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Be practical, hold talks: Nepal Maoists to Kishenji

Parrull/CNN-IBN

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Patna: The big challenge the government faces right now is Naxalism. And there is a piece of advice coming from Nepali Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai for his comrades in India.

The one-time guerrilla leader has suggested that Indian Naxals should be practical and go for unconditional talks with the govt. He was speaking exclusively to CNN-IBN's Parrull.

Baburam Bhattarai and Kishenji are two sides of the same coin except the Nepali Maoists gave up arms in 2005, while Kishenji is proposing a ceasefire now. Bhattarai has this advice for Kishenji and Union Home Minister P Chidambarm.

"You should talk unconditionally, without pre-conditions, and try to resolve the problem. If one side puts a condition, the other side will put harsher conditions and that way you'll never have talks. Lenin used to say objectively assess reality. Indian comrades should objectively assess their reality," said Bhattarai.

The Indian Naxals fell out with the Nepali Maoists when they gave up arms to join mainstream politics. Bhattarai does not deny the Delhi Police's chargesheet which refers to a meeting between jailed Naxal leader Kobad Ghandy and chairman Prachanda.

"Earlier we had fraternal relations. We used to share experiences. Fraternal parties used to send delegates. In that context, we may have had contact with them but not after coming to the peace process," added Bhattarai.

Sources in the know of the meeting recall it was in New Delhi in 2005. Prachanda and Kobad Ghandy were present as were Bhattarai and Kishenji.

Ghandy did not disclose his real name and Bhattarai had no idea about his elite background. Bhattarai and Ghandy immediately hit it off. Both had an intellectual bent of mind and Bhattarai felt Ghandy was perhaps not trusted fully by his party.

That's ironic, since now it's the growing differences between Prachanda and Bhattarai that have got tongues wagging.

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