up violence in the region since June 2005 following the launch of anti-Naxalite movement Salwa Judum by the locals which enjoys the support of the state Government.

Sweet surrender Maoist truce sops unveiled

SUMAN K.SHRIVASTAVA

Ranchi, Feb. 13: Rs 2.5 lakh in grants, a plot of land for a home and a substantial extra for the nature of weapons that a Maoist hands over are some of the incentives underlined in Jharkhand's eagerly anticipated surrender and rehabilitation policy unveiled here today in the hope that it would encourage more rebels to give up arms and join the mainstream.

The policy, approved by Governor Syed Sibtey Razi at a meeting attended by his advisers, G. Krishnan, Sunila Basant and T.P. Sinha, not only seeks to make surrender an attractive proposition, but also hopes to ensure it remains a viable alternative by laying equal — if not more — stress on the rehabilitation of rebels and their families.

A screening committee headed by the district superintendent of police (SP) — including nominees of the deputy commissioner and additional director-general of police (ADGP) — will be the final authority to choose and decide who would be eligible for the benefits of the policy.

Once the beneficiaries are identified a rehabilitation committee headed by the deputy commissioner will work out packages for each surrendered rebel based on the broad parameters of the policy.

The kind of assistance and the quantum of funds a rebel gets will ultimately depend on his/her social, economic background, age and educational qualifications.

Sinha, who is in charge of home affairs in the state now under President's rule, claimed Jharkhand's policy was the best in the country. The earlier policy unveiled during his tenure as DGP of Jharkhand in 2001, was based on the Andhra Pradesh model.

"But it could not enthrone Maoists to surrender," he conceded. "Now, the Andhra government, too, has revised the policy. Our policy is based on the best elements of policies adopted in other states and focuses mainly on rehabilitation of extremists."

The components of the package include a grant of Rs 2.50 lakh at the time of surrender (**see box**).

Also, additional funds have been earmarked for surrendering with weapons.

For example, a rocket launcher will fetch Rs 1 lakh; AK and sniper rifles Rs 75,000; .303 rifle/pistol/revolver Rs 15,000; remote controlled devices Rs 6,000; grenade/hand grenades Rs 2,000; wireless sets Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000, depending on range; IEDs Rs 6,000 and a kilogram of explosives Rs 2,000.

The surrendered rebels will also be eligible for Rs 3,000 a month for a year for vocational training. It could be extended by another year in special cases. They will also get land and Rs 50,000 for constructing a house.

Also, surrendered extremists will be entitled to get the entire award money declared on their heads by the state government.

For instance, a politburo member would get Rs 12 lakh, a regional/special area committee member/state committee member Rs 10 lakh, an alternate central special area committee member Rs 8 lakh, a regional committee member Rs 7 lakh, a zonal committee member Rs 5 lakh, a sub-zonal committee member Rs 3 lakh, an area commander Rs 2 lakh, a squad commander Rs 1 lakh and a squad member Rs 30,000.

The policy also provides for legal help for former rebels.

The government will set up special fast track courts for quick disposal of pending cases against them.

Former chief minister Arjun Munda was sceptical about the new policy. It's "success as touted by the administration" would be known by the response it gets from Maoists, he said.

"Naxalism has spread to several states. But the Government of India has no policy to lure Naxalites to the mainstream," he added.

Sources in the intelligence department said rebels were unlikely to be "lured" by the grants or other financial incentives pledged in the policy. "Maoists were already earning crores in the form of levies they extort from the mineral and forest rich state. So money can hardly be the sole motivating factor," said a senior official.

Helicopters to keep an eye on Maoists during polls

7 Apr 2009

PATNA: Two helicopters of the Indian Air Force will hover in the sky to keep close watch on movements in the Naxalite belt of Bihar to thwart any move of the Maoists to disturb parliamentary poll.

The helicopters would be utilised for close monitoring of every inch of the strongholds of Maoists, specially along the Bihar-Jharkhand border by carrying out aerial surveillance, area recce, identifying critical Naxalite cluster, mapping vulnerability areas, besides responding to any critical situation in 15-20 minutes. "The preparedness this time has been done with scientific planning so much so that no ultra elements or outlaws would have any leverage to commit crime and go scot-free. The arrangements would be foolproof," assured ADG (headquarters) Neelmani.

Since most of the Naxalite-hit areas are going to polls in the first phase slated for April 16, the two IAF choppers would be in action from April 10. In fact, the choppers would operate from two bases — one either in Gaya or Rohtas and the other in Nawada-Jamui area.

The two helicopters would operate under the direct command of IG, operations, S K Bhardwaj and carry STF commandos to act swiftly and effectively against Maoists. Choppers would also cover crime-prone diara areas of Vaishali and Bhagalpur known for its ganglords.

The police headquarters had sought four helicopters for law and order duties during election period especially to cover the Maoists' area, however, sources in the home department said that the Centre had sanctioned two helicopters to the Bihar government.

The state police headquarters have not disclosed the quantum of police force to be deployed in the state for poll duties as per the direction of the ministry of home affairs. The ADG (headquarters) told TOI that the force would be more than what was stationed during the last assembly election. "There would be sufficient force this time to tame the law breakers," said Neelmani in terse reply.

The police maintained that all the finer details were being worked out. In all vulnerable areas, there would be micro observers, videography facility at booth at the time of polling, besides all voters would be covered with camera and at the time of any untoward incident the police would be able to react swiftly and effectively.

Neelmani said that Special Auxiliary Police (SAP) would not be utilised for poll duties, but it would certainly augment for duties like area domination, as road opening party, protection of polling parties etc.

Top Maoist killed in shootout

KUMUD JENAMANI & RAJ KUMAR

Jamshedpur/Ranchi, March 9: Maoist leader Rajesh Toppo, among those accused of the murder of JD(U) leader Ramesh Singh Munda and the massacre of Jharkhand Armed Police jawans at Rahe, was killed in an encounter early today near National Highway 33, about 50km from Jamshedpur in the Reladiah forests.



The encounter, held around 2am, lasted for about half-an-hour after a patrol party confronted Toppo (30) and his men who were moving about suspiciously near a bus shed.

A 9mm pistol, 20 rounds of cartridges were found lying beside Toppo who was identified after the police found a medical prescription on him. Some empty cartridges, that of the pistol and a sophisticated Insas rifle, were also recovered from him.

The CPI(Maoist) leader had sustained three bullets — one in the chest, another in the waist and the third in his left hand.

Pravin Singh, senior superintendent of police, Ranchi, confirmed Toppo's death in the encounter and said the Naxalite — considered to be the right hand man of the dreaded Naxalite Kundan Pahan — was wanted in at least a dozen cases.



A policeman on patrol at a rebel-hit village.

“Among the several cases on Toppo were the robbery of Rs 5.2 crore from an ICICI Bank van in Tamar, the massacre of five Jharkhand Armed Police jawans at Rahe, the killing of Munda and the murder of deputy superintendent of police Pramod Kumar in Tamar,” Singh told **The Telegraph**.

In Ranchi, police spokesperson and inspector-general (provision) S.N. Pradhan said the encounter began after a Tamar police patrol party noticed a few people moving about suspiciously at a passenger shed at Reladih.

As soon as the police confronted them, they tried to flee. “When the suspects started running away and opened fire, the police retaliated killing one of them. Later, he was identified as Rajesh Toppo, a top CPI(Maoist) leader,” Pradhan said.

Superintendent of police (rural) Kuldeep Dwivedi said the encounter, by a five-member police team led by officer-in-charge of Tamar police station, inspector E.H. Siddiqui, lasted for about 30 minutes. The police needed around 30 rounds of intermittent firing.

“After the encounter, we also recovered a mobile phone, purse and a kit bag. It's a big success for us but our job is far from over as Kundan Pahan is still at large,” Dwivedi added.

Dwivedi said the police were on alert after they came to know that the rebels were moving about in small groups to take part in rally of the Nari Mukti Sangh on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Siddiqui said the operation as such wasn't unique or special, though the outcome certainly was. “I have earlier faced several encounters and this was not unique for us. When the encounter started, we were at the same level as the rebels. But, when

they started running, we were able to gain height in the hilly terrain and were at an advantageous position," he said.

He said the rebels fired more than 100 rounds, but the police remained unhurt taking advantage of the higher terrain.

This was the second big success for the state police in two days. Yesterday, the Lohardaga police had gunned down three members of the People Liberation Front of India in an encounter.

Karnataka DGP announces huge rewards for information on Maoists

Karnataka DGP, Ajay Kumar Singh, announced rewards ranging from Re. one lakh to Rs. Five lakhs to anyone furnishing information related to Maoists. Speaking to media personnel on March 26, the DGP assured that the details of those who provide information about Maoists will be kept secret. He also said that the police would provide security to such informers if required. He said all measures are being taken to prevent disruption of polls by Maoists.

He divulged the details of arrest of comrade Suresh Pujari in Moodebidri near Udipi by the police of Western Range.

CPI (ML)-Janashakti Leader Kura Rajanna comes out of Jail

Comrade Kura Rajanna, former General Secretary and leader of CPI(ML)-Janashakti was released from Warangal Central Jail on March 18. Com Rajanna was arrested three years ago from Uttar Pradesh by AP police and was in jail since then. Setting aside rumours that he would be contesting elections, com Rajanna declared soon after his release that he would not. He also asserted that separate state of Telangana can never be achieved through elections but only through united militant people's struggle. He said the discrimination against Telangana can end only by throwing out the compradors from outside who had grabbed the land and resources of Telangana. Admitting that the revolutionary movement in Andhra Pradesh had weakened he expressed confidence and conviction that revolution will never die, that revolution is invincible and will be resurrected soon in Andhra Pradesh.

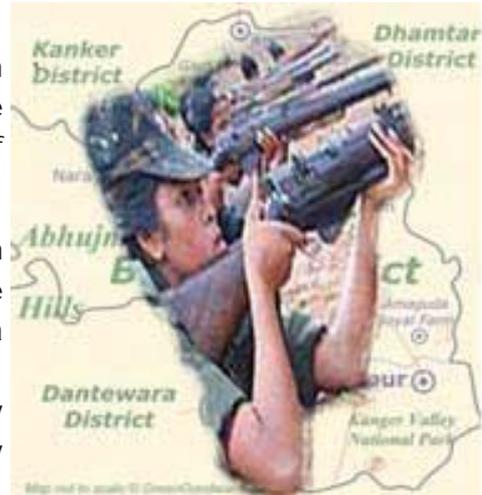


Women on top, even among Naxals

20 Feb 2009

NAGPUR: A recent survey has shown 74 women to be part of the approximately 290 hardcore Naxalites operating in the worst affected areas of the state.

They don't just make up the ranks. The women also account for three divisional committee members, nine commanders, three area commanders, and two deputy commanders. In fact, statistics show that the men are outnumbered by the fairer sex in commanders and deputy commanders' cadre.



Two women divisional committee members (Narmada and Tarakka alias Vimla Sidam) operate in the south Gadchiroli area while one (Sujanakka) in the north. *"Narmada though has lost her physical aggression due to age but she is still a sound strategic planner owing to her years in the movement and knowledge of the topography,"* said a police source in Gadchiroli.

Some 57 others are form the support strength. Role of women had become a matter of speculation in the state's deadliest Naxal attack in the 01/02 carnage at Markegaon that claimed lives of 15 policemen.

Among recent Naxals attacks, there is speculation that Jyoti, commander of Tippagarh Dalam and wife of member of Dandakaranya special zonal committee Diwakar, was part of the team that butchered 15 policemen in Markegaon recently.

Women commanders are also leading dalams like Perimilli (Vijayakka), Chatgaon (Ranita), Kasansur (Dhani) and Surjagarh (Ranjita alias Ramko Rushi Hichhami), Korchi (Sujata alias Kanta Tekandi), Darekasa (Alida) and Malanjkhanda (Saguna alias Jamuna).

Two more women (Girija and Batte) are known to be controlling two company dalams as sectional commanders. One of the posts of deputy sectional commanders is known to be occupied by a woman cadre (Watti).

"These women sometimes have to control both dalams and platoons together. Couple of them like Dhani also doubles up as area committee member (ACM)," said a source. Among others, Aruna controls Platoon dalam (No1) as sectional commander while Rajita alias Sukri Madavi Bheladi, another ACM, is in-charge of Kurkheda-Khobramenda dalam. Ramko alias Narote, who is also an ACM, is the commander of Bhamragarh-Gatta dalam.

"Though there are couple of sharp cadres among the women who have climbed their way up through sheer struggle, most of them have simply graduated to higher post due to their influential husbands," said an insider.

Fighting naxals a long and hard struggle: Chidambaram

Aarti Dhar

In 2008, the security forces began gaining the upper hand

Centre backs Jharkhand's combat strategy

All blocks to have police stations

RANCHI: Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram on Saturday described the fight against naxalism as a "long and hard struggle" and said the challenge was not yet over.

"There is no place for Left-wing extremism in a democracy. Any militant who surrenders will be rehabilitated as per the government policy," he told journalists here after an extensive review of the security scenario in Jharkhand with Governor Syed Sibtey Razi and other senior officials.

Referring to the common strategy evolved at a recent meeting with Chief Ministers of the affected States to eliminate naxalism, Mr. Chidambaram said joint operations were being carried out by the police forces of various States, except West Bengal where the government did not believe in the policy of "hot pursuit."

The West Bengal government does not allow the Jharkhand police to enter its territory nor does its police force enter other States. "I have spoken to the Chief Minister and we will work it out," Mr. Chidambaram said, adding that Orissa, Jharkhand and Bihar were carrying out joint operations.

The Minister said 2007-08 witnessed a rise in naxal extremism. However, there was a significant shift in 2008 as the security forces gained an upper hand.

Mr. Chidambaram said the Centre fully supported the strategy of the Jharkhand government in combating naxalism. He directed the State administration to immediately fill all vacant posts in the naxal-affected areas to ensure that the civil administration was visible. "Importantly, the tenure of the senior officials should be fixed for at least 2 years, preferably for 3 years."

The Minister said all 25 blocks without a police station should have police stations by the end of the year and the target of recruiting 6,000 constables had to be achieved. One India Reserve Battalion, one ex-service men battalion and 10 more battalions of the Jharkhand Jaguar Group had to be raised by the end of the year. "Once the sanctioned additional 1,700 vacancies were filled up, it would considerably strengthen the police force and help in checking the naxal menace with the ultimate aim of defeating it," Mr. Chidambaram said.

Ruling out a national policy on surrender and rehabilitation of militants, he said such policies were made keeping in mind the ground situations of each State.

EC dispels Naxalite fears in Gadchiroli

MUMBAI, April 2: Over a 40,000 strong security force, backed by three helicopters, will be deployed in the Naxalite-infested Gadchiroli district of Vidarbha by the EC to

give voters ~ predominantly Adivasis ~ enough confidence to reach their nearest polling booth and exercise their franchise freely and without fear.

A review of all 13 constituencies going to poll on 16 April was undertaken at a meeting in Mumbai yesterday. The Gadchiroli district, bordering Andhra Pradesh, is a stronghold of the Naxalite movement for decades. Dense forests helped them to carry their guerilla warfare against police and district authorities. Three months ago, 15 police personnel on duty were killed in cold blood by the Naxalites in an early morning ambush at Dhanora village of the district.

The Advasis since then have been living in fear of more attacks. About a fortnight ago, the Naxalites killed a woman of the village as they suspected her of being a police informer. Ahead of the 16 April voting, printed material is being circulated by Naxalites among residents of this backward district which warn them of serious consequences if they participate in the elections.

District collector Mr Atul Patne yesterday briefed Election Commissioner Dr Querishi about arrangements. The DM's demand for three choppers and additional security forces were immediately granted. One chopper will be used to ferry poll material, one to transport election staff and the third will be on stand-by for any emergency. The parliamentary constituency of Gadchiroli will have 838 polling booths, of which 15 have been marked very sensitive or vulnerable. In some booths polling will be cut short by two to three hours and will close at 3 pm for fear of Naxalite attack. Security forces will be reaching the constituency three or four days before 16 April. There have been reports about Naxalites planting mines along the route to interior polling booths which are difficult to reach due to thick forests.

Maoist writ runs in Lalgarh

Lalgarh, April 6: In Lalgarh, the Maoist writ now dictates the activities of panchayats run by the CPM.

When the Sijua panchayat wanted to dig a reservoir, the rebels told it to build a road instead.



"We wanted to get the reservoir ready before this monsoon. But they told us to scrap the project," a member said.

"They (most CPM leaders here prefer not to call Maoists by that name) wanted us to build a 7km kutchha road leading to a village from the metalled road between Lalgarh and Ramgarh. Who will dare question their demand?"

Preparations have begun for the construction of the road.

CPI (Maoist) members camping here and lending support to a tribal resistance aga-inst police have told all three gram panchayats — Sijua, Ramgarh and Lalgarh —

'CPI (Maoist)' written in Bengali on the Banspahari panchayat office

in the Lalgarh police station area not to carry out any development work without their consent.

"Our hands are tied. They have paralysed our panchayat. No plan drawn up by the administration could be carried out in the past four months," said the member of the Sijua panchayat.

During the month-long siege of Lalgarh by the tribal resistance group late last year, the offices of the three panchayats used to be closed.

"We opened our office in January but no work is being done. We come, chat and go," the CPM leader said. The employees leave for home by 3pm, fearing Maoist attacks.

The Maoist influence is not limited to Lalgarh. In neighbouring Banspahari, the two-storey panchayat office looks like a rebel base from a distance with "CPI (Maoist)" written in a large font on the outside.

"This area is controlled by them. We have no hesitation to confess that no one will dare to erase the words from the wall," said a member of the Banspahari panchayat.

A move is now on to upgrade the panchayat office. Computers and printers are being installed and cabins with plywood and glass panels are being built. The walls inside are being given a coat of light green paint.

Asked why the wall outside was being left untouched, the member asked: "Do you want me to die?"

Manju Murmu, the pradhan of the panchayat, said: "I'll not speak a word on this."

An officer at the Binpur (I) block office explained how the Maoists governed the rural bodies. "They go to the pradhan's house to place their demands. Sometimes, they send a group of villagers with a list of demands. Going through them, it is not difficult to figure out that the plans can't be the brainchild of illiterate tribals."

A Maoist leader camping in the area said their objective was to free things under CPM control for years. "Earlier, CPM leaders used to dominate everything. Poor people used to suffer and the leaders siphoned off funds from panchayat offices. We have snatched the keys from them and the poor have started reaping the benefits," he said.

A rebel leader said they had opposed the reservoir at Sijua because the area already had a tube-well.

The Maoist lists usually contain demands for village roads and orders on where tube-wells should be installed and who should get homes under the central housing scheme for the poorest of the poor.

A government officer accused the rebels of opposing all development work in villages that support the CPM.

At Patharchaki village in Belpahari, about 7km from Lalgarh through the forests, villagers, most of them pro-CPM, needed a culvert. The panchayat was forced to abandon the project in February and install two tube-wells at Bhulabheda.

Chhatradhar Mahato of the tribal resistance group People's Committee Against Police Atrocities denied any Maoist intervention in the panchayat's work. "You go to the villages, no one will complain."

Reflections on the global economic crisis

Markandey Katju

The central problem is not how to increase production, but how to increase the purchasing power of the masses in a grossly iniquitous economy. This is the time for all serious thinkers to address the challenge.

A terrible recession is sweeping the world, playing havoc with the lives of millions of people. Each day comes news of job cuts, decline in consumer spending, and the downward trend of the stock market. All sorts of explanations and cures are being offered. Some say it is due to greed. Others blame sub prime mortgages, hedge funds, derivatives, monetary policy, or interest rates. To my mind, these are superficial explanations.

An economic recession is a feature of an industrial, not agrarian, economy. In agrarian economies, too, there were such catastrophes, but these were due to natural calamities such as drought, flood, and epidemics. An economic recession is a feature peculiar to industrial economies.

There have been recessions every eight or ten years since the 18th century Industrial Revolution but recoveries followed shortly. There was, however, one Great Depression, which lasted from 1929 to 1939. It was ended only by the Second World War, which claimed 50 million lives. The War generated massive demand for armaments, supplies to armies and affected civilian populations, and capital for reconstruction.

We now witness a Second Great Depression, and its sweep is wider than that of the 1929 Depression. While the latter affected mainly America and Europe, the present crisis affects the whole world.

The principal cause of an economic recession is the lack of sales, which in turn is due to the lack of purchasing power among the masses. There are other causes, but these are incidental. A large part of the world's population is so poor that it hardly has any purchasing power. Even the developed countries have many poor people.

As the industrial economy develops, industries tend to become larger and more capital-intensive. This is necessary for them to face the competition in the market, otherwise their rivals will do it and drive them out of the market, by underselling them. The process is inevitable in most industries, but it leads to large-scale unemployment, since many workers in a labour intensive industry are laid off when it becomes capital intensive.

Now the worker, apart from being a producer, is also a consumer. A worker in a steel factory does not consume steel, but he and his family consume food, clothes, shoes, and so on. When he loses his job, his purchasing power is drastically hit. When large-scale unemployment occurs (because industries increasingly become more capital intensive) the market correspondingly contracts. While production increases, sales decrease and this leads to a recession.

Thus the very dynamic of an unregulated industrial economy is that by the inevitable process of its growth, it keeps destroying its market. The goods produced have to

be sold. But how can they be sold when people have lost their purchasing power owing to unemployment?

Mass production must be accompanied by mass consumption. By taking purchasing power out of the hands of mass consumers, industrialists deny themselves demand for their products that would justify reinvestment of their capital accumulation in new plants – which would also provide employment. Thus while productive capacity keeps rising, demand contracts until the system self-destructs.

Before the Great Depression, large-scale employment was generated by a high level of debt in the form of mortgage debts and so on. The same happened recently. But this cannot continue endlessly. A time comes when people cannot repay their debts because of unemployment or a cut in real wages. Then debtors curtail their consumption, which reduces demand, and the producing units have to close down or cut production.

In modern economies, most businesses require loans for their normal operation. Banks retain a fraction of their deposits (5 per cent or less) and give out the rest as loans. When the banking sector does not work properly because of defaults by borrowers, businesses do not easily get loans. They then curtail production and lay off workers. Consequently, they require less raw material and other supplies. Hence their suppliers reduce their output and lay off workers. The same then happens to the suppliers of these suppliers, etc. In other words, a chain reaction sets in (known as the multiplier effect in economic theory).

If manufacturers cannot sell, they cannot generate enough revenue to repay loans. The business goes bankrupt and the bank finds in its hand non-performing assets. Hence banks want to lend less. This becomes a vicious cycle. Depositors panic because some banks would have collapsed. They withdraw their money, and more banks collapse.

The economic recession is thus caused by the reduction of purchasing power among the masses, which is due to the very dynamics of unregulated growth. Productive capacity has been enhanced enormously, but the majority of people are too poor to be able to buy.

The problem, therefore, does not relate to increasing production, but increasing the purchasing power of the masses. Production can be increased several times because there are tens of thousands of engineers, technicians, and so on, and there are immense reserves of raw materials in India. But the goods produced have to be sold. How can they be sold when the people are poor or unemployed and have very little purchasing power?

The problem is also not how to increase demand. The demand is there but people do not have the money to purchase goods. In India, for instance, 70 per cent of the people live on incomes of Rs. 20 a day. This is not sufficient even to buy necessities such as food or medicines, not to speak of durable goods.

The solution to the economic crisis lies in raising the purchasing power of the masses. How this is to be done requires a great deal of thinking and discussion, and all serious thinkers must address this problem facing India, and the world.

To my mind, one of the methods to resolve the economic recession is to reduce taxes drastically. The purpose of imposing taxes is to generate revenue for the state

so that it can perform its functions. If rates are reduced, the prices of goods will go down and people can buy more. In other words, by reducing taxes we increase purchasing power. That will be an important step to resolve the crisis.

No doubt the government needs tax revenues. However, that revenue should not exceed what is genuinely required. There is a lot of waste of public funds owing to mismanagement, corruption, and so on, because of which the Government expenditure gets grossly inflated. Wastage of public funds should stop, which means stamping out corruption, mismanagement and wastage. This calls for strict accounting of public funds and vigilance by the public, including professionals.

In a country like India with its immense poverty and income disparities, the current tax rates seem inequitable and unjust. The maximum rate of 30 per cent for all income over Rs. 5 lakh needs to be reviewed, and a more realistic sliding scale of income introduced for those in higher income groups. It is absurd that the income tax rate for a person making Rs. 5 lakh or Rs. 100 crore a year is the same.

On top of this, those who play the financial markets are not required to pay any taxes on long-term (12-month) capital gains or on dividends, making the Indian financial market perhaps the most tax-free in the world. Even for short-term gains, unique tax exemption vehicles (via Mauritius and so on) have been ingeniously evolved. It is rules and regulations like this, specially crafted for the rich and affluent, which are increasing income disparities.

The Indian situation is that while we have increased the number of billionaires, the poor have become poorer and even the middle class is finding it difficult to make ends meet because of rising prices. This could lead to widespread social turmoil and social disturbances. It is unfair to the vast masses of our people and it will not be tolerated much longer.

Society owes subsistence to all its citizens either by enabling them to work on a reasonable wage, or ensuring a livelihood to those unable to work. The great French thinker Jean-Jacques Rousseau observed in his *Discourse on Inequality*: "Nothing can be farther from the law of nature, however we define it, than that... a handful of people be gorged with luxuries while the starving multitude lacks the necessities of life."

In Maharashtra, hundreds of thousands of farmers have committed suicide and are still doing so, while one industrialist is reported to have built a 40-storey building for his residence. This state of affairs cannot continue much longer.

Unfortunately, most people are silent about this terrible plight of our people. Those who should be speaking out are mostly beneficiaries of the present system and hence do not want to disturb it. This is the time for patriotic intellectuals to break the pattern and speak out. They must study economic theory and read the books of economists such as Adam Smith, Ricardo, Marx, and Keynes, or at least some commentaries on them. This will enable them to better understand the economic crisis, so that they can propose measures to alleviate it.

Global economy will shrink in 2009: WB

New York: The World Bank said that the global economy will shrink this year for the first time since World War II and that the global financial crisis will make it tougher for poor and developing nations to access needed financing.

Trade is forecast to fall to its lowest point in 80 years in 2009, as economic hardship ripples across the globe, the bank said. The most drastic trade slowdowns are expected in East Asia, where growth had been robust, the bank said in a paper prepared for a meeting of finance ministers and central bank officials next week.

The impact on the poorest countries will be severe, the bank said, predicting that a group of 129 countries face a shortfall of USD 270 to USD 700 billion this year. The bank, which offers low-interest loans and grants to developing nations, warned international financial institutions will not be able to cover even the low end of that estimate. Only one-quarter of those vulnerable countries will be able to ease the economic downturn through job creation or "safety net" programs, the bank said on March 8.

Interview with comrade Azad, Spokesperson, central committee, CPI (Maoist), on 2009 Lok Sabha elections

(The Maoist Information Bulletin spoke to comrade Azad, the spokesperson of the central committee, CPI(Maoist), on various topics ranging from the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in India, the global economic crisis, its impact on India, the G20 Summit, etc. In this issue we are covering that part of the Interview related to the Lok Sabha elections to be held in April-May 2009.)

On the 2009 Lok Sabha elections in India:

MIB: Election-2009 in India has been hailed as the biggest election ever held in the world with almost a billion voters participating. Does the increasing hype over the elections show the growing faith of the people on 'parliamentary democracy'?

Azad: *Certainly not. The claim that there has been an increase in the faith of the people on 'parliamentary democracy' is a hollow, concocted and outright false claim. The very fact that every day the media, the central and state governments, and all the contesting ruling class parties are dinning into the ears of the people to exercise their so-called holy vote, shows the desperation of the reactionary ruling classes to refurbish the debilitated image of their so-called parliamentary democracy. Thousands of crores are being spent on this propaganda alone.*

So scared are these bandicoots that they can never imagine allowing the voters the minimum democratic right to reject the parties and candidates contesting the election. They fear that if the option of rejecting the candidates was given, then those who had been hitherto indifferent to the elections—who actually constitute the majority in any election—would perhaps vote against everyone and prove in categorical terms the futility of parliamentary democracy. But even otherwise, if you look beyond the 24-hour non-stop screening of election by hundreds of so-called news channels (I say so-called since hardly any of the news channels provides anything worth calling as real news), and go to the grass-roots level you can see the apathy, disillusionment, even hatred and anger against the parliamentary system and the parliamentary parties. Both have lost their credibility as never before and the more the people lose faith in the parliamentary parties and institutions, the greater is the noise generated by the media and the ruling classes through every means at their disposal calling upon the people to cast their vote.

MIB: Party has given a call to boycott the elections. But on the other hand it seems the interest and involvement of the people in the elections is growing. If this were true, then how do you account for this discrepancy and plan to deal with this?

Azad: *As I had explained earlier, there is neither any interest nor involvement of the people in the Parliamentary elections. In fact, even the narrow base of some of the parties had taken further beating this time. Contrary to the images you see on the idiot boxes, the involvement of the people has further declined when compared to earlier election. Hence the desperate attempt by the rulers to rope in film stars,*

cricketers and popular personalities into publicity campaigns to “educate” the people regarding the virtues of parliamentary democracy, and about the great responsibility of the citizens in casting their votes. To make one believe that the system is really democratic, they call on you not to vote for criminal elements but for those committed to country’s progress, those who are not corrupt, and so on. What is to be done when all the candidates are rogues—which is evident in at least nine out of ten cases—is left unaddressed.

It is, of course, true that some of the candidates and parties are able to draw crowds to some extent. In a country with over a billion population it is not difficult to find a few thousands, and at times a few lakhs, of people to attend meetings and rallies if the sponsors arrange for transport and meals, and pay them some money. Then caste, clan, regional loyalties or admiration for cine stars attract some crowds. One can see how hard the political parties have been working in every state to bring cine actors into electioneering for various parties. The political leaders know that the disenchantment of the masses had grown to such an extent that they cannot even address them without roping in some popular personality. Seeing images of “huge” crowds at the meetings should not make one to hastily conclude that more people have become interested in the fake exercise of elections and that parliamentary democracy has gained some credibility in the eyes of the people. On the contrary, the opposite is actually the truth.

MIB: What do you say of the attempts by the “Left” parties to build a non-BJP, non-Congress secular democratic alternative at the Centre through a Third Front? What would be the impact of such a Third Front on the Indian politics?

Azad: *The so-called Third Front that is sought to be forged by the CPI and CPI(M) as a secular, democratic front comprising all the non-Congress, non-BJP forces is actually a congregation of self-seeking discredited opportunists, all of whom had proved themselves to be hypocrites and double-dealers in their respective states. Who needs to be taught about the infamous history of a Chandrababu Naidu, a Jayalalita, a Mayawati, a Deve Gowda, a Naveen Patnaik? These notorious leaders and their parties, who had, at one time or the other, shared power with the Hindu chauvinist BJP, are being given a clean and secular-democratic image by the so-called Left.*

*Karats, Yechuris and other power brokers of the so-called Left had churned out the slogan of anti-communalism to justify their alignment with the most loyal agent of the imperialists like the Congress Party during the 2004 elections. It was only after almost four years, when the people began to trounce the Congress in the Assembly elections in various states and come out into the streets against the policies of the UPA, that these brokers “realized” that the Congress was kow-towing to the imperialists! Now, after parting with the Congress, these opportunists see anti-communalism in Parties like the TDP, BSP, AIDMK, JD(S), BJD etc all of which had never really demarcated themselves from communal BJP and have no compunction in striking an alliance with it if it gave them a share in power. **For our Marxist theoreticians and ideologues all these forces had suddenly become secular!! And one should not be surprised if they once again become the tail of Congress after the election. The opportunism of the Indian “Left” has no limits.***

Just see. They found secularism, anti-imperialism and democratic moorings among parties such as the Telugu Desham, a party which was the first to transform a state in India into a laboratory of the World Bank and responsible for the murder of over two thousand Maoist revolutionaries during its nine-year rule besides the high-level of corruption of the regime led by Chandrababu Naidu. Then there are other opportunist and proven die-hard reactionary parties such as Jayalalitha's AIADMK that had become infamous for the scale of corruption, abuse of power and fascist suppression of people's struggles in Tamil Nadu; Naveen Patnaik's BJD that had sold out the state to the imperialists and had proved itself to be the executioner for the imperialists and the CBB by massacring adivasis in Kaliga Nagar, POSCO, etc., besides protecting the saffron hoodlums as they went about killing, raping and persecuting the Christian minority; Deve Gowda's JDU which shared power with the BJP and broke with it not because of BJP's communalism but only when the latter wanted a greater share of power; and then you have a Mayawati who would do anything to grab power whether it be power-sharing with the BJP on rotational basis, or striking an alliance with the Brahmins and subordinating the Dalits to the upper-caste Hindus, besides crushing all opponents ruthlessly.

The attempt to forge together such opportunist, corrupt and notorious anti-people parties into a new front by the so-called Left should not come as a surprise if we keep in mind the fact that the social-fascist CPI(M) has proved itself to be a loyal agent for the imperialists and the CBB which has been proved beyond any doubt in West Bengal under Buddhadeb. It should also not come as a surprise if these opportunists, who masquerade under the garb of "Marxists", rediscover anti-communalism and secularism in the Congress (and forgetting for a while that it had surrendered to imperialism), and align with it against the communal BJP after the elections.

As per the impact of the Third Front, it has certainly weakened the two major alliances—the NDA and UPA—and has led to further fragmentation of the Indian polity. Whichever alliance wants to form the government it will have to depend upon and satisfy the demands put forth by the Third Front or whatever is left of it after the elections. Some of the constituents of the Third Front will, of course, jump into the alliance which is most likely to form the next government.

MIB: What are the actual issues confronting India and how do the various Parties address these issues in their manifestos and slogans?

Azad: *The issues confronting the people of the country are many: the continuous fleecing of the people and looting of the country's wealth by the imperialists and the comprador big business houses; the ever-increasing imbalances between various classes, sections, states, regions, special social groups, nationalities; the deepening agrarian crisis that is leading to the suicide deaths of thousands of peasants; the industrial closures and lay-offs that are throwing out lakhs of workers onto the streets; wage-cuts and wage freeze, mounting unemployment; spiraling prices of essential commodities irrespective of what the government spokespersons bark day in and day out that inflation has been brought down to the lowest figure; fast-declining industrial growth despite the circus feats of Chidambarams., Manmohan singhs, Pranab Mukherjees to prove the contrary; growing aspirations of the nationalities for their self-determination in various forms such as statehood in*

Telangana and Gorkhaland, independence or aazadi in Kashmir, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur; Hindu chauvinism and rabid anti-Muslim, anti-Christian frenzy whipped up by the saffron terrorists who seek to destroy the delicate fabric of our society; corruption that has become the life-blood of every Party; displacement of lakhs of people from their homes and lands in the name of SEZs and so-called development projects; state terrorist and state-sponsored terrorist attacks on the struggling people all over the country, particularly in Chattisgarh, Kashmir, Assam and other parts of North East, and so on.

Thus the issues that confront the people of our country are quite serious and none of the parties has courage to address any of these since a solution to any of these issues would mean cutting the very tree on which one sits. Every party's existence is based on carrying out policies that serve the imperialists, comprador houses, feudal forces, scamsters and real estate mafia gangs. Hence it is unimaginable that these parties would raise people's real issues in a serious manner. Instead they try to utilize the extreme poverty and destitution, unemployment, rising prices of essential commodities, rapidly declining living standards, and the overall insecurity, frustration and helplessness of the people at large to project themselves as saviours by declaring some sops in their manifestos and slogans. These unscrupulous, nefarious and hypocritical gangsters and bandits who rob the poor to fatten themselves put forth populist slogans and try to lure the people by throwing a few crumbs. Just see the competition between the various parties in offering freebies and social welfare schemes to the people during the present elections. If Congress party offered 25 kg of rice or wheat at Rs. 3 a kg per month to families living below poverty line, BJP promised to offer 35 kg rice or wheat every month at Rs. 2/kg. The TDP had gone a step further asking people not to buy colour TV sets as it would distribute one crore sets gratis if it came to power. Praja Rajyam Party assured the people of AP that it would supply cooking gas free and food kits for Rs 100 only.

In the last Assembly election in Chhattisgarh the show of populism by the Congress and BJP is nauseating to the extreme. These two biggest enemies of the country and the most loyal stooges of the imperialists and comprador big business houses had tried to outwit one another in luring the masses with sops. First BJP promised rice at Rs 3 a Kilo. Then Congress came up with Rs 2 a kilo upon which the BJP assured that it would supply rice at only one rupee a kilo along with free supply of salt.

*There is no end to such hypocrisy and false promises made by these bandicoots. **None of these parties would ever dare to touch upon the real problems and permanent solutions to these problems. Instead they seek to offer some 'first aid' to the sufferers by throwing some crumbs in exchange for unbridled power for five years. The very fact that every Party is compelled to offer such sops that promise to mitigate hunger and meet other basic needs of the masses shows the acuteness of the misery and poverty of the people notwithstanding the tall talk of glowing India, rapid growth rates in GDP, joining the elite club of the top 20 countries in the world, and such non-stop trash. Their sops point to the condition of real India while the lion's share of the funds go to a tiny fatty layer that floats over the society like a scum. People will not be taken in by these sops but will demand their rightful share in the country's GDP, their right to employment, and right to a dignified life.***

MIB: There seems to be relatively a greater impact of the regional parties in the current elections. What do you think is the reason for this phenomenon? Is there any future for the so-called All India parties like the Congress, BJP, CPI, CPI (M) etc?

Azad: *I should say the elections this time are the most complex, most crisis-ridden and most fragmented in the annals of the so-called Indian parliamentary democracy. Extreme instability and contradictions plague every party and candidate. No Party or candidate seems to be certain of the electoral outcome, notwithstanding the outwardly confident postures. Hence the parties and candidates are resorting to all sorts of gimmicks to attract the apathetic voter.*

The much-discredited so-called All India parties like the Congress, BJP and the "Left" have become thoroughly exposed before the people. All these Parties have in fact been reduced to the status of All India regional parties. And the alliances that they lead also have influence limited to certain regions in the country. The desertion by the "Left", Lalu's RJD, Mulayam's SP, Paswan's LJP, Ramdoss's PMK have left the Congress and its UPA in a pathetic condition. Likewise, BJP and its alliance NDA have lost the support of strong allies like Naveen Patnaik's BJD, Jayalalitha's AIADMK, and several smaller parties. Neither the BJP nor the Congress is in a position to hold their respective alliances together and centrifugal tendencies will continue to weaken these further.

None of these is in a position to repeat the slogans they had issued during the 2004 elections.

While the India Shining slogan of the BJP has taken a severe battering in the background of the severest crisis in the Indian economy that has thrown millions of workers onto the streets and peasants to the verge of suicide, its communal slogans and attacks on the religious minorities have isolated them from the people. On the other hand, the Congress party's common minimum programme has proved to be the biggest and most cruel joke of the decade; their so-called development had led to the displacement of tens of thousands of people across the country from their lands and homes, and the total surrender of the Congress-led UPA to the American imperialists stands thoroughly exposed before the people.

Then there is the hypocrisy of the so-called Left in running with the hare and hunting with the hound. But for its support, Manmohan's comprador clique could not have dared or succeeded in implementing the series of anti-people policies and placing the interests of the country at the feet of the US imperialists. After its opportunistic honeymoon with the UPA it had to distance itself seeing the anger of the people and used the civilian-nuclear deal as a pretext. Its rhetoric against SEZs is seen as a big gimmick after the brutal suppression of the people's struggles in Singur, Nandigram and elsewhere in West Bengal.

The economic crisis and the policies pursued by the UPA as well as by the preceding NDA governments had created a situation of extreme imbalances between various regions, sections, classes, special social groups, and nationalities. Naturally all this has led to a new polarization and realignment of forces in the Indian political scene. The regional aspirations, the anti-Hindutva feelings among the persecuted religious minorities, the feeling of betrayal of their interests by the major political parties

which had pervaded the toiling masses, in short, the explosive situation in many parts of the country brought forth due to the severity of the current crisis had discredited the major political parties in the eyes of the people. It is in such a situation when the so-called All India parties had failed to address the issues of the people and have lost credibility in the eyes of the people that regional parties have begun to utilize the situation to increase their seat share.

However, all the parties belonging to the two major alliances and the so-called Third Front, as well as others are consciously evading the real burning issues confronting the country and the people. They are striving by every means to see that economic-social crises, the severe downturn in the economy, closure of industries, growing retrenchments and lay-offs, agrarian crisis, etc do not become the agenda during the elections.

MIB: How do you intend to take your campaign on the boycott of Lok Sabha and other Assembly elections to the people?

Azad: We had already begun our election boycott campaign after the Election Commission declared the election schedule. Our stand has been made clear to the people through various forms—circulars, press statements, interviews, leaflets, posters, wall writings and so on. Our cultural teams stage performances among the people calling upon them to understand the real essence of the so-called parliamentary democracy and asking them to boycott the elections. We will carry out this propaganda until the end of the last phase of elections. Our campaign during elections is basically a mass political propaganda campaign. This includes questioning the candidates and representatives of the parties, gheraoing them, making them confess their misdeeds before the people.

Then there is active boycott where we prevent the candidates from carrying out their campaigns in the villages and smaller urban centres in our areas. We warn the parties not to venture out into our areas and when they do not heed our warnings, we stop their campaign, beat them up if they are notorious elements, burn their vehicles, conduct people's courts where possible and make the party representatives confess the misdeeds of their respective parties and seek apologies from the people. They are let off after they agree not to come to the villages again and that they will raise the misdeeds of their leaders in their Party fora. We also carry out counter-offensive actions against the police and central forces who are used by the reactionary rulers to enforce elections at gun-point. Basically our active boycott too is a political campaign though we undertake some actions aimed at destroying the enemy forces.

MIB: There is propaganda by some sections of the media including the BBC during the last November elections to Chattisgarh Assembly that Maoists had threatened to chop off the fingers of those who dared to cast their vote in the Maoist strong-hold areas? Is there any plan to forcibly prevent people from going to the polling centres?

A: The question of Maoists using force against people to ensure boycott of elections is only the fabrication of the reactionary rulers and the media. You cannot show a single instance where the Maoists had resorted to force on the people for having attended election meetings or having stopped them from casting their votes.

It is the criminal, parasitical, mafia gangs ruling the country who thrive on violence on the masses daily and hourly; they cannot survive a day without resorting to illegal detentions, cruel tortures and brutal murders of those who oppose the system. Terror acts such as chopping off limbs, blinding the eyes, giving electric shocks, and resorting to other third degree methods are the norms practiced by the STF, Grey Hounds, SOG, CRPF, SSB, and other forces deployed in Dandakaranya, Bihar, Jharkhand, AP, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu etc. Salwa Judum in Dandakaranya reveals the depths of the cruelty of these mercenary forces.

If the BBC correspondent reported during the election to Chattisgarh state Assembly last November that posters were put up by Maoists warning people their fingers would be chopped off if votes were cast, a special editorial in Dainik Bhaskar went a step ahead alleging that Maoists had chopped off the fingers of several people! It is the reactionary rulers who run the print and electronic media in the country and the versions of the police are given credence at the cost of truth. And BBC is no holy cow; it is the mouth-piece of the imperialists. Its role in spreading stories of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and attempts to manufacture consent for the invasion of Iraq is well-known. It is no surprise that it has tried to mislead the people by spreading canards and lies against the Maoists in Chattisgarh. One more point has to be kept in mind here: it is often the police that put up posters and issue statements and leaflets in the name of the Maoists to discredit us. It is part of the psychological warfare of the enemy on which he spends hundreds of crores of rupees every year. The communal fascists like the BJP-VHP-RSS-Bajrang Dal and other reactionaries too put up such posters in their attempt to build public opinion against the Maoists. Hence the media should go a bit deeper than what appears on the surface.

Maoists never use coercive methods on the people. That is why the toiling, suffering, oppressed masses love the Maoists and are proud of the PLGA.

MIB: What do you think of Advani's slogan of bringing back black money from foreign banks for investing in India? Is it realizable and would it help the Indian economy in this hour of unprecedented economic crisis?

Azad: *(laughing aloud) This will stand out as the biggest joke of the millennium. Whose black money would Advani bring back from foreign banks? That of the big landlords and big comprador business houses? That of the havala dealers, smugglers and real estate mafia? That of the unscrupulous contractors, traders, money-lenders and hoarders? Would anyone believe that Advani would cut off the tree on which he/she is sitting? And how has Advani discovered, all of a sudden, that lakhs of crores of rupees of unaccounted money is stashed away in foreign banks? Did he not know of the black money when he was the Home Minister and his saffron gang was in power before Manmohan Singh's khaki gang took over? Every rogue begins to indulge in populist rhetoric just before the election. For five long years before the election and, of course, another five years after the election, the issue is pushed into cold storage. This very fact shows the hypocrisy and the ulterior motives of these crooks.*

Due to the contradictions within the ruling classes, it is possible that a tiny fraction of the black money belonging to those who are rabidly opposed to the BJP is targeted. We had witnessed this under Hitler. But, overall, black money would grow faster and in greater quantity under fascist regimes, whether saffron fascism of the BJP or the

khadi fascism of Congress. Indian people are not fools to be taken in by the rhetoric of Advani. Without black money one cannot even imagine the existence of a BJP, a Congress, a CPI(M), or any other parliamentary party. Black money is the life-blood of the political mainstream of India. They contest elections using black money with the sole goal of multiplying their black money. Over a trillion dollars of black money is said to have been hidden abroad by India's filthy ruling elite who fund and run BJP, Congress and all parliamentary parties as their political representatives.

Why abroad? Black money is flowing right in front our eyes. One ground-level survey in the country would reveal several trillion dollars of black money. Just ask how a political leader, a bureaucrat, a police official or an encounter specialist, a contractor or a stock broker how he came into possession of several crores of rupees worth of property that is not shown in the income tax. Confiscate such unaccounted property and assets and I am certain there will be no dearth of funds for the reconstruction of the country. A tiny stratum—around five lakhs or at the most three million as some put it—is holding the lifelines of our economy, dominates over our society and controls the state. It is only our Party—the CPI(Maoist)—that is capable of ferreting out this huge, mind-boggling sums of illegal money and restore it to the people to whom it actually belongs. No other Party, by its very class nature and vested class interests, is capable of such a task. In fact, it was precisely when the CPI(Maoist) touched upon the issue of urban land grabbed by the ruling elite of Andhra Pradesh in Hyderabad's posh localities that YSR turned mad, broke off the talks abruptly and unleashed the most cruel attack on the Maoists. Forget bringing back black money from abroad, the rulers would, in fact, go to any extent in protecting their black money even if it meant unleashing the most brutal attacks and massacres.

MIB: What is the impact of the current global economic crisis on the Indian parliamentary elections?

***Azad:** The current global economic crisis certainly has a deep impact on the Indian economy, society and the political scenario. It has a devastating effect on the Indian economy due to the total dependence on imperialists for exports and imports and license given to the imperialist FIIs to gamble in the Indian stock markets. The attempts of UPA government to resolve the crisis through monetary measures rather than boosting the real economy had led to disastrous results. It has led to a redistribution of wealth from the poor to a handful of wealthy families.*

Today, due to the anti-people policies of the reactionary rulers just one lakh families hold assets worth \$ 350 billion (Rs. 17.5 lakh crores) or a little less than half the country's GDP. The combined wealth of 53 billionaires in India amounts to 31 % of the country's GDP. At the same time 83.6 crores of Indian people or 77 % of the population live on less than Rs.20 a day. According to the Global Hunger Index of 2007, India ranks 94 out of 118 countries tailing behind even countries like Pakistan and Ethiopia. All the so-called rates of growth of GDP and development had only led to trickling down poverty. In spite of such glaring inequalities, the reactionary rulers are continuing their regressive policies of tax breaks and write-offs to the corporate-financial houses while taxing the poor and resorting to cuts in social welfare spending. Overall, the reactionary policies had further accentuated all the contradictions in Indian society.

The current political scenario being witnessed in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections reflects the deepening social contradictions and crisis in the Indian economy and society. India is undoubtedly heading towards a grave social explosion.

MIB: How real is the threat posed by terrorism to the country as alleged by every political party in the country? What do you think will be the role of the anti-terrorism card played up particularly by the two major alliances—UPA and NDA—on the election results?

***Azad:** The real threat to the stability and integrity of our country, as our Party has been stressing continuously, emanates from the so-called political mainstream, particularly from the two biggest parties—the Congress and the BJP. These are also the most trusted representatives or agents of the imperialists and the comprador big bourgeoisie. It is in their interest to keep the society divided as this would disrupt the class unity among the toiling masses, diverts them from their burning issues and the real path of their liberation, and helps the comprador ruling classes to perpetuate their rule. The very nature of our “parliamentary democracy” and the way elections are conducted, also gives scope for creating further divisions among the people, whip up communal passions, and create a sense of insecurity and helplessness.*

***Terrorism, and that too terrorism instigated by the foreign hand, is the card used by every reactionary from George Bush down to our local Bajrang Dal or Shiv Sena hoodlum to divide the people and divert them from the real issues confronting the country.** A sense of insecurity among the people is very much needed if the reactionary rulers wish to have their way unquestioned. Insecurity grants license to kill, maim, loot and whatever you can. Promoting terror and unleashing a so-called war on terror have become extremely necessary for the reactionary rulers all over the world. It is the military-industrial complex in the US—Halliburtons, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin and others—that gained the most from so-called war on terror and had pushed the US into wars of aggression against Afghanistan, Iraq and itching for wars against Iran, North Korea and elsewhere. Hence they would go on pushing the so-called war on terror.*

*Likewise, in India, the comprador Tatas, Ambanis, Mittals, Ruias, Jindals, etc have much to gain in the ‘war against terror’. Thousands of crores worth deals are involved. The police top brass has a lot to gain by spinning tales of terror. Thousands of crores of rupees are sought by the police department to fight terror. And the police officials can have a field day by pocketing a big chunk of these funds. **If there is no terror incident then they create one by placing a crude bomb in a dust-bin or a park or wherever you want, create a furore, get funds sanctioned for eliminating terror, eliminate some innocent people or put them behind bars, claim an astounding victory in the war against terror and get promotions for the bravery of the officers in knocking down the terrorists in “fierce encounters”.** And the same cycle goes on and on. Exposures of these despicable acts by the top rogues in the police department, revelations of the hundreds of crores grabbed by ‘encounter specialists’ who had been the blue-eyed boys of the media till yesterday, make little impact. The non-stop visuals in the electronic media (most of it being police versions or concoctions by the saffron or khadi gangs) create an atmosphere favourable to carry on the ‘war against terror’, a sense of urgency to the task, prepare the psychological make-up of the people for further fascisation of the state*

and curtailing of the rights of citizens, in short, manufacture consent for the unbridled loot by the Indian counterparts of Halliburtons and Lockheeds.

In the current elections both the BJP and the Congress have been trying to compete with one another in creating a terrorist scare and each assuring the people that it alone is capable of controlling the terrorists. But these Parties which actually sponsor terrorism cannot fool the people through their rhetoric. Their rhetoric will not help them gain credibility or have an impact on the electoral outcome. People know the links between the saffron gangs and the blasts at Malegaon, Samjhautha Express and other places. They know how deep the roots of saffron terrorism are in the state apparatus, especially the Indian Army. It is only by impartial investigation into every anti-people act by the Congress hoodlums and BJP's saffron gangsters, and meting out speedy punishments to these culprits that would contribute to mitigating the acts of counter-terror by the aggrieved religious communities.

MIB: Going by the clean chit recently given by the CBI to Jagadish Tytler in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, is there any hope that the victims of those riots will ever get justice?

Azad: *Anyone who knows the class character of the Indian state, its pro-Hindu bias, and the long history of state-sponsored attacks and persecution of religious minorities in the country cannot fail to see how it is next to impossible for the religious minorities in India to secure justice within the framework of the existing socio-political system. Not a single Hindu communalist-chauvinist leader or member of the mainstream political parties involved in instigating, and even leading, attacks on Muslims and Christians, has been punished in the six decades after the transfer of power from the British imperialists to the comprador-feudal classes in India.*

None but the investigating agencies have any doubt about the involvement of Sajjan Kumar, HKL Bhagat, Jagadeesh Tytler and other Congress leaders in the massacre of innocent Sikhs in 1984. Likewise, the active involvement and leadership provided by LK Advani, Vajpayee, Murali Manohar Joshi, Ashok Singhal, Praveen Togadia, Vinay Katiyar and other Hindu communal-bigots in demolishing Babari Masjid and setting the entire country into communal conflagration is universally known. So is the role of saffron-clad butcher Narendra Modi who had indulged in ethnic-cleansing of Muslims in Gujarat indisputable. But none of these criminals has been punished and, on the contrary, they have their own commissions which exonerate them of their crimes. Nanavti commission's exoneration of Narendra Modi or CBI's clean chit to Tytler show the extent to which the so-called commissions and investigating agencies have become communalized, degenerated and politicized. It is only when they have a political axe to grind that these come out with some names at times. Such is the criminal justice system in India that no victim in general can expect justice and, in case of police killings of religious minorities or state-sponsored murders justice is like an oasis.

It is only the people's courts that can mete out justice to the victims as one can witness in our jan adalats in Dandakaranya. Tytlers and Modis cannot remain unpunished forever despite the protection provided by the pro-Hindu Indian state and clean chit by Hindu chauvinist or mercenary commissions. People will certainly punish them however long it might take.

MIB: Will the CPI (Maoist) and its PLGA too carry out punishments of these communal-fascists?

Azad: Our Party—CPI(Maoist)—is an integral, indivisible part of the people and hence one need only wonder if we do not carry out the decisions of the people and fulfill their aspirations.

MIB: What is the alternative that the Maoists have in mind to the present parliamentary democracy in India? There is increasing noise by the ruling quarters that Maoists are opposed to development and the electoral success of Maoists in Nepal is shown as a model to be emulated in India too.

Azad: The alternative to the so-called parliamentary democracy and the fake elections that are conducted as a ritual every few years is people's democracy where it is the people, and not a few money-bags, who decide the destiny of the country and their own lives. It is the genuine democracy that is seen from the grass-roots level to the top and not vice versa. You can see the grass-roots democracy at work in the vast tracts of Dandakaranya where the Maoists are running a parallel government. There the people are supreme and every decision is made through gram sabhas or assemblies of the people and not by invisible hands. People are encouraged to criticize the Maoists if they commit any mistakes or excesses. Everything is transparent—as clear as daylight—for the people have nothing to hide unlike the traitors and double-dealers in the Parliament and Assemblies whose very existence depends on hiding their every nefarious activity. There criminals like Modis, Advanis, Singhals and Togadias or Tytlers, Sajjan Kumars and HKL Bhagats cannot loiter for years without end only to be finally. On the other hand, such criminals get punishments instantly in people's courts.

These people's courts will, of course, be refined further but the content remains the same—deliverance of real and speedy justice by taking the side of the oppressed and persecuted people. Money power, muscle power and other considerations have absolutely no role to play unlike in the existing judicial system in the country.

MIB: Finally how do you sum up your stand on the parliamentary elections in India?

Azad: Parliamentary elections do not bring any radical change in the unjust, exploitative and oppressive semi-colonial semi-feudal socio-economic system or solve the basic problems of the people. Parliamentary institutions are meant only to protect, serve and further strengthen the status quo. They are mere talking shops and can never adopt policies that would ameliorate the living standards of the people; they are powerless institutions as policies are decided not in parliament and assemblies but by a small coterie in consultation with the representatives of the big feudal landlords, CBB and imperialist agencies. What is worse, even the policies that are passed in the parliament are hardly ever discussed and at times are pushed through in the absence of none-tenths of the strength of the House.

Parliamentary institutions and elections to these institutions, like any other institutions of the state, have a class nature in a class-divided society like India; they can never represent the interests of the vast masses of toiling people but only those of a tiny elite ruling the country in collusion with the imperialists.

Elections are a safety valve that are used as a vent to let out the frustration, anger and hatred of the masses without endangering the interests of the exploiting ruling classes or the unjust system they represent. Elections are meant to create illusions in the minds of the people about an electoral alternative. When one ruling party gets thoroughly exposed for its anti-people policies another equally rapacious party is projected as an alternative and thus people are led astray from seeking the real path of their liberation; their anger is sought to be directed against one party and replace it by another equally anti-people party.

Elections are held to create legitimacy to the exploitative system and so-called Parliamentary democracy which has lost credibility in the eyes of the people. By imposing the fraud of elections, even the most of notorious criminals, dacoits, corrupt leaders, communal-fascist parties and imperialist stooges (as all parties are) seek to gain legitimacy and wash off their crimes and notorious anti-people misdeeds.

Parliamentary elections held in India are not even based on bourgeois democratic consciousness and values but based on feudal values, ideas, caste-based politics, communal passions, regional sentiments, and money power and muscle power. All these factors basically determine the outcome of the elections though at times negative vote also plays a role in replacing one Party with another. Hence communal flare-ups, caste riots, ethnic riots etc are organized by the parties in order to build up their social base to win the elections.

Elections are the prerogative of the rich, and the poor have absolutely no role to play in contesting the elections; only those who have enormous wealth or are patronized by the wealthy have the opportunity to contest elections. Even among the major political parties it is only the wealthy that can get the tickets as it requires lot of money to bribe the High Command.

Finally, it is not the path of elections but the path of militant revolutionary struggle that can solve the people's problems. The path to the liberation of the people lies in carrying forward the people's war to final victory by overthrowing the feudal and comprador capitalist class and their imperialist masters and establishing people's revolutionary power throughout the country. Needless to say, even if a Maoist party wins the elections in exceptional conditions, as in Nepal, it cannot change the socio-economic system or the class character of the state which can be smashed only through revolutionary means.

Boycott of elections is a democratic right of the masses. Genuine elections can take place only in a new democratic setup which can emerge only after overthrowing imperialism, feudalism and CBB.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

CENTRAL COMMITTEE



Press Release:

April 2, 2009

Parliament is an instrument of oppression and terror in the hands of the reactionary ruling classes, Boycott the Parliamentary election! Advance the people's war to establish organs of genuine people's revolutionary-democratic power!!

After five years of unbridled loot of the country's resources and sucking the blood of the vast oppressed masses of our country the vultures have once again come to the people seeking votes in the Parliamentary elections to be held in April-May this year each trying to outwit the other by promising a heaven on earth. The shameless crooks masquerading under attractive labels like "*united progressive alliance*", "*national democratic alliance*", "*third front*", "*samajwadi*" , "*UP-Bihar Front*", "*prajarajyam*" (people's state), and so on are trying to come to power by any means. Dog-fights among these reactionary parties have assumed such serious proportions that none of the alliances or parties can boast of any stability whatsoever: breakups and defections have become a characteristic feature of every party and alliance. Fronts within fronts such as the Lalu-Mulayam-Paswan's UP-Bihar front within the UPA have emerged. Even the most loyal apologists of parliamentary democracy in India are compelled to describe Election-2009 as the most fragmented election ever fought in the country. And every Party that is a participant in this over Rs. 10,000 crore mega-fraud is desperately using the most obnoxious means—whipping up communal passions, caste and patriarchal prejudices, regional feelings, money power and muscle power—in order to grab power by hook or by crook. And the real drama will begin after the results are declared with even more opportunistic shifts in alliances. Such is the sordid drama of Parliamentary elections unfolding before the people of the so-called largest democracy in the world.

The Congress, which has been in power and did nothing for the *aam admi* except giving them more unemployment and poverty, inflation and insecurity, displacement and homelessness, starvation and suicide deaths, disease and misery, has shamelessly come up with several freebies to the people if it is voted back to power. Under the Congress-led UPA regime more than one crore people have been thrown out of jobs in the export sector and the same awaits several lakhs more. Thousands had committed suicide. Lakhs of people were evicted from their land and homes due to handing over of vast territories of land to the corporate elite in the name of SEZs. Thousands have been imprisoned, killed and maimed all over the country—in Kashmir, Chattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa, Gujarat and elsewhere. Hindu fascist gangs and saffron terrorists like BJP-

RSS-VHP-Bajrang Dal-Shiv Sena-RJM-Abhinav Bharat etc are allowed a free hand to enact pogroms and persecution of Muslims and Christians while Muslim organizations like SIMI are banned. Prices of essential commodities have gone out of reach of the common people. At the same time more billionaires and millionaires were produced in the five-year-rule of the UPA even as tens of millions of people slid into the ranks of the poor.

The saffron gangs led by BJP have further spread the flames of communal passions in all the states where they or their allies are in power. Besides Muslims, people belonging to the Christian minority too have become the targets of their wrath particularly in the past two years. They have unleashed their election campaign on their age-old communal card, inflaming passions and religious chauvinist frenzy, even threatening to chop off the hands of Muslims who speak against Hindus. They are unleashing murderous attacks on Muslims and Christians all over the country. They had converted the states ruled by the BJP and its allies into Hindutva laboratories for ethnic cleansing of the minorities. Utilising the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai these fascists have been campaigning for ruthless suppression of the Muslims at large and to bring in more draconian acts such as POTA. The saffron gangs have also unleashed the cruelest state-sponsored and state attacks on the revolutionaries. In Chattisgarh, the fascist Raman Singh government which came back to power for the second time in December last had bared its fangs even more viciously murdering 19 adivasi people in a single incident in Singaram in January this year. It is a continuation of the savage state terrorist war against the adivasis and the Maoist revolutionaries eliminating in Chattisgarh which saw the massacre of over 700 people, burning and destruction of over 700 villages, displacement of over 1.5 lakh adivasis from their homes, rape of hundreds of hapless adivasi women, and snatching away all the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. The Congress is hand in glove with the BJP in unleashing this brutal campaign.

Thus both the Congress-led UPA and the BJP-led NDA have become the greatest threat to the integrity of India and the security of its people; they are traitors who sell out the interests of the country and the people to the imperialists, the big comprador corporate sharks, and the mafia gangs; they whip up religious frenzy and persecute Muslims and other religious minorities through overt and covert means; they impose draconian acts to suppress the people's struggles, massacre revolutionaries, national liberation fighters and religious minorities in fake encounters, trample upon the fundamental rights of the citizens; in short, they are birds of the same feather in pursuing anti-people, pro-imperialist policies and maintaining the status quo. Their hype about the so-called welfare of the people, *aam admi*, India shining and so on are mere trash to dupe the people and seek their mandate to exploit and loot them for another five years.

The so-called Left parties such as CPI and CPI(M) have become a laughing stock in the Indian political scene. After supporting the UPA for almost four years they are now hob-nobbing with notorious leaders like Chandrababu Naidu, Jayalalitha, Mayavati, and others in the name of a Third Front. These unprincipled, unabashed pseudo-Marxists have become the trusted managers for imperialist and comprador capital in West Bengal such as Tatas, Jindals, Dove etc., and had once again shown their anti-people stance through their brutal suppression of the militant mass struggles in Nandigram, Singur, Salboni, Lalgarh and other places.

Parliamentary elections in India are a big fraud enacted to dupe and divert the people from seeking real solutions to their burning issues. They are intended to wean them away from the path of their real liberation. As pointed out correctly by comrade Lenin almost a century ago, elections are held "*To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through*

parliament—such is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary-constitutional monarchies, but also in the most democratic republics." And in the present semi-colonial semi-feudal system in India Parliament and Assemblies cannot bring about an iota of change in people's lives but will only further impoverish and enslave the masses. They are merely a safety valve meant to let out the fury and frustration of the masses by placing before them the Hobson's choice of choosing between various evils. Knowing well that their much-taunted parliamentary institutions and various political parties stand thoroughly discredited in the eyes of the people at large the ruling classes are spending hundreds of crores of rupees in advertisement campaigns calling upon the people to exercise their votes. The CC, CPI(Maoist), calls upon the people of the country oppressed and suppressed by imperialism, feudalism and comprador bureaucrat capitalism to boycott the elections to the Lok Sabha and also various state Assemblies which bring nothing but greater impoverishment, starvation, suicides and misery to the vast majority of the Indian population and result in a mere replacement of one band of dacoits with another. It calls upon the people to assert their inalienable right to boycott the elections and warns the reactionary ruling classes against using brute force to enact the election farce.

The real alternative to the farce of the so-called democratic parliamentary institutions are the people's revolutionary-democratic institutions (*janathana sarkars*) that had emerged and are fast-spreading in the vast tracts of central India (Dandakaranya) and which genuinely represent the aspirations of the oppressed people. These *janathana sarkars*, with various administrative departments like development, culture and education, health, forest protection, finance, defense (local militias), mass organizations and public relations, and justice, have become shining models of functioning democracy in the country thereby earning the wrath of the reactionary rulers and imperialists who have unleashed a brutal war on the adivasi population that had dared to take their destiny into their own hands.

The CC, CPI(Maoist), calls upon the people of the entire country to reject the farce of parliamentary democracy by boycotting the elections and to strive to establish alternative revolutionary-democratic organs of people's power throughout the country. It is only by participating and advancing the people's war to greater heights and expanding it throughout the country that it is possible to overthrow this exploitative system under the dictatorship of a tiny feudal-comprador elite and, in its place, establish and consolidate real people's democratic power in the country. It calls upon the entire Party ranks, the heroic fighters of PLGA, and the members of all revolutionary mass organizations to mobilise the masses into a mass political campaign to boycott the elections, teach a befitting lesson to the leaders and representatives of the reactionary parliamentary parties who come begging votes from the people, and to deliver effective blows on the police and para-military forces that are sent to enforce the election farce on the masses at gun-point.

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

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

North Bastar Divisional Committee



Press Release

February 25, 2009

Mahanakal Attack- A fitting reply to the ongoing police repression, illegal arrests and fake encounters

On 18th February 2009, the PLGA forces attacked the CRPF forces stationed at village Mahanakal under Koylabeda Police station area, killing 3 police personnel and injuring 9. This daring day light attack lasted over 2 hours. In this attack on the 3 platoons of CRPF and District police forces, our PLGA forces hit them without a single casualty on our side. Though there was not even a slightest scratch to anyone of our forces, Kanker SP Ajay Yadav has been falsely claiming that the state forces have killed 10 Naxalites. He is lying in a desperate attempt to boost up the sagging morale of the police forces.

In fact, right from the time of the assembly elections in the state, there have been a number of attacks on the masses by Police and Para military forces. Dozens of innocent villagers have been arrested from the villages Rekabhat, Partapur, Kesekodi, Gattakal etc. In October 2008, police attacked and terrorized school children in people- run school at Kumudgunda. On 14th November, the day of election, policemen murdered an innocent villager, Karmaram of Korenar. On 6th December, Fateram and his daughter Sagenbai were brutally murdered by the police. The most glaring example of Raman Singh Government's cruelty is the incident in Singaram, in which the police killed 18 tribals in cold blood. Out of those killed, were four young girls, who were tortured and gang raped by the policemen before being murdered. It is these atrocities that forced people to retaliate against the police.

We warn Raman Singh Government that the Mahanakal incident will be repeated if police does not refrain from fake encounters, illegal arrests and atrocities on innocent people. We demand the immediate release of the villagers who have been illegally put behind bars. We appeal to all the police personnel and para military men and petty bureaucrats not to enter our areas and torture our masses. Instead they should try to take transfer to other areas and should not to follow orders of their officers to torture the masses. In case of any encounter with our PLGA forces surrender to us and we assure no harm shall come on those who surrender. You too belong to poor and exploited families. You are not our enemies. Recently, one policeman Kiran Usandi from Pakhanjur police station and 3 men from Aambeda police station resigned from their jobs following our appeal.

We appeal to all democratic minded people, civil rights organizations and people at large to condemn the brutal state repression unleashed on the people of Dandakaranya. Defeat the fascist and repressive policies, and shatter the day-dreams of the reactionary, exploitative government to perpetuate their fascist rule by drowning the democratic and revolutionary people's struggles in rivers of blood.

Sujatha Nuroti,
Secretary,
North Bastar Divisional Committee,
CPI (Maoist)

The Real Reasons behind Singaram Massacre

Why did the police resort to such a brutal, cold-blooded massacre in Singaram?

The answer to this has come from the mouth of none other than the SP of Dantewada district, Rahul Sharma, a notorious law-breaker in khaki uniform who swears by the Indian Constitution even as he oversees the cold-blooded murders of adivasis and rapes of adivasi women by his men. His agony is that more of his men are being wiped out when compared to casualties on the side of the Maoists. And it is this hard ground reality that he wants to change through crude means such as enacting massacres like Singaram. His crude mindset was revealed in an Interview with Tehelka magazine dated February 7, 2009:



*“The police are in a defensive mentality because the Naxals rule the region and kill them at will. The IPS officers rarely completed their terms here. The state government has now made a policy that all young IPS officers must do a two-year tenure in these areas. We need more special laws like the Chattisgarh Special Powers Act. Paramilitary organisations such as the CRPF want the Armed Forces Special Powers Act to be invoked here. Please understand: the situation here is more precarious than in the northeast. **The casualty rate here [of the forces] is the highest in the country. In 2007, we lost 123 jawans from all the forces, not including the SPOs. Last year, we lost 67 men. Right now, it is a negative attrition rate: more policemen than Naxals are killed. We have to reduce our casualty rate. We need to hit them hard. In Jammu & Kashmir, the ratio of men in uniform killed to the terrorists killed is 1:4. We have to get to that ratio. I know this is crude, but we are working in a crude situation. It will not be easy.....If they kill my men, I have to retaliate. It is a full-fledged war. We have to be on the offensive. Singaram was offensive: we went into their territory.**”* He also categorically points out how the state will step up its brutal offensive by asserting: *“Violence is definitely going to go up over both sides over the next two-to-three years.”*

It is this desperate bid to change the ratio of casualties that Rahul Sharma under the guidance of DGP



Vishwanaranjan and fascist Chief Minister Raman Singh have been enacting massacres like the one in Singaram in January this year and Kanchala in March last year. This crude conspiracy of the reactionary rulers was exposed by our Party at the time of Kanchala massacre on March 18, 2008. We pointed out: *“After the fiasco of state-sponsored salwa judum terror campaign and a series of setbacks to the massive police operations in Chattisgarh, 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 Chattisgarh, 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 Chattisgarh.”* (from MIB-1, Mar 31, 2008)

Maoist Guerrillas Avenge Singaram Massacre by wiping out 11 CRPF mercenaries in Dantewada

At least 11 CRPF personnel, including a Deputy Commandant and a Sub-Inspector, were wiped out in a major tactical offensive carried out by Maoist guerrillas on April 10 near Minta village under Chintagufa PS in Dantewada district of Chattisgarh. While nine died on the spot another two succumbed to injuries the next day.

Another eleven CRPF personnel, including an Assistant Commandant, were injured and were airlifted to Raipur hospital. All the dead and injured personnel belonged to the 55th Battalion of the CRPF. The daring ambush by PLGA guerrillas took place in the afternoon at around 1 PM when the central forces accompanied by local police were returning in two batches of 50-60 members each after carrying out combing operations in the Kotampalli forest. These combing operations were a part of the terror campaign unleashed by Raman Singh-Vishwaranjan's police in the name of *Operation Area Domination*. The exchange of fire went on for about two hours. The police claimed that three Maoist guerrillas had also died but this is yet to be confirmed.



'Operation Area Domination' to create terror

It is to be kept in mind that it was these mercenary forces that had been spreading terror across the countryside in the districts of Dantewada, Bastar, Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur, Rajnandgaon districts of Chattisgarh falling under Dandakaranya guerrilla zone and in Sarguja, Jashpur and other parts of North Chattisgarh. At the time of the Assembly elections in Chattisgarh in November 2008 several adivasi youth were picked up from their villages and brutally shot dead as reported in the last issue of our *Information Bulletin*. And after regaining power in the state, the BJP government headed by Raman Singh had stepped up its counter-revolutionary state-terrorist campaign taking it to a new peak. Adivasi youth are abducted from their homes, tortured and murdered in cold blood. Women are picked up, gang-raped and murdered.



CRPF men wiped out in the daring Maoist ambush in DK

The massacre near Singaram of 18 innocent adivasis after abducting them from four villages under Gollapally PS limits on January 8 is the most notorious example of the sadistic activities of these monsters in olive green uniforms. The brutalities of these cruel, dehumanised mercenary force defy all description. Tortures, gang rapes of women, murder of even children, and destruction of property including burning of fodgrains of adivasis are a common feature in the entire Dandakaranya zone. People have become so much vexed with the atrocities of these police forces that they were overjoyed upon hearing the news of their

annihilation by Maoist guerrillas. And those who had read about the massacre near Singaram commented that the CRPF rightly deserved such a punishment. It is only a handful of reactionary forces who cry from rooftops that Maoists are killing "*innocent security forces who are carrying out their duty of protecting the people and maintaining law & order*". And some gullible elements from the middle classes, who live in a world moulded by the idiot boxes and are victims of the false propaganda of the ruling classes, too join the chorus in condemning the "senseless violence" by Maoists. But would these people react passively when their own wives, sisters, mothers are raped by the police and goondas, their kith and kin murdered, and their property looted or destroyed?