

**Indian Express**

## **Maoist bandh gives Lalgarh a deserted look**

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**Kolkata:**

A day after Chhatradhar Mahato, leader of the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities (PCAPA) was arrested, Lalgarh wore a deserted look on Sunday with shops and business establishments closed after Maoists called a bandh in the area.

The Maoists who abducted two constables of the state armed police last night, demanding the release of Mahato, however remain untraced even as the security forces launched combing operations in various parts of the area today.

“There is no doubt that Mahato is an important leader for the Maoists. They abducted two constables last night and demanded the release of Mahato. Moreover, the Maoists have called a bandh in protest against Mahato's arrest,” said Manoj Verma, Superintendent of Police, West Midnapore, who is leading the joint forces.

The two constables — Siteshwar Prasad Singh and Sushil Nag — were picked up when they were returning to their camp in Lalgarh aboard a public bus. A group of armed Maoists stopped the bus near Tamajhuri in Belpahari and asked the two constables to alight.

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