

PCPA to Relax Bandh for a Week

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KOLKATA: The bandh called by Peoples' Committee against Police Atrocities (PCPA) is going to be relaxed from Tuesday.

"We still demand the withdrawal of joint forces. The government should also fulfil our 23 demands. But considering the problems of the common people, we have decided to relax the bandh from September 1 to 7. If the government doesn't pay heed to our demands, the bandh will continue," said PCPA spokesperson Chhatradhar Mahato.

PCPA had launched the bandh call to pressure the state government to withdraw the joint force which is combing the forests of Jangalmahal.

PCPA will, however, continue with its police boycott strategy. From Tuesday, they will gherao police camps.

Home secretary Ardhendu Sen said "The Maoists who had been operating in the belt had pressurised the PCPA to continue with the bandh. Now, due to pressure from the local people, they had to withdraw it."

Sen said that the villagers were not helping police because of Maoist terror, due to which police operation was being affected. He said that police camps which had been set up in local schools would soon be withdrawn.

On Sunday evening, a CPM leader who had been on the Maoist hit list for the past year was shot at in Lalgarh's Papuria village. Ujjwal Kundu, a CPM Lalgarh local committee member, has been admitted to Bankura district hospital with two bullet injuries. Another CPM worker was abducted the same day.

According to local residents, Kundu had been undercover for the past year and had returned home just two days ago.

Police said Maoists got information about Kundu's return from their local network.

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