



## **CPI(Maoist) Information Bulletin- 8**

**May15, 2009**

### **In this Issue**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Election Boycott emerges as a dominant form of struggle</b> | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Excerpts from the newspapers on poll boycott</b>            | <b>14</b> |
| <b>News from Battle-field</b>                                  |           |
| <b>---Ten days that shook the reactionaries</b>                | <b>21</b> |
| <b>Dandakaranya bundh call</b>                                 | <b>35</b> |
| <b>News from Counter-revolutionary camp</b>                    | <b>36</b> |
| <b>Statements issued by the Party</b>                          | <b>46</b> |
| <b>12 policemen wiped out in Dhamtari (Dandakaranya)</b>       | <b>56</b> |

## Election Boycott emerges as a dominant form of struggle in 2009

Never before had India witnessed such a degree of apathy, aversion and disgust among the voters towards the Parliamentary elections as during Election-2009. Never before had the reactionary ruling classes and the media engaged in such grandiose campaigns spending hundreds of crores of rupees just to convince the voters that their votes “decide” the destiny of the country and that they should not stay away from the polls. Never before had elections been so much fragmented and unpredictable regarding the outcome. And never before had an election seen such mind-boggling non-stop publicity blitz in the electronic media and meaningless chatter that is completely devoid of any real issue facing the country and people. To the vast majority of the people of India the elections seemed as a meaningless, irrelevant, pseudo-democratic exercise that had only aggravated the casteist, communal, regional and factional strife and tensions across the length and breadth of the country.



Yes, Lok Sabha Election—2009 has turned out to be the biggest farcical drama enacted on empty, starving stomachs, homeless destitutes, unemployed and the wretched of the earth each of whom is valued @ one vote every five years or whenever an election is held. In the eyes of the reactionary, self-seeking, country-selling bunch of traitors, criminals and thugs who go by the name of UPA, NDA, Third Front, Fourth Front and so on, there is nothing but contempt for the mass of the population over three-quarters of which languish in poverty with almost 40 per cent living in extreme poverty. All that these people are worth is a vote at the time of elections. Nothing more. For over six decades they have been oppressed and suppressed, displaced from their lands and homes, thrown out of jobs, driven to suicides, prostitution and begging, and reduced to a miserable inhuman existence. Why then will/should people have any faith in this meaningless farcical

drama of elections and the parliamentary parties despite the cajolery, coaxing, and various incentives desperately offered by these hypocrites? **No wonder, boycott of polls has emerged as a dominant form of struggle in the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha elections held in April-May 2009. And the CPI (Maoist) led this struggle in several states in the country.**

Like the cheergirls who are engaged for promoting cricket there were cheergirls and cheerboys for the Lok Sabha elections too. The entire Bollywood thought it appropriate to take some time off to campaign for the rotting parliamentary system and breathe some life into it. The actors and actresses were egged on by the reactionary ruling class parties to exhibit their histrionics and utilize their charisma and popular image to attract the voters to the polling booths. Besides the film actors, several other eminent personalities, cricket stars, MNCs and big corporations carried out the campaign to resurrect a system that had become utterly decadent and increasingly irrelevant to the people of the country at large. Scores of NGOs had sprung up all across the country claiming to promote awareness among the voters and increase the percentage of voting this time. Several websites and blogs came up overnight making fervent appeals to the voters to exercise their

---

franchise. The scale and magnitude of the campaign to promote “confidence” in the electoral system and institutions in India in the current Lok Sabha elections is indeed mind-boggling!

All these antics to refurbish the image of a system that had lost all credibility in the eyes of the vast majority of the Indian population and to pour new life into a rotten, stinking institution called Parliament had failed to create any interest whatsoever in the voter. Until the day of polling, every so-called non-governmental or voluntary organization, political as well as bollywood actor, and media channel boasted that their campaign had raised voter awareness and that it would transform into a higher percentage of polling this time. But the voter exhibited a greater awareness than these so-called “eminent personalities” by staying away from the election fraud and thereby conveying in very strong and unequivocal terms that the so-called democratic system is mere humbug and had no relevance or importance for the people. The most publicized campaign by the NGOs, film actors, industrialists and eminent personalities was taken up in Mumbai but the percentage of votes polled was a meager 43.52 per cent, the lowest ever in the city.

The reaction of the poll promoters and campaigners was even more repulsive. They began to blame the voters for displaying apathy and not exercising their franchise.

It exposed their utter lack of understanding of the social reality of India and the issues before the people and the country. It showed how divorced they were from the ground realities. It also showed their political as well as moral bankruptcy for most of them knew that their campaign is mere humbug. Very few of the campaigners would actually believe that parliamentary elections would bring any basic change or solve the problems confronting the people of the country. Whether these campaigners themselves had illusions in the parliamentary system or they acted in such a way as to create illusions in the masses on the system is not of much relevance.

**The main thing to be noted is that elections are an important instrument by means of which the ruling classes can impose the most cruel, despotic rule in the name of democracy. And to ensure this farce of democracy leaders like Advani went to the extent of proposing that voting should be made compulsory.** These reactionaries know very well that notwithstanding the endless promises they make prior to the elections, the huge sums of money they spend to lure the people and to buy off community and caste leaders, the unbridled flow of liquor to influence the voters, and various incentives, the percentage of voting will continue to decline with every successive election. They know that the majority of the Indian population is vexed with the so-called parliamentary system and that a Party that wins an election actually represents only a minority of voters. To check the situation from worsening further, these despots are trying frantically to make voting mandatory.

**Elections are needed to lend a sense of legitimacy to the oppression, suppression and exploitation practiced by the ruling classes over the vast masses of population.** This is as much true in India as in countries under imperialist occupation such as Iraq or Afghanistan. Kashmir provides the best example of this fraud called elections. Kashmir has a population of just over 80 lakhs

and six seats to the Parliament. But the election in Kashmir was held in five phases to ensure that the security forces overwhelm the voters and thereby ensuring a greater percentage of votes. Every visual of the elections in Kashmir Valley showed a sea of security personnel with a few civilian voters here and there. And hardly any of the faces lined up at the polling booths exhibited a feeling of enthusiasm or interest. The



---

feeling on their faces was clearly one of fear and apathy. It is not difficult to understand as to how and why they came to the polling booths if one knows the ground reality in Kashmir which is a territory under Indian Army occupation just as Iraq.

Media channels, self-styled election analysts, and representatives of the reactionary ruling classes under various garbs claimed that 26% voting in Kashmir on April 30 meant the increasing acceptance of the Indian parliamentary system by the people of Kashmir and the rejection of the call for boycott by the militant organizations. The fact that three-quarters of the voters had refused to vote which vindicates their rejection of the system is played down and hushed up by various diversionary means.

**Overall, the majority of the voters this time showed a greater awareness by staying away from the polls despite the 24-hour non-stop appeals by the media to the voters to exercise their franchise. In Chattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, MP, Orissa, and invariably Kashmir, polling has been quite low with more than 50% of the voters rejecting the elections. If elections were held without the shadow of the gun, the percentage of votes polled would have been much lower everywhere.** The presence of the police, para-military and army does make a difference for it creates a sense of fear and apprehension among the voters that if they did not vote they would be singled out and victimized. There are several cases of people being herded together and driven to the polling booths to cast their votes.

**People's boycott of the polls is a mark of protest against the political system that had failed them completely. It showed the rejection by the majority of the people of all the parliamentary political parties despite claims by these parties of having people's support. Their boycott of the polls showed the futility and irrelevance of the Indian parliamentary system to their lives.**

The reactionaries made desperate attempts to conjure up democracy—something that was simply non-existent—in the farcical exercise called election. The day the first phase of elections to the Lok Sabha began on April 16, the media tried to show how democracy had won against anarchy, how ballot proved to be superior to bullet, how people defied the Maoists and came forth to exercise their franchise braving the bullet, and such endless rhetoric. **“Bullet vs ballot: Voters give mandate on Maoist-hit LS seats”** wrote a paper.

And to prove the superiority of the ballot, the rulers tried all means at their disposal—coercion, intimidation, use of muscle power and money power, rousing caste, communal, regional passions, and every crooked means. The real threat came from the Maoist revolutionaries and if they were allowed to propagate freely then people in vast tracts in central and eastern India would have stayed away from the polls thereby bringing down the percentage very much lower. Hence the first thing was to deploy the state's armed forces in Maoist areas and control them from carrying out propaganda against the elections. The aim of deploying more forces was to prevent the Maoists from mixing with people. Two dozen choppers were pressed into service in Maoist-dominated States for surveillance and to provide operational support to the security forces in countering the extremists who are boycotting the poll, according to Union Home Ministry.

To facilitate the movement of the polling personnel after the polling in Maoist areas the time for polling was fixed from 7 am to 3 pm instead of 5 pm as in other areas in the country. A section of the media decried that the Election Commission should have drawn up the poll schedules in the Maoist-dominated areas in a staggered manner rather than holding them all on the same day. There were editorials and articles asserting that the heavy loss of lives of the security forces was due to the

---

shortage of central forces as they had to be deployed in all Maoist areas during the same period.

Answering the criticism of the media the EC explained that it was the best option available before it and if it did not hold the polls on the same day in most of the Maoist areas there would have been far greater losses and violence. Pointing to the deadly attacks by Maoists in the week preceding the first phase of polls, officials claimed the attack only vindicated the correctness of their decision to hold polls in all the Naxal-affected states together and in the first phase itself. The decision gave security forces from outside three weeks to work out a partnership with their counterparts already deployed there and to achieve area domination, besides better coordination among agencies in different states. **They said that spreading the polls in the Naxal-affected areas over two phases would not have given security forces the time to familiarise themselves with the topography and establish area domination. It would have also helped Naxalites, adept at swiftly moving resources, to attack more targets.**



Chief Election Commissioner-designate Navin B. Chawla had justified the Commission's decision to club the Naxal-affected Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Maharashtra under phase-I of the general elections. He dismissed criticism in a section of the media that the Commission had committed a blunder, as there were casualties among polling and security personnel in Naxal attacks.

**Alert: The Jharkhand armed police patrolling on NH33 at Ghatshila in Purba Singhbhum district on April 22.**

*"I am satisfied and firmly believe that democracy triumphed over naxalism on Thursday (April 16), as the polling personnel and the security forces had done a commendable job in holding the polls courageously despite a difficult situation and challenges. I pay my tributes to them," he said.*

*"The naxalism-affected States were brought under Phase-I as there was ample time (21 days) for moving the security forces; had the Commission held the elections there in subsequent phases, there would have been a gap of hardly 10 days between phases to move the security personnel from one State to another.*

*"Considering the risky terrain and deep jungles — in some places the poll parties and the security forces had to trek for several kilometres — delaying the poll would not have been wise. Even for traveling to their respective polling stations, it took them two or three days and another one day for getting settled there.*

*"If we had not taken this decision, the losses would have been much higher and the situation would have turned more serious," Mr. Chawla said.*

CEC N. Gopalaswami made it even clearer when he spoke to TOI: *The criticism is totally misplaced. It is without the understanding what the ground situation is. Only this phase provides you the ability to bring force at least three-four weeks in advance, attempt area domination and try and control the situation. If you stagger it, you will need 5-7 days to move the force from one area to the other and more time to dominate the area. Between two phases you need 15-20 days. It is impossible to do within the ambit. This time we took only 124 constituencies compared to 141 in 2004. We did not take many areas like Gujarat. We only added Kerala that did not*

---

*require much force. It was being done with lot of deliberation and not just like that. If you are comparing: 2008 assembly election in Chhattisgarh with the 2009 parliamentary election then it is like comparing apples and oranges. You are also comparing deaths. These are incidents in which casualties are much more. But this comparison is inhuman. Just because 19 died it is more serious! Even one death is unfortunate.*

*To say that during the Chhattisgarh election there were 360 companies so even during the parliamentary election there should be four phases with 90 companies in each phase is absurd. You also do one phase so that naxals do not move. They are known to move from adjoining areas. What is the guarantee that two phases would have meant less violence?*

**Thus the plan of the EC guided by the rulers of the country is clear: deploy all the available central forces for at least three weeks in the areas under the influence of Maoists; stage as many fake encounters as possible in order to eliminate Maoist cadres prior to the election justifying these in the name of maintaining a free and fair atmosphere for the voters; establish area domination and achieve better coordination with the anti-Naxal commando units and special forces in various states; and enforce voting under the shadow of the gun thereby ensuring a higher percentage of polling and a higher score for democracy in India.**

Notwithstanding the presence of a huge contingent of central and state police forces for over three weeks in the areas under Maoist influence and their attempts at area domination, the CPI (Maoist) and PLGA carried out a mass political propaganda campaign besides undertaking several tactical counter-offensives against the gun-toting enemy forces who were desperately trying to coerce people to vote. The campaign was so effective that **there was hardly any campaign in most parts of the countryside in Dandakaranya (Dantewada, Bijapur, Narayanpur, Bastar and Kanker districts, and some parts of Rajandgaon district); in many districts of Bihar and Jharkhand where the polling percentage too had come down drastically from that in 2004; in West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia and near-total boycott in Lalgarh area in West Bengal; in Malkangiri, Koraput, Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada and other districts in Orissa; and other places** (see the detailed reports later in this issue).

**The Lok Sabha elections in 2009 have also set a record of sorts by being totally silent on the real issues of the people and the country. None of the Parties had touched upon any issue of importance.** The electronic media went on howling and speculating round-the-clock on irrelevant questions such as: Who will become the Prime Minister? Which party will emerge as the single largest Party? Which Party will get how many seats? Which coalition of parties will form the government? Who will align with whom during the elections? And how will be the shift in the allegiances after the declaration of results on May 16? And such endless speculation by so-called election analysts and experts, leaders of political parties and media correspondents went on—all full of sound and fury signifying nothing. None of the media channels had any interest or inclination to deal with real issues confronting the people. They had actually deliberately avoided going into the issues of the people for that would have meant calling into question the irrelevance of the very system in the daily lives of the people. This fact also showed how divorced and disconnected has the so-called democratic election become from the lives of the people. The poll boycott by the majority of the Indian people itself is an indicator of this truth.

---

## Let us see how poll boycott has become a form of struggle and an important trend in the elections of 2009.

### **Jharkhand:**

About a lakh-and-a-half voters in 176 villages spread across 13 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state of Jharkhand boycotted the polls this time. While some chose to boycott the polls due to lack of confidence on the parliamentary system itself others were sore with the non-redressal of the burning issues confronting them and the betrayal of promises by all the parliamentary parties. For instance, around 25,000 voters in Amaar Constituency in Garhwa district boycotted the polls because Khajoori irrigation project whose foundation stone was laid in 1987 by the then chief minister of Bihar still remains incomplete after a lapse of 23 years due to negligence of the rulers. Likewise, several thousand voters in Chadwa in Latehar district did not cast their votes as their long-pending demand for reconstructing the bridge over Kusum and Tarhansi rivers that was destroyed four years ago remains neglected. 4,000 voters in Devariya panchayat in Chatra Lok Sabha constituency which is the biggest constituency in Jharkhand, boycotted the polls this time as their repeated demand for the construction of a bridge on Babaghat remains unattended. Voters of Ichaak, Umattaki, and Bandiya villages in Giddour block boycotted polls due to lack of basic amenities.

Whether in Jharkhand or Bihar, Chattisgarh or Maharashtra, West Bengal or Orissa, it was a common sight to see banners and posters at road intersections in villages such as: *No Roads! No vote!*, or *No School! No Vote!*, or *No Electricity! No Vote!*, and so on.

### **Koderma**

The awareness of electorates was seen by their massive rejection of the polls in Koderma constituency from where former chief minister, Babulal Marandi, won several times. Voters in booth Nos 70, 105 and 108 in Jayanagar block in Koderma refused to vote and said that they would continue to boycott as long as their village did not get electricity. The people of these village are so angry with all the parliamentary parties that they did not allow anyone to enter their village for election campaign. Thousands of voters boycotted the polls in Muchrobad and Manakdih villages in Jamua panchayat.

It is reported that none of voters gave their mandate at Gharonja (106) and Ghurmunda (105) — both the booths fall under Barkatha State Assembly constituency.

A local resident of Ghurmunda, Nand Kishore, said: *"We have boycotted the election as Babulal Marandi did not give any priority to address the local issue like water, roads, etc."*

Almost 10,000 voters of Jayanagar panchayat in Koderma district have not cast their votes in the current elections.

In **Khunti** Lok Sabha constituency, people of Kotsora, Gathilotha, Aragandi, and some more villages completely boycotted the polls. Voters of Khijri in Simdega and Kutam village of Torpa panchayat did not cast their votes.

In **Hazaribagh**, several villages like Navadih, people of an indigenous tribe of Birhoron in Kaduva village of Eentkhor, Madhopur, Bavcho, Sarkavo etc stayed away from the booths. Birhoro people are angry that the government had been insensitive to their plight especially when there were starvation deaths on a big scale a few months back.

---

The dissatisfaction and anger of the people in Santhal Parganas is so widespread that people completely obstructed the entry of political leaders for electioneering in their villages.

In **Dumka** district, people of 40 villages in Ramgarh block led by Bhuyian Ghatwal organization imposed a *jantha curfew* and put up blockades against MLAs and MPs. No one including the police ventured to break the blockade. The main grievance of the people has been that even after eight years since the formation of Jharkhand state they do not have access to drinking water and are compelled to drink water from ditches and streams.

People of Ramgarh and Katikund constituencies in Dumka are angry that their lands are forcibly acquired by the authorities for a power plant. Three peasants had died in police firing in the villages of Katikund in December last when they were demonstrating against the power plant there. This had infuriated the people who decided to boycott the polls.

Likewise, in scores of villages in Chatra, Gadhwa, Lohardagga, Khunti, Hazaribagh and Palamu districts one can witness boycott of polls in a significant way. No wonder, in the first phase of elections Bihar registered almost ten per cent less votes than in 2004. The principal reason given by the voters was that they did not have confidence on any of the parties or candidates contesting the elections.

The villagers of Ichadag, under Ormanjhi PS, in the Khijri Assembly segment of Ranchi, stayed completely away from exercising their franchise to put across their demands. As many as 961 villagers decided to boycott the poll process.

### **Bihar:**

In the 13 seats that went for polls on April 16 in Bihar only 46 per cent voting was recorded as against 57.3 in 2004 Lok Sabha election. In Arra parliamentary constituency the polling percentage was mere 38%. Jahanabad recorded 45 % as against 69.3 % in 2004, Nawada 45 % against 67 % in 2004 and so on. Such massive decline in percentage is seen in almost all constituencies

In Aurangabad, Sasaram, Nawada, Jamui, Buxar, Arra, Gopalgunj, Gaya and Siwan parliamentary constituencies at least four dozen villages boycotted polls in toto while in hundreds of villages percentage declined steeply. 9 villages in Sasaram, 6 in Aurangabad, 11 in Arra, 6 in Nawada, 2 in Gopalgunj boycotted the polls completely.

In some booths polling personnel had not even ventured to go on the polling day. For instance no polling personnel had gone to one booth in Imamgunj in Aurangabad district and 6 booths in Rohtas on April 16. The reason given was that it was dangerous to go there due to the possibility of Maoist attacks. Just two days before a BSF camp was attacked in Dhansa in Rohtas district.

In Belagunj Assembly constituency that falls under Gaya Parliamentary constituency, people of Kamalpur, Agani, Bhaluwa, Gaharpur, Pathra, Kabirpur, Dhanwa, and some other villages voters boycotted the polls on the issue of lack of *bijli, sadak, paani* and any development of their villages even after decades of elections. In the attack by Maoists on booth No. 244 (Sindhupur) in Banke Bazaar in Imamgunj constituency two jawans were killed and four rifles were seized. Maoist guerillas also attacked Booth No 167 on Kaimur hill falling under Sasaram parliamentary constituency and exchange of fire took place between the guerrillas and police for two hours.

In Ghodparan in Jhajha block in Jamui district guerrillas attacked the vehicle of JD(U) district president Shambhu sharan and leader Subodh Keshari but they narrowly escaped.



---

Guerrillas also attacked ITBP personnel near Charkapathar village in Sono block when they were returning after completing polling in Jamui . There was exchange of fire for almost two hours but there were no casualties.

In **Bhagalpur**, people of old Attgama village in Nathnagar Assembly constituency boycotted the poll on April 30. They were so angry that all attempts by the district magistrate, DySP and other officials failed to convince them. Their grievance has been that, despite repeated assurances by the local MP and MLA to construct a bridge on the road leading to their village from Ghogha Bazaar, nothing has been done.

Voters of four booths in Suryagadh Assembly constituency in **Munger** Lok Sabha constituency boycotted the poll completely responding to the call by CPI(Maoist). Of the 1019 voters in booth No 182, and another 1092 in the other three booths, not a single voter went to cast the vote and the polling officials and the police had to return with empty EVMs as they could not resort to fake voting for various reasons.

In the five booths where repolling was held in Latehar on April 28, only 33.9 % of voters cast their votes and even most of these voters went to the booths after being intimidated by the police and local reactionaries.

### **Jamui**

People in several villages in Jamui district boycotted the polls citing neglect of their problems by the various political parties and futility of elections in their daily lives. For instance, in polling booth No 208 & 209 in Khaira block which have 1240 and 758 votes respectively, not a single vote was polled. NS Chouhan, the officer incharge of Khaira PS under which these booths fall tried to convince and bring the villagers to cast their votes but failed completely.

### **Chattisgarh:**

According to reports available until now 50 polling centres in Bastar Lok Sabha constituency witnessed total boycott and not a single vote was cast. Not a single vote was cast in Gollapalli village where a PS and police camp exist. In Kishtaram centre only two votes were polled. Total boycott was seen in:

**7 centres in Narayanpur**—Temurgaon, Lakhapuri, Nawagaon, Tumdiwal, Analnaar, Badekurusanaar, Nahmanaar;

**10 centres in Konta** assembly constituency—Singaram, Pamulur, Karigundam, Palachelima, Durma, Banda, Kalmiguda, Gachapalli, Goraka, Sindurguda;

**4 centres in Dantewada**—Kurangel, Guniyapal, Jabeli, Chameli;

**29 centres in Bijapur**—Pallewaya, Peddajojer, Marudbaka 1&2, Tultuli, Kammanar, palnaar, Savnaar, Peddakorma, Pidiya, Konapur, Kothapalli, Tarram, Andari, Kondrapalli, Dareli, Yampur, Badepalli, Kungaler, Saagmetta, Mookavelli, Poosnaar, Edapalli, Kandlaparathi, Tejapal, Bageli, Pujari Kanker.

In about 25 centres where polling was disrupted on April 16, repolling was conducted on April 28 in the presence of a huge police force. 20 centres in Bastar constituency, four in Rajnandgaon and on one in Kobra went for the repoll. Only 23 per cent polling was reported from Bastar constituency after the repoll.

86 polling centres in Dantewada, Bijapur and Narayanpur districts were shifted from interior areas to the road point. In all centres in Bastar range polling time was reduced by two hours to end at 3 pm instead of 5 pm as in other places. EVMs were seized by PLGA at 20 places in Bastar range and 3 places in Rajnandgaon district. Exchange of fire took place at about 20 places on the day of polling on April 16.

---

Overall, the boycott campaign made a big impact on the people this time and more villages boycotted the Lok Sabha polls than during the Assembly elections last November. There was virtually no campaigning by any of the political parties contesting the elections in the countryside in most parts of Dandakaranya guerrilla zone.

In **Lalgarh**, in West Bengal's West Medinipur district, no votes were cast in several booths. Of the 30,000 voters in Lalgarh, not more than 100 voted. In 14 booths set up in Ramgarh High School only 13 votes were cast out of a total of 10,830 votes. Buses were specially arranged for transporting the voters from their villages but people simply refused to board the buses.

Even Left Front chairman Biman Bose had to concede that Maoists had been able to persuade voters to boycott polls in some booths. Referring to Lalgarh and Bandwan, Bose said that low turn out in some booths proved that the boycott call issued by Maoists could influence a section of voters.

The PSBPC's Belpahari units raised issues of the backward classes and underdevelopment in this tribal-dominated region.

Posters and banners appearing on trees in this "jungle mahal", put up by PSBPC read: "Ask the contesting candidates why was the villages in the block had not progressed. Where were they all this while?"

To avoid these questions, all the eight candidates contesting the seat, including CPI-M, Congress and the Jharkhand Party of all factions, have not ventured into the "jungle mahal" for campaigning. Nor have these parties put up any poll graffities in support of their nominees in these areas.

Similar strategy has been undertaken by the PSBPC, particularly in the southern part of adjoining Bandowan Assembly constituency in Purulia which falls under the Jhargram Lok Sabha seat this time.

The CPI-M activists are scared of the Maoists after serial killings of their party leaders in Belpahari areas. As such they decided not to go on poll campaign in these vulnerable pockets, said Mr Anil Mahato, CPI-M's Banspahari local committee secretary. Mr Mahato said: "Unlike previous years, we won't post agents in the polling stations in view of the prevailing situation."

Meanwhile, life in Belpahari was crippled as a 24-hour Maoist-sponsored bandh was observed today. The bandh call was given in Purulia, Bankura and West Midnapore demanding increase in the procurement prices of "kendu" leaves, on the sale of which the tribals depend for their sustenance.

In **Bankura**, two booths in Saltora and Chatna witnessed absolute poll boycott. Polling personnel were detained by the Police Santras Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC) while returning from Madhabpur booth in Ranibandh. They were released later in the evening after the police station paid Rs 26,000 for the treatment of a tribal woman Churamoni Tudu who was injured in a road accident . On April 30, when the polling party was heading for the booth they were detained at Porydi crossing near Jhilimili by the committee. They were released only after the senior police and CRPF officers gave a written undertaking ensuring the locals' safety.

The naxals struck at Maroki, Mangnar and Jangampal in Dantewada area, about 350 kms from Raipur and in Nernar, Sonapal and Karmari in Narainpur region, around 250 kms from the Chhattisgarh capital.

---

## 12,000 voters boycott polls in Malda

As many as 12,000 voters boycotted the poll in Malda in West Bengal on April 30, saying basic demands, such as bijli, sadak or paani (electricity, roads and water) have not been met all these years.

Voters at 11 booths of Manikchak, one each at Malatipur and Habibpur stuck to their decision of boycotting the poll after they had earlier submitted a memorandum to that effect. When the residents of Gobardhantola, Mannutola and North Chandipur failed to turn up at the booths, district officials rushed to the villagers but failed to convince them to vote.

*"Had the culvert, lying broken for years at Rampur Khari, been repaired, it would have reduced the distance from the main road by 7 km. Our repeated appeals have only yielded promises,"* said Ashoke Shil.

*"For the stretch of 3 km to 4 km, we have only one tube well and no alternative source of water during droughts,"* said Ismal Oraon, a villager. *"Since neither any party nor any official promised to provide basic amenities, we found no reason to vote,"* said Anil Burman, another villager.

The 1,138 voters of Amtola Nanditola of Manikchak or the 1,000-odd voters of North Chandipur, who for years have been demanding drinking water and a bridge over Fulohar river, were totally disgusted. *"Though we tried to convince the villagers to vote, they refused to budge from their boycott call,"* said Suresh Mandal, the CPM chief of a gram panchayat.

The voters of Syedpur village under Kumarganj Assembly segment and Kurbanpur under Harirampur, also boycotted the poll.

### Orissa:

In **Malkangiri** in Orissa, almost no polling was reported from booths in remote areas like Manyamkonda, Kurmanur, Poplur, Tangurkonda, Bodigeta, Karkatpalli etc. Maoists burnt down the EVMs and a polling vehicle at Andrahal booth at remote Bonda hill area.

In a similar manner they destroyed EVMs and vehicles used by polling parties at Salimarikonda, MV 73, Bapanpalli, Vejangwada and Jagarkota booths. Polling could not be held in these booths. As per reports, naxals attacked the polling party while it was returning after conducting polls at MPV 73 village. They destroyed their EVM. Armed naxals resorted to all these violent acts. But they did not injure any polling officials.

In Narayanpatna block, a polling party rerunning from Bikrampur village escaped narrowly from a landmine blast. The blast occurred a few minutes after the vehicle of the polling party had crossed the area. Two CRPF personnel following the polling party on bike received minor injuries.

In **Koraput** subdivision, poll boycott call by naxals and for local reasons had its impact on 40 booths under Koraput subdivision. At a booth at Goluru panchayat under Nandapur block, the local sarpanch, Subash Pangti, was beaten up by miscreants when he dared to go and vote despite the poll boycott call in the area.

In **Rayagada** district there were poll boycotts in different areas on local issues. Effect of poll boycott was felt at Tiskapanga, Bijapur, Mering, Karlaghat panchayats of Gunupur Assembly segments. Voters boycotted polls due to lack of basic amenities in their areas.

---

In **Rayagada** Assembly segment the Jharia tribals boycotted polls in seven booths demanding Scheduled Tribe status. They are yet to get official tribal status in the State. At Kampur, voters boycotted polls demanding construction of a culvert on the road connecting their village.

Maoist cadres seized two EVMs' at Karada from Booth no. 55. Besides, villagers of Jhirpani at Koida did not cast their vote opposing lack of development in the areas.

#### **Uttarakhand:**

In about two dozen booths in the five Lok Sabha constituencies in Uttarakhand polling officials had to return with empty EVMs as not a single vote was cast. People resorted to vote boycott in order to draw the attention of the authorities and the political parties to their miserable plight due to years of neglect. 250 voters of Vugariya village in Dhoulchina block, 362 voters of Tumera chin village of Dwarahat block falling under Almora-Pithorgarh Lok Sabha seat did not cast a single vote. Voters in several villages in Joshimutt tehsil in Chamoli such as Kimana, Dumak, Kalgot, Vemru, Palla, Jakhola, Thaig, Bharki, Syod etc., and in Jhadetha and Khaunj-Pouthni in neighbouring Raholi block did not cast a single vote. People of these villages were demanding a road for years but to of no avail. Besides these, total boycott was seen in Pajyana Malla village in Karna Prayag tehsil and Dharkot village in Jhimta Tharali tehsil. Only 8 votes were cast in Ghes village in Deval and 20 votes in Kujon-Mykot village in Dasholi despite intimidation and threats to the voters by the administration. In four booths in Pithorgarh—Thanai-Thambe, Haldu, Buguli and Kunour—there was total boycott. In Gawad, Satgulla, Baseda and Salli-Kahali of Dwarahat block in Almora district votes polled were in single digit due to poll boycott.

#### **Kashmir:**

In Jammu & Kashmir voters were hard to find despite the heavy presence of security forces who outnumbered voters at several booths. In Poonch district voters in Doli, Gali Pindi and Salotri villages boycotted the polls in toto saying successive governments have not been able to give them "*bijli, sadak and pani*." Only 49 per cent votes were polled in Rajouri and Poonch districts as against 74 per cent in 2008. In Srinagar, the capital of the state, only 26% of voters had cast their votes. Even if three-quarters of the voters rejected the polls democracy is said to be flourishing in Kashmir.

#### **Mumbai:**

The total votes polled was only 43-52 per cent for the six Lok Sabha seats in Mumbai despite the so-called citizens' awareness campaigns, appeals by glamorous actors and other eminent personalities. In Thane's four seats it was even lower—just 35 per cent.

**To conclude, the Election-2009 has earned the distinction of being the most discredited election in the annals of parliamentary elections in India. People everywhere, and not merely in the areas under the influence of Maoist Party, resorted to boycott as a form of protest and struggle. Overall, the majority of the Indian people showed a higher level of consciousness this time by rejecting the contesting candidates, the political parties, and the very pseudo-democratic parliamentary system. They gave the rulers sleepless nights, and all the tricks played by the reactionary rulers and their propaganda blitz and appeals to voters to exercise their "fundamental right" to vote, came to nought. More people stayed away from the polling booths than those who went to cast their votes. And even among those who voted the majority had little trust in the candidate or the party as it has become a common man's joke that the one you had voted for today will join the one you had rejected the very next day if a post is given or if satisfactory amount is paid in the auction for the MP.**

---

But the media and the reactionary rulers go on braying that India has gone through the biggest democratic exercise in the world with 714 million voters choosing the next government. They shamelessly point to the formal completion of voting, even if the votes polled are less than half of the number of voters, that "democracy has won". ***"Maoist warnings fail to deter voters in Red zone"*** claimed a newspaper pointing to the 45 per cent votes polled in Gaya district. ***"Despite red terror 50 % polling in Jharkhand"*** crowed another paper. ***"Ballot wins against Bullet"*** runs another headline. There is no limit to such hollow claims and empty phrases to prove that so-called democracy got the upper-hand in this sham drama.

If one is to make a real analysis of the whole phenomenon of parliamentary democracy and the "rule by the majority" one would not find even an iota of truth in the claims made by the rulers and the media. **First of all, the very election exercise, as we had pointed out in the statements and interviews by the spokespersons and representatives of our Party, CPI(Maoist), is an undemocratic exercise held under semi-feudal conditions where it is more the caste, communal, regional, ethnic, gender factors along with money power and muscle power that plays the principal role in ensuring the victory of a candidate. Any notorious criminal or communal fascist can win the elections by utilizing these.**

Even supposing the elections are free and fair, how many votes or seats does one need to become the Prime minister or form the government? And what is the guarantee that the one who is elected does not change sides soon after? For instance, a regional party by name TRS contested the elections as an ally of the Left and TDP in AP and claiming that it was against the Congress and the BJP. But the moment the last phase of election is over, the star opportunist leading the TRS, KChandrasekhara Rao, shifted his allegiance to the NDA. Does it not mean ditching the voters who voted for his Party and who are opposed to the ideology and programme of the BJP? Can those who howl about democracy day in and day out justify this as a democratic act? And when you come to the number of seats a party requires to form a government it is even more ironic. A Deve Gowda or a Chandra Sekhar, controlling a handful of Lok Sabha seats, could become Prime Minister. If any Party, say the Congress or the BJP, not to speak of the BSP, NCP, AIADMK, DMK, CPI(M), JD(U), JD(S), SP or others, gets even one-quarter to one-third of the total seats it can buy up other smaller parties, form jumbo ministries to satisfy the allies, and come to power. In other words, of the 714 million votes, even if one gets around hundred million or roughly 15 % of the total votes, one can form the government. **Thus with 10-15 % of the seats or votes a Party can form the government and assume Prime Ministerial post. Yet this is projected as democracy by the rulers. And even at the best of times, a Party with just 14 % of the total votes had become the single largest party and formed the government.** But can one call this process democracy when 86 % voters had rejected the so-called single largest party and yet have to put up with a government that is formed on a minority of votes?

The reactionaries always hush up the actual truth that the majority of the population has hardly any faith in the parliamentary system or the political parties that contest the election. The fact is those who reject this so-called parliamentary system, whether consciously or unconsciously, always form the majority. But recognition of this fact and propagating this would jeopardize the legitimacy of the ruling class to rule. Hence the entire political spectrum is united in underplaying this crucial fact and sings in chorus about the success of "parliamentary democracy" in India. Such a lie is indispensable for the survival of these political parties and the reactionary rulers they represent.

---

## Excerpts from the newspapers on poll boycott:

### Tea garden tribals stay away from booths

1 May 2009, Pinak Priya Bhattacharya, TNN

From Ghatia to Bhagatpore in Alipurduar and Malbazar in Jalpaiguri, booths in tribal-dominated areas remained deserted, following an election boycott call by the Akhil Bharatiya Adivasi Vikas Parshad (ABAVP). **More than 6 lakh tribals and scores of Gorkhas in the two North Bengal districts refused to vote, leading to sporadic incidents of violence.**

At Palashbari Tea Garden, tribals ran away with an EVM, while eight ABAVP supporters were arrested for picketing near a booth at Gurjangjohora Tea Estate. Tribals and Gorkhas clashed at Palashbari over the poll boycott. The Left Front, which has been holding both the Alipuarduar and Jalpaiguri seats since 1977, could be the most affected by the boycott, felt local political circles.

Walking past a deserted polling booth at Upper Ghatia, 60-year-old Shukra Munda cast a disinterested look at the polling station. "None of the parties has ever come to our help. The government was biased towards Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) during the clashes last January. We feel let down. Why should we vote?" said Munda. Less than 20% of the tribals in the two North Bengal districts cast their votes. Both tribals and Gorkhas have traditionally voted for the Left Front.

The boycott call can be traced back to January, when GJM made repeated forays into the foothills. They were resisted by ABAVP when they attempted to hold a meeting at Malbazar. It led to several clashes on January 16. The tribals alleged that the police had been soft towards the GJM while they were forcibly driven out of the area. The clashes continued till February.

Other issues such as closed tea gardens and lack of civic amenities have fuelled the discontent as well. ABAVP had submitted a charter of demands to the chief minister seeking GJM's ouster from the area, or else they would boycott the election.

"The boycott will affect our margin though I don't believe it could change results. Our candidates will win comfortably but we would have been better placed had they voted," said Manik Sanyal, Left Front Jalpaiguri district convener. While CPM candidate Mahendra Kumar Roy is pitted against Congress' Sukhbilas Verma at Jalpaiguri, Manohar Tirkey of RSP is taking on Trinamool Congress' Pawan Lakra at Alipurduar. BJP candidate Manoj Tigga is also in the fray.

Despite the Left Front's best efforts, polling remained poor. At the Satali Tea Garden in Alipurduar's Hanshimara, from where Manohar Tirkey hails, less than 20% voted. Polling was better in the traditional Congress pockets of Nagrakata, Changmari Tea Estate and Malbazar. Congress district president Biswaranjan Sarkar felt CPM was responsible for infuriating the tribals. "They had initially supported ABAVP to counter GJM. Later, the tribals dumped them when they realized they were actually appeasing Gorkhas," said Sarkar.

The picture was similar at Terai. **Not a single vote was cast at several booths such as Phansidewa, Raykota and Bijlimoni Tea Estate. In Kadambini, Mariview and Tirdhana tea estates, there was less than 10% polling.**

---

## Arrow attack, mine blast scare off Purulia voters

1 May 2009, Falguni Banerjee, TNN

A lone arrow and a landmine scared off voters as a perceived Lalgarh effect rippled through several pockets in the scorched plains of Purulia. Maoists had called a vote boycott, quickly backed by a pressure group formed on the lines of People's Committee against Police Atrocities (PCPA), which commanded people to stay away from the booths.

CPM leader and Balarampur's saha sabhadhipati Judishtir Mondol tried to instill confidence in voters by exercising his franchise around 8 am. The

moment he walked out of the booth (Ghatbera Madhyamik Vidyalaya), an arrow struck him in the left leg. The result: no voter dared venture out of their home for the rest of the day. Judhistir's vote was the only one that was cast.

In Biramdih, 12 km from Dalma hills, Maoists had put up vote boycott posters two days ago. On Thursday, a landmine exploded in the primary school around 8 am, riddling BSF jawan Mahesh Kumar with shrapnel. He is admitted to a hospital. Soon after the incident, the area was deserted. The polling booths remained empty.

The unprecedented low turnout ended up being the most dominating factor in the district's poll scenario even as the state recorded a 70% turnout.

Large tracts of the Balarampur Assembly segment, which falls under the strife-ridden Jangalmahal gave into the poll boycott call by the Adivasi Malvasi Janaganer Committee (AMJC) and Maoists. Not a single vote was cast in Tilai, Karma, Bakudi, Biramdih, Khamar and Gitinglahar. CPM and Forward Bloc countered with all their might, but voters were too scared to move out of their homes. Case in point: only 15 votes out of 11,000 were cast in the Ghatberakeroya gram panchayat.

**Barely five to 10 votes were cast in several booths.** CPM state committee member Manindra Gope blamed police inaction. *"AMJC has been threatening people for three days that they would chop off hands if anyone went to vote,"* he said.

AMJC conveyor Sambhu Singh Sardar denied the allegation. *"On the contrary, Judhistir Mondol and his men have been threatening people with dire consequences if they failed to vote."*

Forward Bloc leader Nishikanta Mehta also held police responsible for the anarchy: *"People here would traditionally queue up from early morning. This time nobody has dared to vote in some areas because police did nothing."* However, Trinamool Congress district president K P Singh Deo alleged **"CPM terror"**.

The boycott extended to the other two Maoist-dominated Assembly segments of Joypur and Bagmundi where the voting deadline ended at 3 pm. Elsewhere in the district, in the segments of Purulia, Para, Kashipur and Manbazar, there was perceivable voter enthusiasm as people stood in long queues.

A helicopter hovered to monitor the polls. District magistrate Shantanu Basu said, *"Save one, no untoward incident was reported in the district. There was heavy turnout despite the heat."*

Police found a landmine in Kashmahal, Barabazar. *"It was defused by police. No one was injured but a culvert was damaged in the process,"* SP Rajesh Yadav said. Elsewhere, a voter, Pelu Rajak, collapsed in the heat soon after casting his vote and died before he could be taken to hospital.

---

## Maoists have their way, Lalgarh stays at home

May 1, 2009

In West Bengal's Lalgarh area, the message was loud and clear: "*We don't believe in the system.*" And it echoed throughout the state's Maoist-infested region on Thursday, when 14 constituencies across nine districts went to the polls.

Under the shadow of the Maoist threat, an unprecedented election boycott was observed in the tribal-dominated areas of West Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura as well as the Dooars region of North Bengal.

**Eight booths of Lalgarh saw no voters; in Belpahari, 13 booths stood empty and in the other areas of the state, 96 booths registered no polling.**

Even the touring CRPF personnel were surprised. S.N. Pathak, Assistant Commandant of CRPF, said: "*We have experience working in Maoist-troubled zones. We have not seen such type of low voting in other states.*"

The focal point was Lalgarh — part of the Jhargram constituency — where tribal uprising against police atrocities has reached its peak. Here voter turnout was pegged at a mere 13 per cent.

Since November, no police or district administration officials have been allowed inside the region. The People's Committee Against Police Atrocities — spearheading the movement and supported by the Maoists — forced the Election Commission to uniquely have 49 booths combined into four.

**Home Secretary Ardhendu Sen has been candid in admitting that the Maoists' call for poll boycott has affected voter turnout.** It is apparent that voters were terror-stricken and did not venture out of their houses, he added.

**Of the 30,000 voters in Lalgarh, not more than 100 voted.** For example, of the 973 voters at Kalaimari Primary School in Pirakata, not a single person had turned to vote till 9.45am. At the end, only 15 per cent cast their votes.

Another special booth set up at Garra Primary School in Lalgarh's Pirakata area remained empty. Of the 673 voters, not one turned up.

In Bankura and Purulia districts too, where Maoists distributed leaflets and put up posters all over the region, few voters turned up. At Mahishmara booth in Bankura, two men arrived on a motorbike in the morning and warned everyone to stay away. No one turned up after that.

### Maoists strongly placed in districts'

KOLKATA, April 30: The state government today admitted that the Leftist extremist wing had succeeded in extending its foothold in the Maoist-infested areas of Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore West.

This was evident when the state home secretary, Mr Ardhendu Sen, today said the poll boycott call sounded by the Maoists has certainly left an impact in at least 18 police station areas of Purulia, Bankura and West Midnapore. While on an average 60 per cent polling has been recorded in 14 Lok Sabha constituencies where polls were held today, the Maoist infested areas recorded less than 30 per cent polling.

*"Apparently, the poll boycott call given by the Leftist extremist group has left an impact in 18 police station areas in three districts ~ Purulia, Bankura and West Midnapore. The state government and the Election Commission had made all possible*



---

*arrangements so that people in these areas could exercise their franchise freely. But as only 30 per cent polling has been recorded in booths of these areas, it appears that people did not feel secure to go out and vote,"* the home secretary said.

Mr Sen also said a total vote boycott was found in 30 booths across the state. A majority of these booths were in Purulia.

## **Minimal turnout in Lalgarh**

Sabyasachi Roy

LALGARH, April 30: The pre-poll hype surrounding the elections in Lalgarh was a stark contrast to the drab response of voters today, in spite of the best efforts of the Election Commission to enable villagers in these troubled areas to exercise their franchise.

Polling stations were set up outside Lalgarh, conceding the demands of the Police Santras Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC), but even then a majority of the tribals stayed away from voting. Since early morning, tribals in many villages here were seen either working in the fields or crowding near haria dens, while buses meant for ferrying voters to the polling stations, kept waiting.

In villages dominated by PSBPC, villagers showed little interest for travelling long stretches to cast their votes. About 22 polling booths in three polling stations in Lalgarh recorded zero turn out, as voters of these booths did not come to vote, alleging transportation facilities provided by the administration was not adequate.

Villagers complained their houses were located at a considerable distance from the main road, where the buses provided by the administration were waiting for them. Many villages are more than 5 to 10 km from where the vehicles provided by the administration were waiting.

In Ramgarh, MS High School polling station, many people were found roaming in the nearby market, but only a few of them went inside the polling station to cast their votes. Only 27 votes were cast in 3 booths of the school and the rest of the 10 booths recorded zero polling. In another booth close to the Ramgarh primary school, only 187 people residing just adjacent to the school came to exercise their franchise.

When asked why people in Lalgarh were not willing to vote, a person answered no one wanted to be marked by being the first one to vote.

The picture was quite same in Lalgarh RK High School, where only 17.17 per cent polling was recorded. About 9 booths that were shifted from Sejua area recorded zero polling. Whereas, 47 per cent polling was recorded in Lalgarh Saradeswari primary school, where people though in lesser numbers, came to vote.

In Pirakata, three booths recorded zero polling while four other booths recorded less than 0.5 per cent votes. Meanwhile, a fair turnout was recorded in Bhimpur polling station. People mainly from villages like Aulia, Dasbandh, Mahubani, Baliguma, Murar, Chendabelia under Ramgarh area, Sejua, Darigoria, Papuria, Simula, Ghoradhora under Lalgarh area and Madhupur, Memul, Garra under Pirakanta area voted here. In all these villages, tribals alleged that due to non-availability of proper transport facilities and underdevelopment in their areas they boycotted the polls. PSBPC leader Mr Chatradhar Mahato, along with his wife, however, did cast his vote.

Mr Rajiv Sharma, election observer, said: "I am aware of the poor turnout. It was a challenge for us to conduct polls in Lalgarh, and we have done it peacefully."

---

## Poll boycotts becoming trend

### PNS | Berhampur

For years together they are facing the worst crisis of water. And nobody listens to them. So, the hapless women of Kasipadar village boycotted the polls on April 16. The village falls under Bandhugaon Block of Lakshmpur Assembly segment of Koraput district.

Similarly, women of Panchabhuti Village of Bhanjanagar Assembly segment in Ganjam district also boycotted polls crying for water. Their woes have never been heard by the bosses of Rural Development department. Registering protest, they saw to it that nobody goes to exercise their franchise.

This time more than 50,000 voters boycotted poll in 30 villages of Koraput, Ganjam, Kalahandi, Rayagada and Malkangiri. Villagers of Narayanpatna under Lakshmpur Assembly seat highlighted their plight of connectivity.

For the last 13 years they are demanding a bridge and no body bothers for them. Peeved with the politicians they decided not to participate in the biggest festival of the world's largest democracy.

A number of tribal villages of Narla also favoured poll boycott, thanks to the so-called Kutir Jyoti Yojana of the Government. They were promised electricity for years together and it was never kept.

**Poll boycott is not a new worrying part of it is that in the villages are restive to a wrong way.** By not they are strengthening the forces, feel election observers.

In earlier elections hardly 2-polls. But in 2009, out of the 30 villages opted out of trend in it.

Most of these villages are they have a grudge against the their basic problems of *sadak*,



**phenomenon, but the more and more people register their protest in participating in the polls, hands of undemocratic**

3 villages used to boycott 70 Assembly segments, voting. Poll analysts see a

under Maoist influence and Government of listening to *pani and bijli*.

Naveen Patnaik's catchy poll plank of 2004 was *sadak, pani and bijli*, but it was soon forgotten after the polls. So after five years people are boycotting polls demanding all the three basic amenities, said an activist of Election Watch. His contention is that the Government, which has promised to provide these primary needs have failed in keeping its commitment.

However boycotting election process in Malkangiri was altogether different. Maoist menace was the cause for keeping away the voters from the polling booths. In at least eight booths, polling personnel counted 'Zero', as not a single soul came out for voting.

The Red Rebels perceive electoral democracy as an ideological counterpoint of their politics of capturing the State with arms and threat of violence. Elections, naturally, are a red rag for them. So they gave the "Poll Boycott" call and out of fear many people stayed inside their houses. Writing of the wall is loud and clear.

---

The elected representatives must ensure the effective delivery of public services to reinforce the trust of the people in democracy and marginalise violent opponents, said a social activist, Ashok Paikray.

## Mamata, Congress lambast Left over rigging

1 May 2009

KOLKATA: Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee called on people to "*come out with whatever they can lay their hands on to resist CPM's rigging*". Congress, Trinamool's partner in the state, sang the same tune, alleging rigging and demanding that election observers be given the authority to recommend deployment of paramilitary forces.

Mamata alleged that voting in the first phase of Lok Sabha election in Bengal had turned into a "farce" in many places because it was under the supervision of home guards.

According to her, **most central forces sent to the state were deployed in the Maoist strongholds of Lalgarh and Belpahari in Jhargram constituency while home guards were deployed at most booths in Ghatal, Midnapore, Bankura and Bishnupur seats.** "This was done by a section of police officials in charge of deployment of paramilitary forces to help CPM," she claimed.

This helped CPM cadres resort to heavy rigging in the entire Keshpur Assembly segment in Ghatal, in parts of Malda and North Dinajpur in North Bengal and Joypur and Kotulpur in Bishnupur constituency, Mamata alleged. "The chief electoral officer is not accepting our complaints. That's why we have decided to lodge a complaint with the election commission. We have also got in touch with the Congress high command in Delhi," she said.

"If this is the situation I don't know where the state is heading to. It is clear that in the next two phases of the poll also things will be like this. I can't ask people to take up firearms. I am asking them to come out with whatever they have and resist rigging," she said.

AICC secretary Shakeel Ansari said, "The West Bengal government deploys the forces where the ruling Left Front cannot rig the polls and don't post them where the Left Front indulges in such practices. This means the services of central forces cannot be properly utilized in giving security to voters in sensitive areas."

Ansari was confident that Congress would fare very well in the eight seats that it is contesting of the 14 that went for polls today. He also came down heavily on the Left Front for neglecting Muslims in the state.

### Highlights of the biggest "democratic" fraud called Lok Sabha elections

The following is a part of the report from Bhubaneswar which appeared in the newspapers on April 30:

\*\*\* There was 100 per cent polling in several booths of Dharmasala constituency and even those on election duty elsewhere were recorded as having exercised their franchise. If that is not suspicious enough, in one instance the number of votes polled exceeded the number of voters.

Citing the above figures, Congress leaders today lambasted the Naveen Patnaik government for introducing 'scientific rigging' across the state with the help of 'unscrupulous officers'.

They reiterated that the EVMs were not safe in the custody of the state police administration. "Paramilitary forces need to guard the strong rooms as the EVMs may be replaced and rigged by the BJD officers", they stated.

Congress leaders at separately held press conferences here today claimed that the rigging by two BJD agents and presiding officers exposed in four booths of Nayagarh constituency was a pointer to how the party had planned the entire operation.

Congress leaders and candidates belonging to Jajpur district - including MP Ramachandra Khuntia, Mr Sitakanta Mohapatra and Mr Kangali Charan Panda - told reporters that they had met the chief electoral officer today and submitted their complaint. They said they had earlier reported on the situation to the district returning officer and others.

\*\*\* In Nagaland, even without a boycott call or threats, the electorate was indifferent. In some villages and colonies in Kohima, *gaonburhas* (village headmen) had to come out on the streets and request voters to cast their votes. In some booths, election agents of political parties had to force passersby to cast proxy votes. Under-age boys and girls voted with gay abandon.

No political party could give concrete reasons for the indifference which largely, according to some voters, had to do with same old rhetoric about the Naga political problem, corruption-free government, transparency, accountability so on and so forth.

\*\*\* Just eight hundred and odd people greeted Sonia Gandhi during her rally in Khunti showing the apathy of the people to the elections.



**Currency notes distributed by Shivraj Singh Ushare, Congress leader, during the Assembly election in November 2008. This fell into the hands of the Maoists when they ambushed the campaign vehicle.**

### Ten days that shook the reactionaries

The 10 days preceding the first phase of the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha polls on April 16 witnessed massive strikes by the PLGA guerrillas led by CPI(Maoist) across the states of Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa and Maharashtra. The period also saw mass political propaganda across the length and breadth of the country by CPI(Maoist) calling upon the people to boycott the elections and to establish their own revolutionary-democratic organs of political power as in the vast tracts of Dandakaranya. The ten days became a virtual nightmare for the reactionary rulers of India and the media commented that the violent attacks by Maoists prior to, and on the day of, the first phase of the polls showed that it was "*one of the bloodiest elections in recent times*". "*They (Maoists) are doing everything to disrupt elections,*" howled the home minister P Chidambaram in a Press meet in Mumbai.

The Election Commission under the guidance of the Union Home Ministry drew up an elaborate plan especially for the guerrilla zones and other areas under Maoist influence. It decided to concentrate all the central forces in these areas right from the day of announcement of notification of election dates i.e., at least three to four weeks in advance, in what it described as a **plan to achieve area domination** by the police and central forces prior to polling. It meant carrying out as many fake encounters as possible in order to eliminate Maoist cadres prior to the election and justifying these in the name of maintaining a free and fair atmosphere for the voters to cast their votes freely. Hence polling was conducted in most of these areas in the first phase itself. Due to this, the state's repressive forces had ample time to create terror in the areas whereas in other areas where polls were held in the subsequent phases they could be deployed for hardly a week. Replying to criticism from various quarters that the losses of security forces during the first phase was due to shortage of forces as they had to be deployed simultaneously in all Maoist-dominated areas, the EC revealed the above plan of area domination by achieving better coordination with the anti-Naxal commando units and special forces in various states. Thus all attempts were made to enforce the elections under the shadow of the gun, manipulate a higher percentage of voting and show to the world the "success" of democracy in India.

Despite the massive deployment of the central forces and concentration of the entire police force in the states in the Maoist-dominated areas, and their desperate attempts to create an atmosphere of terror among the people, they could not achieve their objective. The people led by the CPI(Maoist) and PLGA resisted the onslaught by the central-state police forces, carried out daring attacks on these mercenary forces, and foiled their Operation Area Domination. No candidate or Party representative dared to venture into these areas for electioneering. Only Maoist posters, banners and leaflets were seen in vast tracts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and Maharashtra besides parts of other states in the country. **In the Maoist guerrilla attacks during the period starting from April 6 when three C-60 commandos were wiped out in Maharashtra to the annihilation of a BSF jawan near Kone village in Latehar after the completion of the polling on April 16, a total of 43 central-state forces were wiped out in Maoist counter-offensives.**

There were some unfortunate incidents too such as the death of five polling officials in Chattisgarh, three in West Bengal, and also in Jharkhand. The Maoists have no intention of harming the polling officials but the unfortunate incidents occurred due to

---

technical mistakes. Instead of exploding under the police vehicle they hit the vehicle carrying polling personnel. Maoists issued statements conveying apologies for the grave mistake and condolence to the families of the dead polling personnel. These are published in the present issue of the magazine.

Officials in the home ministry said majority of casualties occurred due to BSF's failure to follow standard operating procedures (SOPs). Ten troopers lost their lives in a landmine blast in Latehar in Jharkhand as they preferred to travel in a bus even on the landmine-prone tracks — against the usual practice of walking through such areas, they added. The ten days leading to the first phase witnessed the following major tactical counter-offensives by the Maoist PLGA besides several small and minor actions across the country. A few of these were published in the last issue of MIB.

\*\*\* 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. 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.

\*\*\* 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.

\*\*\* Maoist guerrillas carried out an attack on Somnath Madkani (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.

\*\*\* 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. The daring attack showed the failure of the security forces in achieving area domination and was in fact forced to retreat from some areas.

\*\*\* 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.

\*\*\* At least 11 CISF jawans died in a daring attack by Maoist guerrillas on a well-guarded armoury and South Asia's biggest bauxite mines of NALCO in Damanjodi in Orissa's Koraput district on April 12. Another 15 jawans were injured. Maoist guerrillas carried away arms and explosives after the daring raid. (A more detailed report is carried in the last issue of MIB)

\*\*\* In Rohtas district of Bihar, according to media reports, more than 100 Maoists attacked a BSF camp with rocket launchers on the intervening night of April 14/15. The camp had been set up in the hilly region of Dhansa to facilitate polling in the face

---

of a Maoist call for election boycott. Police said the camp was attacked shortly before midnight from three sides. Three rocket launchers were used to pound the school building where 70 BSF jawans were billeted. Superintendent of police Mr Vikas Baibhav believes a dozen Maoists died in the ensuing gunbattle that continued till this morning but could not confirm since no bodies were found.

*"The aim of the Maoists, besides damaging the BSF position, was to loot arms and ammunition and to derail the poll process as Sasaram goes to poll on April 16. It appears that during their retreat, the Maoists took away the injured and bodies of the dead colleagues,"* the BSF said in a statement.

\*\*\* The next target, at daybreak, was Ratlag village in Daltonganj, where a group of more than 100 extremists attacked a school building where the Echo Company of Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) was billeted. In a face-off that saw more than 200 rounds of fire being exchanged, no one was injured in the attack.

\*\*\* In the early hours of April 15, guerrillas struck in Barhania Ghati in the hilly tracts of Barwadih in Laterhar district. More than 80 CRPF personnel escorting on foot two buses headed for Barwadih fully laden with election material. The PLGA guerrillas who were waiting in ambush attacked the paramilitary personnel by triggering a land mine that blew off the bonnet of one of the buses. In the exchange of fire that followed, CRPF jawan Dharmendra Yadav was killed. Seven seriously-injured CRPF personnel were airlifted to Ranchi. The CRPF claimed that Maoists had lost five of their comrades and that seven more Naxalites had been injured. It turned out that there were no casualties on the side of the Maoists and the five who were said to have been Maoists were innocent villagers of Barhania who were caught and murdered by the "brave" CRPF men. *"The area has been sealed off and we are trying to flush out the extremists. Helicopters are being used,"* a senior Jharkhand police officer said.

\*\*\* A homeguard and a police personnel on poll duty were shot dead and another injured by Maoist guerrillas in Singhpur village under Banke Bazaar police station in Gaya district. Two other police personnel were missing.

\*\*\* Earlier, the Maoists had blasted a Government school building at Barachetti in Gaya housing poll personnel and had set afire the campaign vehicle of JD(U) candidate from Karakat Mahabali Singh at Karma-Vishnupur village in Aurangabad district.

\*\*\* As soon as the polling began in Jharkhand, Maoist guerrillas struck at a BSF bus in Latehar district on April 16 in which six BSF personnel and two civilians were killed. The bus ferrying the BSF personnel from Ladhup to Arah was blown by the landmine blast triggered by the Maoists at around 7.30 am in Vhadwa PS area killing six BSF personnel, one helper and the civilian driver. The total number of casualties of the BSF was later put at ten.

The incident took place near Chandwa at Hesla village. Among a dozen injured jawans, three sustained severe injuries. They were airlifted to Ranchi for treatment at Apollo Hospital. The BSF personnel were returning after patrolling. A helicopter has flown to the spot for rescue operation. After the landmine blast, Maoists opened fire on the bus, triggering a gun battle between them and the BSF jawans.

\*\*\* A BSF jawan was killed and three others injured when naxals detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) in Latehar district of Jharkhand on April 16.

The BSF personnel were returning to the district headquarters at Latehar, 125 kms from Ranchi, with electronic voting machines when the incident took place on April 16 evening. The incident occurred when a BSF patrolling party was escorting polling personnel from the Kone village to Latehar town and then further to the polling control room in Palamu.

---

As the jawans reached a secluded area close to Kone village, the guerrillas triggered the explosion, killed one jawan on the spot and injured three others. The polling personnel carrying EVM machines escaped miraculously. Soon after the explosion, a pitched gun battle ensued between the Maoists and the BSF jawans, which continued for the next three hours. Later on, the guerrillas retreated deeper into the forests.

As reports of the explosion spread, polling personnel blocked the National Highway 75 connecting Ranchi to Daltonganj and Palamu, protesting against the EC and administration's failure to provide enough security cover to them. The agitation continued for nearly two hours and the blockade was lifted after the polling personnel were assured of better security.

\*\*\* Five poll officials and two CRPF personnel were killed when Maoists triggered nearly a dozen blasts and snatched nine EVMs in Bastar area and Rajnandgaon district during polling on April 16 in Chhattisgarh for the first phase of Lok Sabha polls. In what was a case of mistaken identity, Maoists blew up a van ferrying poll officials by triggering a mine blast in Rajnandgaon district. They immediately issued a statement apologizing for the mistake and offering condolences to the families of the dead.

Zonal officer AK Acharya was among five poll officials killed and two others were injured in the explosion at Phulwera village. Maoists attacked several polling stations in Bastar region, including Marocci where two CRPF jawans were killed and five others injured. The guerrillas had also attacked polling stations in Nernar, Sonapal and Karmari areas of Narainpur district, and Karmari in Dantewada district. However, no casualties were reported.

\*\*\* On April 16, some JD(U) leaders were injured in a landmine blast triggered by Maoists in Narganjo-Ghodaparan jungle on Jhajha-Samaltala highway falling under Jhajha Assembly constituency. The Bolero vehicle in which the JD(U) leaders were traveling was blown up but the leaders managed to escape with minor injuries. The district president of JD(U) and two other JD(U) cadre were injured in the blast which occurred in the evening after the polls concluded.



### ***Maoist ambush in Latehar wipes out three CRPF men***

On April 15 Maoist guerillas triggered a landmine to blow up a bus carrying ration meant for central paramilitary forces on poll duty in Latehar district killing two CRPF men and at least six others.

The blast occurred at 6.15am, 24 hours before the first phase of voting on April 16, as the private bus carrying luggage and ration of a CRPF company was going up a hilly terrain on the Barwadih-Mandal road passing through Barhaniya forests in Latehar, around 200 km from the state capital.

Aware that the area could be booby-trapped, the other jawans, around 100 of them, were on foot. They were on way to Lat, 20km from their camp at Barwadih Middle School. From Lat, they were to disperse to various booths in Chatra.

Soon after the blast, the guerrillas resorted to firing on the CRPF jawans. The guerrillas were at an advantage as they were on higher ground. *"But we were fortunate to find some walls which we used to guard ourselves and fire on the Naxalites,"* said



---

a jawan. *"Otherwise we would have suffered more casualties. They were almost equal in number."*

Eight CRPF men were injured and all were airlifted to Ranchi's Apollo Hospital. Among them, Mahipal Singh, a sub-inspector, died on way.

When CRPF jawans claimed that at least five Naxalites had been killed in the encounter, DIG (Palamau) Nandu Prasad repeated it. But later, following massive protests from the people and the Maoists, Zonal IG Dumdum admitted that the dead were villagers. After this admission by IG the government was compelled to transfer DIG Nandu Prasad and file cases against the CRPF personnel for killing the villagers.

Those who were murdered by the CRPF were Sanjay Bodra (20), Supay Bodra (45), Budhan Bodra (40), Massey Bodra (16) and Pitai Mundu (35). They were peasants and labourers in the village. *"CRPF personnel dragged them out of a nearby trench where they were hiding while the encounter was going on and killed them in a fit of rage,"* said Supas Bodra, father of Massey.

### **Maoists blow up poll party jeep, five killed**

In the second phase of polling to the Lok Sabha elections on April 23 Maoist guerrillas triggered a landmine blast in North Bihar wiping out five policemen, including a sub-inspector, two homeguard jawans, a district armed police (DAP) constable and a civilian. The ambush took place near Karpoori Chowk in Mohabbatpur village under Deoria police station of Muzaffarpur district on 23<sup>rd</sup> evening. One civilian driver also sustained serious injuries in the blast. The place of occurrence falls under Vaishali parliamentary constituency.

The incident occurred when the police and poll personnel were returning by a jeep through the remote Naxal-infested area to deposit EVMs and other poll related documents in the strong room of Vaishali parliamentary constituency around 7.30 pm.

The Maoists had placed landmines at the edge of a culvert knowing fully well that the polling party would return only through this route. According to police sources, the polling party was about to cross the culvert when a huge blast occurred, killing the five persons on the spot. While the jeep was blown to pieces, rifles of the homeguard jawans and DAP also got damaged in the process.

### **District magistrate escapes Maoist attack in East Champaran**

**23 Apr 2009, PTI**

NEW DELHI: A poll party which included a district magistrate had a narrow escape when Maoists triggered an IED blast in East Champaran district of Bihar. The IED blast was triggered in Barthua village of the district when the poll party was enroute its booth.

*"Our 153 Battalion was accompanying the party when this incident took place. Some people have got minor injuries,"* a CRPF official said here.

In a similar incident, an executive magistrate and a polling official were injured on April 23<sup>rd</sup> morning when Maoists attacked their vehicle in Giridih district of Jharkhand where elections were being held in eight Lok Sabha seats in the second phase. Their vehicle was partially damaged in the explosion. In another incident, Maoists damaged Dumri-Giridih road near Jilebiya Ghati under Pirtand police station in early wee hours.

---

## Massive protests by Maoists against the murder of five villagers by the police in Latehar



The dead bodies of the villagers in their retaliatory fire.

On April 15, after guerrillas belonging to CPI (Maoist) triggered a landmine blast in Barhania forest in Latehar killing two CRPF personnel, the CRPF went on a killing spree. They arrested five villagers in Barhania village in Barwa Dih block in Latehar district and murdered them in cold blood. DIG of CRPF Alok Raj claimed that his men had heroically fought and killed five Maoist guerrillas in their retaliatory fire. Those killed in the firing were five tribals, who had no crime record.

Following the fake encounter the CPI(Maoist) organized massive protests throughout the state demanding a judicial enquiry and punishment to the officials involved in the murder and compensation to those killed by the police. It was as part of these protests that a passenger train bound for Mughal Sarai was held up for a few hours by more than 500 people organized by the Maoists at Hehegarha station on April 22.

A 24-hour bandh was observed in Bihar and Jharkhand on April 22. The Maoists triggered a blast at Utari-road railway station in Palamau on April 22 as part of the Jharkhand-Bihar bandh. They also bombed a block development office in Aurangabad district on April 22 and set ablaze eight trucks in neighbouring Gaya during the bandh. In Palamau, Latehar and Garhwa districts the bandh was observed for three days from 22-24 April.

Hundreds of naxalites descended on the office of the block development officer in Aurangabad district and blasted his chamber and adjacent conference hall around 3 am, Additional Director General of Police (HQ) Neelmani told *PTI*.

Nobody was present at the time of the incident. In another operation, the naxalites intercepted eight trucks on the Grand Trunk Road (national highway two) in Barachatti police station limits around 1.30 am and set them on fire. The bandh was called to protest the Latehar killings of five Maoists by the CRPF.



On April 29, the Governor of Jharkhand, Syed Sibtey Razi entrusted Palamau commissioner A.K. Pandey to conduct a magisterial enquiry into the April 15 encounter. Three top police officials—deputy inspector-general of police (Palamau range) Nandu Prasad, Latehar deputy commissioner Sarwendu Tathagat and superintendent of police Hemant Toppo—were removed from their posts and transferred elsewhere.

Earlier, Inspector-general of police Rezi Dungdung, tried to rule out a fake encounter as causing the death of the five villagers in Barhania. However, he was compelled to admit that they were not Maoists but tried to describe their deaths as resulting from landmine explosions by the Maoists. *"They weren't Naxalites. Nor did they have any rebel links. The extremists forced them to accompany them at 5.30 am to trigger the landmines,"* he said. He said there was no reason to doubt the post-mortem report which claimed that four of the villagers were killed in a landmine blast while one sustained bullet injuries from a distance.

The Palamu Commissioner AK Pandey along with his subordinates - a block development officer and secretary to the Commissioner began the inquiry on May 2. He recorded the statements of the family members of the five tribals who were killed by CRPF jawans after two of their colleagues were killed in a landmine blast triggered by the Maoists. AK Pandey was asked to complete the probe and submit the report within a week.

Members of the *Barhania Hatya Karan Virodhi Sangarsh Morcha*, an organisation formed after the killing of the villagers, staged a demonstration when the Commissioner toured Barhania village. They also handed over a memorandum to the Commissioner demanding compensation and government jobs to the kin of the deceased. Villagers who met Pandey said that on April 15 at around 6.30 in the morning they heard a big explosion in nearby forest and later sounds of firing. When the firing stopped two CRPF jawans came to the village and picked up five villagers who were working in their homes. Later within five minutes the five were shot dead by the CRPF. But the dead bodies were handed over to their families only after three days. Overall, it has been an achievement for the people's forces since it was perhaps the first time in years that the police officials had to admit that there was an fake encounter and top officials were removed on account of fake encounter.



BDO Office blown up in Dev Thana, Aurangabad



The Utari Road railway station building in Palamau district of Jharkhand that was blown up by the Maoists on April 22.



Barahania incident



During Bundh on April 21, 2009



Polling shifted to fields in Patanda near Jamshedpur after an attack by Maoists on polling centre

---

## Maoist guerrillas attack BSF camp in Rohtas

In the early hours of April 15, one day preceding the first phase of Lok Sabha elections, Maoist guerrillas attacked a BSF camp located in Kaimur range in Rohtas district. Guerrillas had surrounded a government school at a village in Dhansa valley where a company of BSF jawans was being put up to provide security to 30 polling booths in Chainpur and Chenari segments of Sasaram Lok Sabha constituency, where the CPI(Maoist) had called for a poll boycott.

Around 1am on April 15, the guerrillas fired grenades at the school partly razing it to the ground. The village (in which the school is located) is 20km south of Sasaram-Rohtas district headquarters and is bordered by Palamau (Jharkhand) on one side and Uttar Pradesh on the other.

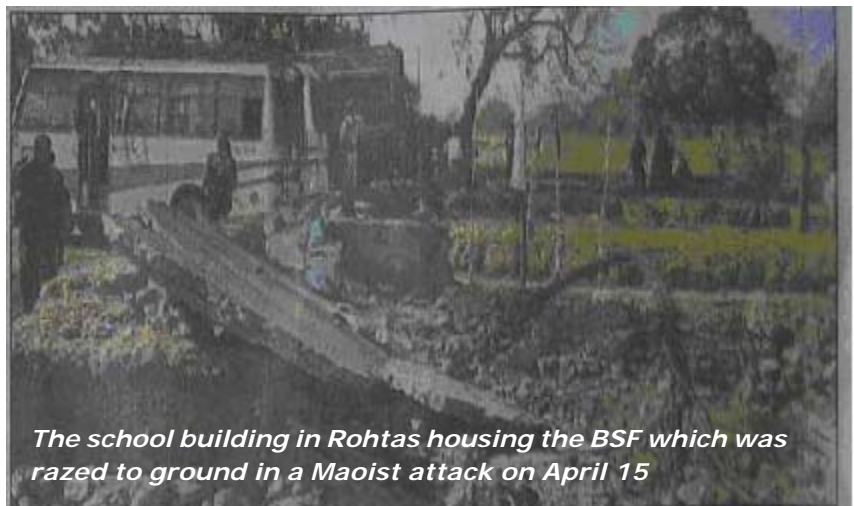


The BSF claimed they had shot dead 10 guerrillas but they could not recover the dead bodies as they were carried away by the Maoists. This routine story of Maoists having died in retaliatory fire but no bodies having been recovered has become so stale that there is hardly anybody who believes it. Yet our police top brass keep on repeating it.

*"The aim of the Maoists, besides damaging the BSF position, was to loot arms and ammunition and to derail the poll process as Sasaram goes to poll on April 16. It appears that during their retreat, the Maoists took away the injured and bodies of the dead colleagues,"* the BSF said here in a statement.

Firstly, if the dead bodies were not found how the police top brass could be sure that some Maoists (even going as far as specifying the number of casualties as 10) had died in the BSF fire? If the Maoists could carry ten dead colleagues and several more injured ones along with their heavy weapons then could they retreat so speedily that the BSF was unable to pursue them? Why didn't the BSF recover any weapons of the dead and injured Maoists after the battle was over? Would it have been possible for the Maoists to have carried all the weapons of their colleagues besides carrying their bodies? Our police brains could not even think how their crude story can really convince the people. Can such lies, which are easily perceived as lies, boost the sagging morale of the BSF men?

Another lie floated was that the Maoist guerrillas had used rocket launchers on a school housing the BSF men. It is reported that the fierce gun battle took place between 75 BSF jawans and 300-odd Naxalite guerrillas armed to the core with sophisticated weapons, including rocket launchers. The truth is the weapons in the hands of the BSF are definitely more sophisticated but what mattered here is the speed and courage with which the Maoist guerrillas launched the attack. It has become usual for the police to defend their losses by pointing to the superiority of numbers of the Maoist guerrillas and sophistication of weapons in the hands of the Maoists, both of which are not true. In fact, rocket launchers were not used by



---

the guerrillas as claimed by the police and widely publicized in the media. From reports gathered from the guerrillas who had participated in the attack, it appears that a mortar shell fired by the BSF personnel themselves had fallen on the school building which they were using.

While this was the fact, Rohtas superintendent of police Vikas Vaibhav said that this was the first report of rebels using rocket launchers. *"They (rebels) launched thrice and one hit the target."*

The BSF jawans continued to fire throughout the night even after the Maoists had withdrawn from the scene. This was described as a fierce gun-battle that had lasted four hours. *"The rebels were unable to match BSF's fire power and were demoralised after they lost 10 men,"* claimed another BSF official.

Inspector-general of police (Patna) Sunil Kumar, who was in the attack zone, said: "We have launched a combing operation and remain determined to carry out our duty."

The administration will be using an air force plane for aerial surveillance of the first phase of polling tomorrow.

Police sources said the area around the school is often referred to as a cluster camp (in police parlance) meaning a rebel den. The rebels also conduct training in several camps that have been set up on the Kaimur range. A week ago, BSF jawans had found out and demolished two such camps.

Deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi has demanded more paramilitary forces in red zones, while RJD chief Lalu Prasad took the opportunity to attack the government for its failure to check Naxalism.

## **Maoists attack CRPF camp, bomb railway station in Jharkhand**

Maoist rebels attacked a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp and blew up a railway station in Jharkhand a few hours before the second phase parliamentary poll began on April 23, police said.



In West Singhbhum district, Maoist rebels attacked a CRPF camp early on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The guerrillas blew up the Chiyanki railway station in Palamau district late on Wednesday. They also bombed the outer cabin of the railway station. Police said the Maoist rebels also triggered an

explosion on the road between Giridih and Dumri and cut trees to block it early on Thursday.

The second phase of polling was underway in eight Lok Sabha constituencies on Thursday. Of the eight, six seats are in Maoist affected areas.

In first phase of polling April 16, nine people, including six Border Security Force (BSF) personnel, were killed in Maoist violence Jharkhand.

---

## Maoists attack CRPF camp in Rourkela

Maoist guerrillas attacked a CRPF base camp at Mahupada near Banki PS about 40 km from Rourkela in the wee hours of April 17. The guerrillas attacked the camp of the paramilitary force from two sides. There was a heavy exchange of fire from both the sides, which lasted for more than one hour. There were no reported cases of injury or fatality in the action on either side.

## 7 policemen wiped out in Dantewada on May 6

Seven policemen including an SI and jawan of CRPF were wiped out by Maoist guerillas near Vinjaram base camp in Dantewada district of Chattisgarh. Five of them were Special Police Officers (SPOs). Another three SPOs were injured in the ambush.

The police batch had gone on a tractor trolley from Vinjaram base camp near Konta to Bejji PS which is 20 km away to deliver rations. After delivering the rations they were returning to Vinjaram when their tractor was hit by a landmine triggered by Maoist guerrillas 3 km before Vinjaram. Guerrillas seized five rifles and ammunition from the dead policemen. As a general rule, the CRPF and policemen avoid using vehicles in the areas of Maoist influence. On May 6 too they had walked for 15 km but as they were too tired boarded the tractor when they were just 5 km from their base camp.

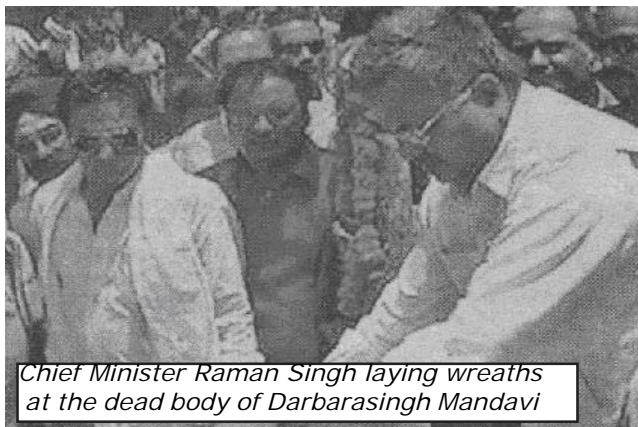
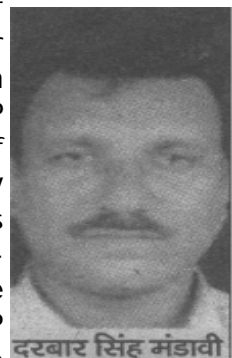
## Two CRPF jawans injured in blast in Dantewada

Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were injured in a landmine explosion in the Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh on May 2.

They were travelling from Palner village towards Kuwangkoda in Dantewada district in a police convoy when their vehicle was hit by a landmine blast injuring two jawans. Maoist guerrillas also fired on the CRPF team.

## BJP Leader Darbara Singh Mandavi annihilated in Rajnandgaon

On May 5, Maoist guerrillas annihilated a BJP leader Darbar Singh Madavi in Manpur in Rajnandgaon district of Chattisgarh. Mandavi was the sarpanch of Aundh and a candidate of BJP in the last Assembly election. Earlier he tried to get two of our comrades arrested by passing on information to police but luckily they managed to escape. Raman Singh's BJP government has made Mandavi the saffron brigade's incharge of Mohala-Manpur area and had given him BJP ticket in the Assembly election in last November. Raman Singh even used to take him in his helicopter for touring other areas for election campaign. In Mohala-Manpur and Ambagadh Chowki areas, Mandavi has been in the forefront in the brutal suppression campaign unleashed by BJP government against the Maoist movement.



Chief Minister Raman Singh laying wreaths at the dead body of Darbarasingh Mandavi

After being re-elected to power in Chattisgarh Raman Singh government has further stepped up its campaign of terror, mass murders, rapes, tortures and destruction of the property of the adivasis who are associated with the revolutionary movement in whatever manner. It carried out massacres in Singaram and Minkapalli, murder of adivasis in Hulghat, and atrocities in

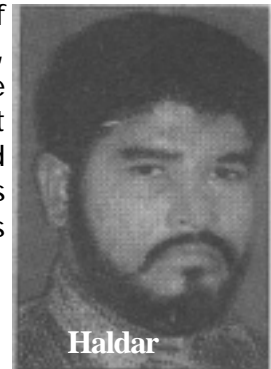
---

several villages. And Mandavi directed many attacks against the people in his area. In Halepal village near Darbara's village of Aundhi, the Maharashtra-Chattisgarh police raided the houses of several youth, beat up people brutally and gang-raped adivasi women on March 23. The police personnel camping in Sithagaon raped some women of the village all of which happened with the blessings of Darbara.

Hence the PLGA guerrillas carried out the annihilation of this saffron gangster in accordance with the demand of the people of the area.

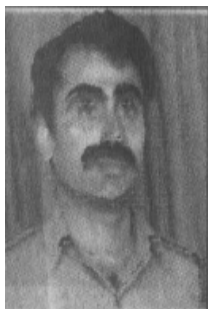
### **Guerrillas annihilate notorious goonda and BJP leader in Pakhanjur-Kapsi area**

Narayan Haldar, a notorious goonda and BJP leader of Koelbeda block, was annihilated by PLGA guerrillas on May 3. He was not only a leader of the saffron brigade in koelbeda but was also notorious for innumerable crimes against the people such as murder of innocent youth, rape of women, looting of people's hard-earned income in job rackets, and misappropriation of people's funds. He was a close associate of forest minister, Vikram Usendi. His vehicle was stopped by Maoist guerrillas when he was proceeding to Kapsi from his village and was shot dead. So overjoyed were people upon hearing the news of his annihilation that sweets were distributed in several villages in the area.



### **Police Inspector annihilated in Farasgaon**

On May 7, guerrillas annihilated Abdul Wahid Khan, a Police Inspector of Farasgaon, some 20 km from the district HQ of Narayanpur, when he went to the weekly market. The daring attack which took place in the centre of the market and a few yards from the CRPF camp created panic among the police personnel of Farasgaon while enthused the masses in and around the police station area.



### **Two SPOs annihilated in Bijapur**

On May 9, Maoists annihilated two SPOs and two police informers in Farsegadh in Bijapur district. After carrying out the punishments to the enemies, guerrillas also set fire to six vehicles.

### **Farsegadh PS attacked**

One hour after the annihilation of the SPOs and police agents on May 9, Maoists made a daring attack on Farsegadh PS in Bijapur district. The exchange of fire took place for several hours. 16 policemen were said to have gone missing after the attack.

### **Encounter in Narayanpur**

On May 10, a fierce encounter took place in Sitapur in Narayanpur district between the CRPF-police combine and Maoists leading to the death of one guerrilla according to media reports. However, the facts related to the encounter and the identity of the martyr are yet to be confirmed.



---

## **Koraput—Villagers condemn killing by CRPF, demand compensation**

People from various villages adjacent to NALCO mines in Koraput district submitted a memorandum to the District Collector on April 22 condemning the action by CRPF jawans in their villages.

Singari Huika, wife of Katru Huika from Tolometing village of Goudoguda panchayat in Laxmipur block, leading the delegation, alleged that her husband was killed by CRPF mistaking him to be a naxalite on April 13, the day after the naxals attacked NALCO mines and CISF magazine house at Damanjodi. Survived by two little children, she further said that they were merely a farmer's family and had no connection with naxalism or the group.

Katru Huika, while returning to his house in the village along with his friend Kandru Miniaka on the fateful day was shot dead by the CRPF personnel. The villagers further charged the forces with allegedly taking away livestock apart from looting the houses of Sanu Kimrika Bhami Himrika of the village.

The villagers, while seeking compensation for the loss of the prime bread winner of Singari Huika's family also asked the district administration to release Jagno Sirika, Chituru Sirika, Ananda Sirika and Labo Miniyaka of the village from the police custody who were lifted from the village on the following day of killing Katru Huika. These youth had not returned home even after eight days, they said.

Further, the excessive presence of forces in the mines region has affected the normal life of more than 50 villages in Dumuripadar, Litiguda, Bhitargada, Goudagauda, Bija Ghati, Tentulipadar, Tayaput and Kakirigumma panchayats of Koraput, Laxmipur and Narayanpatna blocks, Damodar Jani, president, Koraput unit of Orissa Adivasi Manch, said.

### **Naxals claim responsibility for attack on NALCO**

Andhra Orissa Border Special Zone Committee (AOBZC) of the CPI(Maoist) claimed responsibility of the recent attack on NALCO at Damanjodi. In a letter to the local journalists, the spokesperson of the committee has clarified that they had attacked the mines for two reasons. While they needed arms and explosives, the attack was also aimed at protesting the lack of proper peripheral development by the company.

### **CPI (Maoist) justifies the annihilation of two notorious elements in Malkangiri**

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.

### **Malkangiri—Maoists apologise for attack on election officials**

The CPI(Maoist) through a letter to Malkangiri District Collector Nitin Bhanudas Jawale has apologised for attacking government officials on election duty during the first phase of election held in the district on April 16.



---

Along with the apology, the Maoists returned the mobile phones and cash which were seized from the polling officials by their cadres. Repolling is to be held in 17 booths of Malkangiri district on May 3. Polling had been disrupted at these booths due to the call of Maoists who had instructed the election officials to return.

The letter was written by the secretary of the Malkangiri Divisional Committee of CPI(Maoist). As per the letter the violent acts targeting the polling officials were done by the ignorant activists of their frontal organisations. The letter claimed that Maoists did not consider government officials or teachers who were put on election duty their enemies. The Maoist leader apologized for the incidents. The letter also added that the incidents of attack of polling personnel at three booths at Poteru, Tagarkota and Manamkonda would not be repeated.

The Maoists sent back Rs. 6,954, four mobile phones and a mobile phone charger along with the letter. These materials had been seized from the polling personnel. The Maoists handed over their letter and other materials to a teacher posted in remote area of Kalimela block. The teacher passed on these materials to the Kalimela Block Development Officer (BDO), D. Nayak. The BDO handed over the packet sent by naxals to the District Collector.

Through the letter the Maoist leader had also sought the cooperation of government officials and teachers to fight corruption and injustice.

### **Two BSF jawans injured in Maoist attack in Purulia**

Two jawans of the central forces were injured at Biramdih polling booth in Purulia district in West Bengal when Maoist guerrillas triggered a landmine blast during the third phase of polling for the Lok Sabha elections on April 30. The blast took place at around 7.50 in the morning when the para-military force was patrolling the area. Polling was suspended at the Biram Dih booth following the blast.

### **Two CPM leaders shot dead near Purulia**

24 Apr 2009, PTI

PURULIA: Maoists shot dead two local CPM leaders at Supurdih village in Balarampur area, about 40 from here, on April 23<sup>rd</sup> night.

Bibhuti Singh Sardar and Baikuntha Mahato who were returning from a fair at around 11 pm were shot at from close range by guerrillas who came on motorcycles. Both of them died on the spot. The Maoists raised slogans in after killing the two.

### **Land-mine blasts in West Bengal**

Serial blasts ripped through the Jangalmahal area spread over West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia, before and after the Lok Sabha elections on April 30, killing two poll officials and their driver.

The first landmine blast of the day, at Biramdihi in Purulia, came as early as 8.30 am. The last one at Khusibani forest near Jamboni happened around 6.45 pm.

A Mahindra-Max carrying officials from the polling booths in Belpahari was returning to Jhargram Raj College when it was blown up on the main road while passing by Khusibani forest, 22 km from Jhargram. The jeep was way behind the motorcade, escorted by a police van in front. The blast occurred seconds after the police escort and other cars passed over.

The police officers were taken aback at the huge blast behind them and informed their superiors. However, they did not wait for the victims as is the rule in this zone.

---

Later, a convoy with paramilitary forces reached the spot and identified the two poll officials killed as Prasad Ranjan Banerjee and Saugata Karmakar and the driver as Sanjay Das.

## **General strike by Maoists causes shortages of power supply**

The general strike called by CPI (Maoist) is the principal reason for the acute shortage of power in the state according to the chairman of the Jharkhand Electricity Board, HB Lal. He said that coal could not be transported to various thermal power plants in the state due to the strikes called by Maoists. Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited (TVNL) had to shut down a major part of its production due to shortage of coal supply. While it was earlier producing 380 MW of power now production has come down to 160 MW due to coal shortage.

TVNL has been unable to produce electricity due to the closing of its single unit due to the shortage of coal. Every day, about 300 trucks were used to transport coals for the thermal plant, which requires about 6500 MT to produce electricity.

District administration of various districts has seized trucks, which were used to transport coal from the mining heads to the plants. The coal is mainly transported from the Central Coal Limited (CCL)'s collieries situated in Hazaribagh-Ramgarh-Dhanbad zone.

TVNL is the main source of electricity in Jharkhand. The JSEB gets electricity from the TVNL. There was proposed planned capacity of 1550 MW was envisaged to be completed in three stages. The two units of 210 MW each, which were operational and generating power on an average of 110 MW per months. The three units of 210 MW each under expansion plan under stage II. However, one unit of 500 MW will be taken up after completion of stage II.

On April 14th, the TVNL had a coal reserve of 3000 MT. The transportation of coal was affected due to the Maoist's sponsored bandh in Jharkhand. There was production of 150 MW from single unit of TVNL as other unit was closed due to the shortage of coal. TVNL sources said that the proposed State-level bandh of the CPI- Maoists on April 16 to boycott the poll will affect the transportation of coal in the Naxal-infested districts. "So far the TVNL is able to produce 150 MW of electricity instead of 400-420 MW," an official said.

## **Tribals tie policemen, chase away rescue team**

Around 25 tribals with bows and arrows snatched the firearms of four policemen and tied them up in a West Midnapore village on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The tribals released the cops around midnight after an assurance from the police that they would not enter the area. Earlier, when a team went to rescue assistant sub-inspector Asoke Kumar Kora and three constables, they were chased away.

The police said Maoists were involved in the incident but a tribal outfit that started the resistance in Lalgah, 8km from today's trouble spot, justified the confinement.

Priya Tudu of the Bharat Jakat Majhi Marwa said: *"We are boycotting the police in the village. The police knew they should not enter the area after 5pm. We did not misbehave with them, just took away their revolvers. We also chased away a reinforcement team as the person leading it threatened to shoot at us."*

Police sources said that around 6.30pm when the four policemen reached Sirshi in Binpur block on motorcycles, the villagers surrounded them and told them they should not have come. The villagers took away the revolvers and tied the cops up with ropes.

---

When their colleagues in Binpur police station, 15km away, came to know, a rescue team of 25 was rushed there. But the villagers, now numbering over 500, chased them away, a police officer said.

## **Dandakaranya Bandh on May 20 & 21 to protest against police atrocities and for the release of political prisoners**

The fascist Raman Singh government in Chattisgarh has unleashed a brutal state terrorist onslaught against the adivasi population of Dandakaranya and the Maoist revolutionaries. With the least regard for the Indian Constitution and the fundamental rights of the people it has snatched away the right to live for the adivasi people living in the guerrilla zone and has been carrying out massacres as in Singaram and Minkapalli and murders of innocent adivasis in several parts of the state. It has also thrown hundreds of innocent adivasi youth and Maoist revolutionaries and sympathizers of the revolutionary movement in jails holding them without trial for years. Besides state terrorism, the BJP government in the state with the active assistance of the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre, has been continuing the state-sponsored terrorist campaign called *salwa judum* since June 2005 displacing thousands of people, murdering several hundreds, raping women and destroying the property of the adivasi peasants.

In this background, the special zonal committee of Dandakaranya has given a call to the people of the entire zone to observe *bandh* on May 20 & 21 and has placed the following demands:

- \* *Punish the culprits—leaders, police and SPOs—responsible for the mass murders in Singaram and Minakapalli!*
- \* *Stop the cruel murders of adivasis in the name of encounters!*
- \* *Release all revolutionaries and innocent adivasis from jails unconditionally!*

**MIB** calls upon the people all over the country to condemn the indescribable atrocities being committed by the state and central governments on the Maoist revolutionaries and innocent adivasis in Dandakaranya and to extend all support to the struggle of the people of Dandakaranya for land, livelihood and liberation.

**20-21 मई को दण्डकारण्य बन्द सफल करो!**

- ★ **सिंगारम व मिनकापल्ली नरसंहारों के लिए जिम्मेदार नेता-पुलिस-एसपीओ को सजा दो!**
- ★ **मुठभेड़ के नाम से जारी आदिवासियों की निर्मम हत्याओं का विरोध करो!**
- ★ **जेलों में बन्द तमाम क्रांतिकारियों व निर्दोष आदिवासियों को बिना शर्त रिहा करो!**

**उत्तर बस्तर डिवीजनल कमेटी - भाकपा (माओवादी)**

---

## News from the counter-revolutionary camp

### 4 Crore to be spent on NALCO's security

After the daring attack by the Maoist guerrillas on the NALCO armoury and CISF camp in Damanjodi in Koraput district in Orissa on April 12, the government has come out with a plan of 4 crore rupees to strengthen the security to the largest bauxite mines in South Asia. The Union Home ministry and Ministry of Mines had directed the NALCO management to provide funds for ensuring greater security to the establishment and safety of the security forces and the employees of the mines. There was widespread criticism of the management for its neglect in establishing a strong security system and provision of safety to the employees and the security personnel deployed at NALCO. In the April 12 attack by Maoist guerrillas 11 CISF personnel were wiped out and 16 arms were seized.

### Poll in Maoist sights, IAF sends choppers

SUJAN DUTTA

**New Delhi, April 15:** The Indian Air Force's helicopter squadrons in central and eastern India have been alerted for internal security duties.

The IAF will be deployed for counter-Naxalite operations during the elections, Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major said here today.

Helicopters of the IAF were used to deploy troops and for evacuation of casualties both in Bihar and Orissa where Maoist rebels raided a Border Security Force camp and laid siege to the explosives depot of a National Aluminium Corporation mine over the last two days.



*"We have a role to play in such kind of conflict,"* Air Chief Marshal Major said. *"Whether it is in Jammu and Kashmir, in the Northeast or against the Naxalites. Yes, we are involved,"* he added.

In Bihar today, the IAF deployed at least one Mi-17 helicopter to reinforce the BSF company on duty that was attacked by the rebels and to evacuate an injured soldier.

In Orissa, the air force flew in reinforcements to Damanjodi near Asia's largest bauxite mine about 600km from Bhubaneswar to foil a Maoist raid on the magazine of explosives on April 12.

This is a step short of using air power for offensive operations. But it is cutting a fine line on the central policy of not using the military in counter-Naxalite operations other than for training state police forces.

Indian armed forces have rarely used helicopter gunships to fire at rebels to quell insurgencies in internal security operations. The IAF is currently headed by a helicopter gunship pilot.

*"Look, whenever the MHA (ministry of home affairs) asks us, we are there to play our role,"* the air chief marshal said, explaining that his force was acting only in aid to the civilian authority.

---

The use of military force against Naxalites in Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Bengal or Jharkhand is vastly different from that in Jammu and Kashmir or the Northeast. In the Naxalite regions, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act is not in force and neither is a Unified Command of the civil and military authorities in place.

The armed forces monitor and observe Naxalite activity but have expressed no willingness or urge to be deployed in countering them. The army's central command has carried out studies on the Communist Party of India (Maoist) that has given a poll boycott call.

### **IAF chopper, CRPF to guard naxal-hit Madhya Pradesh district**

Bhopal: In the wake of the naxal violence in the first phase of polls in the country, an Indian Air Force chopper and 10 companies of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will be deployed in the naxals' terror-hit Balaghat district of eastern Madhya Pradesh, which goes to polls on April 23.

"The IAF helicopter has already arrived in Bhopal and is likely to reach Balaghat by evening, Inspector General of Police (in charge of naxal affected areas) Muniraju said.

Helipads have already been made available in sensitive areas for aerial surveillance in Balaghat, situated close to the border of Rajnandgaon district in Chhattisgarh and Gondia districts in Maharashtra, the IG added.

The 10 companies of the CRPF are in Balaghat and these companies will be deployed at booth level in a day or two, he said, adding that each company comprises 75-80 personnel.

Apart from the CRPF, five companies of the Madhya Pradesh's Special Armed Force (SAF) have arrived in Balaghat, he added.

Mr. Muniraju said that security has been beefed up in the entire Balaghat, adding that vigil was being kept in the areas close to Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. — **PTI**

**NAXALITE ATTACKS**

- **Bihar:** Maoists fire rocket-launchers at a school housing BSF jawans on poll duty in Rohtas. Ten rebels killed as jawans retaliate
- **Jharkhand:** Landmine blows up bus carrying ration for poll security force in Latehar. Gunfight follows. Eight, including five Maoists, killed
- **Orissa:** Roads blocked with trees in Koraput and Malkangiri by Maoists for a bandh on Thursday to enforce poll boycott call

### **"Maoists move from ambush to ambush, state caught napping"**

*In a provocative news item entitled "Maoists move from ambush to ambush, state caught napping", **The Pioneer** decries the lack of unity and a collective approach among the various political parties on the Naxal Issue. The following is extracted from the rabidly anti-people counter-revolutionary newspaper.*

Four days before the first phase of election, Maoists gave a call for the bandh. The impact of the call was so strong that candidates remained in homes; and even if they dared that was not beyond their safe areas — the urban locales.

It was not a peaceful election in the ledger of the Election Commission and the State Government, and for reporters, filing stories from deadliest dates-line — Latehar and such others — amid the piles of hidden explosives, it was 'thanks haven they got a break from the bloody beat.'

But major part of the responsibility lies upon political parties and leaders who failed to unite over this issue and never thought to counter Maoists on socio-political platform as was experimented by Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh Governments in the form of Salva Judum and antiMaoist drive.

---

In the past, Jharkhand Government held two such close door meetings to solve the Maoist problem during the regime of Marandi and Munda, former Assembly Speaker Indersingh Namdhari had told The Pioneer. But that too remained an academic exercise. Initiatives were taken by the State Government after the State was brought under the President's Rule.

## **Top police official suspended for misappropriation of funds in the recruitment into anti-Naxal COBRA battalion**

Pushkar Singh, an IG of CRPF, was arrested by CBI after his involvement in a massive scandal in recruitment to the specially-constituted anti-Naxal commando force—COBRA—was exposed. Another seven officials were also arrested. Bihar range IG, Pushkar Singh, was arrested from Patna while Commandant Yajbinder Singh and suspended constable, Mukesh Kumar, were picked up from Jharkhand. About Rs 38 lakh was seized from Pushkar Singh in cash and fixed deposits.

It is found that the network of these fraudster IPS officers extended into five states through *dalals* (agents). Mukesh Kumar was the chief dalal for Pushkar Singh. The dalals used to contact the aspirants who wish to join the COBRA force and take huge amounts as bribes. For the post of constable the rate charged was anywhere between Rs. 2-3 lakhs. On similar charges, the CBI had also arrested a DIG, a Head Constable, and another dala from Lucknow in February last.

According to newspaper reports, the COBRA scandal was said to have come to light when the former DG of CRPF, VK Joshi, had alerted the CBI that some such thing might be going on and asked it to keep a watch. From then on CBI had kept a watch on these officers.

The scandal related to recruitment into COBRA is only the tip of the ice-berg. The entire police force and bureaucracy is immersed in corruption. In recruitment to every central security force or police force in states, rates are fixed for constables and officers at every level. Scandals abound in every aspect from purchase of weapons and other requirements to the sale of abandoned materials. That is why one finds the assets in the possession of the top police officials to be hundreds of times more than their official incomes. Ant-Naxalism and anti-terrorism also provide juicy and lucrative avenues for amassing illegal wealth. Hence the police brass always blow it out of proportion, get thousands of crores of rupees sanctioned for their departments with the ostensible aim of curbing Naxalism and terrorism, and pocket the major chunk of these funds through several ingenious ways. By now the inside story of several so-called encounter specialists has become publicly exposed. Every repressive wing of the state apparatus thrives on insecurity and fear among the population at large. Hence the unending hue and cry about terrorism and Naxalism.

As more COBRAS and Greyhounds are formed the more will these beasts swallow the people's money and fatten at their expense.

## **American delegation visits Chattisgarh to advise on countering Maoist movement**

The visit to Chattisgarh by a delegation sent by the American imperialists in the first week of May 2009 shows the hideous plans of the imperialists and their compradors in India guided by their twin aim of suppressing the revolutionary movement and looting the natural wealth of our country.

It has become clear to the imperialists that the Maoists in India are growing rapidly and are emerging as an alternative to the rotten parliamentary mainstream and that a growing proportion of the population is gradually drawing towards the revolution.

---

The imperialists and reactionaries know that the worldwide economic crisis with its serious fall-out in countries like India serves as a fertile basis for the resurgence of the revolutionary movements and strengthening of Maoist parties as well as birth of new Maoist parties. Hence they are hatching plans to nip these in the bud. The visit by the three-member delegation from the US to Chattisgarh should be seen in this light.

The delegation led by Counsul-General situated in Mumbai Consulate office, Paul Fomes B, and Michelle Nubil and accompanied by their advisor, Arundhati Mundle, visited Chattisgarh on May 5 to discuss two things: one, on the ways and means to deal with the Maoist movement; and two, the potential for imperialist investments in the region. Besides the Chief Minister, the delegation also met several ministers and bureaucrats as well as the opposition Congress leaders.



The state of Chattisgarh is known for its rich mineral wealth and the Tatas, Mittals, Ruias, and others are eyeing its wealth since long. US imperialism, caught up in the most severe crisis in its history, is trying to shift the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the people of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The visit to Chattisgarh is part of this plan. Since it is the Maoists who pose the real threat to the imperialist-comprador exploitation of the region, naturally suppression of

Maoist movement becomes the top item in their Agenda. It is reported that the delegation had separate discussions with both the BJP and Congress leaders on the question of Naxalism, and the means of suppressing it.

The American imperialists are itching to interfere in the affairs of India and render all aid and advise to the rulers for suppressing the Maoists. What transpired in the secret parleys between the two sides is anybody's guess. Maoism has become a spectre haunting the imperialists particularly the US imperialists as they confront the worst-ever global economic crisis that is threatening to transform into a worldwide social-political explosion with the potential to develop into a revolutionary upsurge.

## **DGP Vishwaranjan to return to his post after May 23**

DGP of Chattisgarh, Vishwaranjan, went on leave from March 10 due to the contradiction that had arisen between him and the state Election Commissioner during the last Assembly elections in the state in November 2008. To avoid a repeat of such a bitter controversy during the Lok Sabha elections he applied for three months leave until June 10. Home Guards DG, Anil Navani, was appointed in his place after he was sent on leave. Now with the elections having been completed Raman Singh wants him to resume office by May 23 when the period of code of conduct for the elections comes to an end although his leave expires on June 10. Seen as a hero by the reactionary rulers for his brutal suppression of the Maoist

---

movement and mass murder of innocent adivasis as witnessed in massacres like Singaram and Minakapalli, they want him back at the earliest to resume the blood-bath. However much the rulers might dream they cannot suppress the Maoist movement through such butchers like Vishwaranjan. Every brutal act of Vishwaranjan will be paid back with interest by the revolutionary masses of Dandakaranya and Chattisgarh led by the CPI(Maoist).

## **Police kill villagers in Koraput**

Statesman News Service

KORAPUT, April 22: Shocking tales of the looting of livestock, missing youth, and mistaken killings by police and paramilitary forces, were narrated by villagers around the Nalco mines, the area that suffered a deadly Maoist attack on 12 April.

Mrs Singari Huika, widow of Katru Huika of Tolmeting village, alleged that her husband was shot dead by the CRPF jawans on 13 April when combing operations had been launched. "They mistook my husband to be a Naxalite," she charged.

Singari insists that the family had no links or contact with any of the left wing extremist groups. "My husband was returning home with his friend Kandru Miniaka when he was shot dead," she alleged.

The widow, with two of her children and a delegation of villagers, met the district collector here today and submitted a memorandum listing their allegations against the jawans. They demanded adequate compensation for Singari. They also wanted the district authorities to release Mr Labo Miniyaka, Mr Ananda Sirika, 'Jagno' and Mr Chituru Sirika, all of whom had been allegedly whisked away by the police last week.

Many of the villagers complained of police excesses and narrated accounts of how they forcibly took away livestock belonging to Mr Sanu Kimrika and Mr Bhami Himrika.

Normal life has been derailed in many villages ever since the Maoist attack on the Damanjodi Nalco mines. "We are facing a double danger - on the one hand the Maoist threat, and on the other the possibility that we will be picked up as a 'suspected Maoist sympathizer or cadre,'" lamented the villagers of Bhitargada, Tentulipadar, and other such areas.

People are scared and they are unable to move freely either to the market or to workplaces, observed Mr Damodar Jani, president, Orissa, Adivasi Manch.

It may be noted that in an earlier incident last year, a similar charge was leveled in Rayagada district. The widow of a person who was shot dead as a suspected Naxal had successfully moved the State Human Rights Commission, which directed payment of compensation and had also recommended action against the errant policemen.

## **Gang-rape of a minor girl by the police in Gadchiroli— Fact-Finding Committee**

A fact-finding committee set up by various voluntary organizations released a report to the media on March 27 which confirmed the rape of a minor girl by the police in Pavarwel village in Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra. After the encounter between the Maoists and the police in Pavarwel village the police arrested a minor adivasi girl charging her as being a Naxalite. She was a resident of the village and was leading a normal life. When the people protested against the police atrocity some people associated with



---

the organization for child and human rights appointed a committee to investigate the matter.

The fact-finding team visited Pavarwel and Tudumel villages, met the victim and basing on the facts gathered said that five policemen had committed rape on the girl. The team consisted of Yedanwala, Vijay Hiremath and Anil Kale of IAPL, Shoma Sen and Anita of Committee Against Violence on Women (CAVOW), Asha Mokashe of Indian Women's Federation, and others. They charged that the minor girl was arrested and kept in lock-up throughout the night. She was taken to the forest in the morning and there five policemen raped her. She was threatened not to report this to anyone. But she revealed this to the Jail Superintendent of Chandrapur Jail. To appease the people's growing demand for justice, the SP of Gadchiroli, Rajesh Pradhan, said that he had already started investigation after receiving the complaint from the Jail Superintendent and would take stringent action against the policemen involved in the atrocity.

## **Raman Singh government bans CPI (Maoist) and six other organisations in Chattisgarh**

On April 28 the fascist Raman Singh regime in Chattisgarh imposed a ban on the CPI(Maoist) and six other mass organizations in the state. These are: *Kisan Mazdoor Sangh, Krantikari Mahila Sangh, Krantikari Kisan Committee, Janathan Sarkar, Mahila Mukti Manch, Krantikari Balak Sangh*. The ban was imposed for one year by invoking the Public Security Act. While fake encounters, mass murders and arrests of innocent adivasis have been going on without a let up irrespective of whether there exists a ban or not, the imposition of the ban is meant to scare away the democratic and civil rights organizations and individuals from condemning the state and state-sponsored atrocities on Maoist revolutionaries and innocent adivasis in the name of sympathising with the banned organizations. Anyone who speaks in support of the victims of state and state-sponsored violence will be branded as showing sympathy with the banned organizations Or simply the police can push anyone behind bars by alleging that he/she has links with the banned organizations. Thus, through the ban on the organizations the police state in Chattisgarh headed by Raman Singh wants to silence all those who speak against state violence and in defence of the fundamental rights of the people. But can it silence the voices through such draconian measures? History has proved that not even the most authoritarian fascist regime had succeeded in suppressing the voice of the people through such measures.

---

## From the newspapers:

### 2 mistaken for hardcore naxals

*The two, going for a job interview, were taken into custody and let off only after thorough interrogation.*

BERHAMPUR: Two city youths became hardcore naxals in the eye of police for a few hours due to mistaken identity.

Rumour was floated on Tuesday that naxal leader Sabyasachi Panda and his close associate had been nabbed from a train at Dhenkanal station. The alleged suspicious behaviour of these two youths had led the railway police to believe that they were hardcore naxals. They were nabbed from the train by the Dhenkanal police.

But the two youths were found to be Dwitikrushna Panda of Khodasingi area and Panchanan Panigrahi of Lanjipalli area of Berhampur. They were school dropouts on their way to attend interview for the posts of security guard in a steel company. They had reached Bhubaneswar by Konark express and had boarded the Puri-Bolangir inter-city express to Sambalpur. But suddenly a group of police officials had pounced on them to carry them out of the train.

The two youths returned to their homes on Wednesday night in a police vehicle. According to them they had to undergo intense interrogation. They say they were blindfolded and their hands were bound behind their back. But search of their belongings and tracking down of their families in the city proved that they were innocent.

Forty-year-old Panda is married with three children. He and Panchanan (34) were guards with a security service. They hope that the police administration may sympathise with their plight and recruit them as home guards.

## Where naxalites have their way

K. Balchand

PATNA: Naxalites influence elections in their own ways in States like Bihar. So much so, authorities have rescheduled poll timings and even shifted booths in some cases.

Polling time in at least 18 Assembly segments of the Lok Sabha constituencies of Jammui, Aurangabad and Gaya has been reduced by two hours and will end by 3 p.m. against the usual closure at 5 p.m.

The objective is to allow the polling party to return to its base from remote places before sunset.

### Intelligence inputs

The precautionary measure has been taken following intelligence inputs and also on the past experience of polling teams and escorting police parties being ambushed. The polling teams have been directed to proceed to their booths a day in advance.

In Bihar, usually polling parties would pack up as early as 1 or 2 p.m. in the naxalite-affected regions. Some are provided with tractors. Others have to cover the entire stretch on foot.

There are no roads worth the name and some booths are inaccessible.

Besides changing poll timings, the authorities have shifted 47 booths set up in naxal strongholds in four constituencies.



**Flag March:** Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel taking out a flag march on the eve of the first phase of Lok Sabha elections in naxal-affected areas of Jehanabad constituency in Bihar on April 16.

This measure would put voters to some discomfort, having to travel longer distances, and there are fears that the polling percentage could drop in these areas. Normally booths are strategically located to ensure that a voter does not have to walk more than two km.

In other efforts, two Indian Air Force choppers have been deployed to conduct aerial surveillance and provide assistance to paramilitary forces in ensure free and fair elections in all 13 Bihar constituencies, particularly in the naxalite-affected regions, going to the polls on Thursday.

The CPI(Maoist) has given a call for poll boycott in areas under its influence. It is reported to have issued a warning that those who disobeyed its diktat will face kangaroo courts.

As in the past, this election too has witnessed naxalite attacks on vehicles of candidates and government buildings.

### **BSF camp attacked**

Early on Wednesday, naxalites attacked a camp of the Border Security Force in Rohtas. In the 2005 Assembly elections, nine police personnel were killed in an ambush in the Dhansa valley.

## **Tribal tremor in heart of city**

25 Apr 2009, TNN

KOLKATA/LALGARH: The war drums of the Maoist threat in Lalgarh boomed on the streets of Kolkata on Friday as thousands of tribals brandishing axes, swords and bows and arrows put up an unprecedented show of strength less than a kilometre from the state's seat of power in Writers' Buildings. The six-hour-long rally, road blockades and meeting brought Kolkata to a halt and rattled everyone who had dismissed the Maoist domination of Lalgarh as an isolated feature in a single block of West Midnapore.

The Maoist challenge, in open defiance of the administration, comes less than a week before Bengal goes to polls. It was a day when the Maoist grip was felt equally in Jangalkhand and the bustling metropolis of Kolkata. The widow of a CPM leader, who was savagely beaten to death by Maoists in a Purulia village on Thursday evening, was virtually dragged to Kolkata. The tribals egged on by the Maoist-led Peoples' Committee against Police Atrocities held the city to ransom, demanding an apology from the police commissioner because a traffic sergeant had dared book the driver of one of the buses they had commandeered.

---

Esplanade and other areas in the heart of the city were blocked till 9.30 pm. North to south, commuters stuck in endless jams reacted with a double take when told why Kolkata had ground to a halt. "Armed tribals? In Kolkata?" was the reaction.

In the end, the administration had to take a soft stance. A deputy commissioner was sent to "accept PCPA's complaint with sympathy". Only then did PCPA leader Chhatradhar Mahato climb on a police van to tell his followers to take the long march back.

If the administration had any doubt, this was a wake-up call. The Maoist threat is real, and expanding. PCPA leaders dared the government right in the CM secretariat's backyard to take action against them. While marching down SN Banerjee Road, they were seen shoving around people who mistakenly stepped into their rally. "*Etay bish dewa ache,*" a tribal told a scooterist, waving an arrow in his face. At Esplanade, a foreign couple who stumbled into the rally was heckled.

It was as if they were provoking the administration into a confrontation. Police were careful not to fall into the trap.

Chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee preferred to wait and wait some more before applying force on the tribal crowd. "I am not for any hasty action. I did not hesitate to call the army when the city witnessed communal frenzy over Taslima Nasreen. But Lalgarh's case is different. I understand the Maoist gameplan. The fact is that there are poor tribals in the agitation. I would rather bear with them for some time and prefer a mass mobilization to counter the Maoist menace," the CM said.

The Maoists' war cry in Kolkata on Friday was preceded by a terror campaign in Jangalmahal, where two CPM leaders were gunned down on Thursday and another was lynched the day before. The lynching and beating up of nine others took place in Dubrajpur and Saluka villages, which had so long been out of the rebels' grip. After the brutal assault, the Maoist-led People's Committee against Police Atrocities (PCPA) finally managed to set up village committees there.

The massive showdown made the administration sit up and reassess the Maoist strength before sending forces to Jangalmahal.

The arm-twisting began in Lalgarh and Belpahari six months ago. Angry tribals cut off the entire zone and chased away police. Under pressure, the government shifted some police camps from Jangalmahal and had to agree to PCPA's terms to hold election there.



***Stir spreads:*** Tribals take out a rally in Kolkata on Friday to protest against "police excesses" in the Lalgarh area of Paschim Medinipur district.

Friday's show of strength in Kolkata was meant to pile on the pressure. It showed in the way PCPA tried to provoke a confrontation. Mahato hurled a challenge at transport minister Subhas Chakraborty. Some days back, Chakraborty had threatened to "pound and imprison Mahato". "I have come to Kolkata. I dare Chakraborty to come here and hurl me to the ground," Mahato said.

Then, PCPA used a trivial incident to hold the city to ransom. At 3.35 pm, a bus that had dropped off PCPA rallyists at College Square was intercepted by a traffic sergeant at the AJC Bose Road-Shakespeare Sarani intersection for a traffic violation. The driver claimed his licence had been seized in Midnapore but could not produce the seizure slip. PCPA alleges the sergeant demanded a bribe of Rs 1,000 from the driver and slapped him and the helper when he refused. Police denied this.

But, within minutes, Lalgarh Sanghati Manch leader Sumit Chaudhuri and APDR assistant secretary Sudipto Sen landed at the spot with 100 tribals and got into a heated argument with the sergeant. A sit-in agitation began at 4.15 pm, which continued till 9.30 pm.



**Tribals squat on Chowringhee Road on Friday evening**

assured them

but hardliners in the group refused to back down. Mahato, in fact, moved the blockade to the Jawaharlal Nehru Road-S N Banerjee Road crossing. "Mahato says the protest will continue till the officer concerned apologizes," Bhadra said. Rallyists then blocked Mayo Road and Dufferin Road.

Chakraborti called Mahato at 8.15 pm and expressed "deep regret" at what had happened. "Please file a written complaint. If anyone is found guilty, he will be dealt with as per law," he told the PCPA leader. Around 9 pm, Mahato used a police van's PA system to ask the agitators to disperse.

**लोकसभा के झूठे चुनावों का बहिष्कार करो!**

**जनताना सरकार को मजबूत करो!**

**फैला दो!!**

दण्डकारण्य स्पेशल जोनल कमेटी  
भारत की कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी (माओवादी)

**लोकसभा के झूठे चुनावों का बहिष्कार करो!**

**विकास के नाम पर विस्थापन व विनाश का खेल खेल रही लुटेरी चुनावी पार्टियों को मार भगाओ!!**

दण्डकारण्य स्पेशल जोनल कमेटी  
भारत की कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी (माओवादी)

---

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)**  
**CENTRAL COMMITTEE**



*Press Release:*

*April 24, 2009*

**Condemn the genocide of the Tamil people by the Sinhala chauvinist,  
neo-Nazi fascist rulers of Sri Lanka! Let us unite to fight against  
UPA government's support to Rajapakse's genocidal war  
on Tamil nation!!**

The situation in the LTTE-controlled areas in northern Sri Lanka has become extremely delicate and dangerous with an average of almost 500 Tamils being butchered every week by the Sinhala chauvinist army since the past three months and the number increasing with every passing day. The virtual silence by the so-called International community is criminal to say the least, and its feeble calls for a pause in the fighting, a cruel joke. In fact, it is precisely based on the active support and military aid provided by the various imperialist powers as well as by the Indian government that the racist and fascist Rajapakse government had embarked upon the current all-out brutal assault on the Tamil areas in July 2006 by unilaterally breaching the 2002 cease-fire it had entered into with the LTTE.

The brutal onslaught by the Sinhala military had resulted in acute humanitarian crisis in the Tamil areas pushing hundreds of thousands of Tamil people into a state of starvation and misery. The incessant and indiscriminate bombing of entire areas had left thousands of civilians dead or wounded with no scope for medical treatment. These sadists have not permitted any independent observer into the conflict zone from outside, denied permission to UN and other international aid agencies and observers, even to Red Cross workers and media personnel. There has been a total news blackout. It is obvious that the fascist Sinhala rulers do not want their genocidal war and their crimes against humanity to be known to the outside world.

Even as they go about butchering, maiming and evicting tens of thousands of people, the neo-Nazi rulers are putting forth cynical claims that they are "freeing" the Tamil civilians from LTTE's clutches, that their aim is to crush the LTTE and not to harm the ordinary Tamils, and that declaring cease-fire would not be of any help to the civilian population and would only help the LTTE, and so on. They shamelessly describe their genocidal war as a "rescue operation" and give out figures of those "rescued". Having gained a series of victories over the LTTE with the active aid and guidance of various imperialist powers and the Indian expansionists, these blood-thirsty hounds do not want to give any breathing space even if that meant the decimation of a significant proportion of the Tamil population in the LTTE-held areas. The Sri Lankan army has entered the no-fire zone—a small piece of territory covering around 17 sq km—and is resorting to heavy bombardment leading to huge civilian casualties. Even those who are fleeing are shot dead by the Sinhala chauvinist soldiers in sharp contrast to the photographs aired in TV channels showing how the Sinhala soldiers are helping the Tamil civilians. The reality is that every refugee coming out from the so-called no-fire zone is treated as an enemy, as a probable LTTE "terrorist", and is subjected to intense interrogation and even eliminated under the slightest suspicion. Tamil women are being sterilized forcibly to check the growth in Tamil

---

population. Hospitals, orphanages and refugee shelters are bombed and the trucks carrying relief supplies are blocked by the Lankan army. The aim of the Sri Lankan rulers is to drive out the Tamil population from the area and herd them into concentration camps so that they do not again unite to wage war for a separate Tamil Eelam. It is with this crooked aim that they have been exerting continuous pressure through uninterrupted bombing of the areas held by LTTE.

The Indian ruling classes had always backed the Sri Lankan state in its war against the Tamil nation. In fact, it had even sent the Indian army in the name of peace-keeping force in 1987 but had to turn back after three years when it lost a few thousand soldiers in the hands of the LTTE. The ruling Congress party even had to pay the price by losing its leader, Rajiv Gandhi. The Indian state has been giving all sorts of aid to the Sri Lankan government in crushing the LTTE. The shifting of some of the defence personnel injured in the fighting in Tamil areas to Chennai for treatment reveals the extent of involvement of India in the war aimed at the extermination of the Tamil nation in Sri Lanka.

While these are the facts, the spokespersons for the Indian government, and the various political parties in Tamil Nadu have been claiming that they fully sympathise and stand by the Tamil people, that they support their demand for a separate *Eelam*, and that they are exerting pressure on the government of Sri Lanka to resolve the humanitarian crisis arising out of the war.

With an eye on the impending elections in Tamil Nadu, every political party is pretending to be sympathetic to the cause of Tamil Eelam and putting up postures opposing the attacks by the Lankan army. All this is mere eye-wash. Parties like Jayalalitha's AIADMK and Congress had all along been bitter opponents of the struggle of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. Karunanidhi's DMK has always pursued a dubious stand, on the one hand posing to be supporting the Tamil cause, while on the other, extending support to the UPA govt which has been assisting the Sri Lankan govt in the genocidal war against Tamils. Moreover, the DMK has crushed people's protests against the Sri Lankan govt. All these parties wish to see the LTTE decimated as they know how strong is the influence of the *Eelam* struggle for self-determination on the people of Tamil Nadu. At the same time they know they would be isolated if they did not support the right of the Tamil nation in Sri Lanka for self-determination and condemn the war of genocide unleashed by Rajapakse's Sinhala racist regime in Sri Lanka.

The CC, CPI(Maoist), calls upon the people of India to wage a united struggle demanding immediate halt to the aid given by the Indian government to the Sri Lanka rulers, to sever all diplomatic relations by India with the Sri Lankan government if it does not stop its war of genocide immediately, and to allow all the refugees from the war-ravaged areas into Tamil Nadu without any harassment.

The people of Sri Lanka should realize that the current war against the Tamil nation is an unjust war waged by an oppressor nation over an oppressed nation. Besides, it is a ploy of the Sri Lankan rulers to divert the people's attention from the deep crisis afflicting the country. Giving legitimacy to the war would mean lending legitimacy to the further strengthening of the Sri Lankan fascist state machine that is going to be increasingly directed against the vast toiling masses of Sri Lanka who dare to wage struggle against oppression and exploitation. It is the duty of the working class and oppressed people of Sri Lanka to unequivocally oppose the war of genocide and force the government to immediately halt its brutal crimes against the Tamil nation. The aspirations of the Tamil nation cannot be crushed through brutal fascist means. Even if the LTTE suffers a setback today, the unfulfilled aspirations of the Tamil nation will give rise to a more militant national liberation movement.

---

The central committee, CPI (Maoist), demands:

**\*An immediate declaration of cease-fire by the Sri Lankan Army and end to the genocidal war it had unleashed on the Tamil nation!**

**\*An end to all aid and support by the Indian government to the terrorist regime in Colombo!**

**\*An impartial enquiry into the war crimes committed by the Sri Lankan military such as mass murder, use of cluster bombs and other chemical weapons, bombing of civilian targets etc!**

**\*Recognition of an independent, sovereign Eelam which is a legitimate inalienable right of the Tamil nation in Sri Lanka!**

sd/-

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



**COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)**

**DANDAKARANYA SPECIAL ZONAL COMMITTEE**

**Press Release**

**April 28, 2009**

**Red salutes to the fighting masses who boycotted the sham elections confronting the state's wide-spread violence and repression!**

The first phase of the 15th Lok Sabha polls has come to an end. As far as Chattisgarh is concerned polling has been completed for all the 11 seats in the state. It is to be noted that of the 124 constituencies for which polling was conducted in the first phase of elections on April 16, the majority are the areas of Maoist people's war. The media, which relentlessly boasts that our country is "the biggest democracy in the world" and that these sham elections are the "the biggest chapter of the democracy", maintained a deep silence regarding state violence, especially on the people of the struggle areas. And it limited itself to publish the news of the 'violence' of the Maoists. Actually in *Chattisgarh*, in keeping view of the elections, 250 additional companies have been sent in addition to the already existing thousands of police and paramilitary forces. 80 percent of these forces have been deployed in our struggle areas only. In *Gadchiroli* district of *Maharashtra*, an additional 25 companies of Para-military forces were deployed. It is clear that the sole aim of deploying the forces on such a large scale is to foil the 'election boycott' and to make desperate attempts to retain the steadily sagging image of so-called parliamentary democracy. With this aim, the state's armed forces committed innumerable atrocities on the fighting masses. Many people were killed in fake encounters. Many villages were raided and houses burnt



---

down. In many places women were gang-raped. The irony is that all these happened in the name of conducting the elections in an 'impartial' and 'peaceful' manner. What better example can one give to understand the notorious and repressive history of this fake democracy?

In *Gadchiroli* district of *Maharashtra*, the local police, C-60 Commandos and the Central Para-military forces have unleashed brutal attacks on the people and carried out a suppression campaign on a large scale in the name of '*operation parakram*'. The '*operation parakram*' was in fact a campaign of gang rape of women and the murders of innocent tribals in the name of encounters. According to the reports available till now, 10 tribal women were gang-raped by the state's forces. In Pavarvel village, one woman was gang raped by five police men and later sent to jail by branding her as a 'naxalite'. She was threatened to keep mum.

On March 23, the beasts of C-60 Commando force under the leadership of notorious SI *Munna Thakur* entered the *Hallepal* village of *Manpur* area in Chattisgarh, and gang raped a woman. In the first week of March one Sukku, a resident of Goddalvai village in *Dhanora tehsil* was killed in cold blood and announced that one naxal commander was killed in an 'encounter' that lasted for an hour-and-half. In fact Sukku was a young tribal and ordinary resident of that village. Apart from this, dozens of tribals from many villages were arrested and sent to jail under false cases.

According to the decision taken in the meeting of the Chief Ministers of four States in Delhi in February, a joint operation was started in Maharashtra and Chattisgarh. Under this, thousands of additional armed forces were deployed in Rajnandgaon and Kanker districts of Chattisgarh. New camps were opened in Panabaras, Vasidi, Khadgav, Kandaadi and Sitagav of Mohala-Manpur areas in Rajnandgaon and Kapsi and Kodapadha in Kanker districts, by deploying hundreds of armed forces. These state forces are touring the villages in the name of patrolling and are creating terror amongst the people. Misbehaving with women and looting poultry and liquor from the villagers has become a common feature. With the approach of the elections, the cycle of repression has further increased through out Dandakaranya. The police raided the Kulli village of Badgaav area in Kanker district (North Bastar) on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and burnt down the house and barn of Mr. Mansingh, a peasant. On the same day they raided Katnar village of Koilbeda area and beat up the villagers and arrested 10. On April 5, in Lohar village of Koilbeda area they created terror and severely beat up 9 villagers. Many people left their houses and ran away to the forest after seeing the police forces. Police broke the locks and looted the houses also. Due to the merciless beatings of the police, a 60 year old tribal peasant, Sammu Darro, met with an instantaneous death. Police left the deceased there itself. The ruling classes, which make big claims of conducting 'free' and 'impartial' elections are in fact spreading violence, murders, rapes and terror.

In spite of this extensive terror created by the state's forces, the people, especially in our struggle areas, took part in 'poll boycott' on large scale by rejecting this fake parliamentary democracy. In Bastar constituency there was not a single vote polled in almost 50 polling centers. In spite of the presence of hundreds of police forces not a single vote was polled in Gollapalli of South Bastar and in Kishtaram only 2 votes were polled. In Kanker and Rajnandgaon areas also, majority of the people boycotted the polls in our struggle areas. In fact, the government itself changed the 86 polling centers in Dantewada, Bijapur and Narayanapur to road side villages. During the re-polling at 25 centres on 27 April many people did not vote. In 2 centers zero percent polling was recorded. Wherever the polling took place, the state's repressive forces had the main 'role' in it. The people who refused to vote were threatened that they would be killed by branding them as naxalites, that ration supplies to the villages would be stopped, and that they will not be allowed into weekly bazaars and so on. People made the poll boycott campaign a success without heeding these threats. The same state's forces slaughtered the democratic right of the people not to vote.

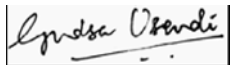
---

There were many instances of thrashing of people to make them vote. In spite of all this, people accepted the alternative of building the revolutionary people's power by boycotting these fake elections. Our Special Zonal Committee, Dandakaranya offers its red salutes to all the fighting masses.

On the occasion of the elections our PLGA made heroic attacks on terrorist ..... armed forces by braving the state repression. Especially through accomplishing actions like Chintagupha, Maruki, Mungner, Bijapur and annihilating the murderer like Channuram Karma the PLGA tried its best to protect the people from the murderous attacks of the enemy forces. On this occasion we red salute to heroic commanders and red soldiers.

**We express our regrets for the sorrowful incident at Kamkasur in which five innocent civilians were killed**

With the intention of punishing the terrorist police and para-military forces one of our PLGA's units planned an attack near Kamkasur which falls under Khadgaon area of Rajnandgaon district. But by mistake our comrades blew up a vehicle which was carrying employees on election duty instead of police. In this incident five innocent people were killed and two seriously injured. They were mainly forest and education department employees. According to the information we received from the concerned committee, there was a grave mistake on part of our comrades in identifying the vehicle and the people traveling in it. We express our deep sorrow and sympathy to the families and friends of the bereaved . And we also wish the speedy recovery of the injured. We request, from the bottom of our hearts, the entire people of Chattisgarh to forgive us for this grave mistake. We promise to take all precautions not to repeat this type of incidents in future. We also promise to train our comrades in this direction. And also we condemn the mis-propaganda of the government that we killed the people deliberately.



(Gudsa Usendi)

Spokes Person

Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee

CPI (Maoist)

---

## COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

### CENTRAL COMMITTEE



*Press Release:*

*May 5, 2009*

**The political crisis in Nepal is the result of Indo-US conspiracy!  
Oppose the attempts by Indian expansionists  
to meddle in the internal affairs of Nepal!  
People's democracy can be established in Nepal  
only by smashing the old state!!**

Withdrawal of support by CPN(UML), MJF and other allies to the government headed by comrade Prachanda does not come as a surprise to any keen observer of the unfolding situation in Nepal in the context of the growing realignment of forces in South Asia and the world at large. South Asia has become a top-priority zone for American imperialism in the context of its growing rivalry with China which is seen as the greatest threat to American imperialism in the world arena in the coming decades. Besides, its importance has grown against the backdrop of a series of defeats suffered by the occupation forces of NATO and US in Afghanistan at the hands of Taliban and the latter's fast-expanding hold and influence in Pakistan. The strategy of US imperialism in the region is to contain the growing influence of China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), forge a powerful pro-American axis of powers to turn the tide in its favour in Afghanistan where its forces are on the run in the renewed Taliban offensive, and establish its hegemony in the region as part of its global strategic designs. To achieve this goal American imperialism has been trying to forge an alliance with Pakistan and India, preaching to Pakistan that it should do away with its obsession with threat from India and, instead, concentrate on war in its western frontier to crush Taliban.

**US imperialism and Indian expansionism are particularly perturbed over the growing influence of China over the region, consolidation of China's grip over Sri Lanka, and the fear that the government in Nepal is moving closer to China. And it is this fear which is common to both India and US that has pushed these powers to oust the government led by the Maoists in a bid to install a regime loyal to them.** Hence Washington and Delhi had instructed the allies of UCPN(M) in the ruling coalition to withdraw support to the government headed by Prachanda and to form a government with all other forces sans the Maoists. Attempts are already on to form a government with UML, Koirala's NC, MJF and others all of which are loyal to India.

The arch-reactionary UML which dons the garb of Marxist Leninist had always served the reactionary rulers of Nepal and their foreign masters. They blame UCPN(M) and com Prachanda for "unilaterally sacking" the chief of the Army Staff, General Rookmangud Katawal. But why such a step had to be taken is simply hushed up. Moreover, the unconstitutional act of the President in reinstating the Army Chief is given legitimacy by these anti-people Parties. The fact is the army chief had ordered the fresh recruitment of several thousand soldiers into the Nepal Army while blocking the integration of the PLA cadres thereby going against the letter and spirit of the agreement reached between the various parties who waged a unified struggle against

---

the monarchy. Gen Katawal had also extended the tenure of several senior Army officers with the aim of retaining the hold of the pro-monarchy elements over the Army. It is a deliberate planned move by the reactionary ruling classes of Nepal under the close guidance and planning of the Indian expansionists and US imperialists. **By resuming recruitment to Nepal Army even before finalizing the integration of the two armies, these reactionary forces wanted to precipitate the situation and place the blame for the break-up of the government on the Maoists themselves. Thereby they aim to isolate and attack the Maoist forces, consolidate the anti-people Army, tighten the hold of India-US over Nepal, and contain the growing influence and competition from China in the region.**

In fact, the Indian ruling classes have been feeling uncomfortable ever since CPN(M) had emerged as the single largest political Party in the elections to the CA in April 2008. Their attempts to prevent the formation of a government headed by the Maoists had failed. Hence they had been waiting for an opportune moment to topple the government and preparing to create such a crisis by placing spokes in the process of integration of the two Armies, advising the Army Chief to go ahead with massive recruitment into the Nepalese Army, and assuring support to any unconstitutional move to oust the Maoist-led government.

That Gen Katawal should have been allowed to continue for so long in office even after his mentor, King Gyanendra, was forced to retreat from the political scene in Nepal, is itself a bad thing. He had been the most reliable pillar of the monarchy and the old state power whose interests he had served all along. He and the Army he heads are representatives of the old state and naturally would cling to their privileges and class interests until they are overthrown by force. The attempt by the Maoists to utilize the apparatus of the old state to bring about change in the social system, instead of smashing it, is the basis for the development of the present dangerous situation. Today any slight mistake on the part of the Maoists would result in grave disaster. **The reactionaries in Nepal, with the active aid and assistance of US and India, are hatching conspiracies to unleash a blood-bath to wipe out the Maoist forces. The only way to resist these reactionary attempts is to rely on the revolutionary masses, organize them against the state and prepare them for street battles basing on the base areas in the vast countryside.** At least now the leadership of the CPN(M) should realize the futility of the parliamentary path and resume the people's war to achieve complete victory by smashing the old state and reactionary forces, and establishing the people's democratic state. And to achieve this, the major chunk of the Party leadership and cadre should go underground immediately, rely on the vast countryside to wage guerrilla war on the one hand and mobilise the masses politically in the entire country against the reactionary forces who are attempting to establish the rule of the feudal forces, comprador bourgeoisie.

The CC, CPI(Maoist), condemns the Indo-US conspiracy in toppling the government headed by comrade Prachanda and warns them against meddling in the internal affairs of Nepal. It pledges all support to the Maoists in Nepal in their fight against Indian expansionism and cautions them to beware of the attempts by the reactionary rulers of India to create a blood-bath of revolutionaries in Nepal.

sd/

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

---

## COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

### CENTRAL COMMITTEE



*Press Release:*

*May 8, 2009*

**Condemn the savage bombing of Afghan civilians  
by Obama's mercenary army!  
Isolate and defeat the hegemonic designs of American imperialism  
in South and Central Asia!**

The inhuman bombing in Farah Province on May 3<sup>rd</sup> causing the deaths of over a hundred civilians, mostly children and women, shows the extent of madness and desperation of the Obama administration which is finding it increasingly difficult to subdue the Afghan people and keep them under their colonial rule. The series of humiliating defeats suffered by the occupation forces of NATO and US in Afghanistan at the hands of Taliban particularly in the past one year and the latter's expansion into neighbouring Pakistan at a rapid pace has unnerved the rulers who control the biggest war-machine in the world. The aerial bombing of civilians in Farah was preceded by the killing of six civilians in Kunar province on April 13 and five civilians on April 7 in Khost province by US drones. Killing of unarmed Afghans, particularly children and women, has become a daily feature under the aegis of the new war criminal in Washington, Barack Obama.

President Obama has not merely continued the inhuman policy of his predecessor, George Bush, in Afghanistan by indiscriminately bombing residential localities and killing women and children, but also stepped up this savage campaign by deploying several thousand more US troops to intensify these barbaric acts on unarmed civilian population of Afghanistan.

Obama had sent 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan since January 20 after he succeeded George Bush as the Chief Persecutor of the world people on January 20. Over the next few months, the total number of US occupation forces in Afghanistan is set to reach almost double the existing strength—from 38,000 to 68,000—and, together with the 32,000-odd NATO troops the occupation force would touch the figure of one lakh troops. Despite this massive increase of troops, the ground forces waging the unjust war against the Afghan people are still so nervous that their top commander in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. David McKiernan, has requested another 10,000 combat troops to be sent to Afghanistan. The military-industrial complex ruling America has its evil eyes focussed on the oil-rich central Asian region, and Barack Obama, as the chief representative of this tiny elite, has promised to increase the US troops in Afghanistan even as they get bogged down and buried in the country's quicksands. At least after the blood-bath in Farah, American people should realize that Barack Obama is no different from George Bush but for the label of a Democrat; they should demand and agitate for the immediate withdrawal of the occupation forces from Afghan soil.

The Washington war-mongers have also announced that they consider Afghanistan and Pakistan as a single war theatre or operational territory for all practical purposes in their "war against terror" and deployed a special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan. They carry out aerial bombardment testing their latest missiles, chemical and biological weapons on the Afghan people, and established their military bases on both sides of Afghan border. Both the special envoy Richard Holbrooke and Admiral Mike Mullen, head of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, have been exerting pressure on Pakistan to launch attacks on Taliban portraying the latter as a dangerous monster that is rapidly advancing towards Islamabad and capable of taking over power along with nuclear weapons in Pakistan. A fear psychosis of a Taliban take-over of the nukes in Pakistan is created in order to justify America's indiscriminate killings of civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan through aerial bombardment.

---

Indiscriminate bombing of towns and villages and killing of unarmed civilians, most of them children, has become a general feature rather than an exception in Pakistan too. Under Barack Obama these bombings have been stepped up further. There were more than 35 drone missile attacks in Pakistan in the last eight months killing 340 people, most of them civilians. The April 4 attack in North Waziristan that killed 13 people including children and women, drew severe criticism of the American policy in Pakistan. Entire tracts in the autonomous FATA, Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province have been bombed rendering lakhs of people into refugees.

Not content with its unilateral strikes in Pakistan the Obama administration has been pressurizing the Pakistani government to unleash brutal suppression of the Taliban in its western frontier. The IMF bail-out money was given to Pakistani rulers on condition that they would brutally suppress the Taliban and quell any revolt by their people against the US forces. Already more than half a million people were driven out of their homes by the Pak offensive. It has now unleashed the most brutal war on the people of Swat Valley driving out the entire population from their homes to please their mentors in Washington who were angry with the concessions given to Taliban regarding Shariat law. All this would no doubt lead to an unprecedented escalation of Islamic militancy.

The brutal war of aggression in Afghanistan and attack on even the nominal sovereignty of Pakistan by unilateral bombing of Pakistani villages has brought forth wide condemnation from the people of the two countries besides others. Even the President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, a puppet installed by the US, is compelled to condemn the indiscriminate bombardment by the US drones. He knows that increasing civilian deaths in the drone attacks by US drives more people into the fold of Taliban while isolating his own regime completely.

Likewise, every attack by the US in Pakistan turns the population against the US and its servile government in Islamabad. While the servile rulers in Pakistan deny it, people know that their spineless rulers had permitted the US to establish a secret CIA base in Pakistan from where the drone missile attacks are launched on Pak territory. As the Pakistani rulers get more and more involved in America's dirty war of aggression in Afghanistan and use their own soldiers as cannon-fodder for the strategic interests of the US in Central Asia, the ruling regimes will be isolated from the population at large while strengthening fundamentalist forces like Taliban and other anti-US, anti-govt forces. Suicide bombings as in Lahore and Islamabad carried out by FATA-based pro-Taliban group, *Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan* (TTP) led by Baitullah Mehsud will increase drastically.

The CC, CPI(Maoist), calls upon the people of India to fight against the growing servility of the Indian rulers to US imperialism in exchange for the latter's recognition of its status as a regional power in South Asia and a '**global strategic partner**' of US. It warns the Govt of India to sever its relations with the US puppet regime of Karzai in Afghanistan which is responsible for the increasing massacres of Afghan people by the US occupation forces. It also calls upon the people of Pakistan to wage a united struggle against their servile rulers who are allowing indiscriminate aerial attacks on Pak territory by the US forces and also using their own forces as canon-fodder in the dirty war of aggression waged by the US in Afghanistan with the strategic goal of capturing oil-rich Central Asia.

**\*\* Carry out strikes against US economic-political targets all over South Asia to counter its indiscriminate air-strikes in Afghanistan and Pakistan!**

**\*\* Isolate and defeat the designs of US imperialism in South and Central Asia!**

**\*\* Support the just struggle of the Afghan people for their liberation from US-NATO occupation!**

**\*\* People of South Asia should unite to wage a massive struggle to throw out US imperialism from the sub-continent!**

sd/-

Azad,  
Spokesperson,  
Central Committee,  
CPI(Maoist)

The reaction of the media to the Maoist ambush, its provocative propaganda against the Maoists, the scare it has tried to create among a section of the people by repeatedly saying that the Maoists are now within less than 100 km from the state capital and hence the security of the VIPs and others in the capital is at stake, and its criticism and advice to the government to unleash more serious state repression on the Maoists by increasing the deployment of police forces and adopting a consistent policy of suppressing the Maoists shows the large-scale nature and brutality of the impending state attack in Chattisgarh which is already witnessing unprecedented state-led and state-sponsored terror on the adivasi population in Dandakaranya region.

This is the first such incident in Mainpuri area in the bordering region of Dhamtari and Kanker. The area is a newly-extended one and in the very initial phase Maoists suffered a serious loss in the area when a senior leader and secretariat member



Inured policeman  
being taken to hospital

of Dandakaranya special zonal committee, Madkam Gopanna, was arrested from the area along with five others in May 2007. The landlord responsible for the arrest of Madkam was annihilated after a few months. After the initial losses Maoists sent some more cadres into the area and within a short time received tremendous response from the local people. The condition of the masses is so miserable that they are very much eager to wage militant armed struggle to solve their problems.

The coming days will witness more and more Risgaons as the fascist state steps up its repression, unleashes brutal attacks on the people and carries out massacres like that in Singaram in January last. The people of the area will get organized into people's militia as in Dantewada, Bijapur, Narayanpur, Kanker and other areas and prepare themselves to face the state's brutal repression with greater determination, courage and planning based on the principles of Maoist guerrilla warfare. As in other parts of Dandakaranya, people in Dhamtari too will come forward in a big way into the ongoing people's war, join the people's liberation guerrilla army, establish their own organs of political power, and resist the police and central armed forces under the leadership of the PLGA and the CPI(Maoist).



Body of a jawan wiped out in  
Dhamtari ambush

The *Maoist Information Bulletin* hails the daring, heroic ambush by the Maoist PLGA near Risgaon and sends its revolutionary greetings to all the participants in this counter-offensive and the leadership that had meticulously planned the attack. It warns the fascist Raman Singh government that Risgaons would be the only answer if he chose to continue the brutal repression by the state's police and by armed vigilante gangs sponsored by the state. It also appeals to the policemen engaged in operations against the Maoists and the people at large to stop harassing and killing people, disobey their higher authorities, and to surrender before the people's armed forces whenever they are called upon to do so. This alone can save their lives and avoid unnecessary blood-shed. They should realize that they are being used as cannon-fodder by the reactionary rulers in their class war against the toiling masses led by the Maoists.

## 12 policemen wiped out in daring Maoist ambush in Dhamtari (Dandakaranya)

On May 10 Maoist guerrillas carried out a daring tactical counteroffensive against a CRPF contingent in Dhamtari district near border with Kanker district in Chattisgarh. At least 12 CRPF personnel were wiped out in the operation while another ten were injured. Some were said to have been missing after the ambush.

The CRPF personnel numbering 41 were going to Kanker in four vehicles after carrying out combing operations for Maoists. Maoists lay in ambush over a hillock and kured the policemen into their trap. One of the vehicles was blown to pieces while others were fired upon. The entire enemy force was encircled and half the force was either annihilated or inured. Several arms were also seized by the guerrillas from the policemen.

The successful tactical counteroffensive was carried out by a Company of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) led by CPI(Maoist). It had come at a time when a US delegation was on a visit to Chattisgarh to assess the ground situation in order to extend assistance and advice to counter the Maoists. The daring ambush is also a reply to the ever-growing state-sponsored terror on the people of Dandakaranya particularly after the fascist BJP assumed office for the second time in December last. Scores of Maoist sympathisers and people in the areas of Maoist influence were arrested and shot dead. The CRPF-police forces along with SPOs and salwa judum gangs have been creating mayhem in various parts of Dandakaranya, looting, killing, raping and destroying.



The police tried to underplay the losses on their side by first saying that only two of their men had died in the ambush and then slowly increasing the number to five, then eight, ten and finally a dozen.

At the time of the incident the chief minister Raman Singh was on election campaign in other states while the state Home Minister Nankiram Kanwar was attending a Bhagawat katha meeting in Korba. The media attacked him comparing him to Nero who was fiddling when Rome was burning. Calling him as Nero of Chattisgarh there was clamour for his resignation. Nankram Kanwar admitted that it was wrong to have remained at the Bhagwat katha meeting in Korba instead of visiting the site of the Maoist ambush to boost the morale of the police. He also declared that he would contain the Maoist movement in the state within one year or else resign from his post. The Congress, meanwhile, constituted an enquiry committee to probe the incident in Risgaon. There was widespread criticism of the intelligence department for its total failure in assessing the situation in Dhamtari even after they had begun to expand their activities in the new region in a big way in recent months.

*(continued in inside cover)*