NAXALS / MAOISTS- 2014
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Compiled By
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Naxalites change tracks after terror plot bombed (12)
NAGPUR: The Naxalites’ strategy of blunting police’s comeback bid in Gadchiroli in the past couple of years by creating terror among the tribals seemed to have backfired and the rebels are now returning to their mass appeal approach once again. The terror strategy saw them lose local support and police’s local intelligence saw a sudden spurt. The outcome was disastrous for the rebels who faced numbing setback in 2013 losing 26 cadres with the unofficial count higher by another dozen. It is learnt the Naxals are now formulating pro-tribal strategies revolving around their political activities for the benefit of under-privileged section of the population. Apart from appealing to popular sentiments with their anti-liquor stand coupled with their protest against destruction of forests and natural habitats, Naxals now are learnt to be harping more on failures of the government to uplift the life of the local population. Their anti-state rhetoric is now stronger during every meeting in the hamlets. They are also aggressively campaigning against corruption, destruction of forest, displacement of population for mining and other industries and for implementation of Forest Rights Act. SP Gadchiroli, Mohd Suvez Haque stated that the seized documents too indicated the change. “Naxals are changing their strategy. It will definitely affect us as we too need to evolve an effective counter strategy to deal with it,” he said. Aggressive operations coupled with adoption of several confidence winning measures for the tribals resulted in police gaining an upper hand in the last couple of years after the debacles of 2009 and 2010 when the security agencies suffered heavy casualties. Police's gradual reclaiming of dominance was countered by the Naxals who started targeting civilians. The killings by the Naxals saw sudden spurt in 2011 when 40 people fell victims to rebels’ brutalities. There were several unreported cases of kidnapping in the past couple of years but the kidnapped tribals avoided approaching cops after being released by the rebels. Police record shows only six cases of kidnapping in 2012 and another one in 2013. In reality, almost thrice more had been abducted by the Naxals who were released with warning. In 2012, around two dozen tribal were slain by Naxals labeling them as police informers. The number came down to just eight last year. Another unprecedented phenomenon marked the year 2012 when Naxals started targeting politicians. Several top political leaders were eliminated by Naxals while many left their native place after being threatened. The village headmen and their deputies were asked to resign and so were the panchayat samiti and Zilla parishad members. “Naxals have now realized that their terror tactics are falling apart with tribals too becoming more aware of their rights. No one is ready to be just sacrificed in the name of movement. This is especially true when there is a better alternative in allowing the security forces move in,” said another senior officer in Anti-Naxal Operations. (Times of India 3/1/14)

Naxalite-affected areas to have community radios (12)
NEW DELHI: For the first time, community radio stations will come up in Naxalite-affected areas in the country. In a significant shift in policy, the government has given the nod for nine CR stations in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The first one is likely to come up in Bastar in Chhattisgarh. The CR stations that have received permission include one each in Ambikapur and Bilaspur and two in Raipur, one each in Jagdalpur in Bastar district, Bishrampur in Surjpur district and Bhilainagar in Chattisgarh. Two CRs in

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Ranchi, Jharkhand including one in Central University and Manthan Yuva Sangathan have also been given letters of intent. Permissions were vetted by the inter-ministerial committee headed by I&B secretary Bimal Julka and approvals of the ministries of home affairs, telecom and defence have come. “This will help in quick dissemination of information and decisions taken by local panchayats that has remained untapped so far,” Julka said. The decision is expected to provide a platform for what is seen as a largely disenfranchised population. So far, there have been no permissions given for CR stations in areas affected by left-wing extremism (LWE). The reservations expressed by home ministry have been two-pronged. There have been concerns that CR stations could be taken over by Naxalites or anti-social elements to spread incendiary content and the government lacked resources to monitor these stations. “However there is a growing feeling that such fledgling community efforts should be encouraged. It will increase community participation and the process of giving these stations license to broadcast has gone through a rigorous process to ensure that genuine organizations are the beneficiaries,” a senior official said. The I&B ministry has issued 438 licenses for CR stations across the country since 2006 of which 161 are functional. About 93 are run by educational institutions, 57 by NGOs and 11 by Krishi Vigyan Kendras. (Times of India 3/1/14)

Two Maoists killed by Bihar Police (12)

PATNA: At least two Maoist guerrillas were killed and three seriously injured Sunday in a fierce encounter with security forces in a forest area in Bihar's Jamui district, police said. Jamui Superintendent of Police Jitendra Rana said two Maoists were killed in the shootout with police, and three seriously injured. The district headquarters of Jamui is about 175 km from state capital Patna. “There may be more casualties among the Maoists,” he said. According to him, the shootout occurred at Pathakchak village, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Sikandara police station, after security forces launched a search operation in the village on a tip-off that Maoists had gathered there. Once surrounded, the Maoists fired at policemen, forcing the men in uniform to retaliate, police said. Police had, Sunday morning, recovered the bodies of two people in a forest near Charka Pathar village in Jamui. Preliminary inquiry suggest that the two were killed by Maoists, who slit their throats,” the police officer said. Jamui is considered a stronghold of the Maoists. (Indian Express 6/1/14)

RFO arrested for Naxal link in Deori (12)

NAGPUR: The unholy nexus of forest officials and Naxals has been exposed by Gondia police who took a Range Forest Officer (RFO) in custody on Tuesday for supplying materials to the rebels from a rest house at Navegaon Bandh area. Shriram Kulmethe, the RFO of Gottengaon range, was arrested from Deori. Sources from Gondia police stated that Kulmethe and nine others, including three forest guards, were booked in August last year after the police raided a forest rest house at Navegaon Bandh where the culprits were stocking up materials for supplying them to the Naxals. Apart from Kulmethe, police had earlier arrested forest guards Vijay Meshram, Vasant Kosre and Devendra Agre for their involvement in the racket. Agre, though a guard, worked as a clerk with Kulmethe. Sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Deori, Gajanan Rajmane stated that Kulmethe was the last to be arrested. “The culprits had been also providing money to the Naxals. The culprits had also procured detonators from a mine at Madhya Pradesh and handed over to the Naxals,” said Rajmane. Police said that Kulmethe used to often meet top Naxal cadres from the dalams in Deori (Gondia) and Korchi-Khobramenda-Kurkheda (Gadchiroli) which operated in the bordering areas of the two adjoining districts. During the raid, police had come across olive green fabric (ostensibly used for making Naxal uniforms), several pairs of shoes, radio sets, confectionary items like tea and milk powder and other substances at the forest rest houses. Also among the arrests was a labour union leader of forest workers, Rajesh Katre, who was allegedly collecting funds for the Naxals. (Times of India 8/1/14)

'More Maoists to Surrender’ (12)
HYDERABAD: With the surrender of top Maoist leader Gumudavelli Venkatakrishna Prasad alias Gudsa Usendi, a few more top cadres are likely to give themselves up before the police soon. “Differing with the ideology of the CPI (Maoist), a few top Maoist party leaders are likely to surrender themselves,” Director General of Police B Prasada Rao told a press conference here on Thursday. Usendi, who surrendered himself on Wednesday, was the spokesperson of the CPI (Maoist) Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee. He was presented before the media on Thursday along with his wife Santoshi Markam alias Jaini, who belongs to Chhattisgarh. Prasada Rao said Usendi, a native of Kadivendi village in Warangal district, carried a reward of Rs 20 lakh on his head, had differed with the party top leaders and their ideology for killing informers and damaging school buildings using explosives. “Besides, Usendi and his wife surrendered before the police due to their deteriorating health,” the DGP said. Prasada Rao said that as many as 275 Maoist cadres including leaders are underground and evading police. “Of the 275, 77 are from Andhra Pradesh and 198 are from other states. Usendi was underground for the past 28 years and he was active in party activities. We have also identified 17 active Central Committee members of whom 11 are from Andhra Pradesh,” he said. GVK Prasad alias Usendi was arrested along with six others in 1987 in an Arms case in Visakhapatnam. The extremists abducted seven IAS officers including SR Sankaran, demanding their release. He had to be released on bail on December 30, 1987. Born in 1968, he completed SSC in 1982 from Devaruppula High School. He discontinued Intermediate in Hyderabad. Though he was attracted to the Maoist ideology while in high school itself, he joined the party in 1985. Usendi was arrested and released on bail in Kundaram arson case. Under ideological influence of Arram Reddy Santhosh Reddy, Purushotham Reddy, and more particularly Damodar Reddy, he joined the party as a full time member in 1986. He was sent to Rajahmundry where he worked as courier to Nambala Keshava Rao alias Ganganna, now a Central Committee Member. After release on bail in 1987, he worked as a member in Thandava dalam. Later, he was shifted to Balaghat dalam and worked in it from 1990 to 1993. He was shifted to Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) to run the party magazine ‘Prabhat’. In 2000, Usendi became the in-charge of the press unit of the Special Zonal Committee besides continuing as the official spokesperson of the DKSZC with a different name as Guda Usendi since 2006. He has been working in the propaganda team of the party since 2009. The government will provide Rs 20 lakh cash to Usendi for his surrender as part of the government’s policy to help underground cadre to rehabilitate. (New Indian Express 10/1/14)

Chhattisgarh Cops to Quiz Naxal Leader in Hyderabad (12)

BHOPAL: A team of three senior cops, including officials from Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB) of Chhattisgarh, will be in Hyderabad to question naxal leader and spokesperson of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, Gumudavelli Venkatakrishna Prasad aka Gudsa Usendi, who had surrendered before the Andhra Pradesh police. Unlike their Andhra counterpart, the police establishment of the state is treading with caution as they are yet to verify the authenticity of the man who claims to be Prasad Usendi. “Unless and until we question him and are satisfied that he really is who he claims to be, it would be premature to say anything conclusive”, a senior cop said. As per the naxal tradition, any Dandakaranya committee spokesperson acquires the pseudonym of ‘Guda Usendi’ in memory of a young naxal cadre who died in a police ambush in Chhattisgarh in 2000. (New Indian Express 10.1.14)

Now, Bhushan wants a referendum on forces in Naxalite areas (12)

NEW DELHI: After stoking controversy with his remarks on Kashmir, Aam Aadmi Party leader Prashant Bhushan on Sunday drew flak from BJP for reportedly saying that there should be a referendum for deployment of security forces against Maoists in the affected areas. Bhushan, whose demand for a referendum on deployment of security forces in Kashmir had raised hackles, with his party AAP also distancing itself from it, on Saturday called for a vote on the issue of deploying central paramilitary forces in Naxal-infested areas. BJP spokesperson Nirmala Sitharaman said the efforts of the Centre, which is trying to tackle the issue with the help of state governments, will be negated by such statements and
security forces will be demoralized. The party asked the AAP leadership and CM Arvind Kejriwal to make clear their stand on the issue. "BJP is astonished at the way Prashant Bhushan is speaking out on issues which have serious implications on national security. Only on Saturday he talked about referendum for deploying central forces in Naxal-infested areas. BJP condemns such kind of periodic statements which have a direct relation on internal security," she said. She said when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has himself termed Naxals as the most serious threat to India's internal security, such statements are not good for the nation. "None of us have any business to demoralize the security forces who are tackling the Maoists and Naxals waging a war against the Indian government." Agencies (Times of India 13/1/14)

Maoist killed in gunbattle with police in Jharkhand (12)
Khunti: Police have killed a Maoist in a gunbattle, arrested one and recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunitions after combing operation in Jharkhand's Khunti District. "Maoist identified as Ramesh Bahan has been killed in return firing. Another Maoist Lalmohan Bahan is arrested. Two countrymade guns of 12 mm bore, some rounds of bullets of 12 mm and essentials of the camp including blankets, ground sheets and other stuffs have been recovered from them. Two other Maoists have been reportedly injured in the encounter," said Anish Gupta, a police official. Maoists are rebels who try to sink deep roots and form links after decades of neglect. The rebels are rapidly expanding their insurgency and could move from remote rural areas to cities. Equipped with automatic weapons, shoulder rocket launchers, mines and explosives, the Maoists want to cripple economic activity. The Maoists, who say they are fighting for the rights of the poor and landless, control some of India's mineral-rich areas and operate in large swaths of the eastern, central and southern countryside. The Maoists, also known as naxals, have killed police and politicians, and targeted government buildings and railway tracks in an insurgency that has killed thousands since the 1960s. The rebels are estimated to number 7000 hardcore fighters in nearly a third of India's 630 districts. (The Hindu 16/1/14)

Raipur stems up as nodal point of Naxal supplies in C'garh (12)
Raipur: With a strong urban network of Maoists resurfacing in the cities of Chhattisgarh, capital Raipur has emerged as a key centre for supply of logistics like clothes, arms and ammunition. More than the attacks in forests, what has left the police baffled are a couple of recent incidents where arms and ammunition were found in Raipur and its adjoining cities. The arrest of three Maoist couriers, who were allegedly handling the urban operations of Naxals, along with ammunition two days back in the district has once again set the alarm bell ringing for the Raipur Police. "Close vigil is being kept to trace every suspected movement in and around Raipur. We have certain inputs of assistance being provided to the rebels from town areas and we are taking appropriate action on that," Raipur Superintendent of Police O P Pal told PTI. The arrest is likely to unfold more information about the Maoist conduit operating in city area as their questioning has led to nabbing of two other Naxals from Bhanupratappur in Kanker who were working for urban module, he said. The fresh arrest also revealed that Maoist arms couriers are not only using four-wheelers but also motorcycles to carry small consignments of ammunition and other commodities for the Reds in their stronghold Bastar. "The consignment was being supplied on a motorcycle and no doubt they have done it earlier several times," the SP said. For the first time a major Naxal urban network was busted in 2008 with the arrest of eight persons, including a journalist Prafulla Jha, and a huge cache of arms and ammunition, electronic gadgets and uniforms were seized from Danganiya of Raipur and Bilaspur, police sources said. Since 2012 there has been a rise in cases of seizure of arms and ammunition from the city. In June 2012, police arrested two Naxal associates -Sheikh Mujeeb and Anjali Chouhan - from separate places in the capital and seized from them 270 rounds of AK-47 and self loading rifle, sources said. Within two days of their arrest, Anjali's husband – Sheikh Anwar - and a Naxal Bablu were arrested with 160 rounds SLR rifle, which they had allegedly procured from Andhra Pradesh-based Naxal couriers. Further interrogation of the four revealed that the consignment was to be delivered in the forests of Rajnandgaon. Prior to this incident, in March 2012, a joint team of
three states - Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal – had raided godown of a transport company in Raipur and seized 79 boxes of raw material for making rocket launchers and mortars meant for Maoists, the sources said. Surprisingly, the consignment was lying in the godown of a transport company in the city for several months and was allegedly to be delivered in Bastar, but police swung into action after getting information from other states. More recently, in August last year, police arrested two persons who were transporting explosives and material used to make bomb in their SUV in Raipur's Shankar Nagar area. As many as 32 pieces of detonators, oxygen cylinder, cooking gas cylinder, copper wires, 10 dynamites rod, small nut bolts, battery, torches, DVD, CD along with some documents meant for Naxals were seized from their vehicle, sources said. Although police have achieved success in busting the urban chains of Maoists, they are yet to ascertain the origin of the recovered arms, ammunition and explosives. "Though we have got certain clues about the supply of arms and ammunition from West Bengal and Mumbai, we have not been able to trace their exact origin," a senior intelligence official said, on condition of anonymity. "There is much possibility of couriers being changed four to five times for supplying a single consignment in order to conceal the exact source of weapons and bullets and other commodities," he said. Their (Naxals) urban network is the bedrock on which their success in forests and rural areas has been built. This network has been supplying all logistics, right from clothes to arms and ammunition, he pointed out. (Pioneer 17/1/14)

Anti-Naxal ops: 6,000 more men to be deployed in Chhattisgarh (12)
New Delhi: The government has decided to deploy close to 6,000 additional central security forces personnel for conducting specialised tasks in the anti-Naxal operations grid in Chhattisgarh. Out of the six new battalions which will be drawn from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), two have already been deployed in the Sukma and Dantewada districts of south Bastar in the state. One battalion comprises about a 1,000 personnel. According to a new blue-print prepared by the Home Ministry, these personnel will be essentially deployed and used to perform road opening and sanitising duties in these areas. However, they will also undertake operations if there is a requirement. The new battalions will aid the operations conducted by other central forces like CRPF, ITBP, BSF and state police forces which have a combined strength of over 32,000 in Chhattisgarh alone. SSB, which is the designated border guarding force along India's frontiers with Nepal and Bhutan, was withdrawn from these operations in Chhattisgarh in 2011. It was then guarding camps of the Salwa Judum workers. "It is essential to sanitise routes taken by security forces and those tracks which are used for other operational and general purposes. While other forces are now dominating their respective areas, the SSB men will do road opening duties in Chhattisgarh," sources in the security establishment said. The new SSB battalions have been trained by CRPF and also at the jungle warfare school in Kanker. The squads will be using gadgets to detect improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and landmines which have been a cause of numerous deaths and injuries to security force personnel conducting anti-Maoist operations. (Zee News 20/1/14)

Explosives seized from Maoist den (12)
Patna: In a search operation on Tuesday, huge cache of arms, explosives and grenades was recovered from the Maoist hideouts in the jungles of Munger and Jamui districts of Bihar. Police said that the Maoists had accumulated the explosives and arms to trigger some major incidents on the Republic Day. As many as 70 grenades, 100 kg of explosives and 25 live pipe bombs have been seized in a joint operation launched by the CRPF and the Bihar Police in Naxal-affected Munger and Jamui districts. Earlier, the reports had come in that over 100 CRPF commandos have been deployed in Bihar to combat the Naxal activities in the State. As many as 30 districts out of total 38 of the State are Maoists affected. Along with Jamui and Munger the other worst affected Naxal districts are Gaya, Aurangabad, Kaimur, Sheohar and Sitamarhi. The Bihar Government, significantly, was earlier charged by the UPA Government for being soft on the Maoists. Union Home Minister Shushilkumar Shinde even had shot off a letter to the Bihar Government expressing displeasure over the State Government’s stand on taking
action against Maoists. Taking umbrage over the Union Home Minister’s missive, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar too had declared that his Government would reply to the letter point-wise for which the concerned departments have already made the draft which needed my consent. Meanwhile, the Jamui Superintendent of Police Jitendra Rana said that acting on a tip-off about presence of some Maoists in the jungle, the district police along with CRPF personnel led a massive search operation and seized huge cache of ammunitions and explosives. “The search was part of the operation green hunt,” said the Jamui SP. He also said that an exchange of fire between security forces and the fleeing Maoists too took place before the armed personnel reached the spot in Harni jungle of the area,” he said further. It was here the then Munger SP KC Surendra Babu and six other police personnel were killed in a landmine attack by the Maoists in 2005. Many top ranking Maoists leaders are currently lodged in Bihar jails and, sources said, the dreaded Maoists were also planning to set them free as soon as possible. The State Government has tightened security in those jails of Bihar where Maoists leaders are held, said a police official. (Pioneer 22/1/14)

Naxalite violence down in 2013; Jharkhand saw most incidents (12)
NEW DELHI: While Jharkhand maintained its position as the state with the highest incidence of Naxalite violence in 2013, Bihar has bucked the nationwide trend of falling violence by recording a rise both in terms of incidents and killings as compared to 2012. Overall Naxalite-related incidents fell from 1,415 in 2012 to 1,129 last year, while killings were down from 415 to 394 in the same period. Of the 394 deaths recorded across the country, 115 belonged to the security forces and 279 were civilians. Among the affected states, Jharkhand emerged as the worst-hit in 2013 with 383 incidents and 150 deaths, though these statistics are lower compared to 2012. Chhattisgarh was a close second, recording 353 incidents and 110 killings in 2013, as against 370 incidents and 109 killings in 2012. Bihar, which of late has been causing concern to the Centre as regards its counter-Naxalite approach, was the only state with higher extremism levels and resultant killings. Incidents in the state were up in 2013 at 176, reversing the year-on-year downward trend seen in 2011 (316 incidents) and 2012 (166). Killings were higher at 69 last year, compared to 44 in 2012, which translates into a 57% rise. Though civilian deaths were up to 42 in 2013 from 34 in 2012, security personnel killed witnessed an increase from 10 to 27 in the corresponding period. Incidentally, home minister Sushilkumar Shinde had written to Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar in December last year, expressing concern at the unprecedented rise in deaths among security personnel deployed for counter-Naxalite duties in the state. The letter had irked the state government, with Janata Dal (United) MPs dubbing it as an “insult” and protesting in Parliament over the issue. As for the other states hit by left-wing extremism, Odisha accounted for 101 incidents and 35 deaths in 2013, as against 171 incidents and 45 deaths the preceding year. Maharashtra too recorded a fall in incidents and deaths, which stood at 71 and 19 respectively. Andhra Pradesh maintained its declining levels of Naxalite violence, with 36 incidents and 11 deaths. (Times of India 27/1/14)

Maoists release 4 hostages, CRPF man dies in blast (12)
Ranchi: The Maoists on Monday released the four persons abducted in Giridih district on Saturday evening, even as they set off 22 landmine blasts in the area, killing one CRPF man and injuring 11 other security personnel who were part of the rescue team. The incident took place near Dolkatha village, on the Topchanchi-Pirtand road connecting Dhanbad and Giridih districts, at around 12 in the afternoon. The victim has been identified as Badal Mandal of the CRPF’s 22nd Battalion. The injured, seven CRPF and four Jharkhand Jaguar — the state police’s anti-LWE force — personnel were airlifted to the Apollo Hospital, on the outskirts of Ranchi, for treatment. Three are reported to be critical. Police claimed the Maoists released the four persons after pressure was mounted on them. “They were being held six-seven kilometres away from where they were kidnapped. It was near the spot near where the landmines went off. There was firing after the blasts. All this created pressure on them, and they were forced to release the four,” said DGP Rajeev Kumar. (Indian Express 28/1/14)
**Gadchiroli: Naxals gun down 2 villagers**

Nagpur: Raju Ajmera, a kirana shopkeeper, and Laxman Sidam, a farm labourer, both around 35 years of age, were called out by Naxals and questioned over their alleged role as police informers. They refuted the charge, but the Naxals repeated the allegations and also beat them up. Some villagers opposed the Naxal action, but they were also beaten up. Thereafter, the Naxals took the two away from the village asked them to run and shot them from behind,” Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Suvez Haq told The Indian Express. Haq denied that Ajmera and Sidam were police informers. “Only Sidam occasionally performed skits at our Jan Jagran Melawas (public awareness rallies),” he added. Incidentally, there was a police-Naxal encounter near the village a few months ago and the Naxals suspected that the two could have tipped off the police then. They had reportedly assaulted Sidam earlier too. Naxal violence against civilians tagged as police informers had drastically come down last year when only nine such murders took place, as against 24 in 2012, 40 in 2011, 32 in 2010 and 37 in 2009. The year 2013 also witnessed one of the highest number of Naxal casualties, 26, in police encounters. (Indian Express 29/1/14)

**Villagers to assist police in anti-Naxal operations**

Raipur: Residents of around 500 villages in the Maoist-hit Jashpur district of north Chhattisgarh have taken a collective decision to help the police in anti-naxal operations. “The natives of various villages, including Thuthi Amba, Tepar Toli, Awrapali and Kathal Dand under Aara police station area on the Chhattisgarh-Jharkhand border, recently held a meeting in which they decided to assist the security personnel to curb Maoist activities,” Jashpur Superintendent of Police J.S. Meena told PTI here on Tuesday. The villagers said they decided to help the security agencies as they were fed up with being thrashed, assaulted and exhorted by the cadres of the People’s Liberation Front of India (PLFI), a banned outfit active in the region. Ten days ago, rebels brutally assaulted a villager without any reason and also molested a few women, the villagers said. According to Mr. Meena, the ultras also thwarted several government projects in the area, following which an enraged villagers refused to help rebels under any circumstances. A Naxal conduit, who was allegedly involved in mobilising villagers against the Rowghat rail line project in Kanker district ,was arrested on Tuesday, police said. Badri Gavde, said to be a Congress worker and staying and operating from Antagarh block of Kanker, was apprehended on Monday, Superintendent of Police (Intelligence) Rajnesh Singh told PTI. “Gavde confessed that he had been doing liaisons with some leaders of the Congress for getting the party ticket to contest the Vidhan Sabha election,” he said. On the direction of his senior cadres, Gavde, a self-styled social worker, had founded an organisation ‘Rowghat Bachao Jila Sangharsh Samiti’ to mobilise villagers against the proposed Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat Rail Line meant to haul iron ore from the proposed Rowghat mines, the SP said. He had also arranged secret meetings of NGO workers with top Maoists, during which they chalked out strategies to oppose the project. Gavde also admitted to playing a key role in fixing Maoists' meetings with prominent people from Delhi in the forests of Abhjmad.So far nine naxal conduits, all residents of Kanker region, who were allegedly part of the channel providing logistic and financial support to Maoists, have been held, he said. Meanwhile, in Narayanpur district, six Naxalites involved in several crimes, including attempt to murder, arson and obstructing the Assembly election process, were arrested during a joint search operation, police said. Live cartridges of Insas rifle, Naxal banners and other related items were recovered from their possession. — PTI (The Hindu 30/1/14)

**Be sensitive to women during anti-Naxal ops: Jairam Ramesh to CRPF**

NEW DELHI: Union minister Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday asked CRPF personnel to be sensitive while dealing with women during anti-Naxal offensives and carry out their operations in a “people friendly manner”. Ramesh, who has extensively worked with the Central Reserve Police Force during development initiatives started by the government in Maoist violence-hit areas, also suggested a three-point strategy to be followed by the officials and personnel of the force in these areas. "You should have a
sensitive approach with regard to human rights violations issues. We are instruments of a democratic state and we are wedded to constitutional and democratic processes. We must initiate the system of transparency and accountability and wherever there is a complaint the CRPF should not hide behind the cloak of secrecy," the Union Rural Development Minister said. "The CRPF should carry out the operations in a sensitive and people friendly manner. In order to instill confidence in the locals of these areas we should be sensitive to gender dimensions and women. This will go along way in assuaging the local sentiments," he said while delivering a lecture during a run-up to the diamond jubilee celebrations of the force later this year. The country's largest paramilitary force has deployed close to 90,000 personnel for these operations and Ramesh has travelled to many of the forces' remote locations in Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh as part of his ministerial duties. He also worked closely with the force in 2012 when CRPF cleared the Saranda forest area in Jharkhand from Naxal domination. Ramesh said most of the problems, in these areas where there are large tribal populations, occur when there are interactions with women. As a plan the force could even think of deploying some of their women personnel at some feasible locations and increase their participation in the duties they render, he suggested. (Times of India 4/2/14)

**Naxals’ supply chain of weapons, aid blocked in Chhattisgarh: Police (12)**
Raipur: With its recent crackdown on the urban support network and couriers of Maoists, Chhattisgarh Police has claimed to have choked the main supply chain of weapons, medicines and other kind of aid to Naxals operating from their stronghold in Bastar region of the state. Police recently arrested nine persons, all residents of Kanker region who they claimed were acting as conduits and were part of the channel providing logistic and financial support to the extremists linked to the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) of the banned CPI (Maoist). These persons, two of them prominent businessmen from north Bastar, were working under the direction of Prabhakar, a divisional committee rank member, according to a highly-placed intelligence official. Prabhakar is a very important figure in the outlawed red organisation and was solely handling the entry of all Naxal-related materials through various regions surrounding Bastar and Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), he said. "The interrogation of Naxal conduits revealed that Prabhakar is the man who looks after the entry and exit of all kinds of material in DKSZC-controlled area which is spread over south Chhattisgarh and Gadchiroli," the official said. “Intelligence Bureau inputs suggest that Prabhakar had shifted to deep forests in Abhujmad area from Kanker after the arrest of couriers as most of them frequented his usual locations and he feared that their grilling may create trouble for him,” he added. During investigation, it also came to light that Prabhakar was a close relative of Ganpathi, “Supreme Commander” and General Secretary of Communist Party of India (Maoist). He hails from the native region of Ganpathi in Karimnagar district, Andhra Pradesh, the official said. “Due to his proximity to Ganpathi, Prabhakar was entrusted with such a big responsibility of handling the supply chain. “Prabhakar’s role is being considered equivalent to that of Gudsa Usendi (who surrendered recently) who was handling the media operations of DKSZC.” “Of the nine Naxal conduits, Neeraj Chopra, a business, and Sukhnath Nareti were said to be very close to Prabhakar and major links in this network operating from Kanker in North Bastar.” (Indian Express 1/2/14)

**After 5 years in jail, Mumbaikar acquitted of naxal charges (12)**
Mumbai: After spending five years in prison, Mumbai resident Arun Ferreira, who was slapped with 11 cases accusing him to be a Naxalite, is now a free man. He was acquitted from the last case pending against him last week. Being a ‘political prisoner’ for all these years, Mr. Ferreira who is currently pursuing his degree in law has decided to fight for ‘many such others’ who according to him are denied of their constitutional rights across the country. “Prison is certainly not the place where one wants to be. But my commitment towards bringing social change has rather increased after spending five years inside. That’s my gain,” he told The Hindu. Whether it was opposing the privatisation of college canteen or to form the staff union, an alma mater of St. Xavier’s college in Mumbai, Mr. Ferreira was an activist from a very
young age. In 2007, he was arrested in Nagpur after the police alleged him of being a Naxalite and framing a criminal conspiracy. Ever since his arrest, he was slapped with seven more identical cases. Following his hunger strike in 2008, which lasted 27 days, one more case was added. Ironically, when he was acquitted of all nine cases in 2011 and walked out of the prison, he was immediately arrested by Gadchiroli police in yet another case about naxal activity. “They almost abducted me, in front of my family and lawyers,” he recalled. According to Mr. Ferreira, such practice of releasing and then re-arresting is very common in Naxal affected region. “They (the authorities) want to inflate the number of arrests in the region. If they don’t do it, the area might lose extra funding which comes from Central government aimed specially for naxal affected regions,” he said. He was released on bail in 2012 and was finally acquitted of the 11th case last week. Around 13 prisoners from Nagpur Central Prison who are arrested under MCOCA and UAPA are currently on hunger strike, according to him. “Persistent refusal of bail and non-production of an accused in courts are the two causes for which they are fighting,” he said. According to Mr. Ferreira, the authorities do not even bother to take an accused to court in areas like Gadchiroli and the entire trial is conducted via-video conferencing. “Even verdicts are given through such means,” he said. He completed Masters in Human Rights while in prison and now has decided to work for the political prisoners across the country. “All those who are campaigning for peoples’ rights and are affiliated to certain political ideology are one set of political prisoners,” he said, adding that members of Muslim community who are arrested because of state’s prejudice towards them form the second such set. It was his wife who financially supported the family and took care of their son all these years. His eight-year-old son was two and half years at the time of Mr. Ferreira’s arrest. “I wouldn’t mind if he too chooses activism at right time. I want him to do what his heart would want,” he said. Mr. Ferreira has not deterred from his activist mode. “I do not believe that only new legislations will bring change. We need peoples' movements, protests on roads and sustained campaigns among masses to bring the change,” he said. But does he really support an armed revolution for a social change? “I have a belief that change will take place. Whether it will be with arms or without depends on the leaders. My preference is for non-violence,” he said. (The Hindu 4/2/14)

Activists launch hunger strike against Naxal violence (12)

NAGPUR: Three social activists from city on Saturday launched a three-day symbolic hunger strike to protest against Naxal violence in the heartland of rebel guerillas at Jimulgatta in Aheri tehsil. The activists had earlier participated in a 'shodhyatra' drive across the district in January to initiate dialogues with tribal population to generate feedback regarding the ground realities in remote places. The hunger strike, which would conclude on Monday, was initiated with an aim to launch a peaceful stir against the Naxals’ agenda of spreading terror in the tribal district which had witnessed a prolonged stretch of turbulence with rebels and security forces turning the scenic forested region into a battle zone. The hunger-strike is learnt to be an extended part of the ‘Shodhyatra’ drive which had been initiated to focus on developmental issues revolving around education, health, drinking water and other basic amenities. The latest efforts of Arvind Sovani and Rashmi Paraskar, both assistant professors of CP & Berar College, along with social worker Datta Shirke are being directed to send message across to the rebel camp, which had earlier opposed their ‘Shodhyatra' to abjure violence. Following Shodhyatra, the group is now keen to take up primary education and push for construction of roads in the interiors as their future aims through filing PIL and other democratic measures. Sovani, who had been working in Gadchiroli on various issues for last few years, said that after Shodhyatra he was keen to start a symbolic protest against the Naxal violence in the strife-torn district. "In fact, we are keen to have a direct dialogue with the Naxals on violence to know their viewpoint on the issue and why they want to continue on the same path," said Sovani. He stated that his choice of place for protest in the Naxal heartland was intended to arouse awareness regarding non-violence and highlight people’s need for development and infrastructure, apart from basic condition for sound living. Shirke said that their hunger strike garnered positive feedback so far with local residents visiting the venue. "Mangala Ajmer visited the venue and also spent some time with us protesting against
the Naxal violence which claimed her husband Raju around a week ago. We were moved to see the widow joining us," he said. The Shodhyatris have also expressed intention to take their protest to all such places where the rebels would eliminate local tribal or try to spread terror through subversive activities.

(Times of India 9/2/14)

**Two CRPF officials killed, 12 injured in Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh (12)**

Raipur: Two CRPF officials, including a deputy commandant, were killed and 12 security personnel were injured in a landmine blast triggered by Naxals in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday. The incident took place this morning in a forest near Bodhrajpadar village under Bhejji police station limits, Sukma Additional Superintendent of Police Neeraj Chandrakar said. Constable Rajiv Rawat, belonging to the 219 Battalion of CRPF, and one of the two deputy commandants in the operational units have been killed. The identity of the deputy commandant is in the process of being established. "Two of our personnel including a deputy commandant-level officer have been killed. The entire operation was being led by senior officers," CRPF Inspector General (Operations) HS Sidhu told PTI. Twelve security personnel, including a CRPF deputy commandant, seven other officials of the force and four state policemen, have been injured in the incident, he added. The evacuation process is on and two helicopters have been sent to retrieve the injured jawans, ASP Chandrakar said. A joint squad of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), its specialised unit Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA) and the district police personnel was engaged in an anti-Naxal operation in the region, which is around 500 km away from Raipur, for the past few days. Maoists triggered a landmine blast and opened fire on the security personnel, Chandrakar said. Maoists retreated as the security personnel retaliated and began to encircle them. (Zee News 9/2/14)

**Five persons arrested for having Naxal ‘links’ (12)**

Raipur: Five persons, including a hardcore Naxal who was part of the Jeeram Ghati massacre by Maoists last year in Bastar, have been arrested, informed Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) (Intelligence) Mukesh Gupta on Monday. A Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) is also among the persons arrested for providing medical aid to the insurgents, he said while addressing a news conference at Police Headquarters here. The arrested Naxals have been identified as Santu Kunjam (30), Butturam Vatti (35) and Gopi Markam (19), who are residents of Bhanis and Dantewada, Jalandhar alias Jalen (33) and Malay Kumar (38) are residents of Bacheli Dantewada. Dr Malay Kumar Kanjilal is the RMP hailing from Malkangiri region of Odisha and had shifted to Bacheli in 2007, he said. Providing details on the involvement of the accused in Jeeram Ghati attack by Maoists in which several prominent state-level Congress leaders were killed, Gupta remarked: ‘On May 25, the Maoists had planned three ambushes: One in Jeeram Ghati, second in Bhuras Ghati and third in Satdhar Trisection where three roads meet from Sukma, Dantewada and Satdhar meet. ‘The accused Santu Kunjam was in contact with Hunga over phone that night,’ the ADGP said. Santu Kunjam is the henchman of a hardcore Naxal Hunga who is member of Maoist’s Special Zone Committee (SZC) and was also associated with another Naxal named Sanjay, he said. Three of them used to damage railway tracks in the region and had also triggered several blasts while being involved in killings of policemen. Kunjam was involved in attacking a CISF post in Dantewada besides looting weapons wherein 7 jawans were killed a few years back. According to Gupta, the arrest assumes significance as Santu used to control Naxal activities in a large area beginning from Kamalur, Kirandool, Akash Nagar till the Dantewada police line and Nakulnar. ‘Santu was involved in several murders, landmine blasts including killing of SHO Kirandool few years back through a bomb blast,’ the ADG maintained. “Kunjam had also triggered a blast while targetting a police vehicle during Congress party’s ‘Kalash Yatra’ in Bastar,” the ADGP claimed. He stated that under the influence of Hunga and Sanjay, the locals of the area where the accused lived had tried to stage a Chakka jam when police party reached the spot to arrest them. Jalen used to supply explosives to Naxals and operated illegal mines in the area. Gopi was a Naxal courier and planned blast near Jhirkha one day before polls in Chhattisgarh, the ADGP said. Gupta further said the the accused Dr Malay Kumar Kanjilal
was in contact with Naxals through Jalen and used to supply medicines to insurgents. Malay used to prepare fake prescriptions so that medicines could be purchased for Naxals without any suspicion, the ADGP said. (Pioneer 11/2/14)

43 from Naxal's urban network held in Chhattisgarh in 5 years: Govt (12)
Raipur: The Chhattisgarh government on Wednesday said that 43 people, who were part of the urban network of the Maoists, were arrested in the state during past five years. In a written reply to a question from senior Congress legislator Bhupesh Baghel in the state Assembly, Home Minister Ramsewak Paikra informed the House that as many as 43 people, including women, were arrested from 2009 till January 20 this year on charges of involvement in urban channel of Naxals. However, six of them were later exonerated while cases against 37 others were pending in the court of the law. As per the reply, seven alleged Naxal urban conduits were held in 2009 followed by two in 2010, eleven in 2011, six in 2012, eight in 2013 and nine in January this year. Essar company General Manager DBCS Verma, contractor B K Lala and school teacher Soni Sori were among those arrested in 2011. Last month, nine persons - Mohpal Dhruva, Baliram Usendi, Chaitram Darro, Sukhnath Nareti, Neeraj Chopra, Dharmendra Chopra, Ravi Kadiyam, Badri Gayde - all from Kanker district of north Bastar and Foolsingh Naag of Kondagaon were arrested in this connection, the reply said. In a written reply to another question by Leader of Opposition TS Singhdeo in connection with the arrests last month, Paikra informed the House that all the nine arrested were found involved in providing assistance to Naxal commander and divisional committee member Prabhakar. Cartridges, detonators, pistol, country made pistol, gelatin, fuse wire, Naxal literature, banner, posters, medicines, bills of commodities supplied to Naxals and cash were recovered from their possession, the reply mentioned. They were booked under provisions of Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act, Explosives Substances Act and Arms Act, it added. (Zee News 13/2/14)

CPI-Maoist ranked fourth among top ten insurgent groups (12)
Washington: The Communist Party of India (Maoist) has been ranked fourth among the top ten most active non-state armed groups in 2013, according to a study released this week by a major defence and business risk think-tank. According to the IHS Jane’s latest ‘Global Terrorism and Insurgency Attack Index,’ a total of 258 attacks were claimed by, or attributed to, the CPI(Maoist), even though this represented a 29 per cent decrease from the 362 attacks recorded in 2012. In a note to The Hindu, Matthew Henman, Manager of IHS Jane’s Terrorism and Insurgency Centre explained that the decrease in CPI(Maoist) attacks not only came amid a wider 16 per cent decrease in attacks nationwide, but also a 19 per cent decrease in the number of recorded counter-terrorism operations. “As such, despite progress in the counter-insurgency against the CPI(Maoist), the fall in attacks was also likely somewhat attributable to authorities challenging the group less in its extensive area of operations in the so-called ‘Red Belt’ States,” he added. Among other insurgent groups listed in the top ten rankings are the Taliban (second rank), al-Qaeda in Iraq (fifth), al-Shabaab (sixth), Colombia’s FARC (seventh) and Syrian Jabhat al-Nusra (ninth). (The Hindu 15/2/14)

Two Naxals arrested in Chattisgarh (12)
RAIPUR: Two Naxals were arrested during a search operation in Maoist-hit Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, police said on Tuesday. The cadres were nabbed while they were trying to flee into the forests under Gangalur police station limits last evening, Bijapur Deputy Superintendent of Police Sukhnandan Rathore said. A team of local police was on a combing operation in the Gangalur area, around 450 kms away from here, when it spotted the rebels in Peddapara village. Those nabbed were identified as Punem Aytu (29) and Paiku Punem (35), active members of Gangalur area committee, he said. During interrogation, the duo admitted of being involved in several incidents of crime, including arson and murder in the region, he added. (Times of India 18/2/14)
11 helicopters deployed in Naxal-hit states (12)
NEW DELHI: Eleven helicopters have been deployed by the government in Naxal-hit states to support the security forces tackling the extremists, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Minister of state for home RPN Singh said the choppers, belonging to Indian Air Force and the Border Security Force, are available for use as per operational requirement in all Left Wing Extremism affected states. “In addition, the LWE affected states have been permitted to hire helicopter under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme on need basis,” he said in a written reply. Under the SRE scheme, the Central government provides assistance to the 9 LWE affected states for security related expenditure. Under it, the expenditure is first incurred by the state government and thereafter reimbursed by the Central government after conducting audit in the respective states. A total of Rs 188.58 crore has been allocated to the nine states under the SRE in 2013-14, Rs 180.66 crore in 2012-13, Rs 187.48 crore in 2011-12 and Rs 299.06 crore in 2010-11. (Times of India 18/2/14)

Maoist couple surrenders in Chhattisgarh (12)
RAIPUR: Disillusioned with exploitation by Naxalite leaders from Andhra Pradesh, a Maoist leader and his wife on Tuesday surrendered before police in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh. Additional director general of police (Naxal operations), Rajinder Kumar Vij, told reporters in Rajnandgaon that 27-year-old Bhagat Jaade, was a member of Rajnandgaon-Kanker border divisional committee of outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) and was also secretary of Dallirajhara area committee. His wife Vanoja alias Tejo Netam, 21, was a member of Aundhi local committee. Active in the banned outfit for about five years, the Naxalite couple told police after their surrender, that they were disillusioned with harassment and exploitation of dalam members by the leaders. Vij said Jaade’s father was a sarpanch of village Sahpal, near Manpur area in Rajnandgaon district in 2005, the time when Naxalites began frequenting the region. Jaade came in touch with rebels, who used him for arranging supplies and later inducted him as a member of local area of Madanwada in 2007. In 2008, he was shifted as Polemadi area committee member and later he became area committee secretary in 2011. The surrendered Maoist leader told reporters that one of his responsibilities was to enroll new members in CPI (Maoist) and he had played a crucial role in the process. However, there have been no new recruitments in the region for last two years, because of multiple factors including pressure being mounted by security forces. Jaade also told police that his younger brother Budhram Jaade, who was in police, was abducted and killed by Maoist Vijay Reddy and Kamlesh. Rajnandgaon district superintendent of police, Dr Sanjiv Shukla said Naxalite activities had declined drastically in the region and dalam members were returning to the mainstream. After being tipped off by surrendered Naxalites, a joint team of district police and Indo-Tibetan Border police (ITBP) have recovered and defused three IEDs and a directional mine, planted by Naxalites near a forest road. Meanwhile, security forces have arrested two Naxalites from Maoist-hit Bijapur district in tribal Bastar region. The cadres were nabbed while they were trying to flee into the forests, under Gangalur police station limits on Monday evening, Bijapur deputy superintendent of police, Sukhnandan Rathore said. Those arrested were identified as Punem Aytu (29) and Paiku Punem (35), active members of Gangalur area committee, he said. During interrogation, the duo admitted of being involved in several incidents of crime, including arson and murder in the region, he added. (Times of India 19/2/14)

Mobile towers for Naxal-hit States held up in DoT (12)
NEW DELHI: An important project of the UPA government to install mobile towers in nine Naxal-affected States covering remote and backward villages is still stuck in the Department of Telecommunications despite Cabinet clearance last year. “Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde is personally monitoring the issue as there has been an undue delay of over three years since the project was first conceived. Mr. Shinde will take up the issue with Telecom Minister Kapil Sibal and also seek Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's intervention in getting it cleared,” a senior official involved in the project told “The Hindu. Mr. Sibal
wanted to get this “development” project launched by Dr. Singh and Congress president and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi just before the general election. However, it is unlikely that the Congress leadership will get to flag it off now, with a high possibility of the model code of conduct coming into force early next month. Despite Mr. Sibal fast-tracking it immediately after the massacre of the Chhattisgarh Congress leadership in May last, the project is stuck in the Telecom Commission, the DoT’s decision-making body, over issues of cost between the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) that is financing the project and BSNL, which will implement it through vendors. A Telecom Commission meeting, scheduled for last week, to decide on the project was postponed to next month, DoT sources said. The Cabinet had last June approved Rs. 3,046 crore for installing 2,199 mobile towers in the Left-Wing Extremism-affected States mainly to aid security personnel deployed there and set a 12-month deadline for completing it. Significantly, BSNL came out with a tender for the project in September without even signing an agreement with the USOF. The tendering process is already in advanced stage but the costing issue may further delay the project. BSNL wants some additional components, added by the USOF, scaled down, besides waiver of tax being imposed on it in order to bring the project cost close to what has been approved by the Cabinet, government sources said. (The Hindu 24/2/14)

Maharashtra police has succeeded in reducing Naxalism: Governor (12)
Maharashtra police has succeeded in reducing effects of Naxalism in Gadchiroli, Gondia and Chandrapur districts in the state, said Governor K Sankaranarayanan on Monday. The Governor was addressing the joint session of both Houses on the first day of the four-day Legislature session. “In 2013-14, to strengthen the Anti-Naxal Operations in Naxal-affected areas and repose confidence of public, ‘Janjagrana Melawas’ and ‘Grambhetas’ are being organised extensively,” he said. “The Navasanjivan Project, which aims to hold a dialogue with more and more Naxals to surrender and lay down their arms, has resulted in surrender of 49 Naxals,” he said. “To expose the school-going children of Naxal-affected tribal areas to urban Maharashtra, a new Scheme ‘Apla Maharashtra Suvarna Jayanti Yojana’ has been launched,” he said. Under Special Infrastructure Scheme, various facilities have been created and fortified police stations are proposed. The Governor informed the Legislature that a decision has been taken to impart training to the students belonging to the schedule Tribes through eight Universities and two training centers. This is aimed at preparing them to appear for pre-competitive examinations of Indian Administrative Services and State Administrative Services conducted by Union Public Service Commission and Maharashtra Public Service Commission. (Indian Express 25/2/14)

Naxalites slay Balapam sarpanch near Hyderabad (12)
CHINTAPALLI (Visakhapatnam): Striking terror in the hearts of locals as well as police personnel ahead of the elections, Maoists killed the recently elected sarpanch of Balapam panchayat, a Red stronghold, in Chintapalli in the wee hours of Tuesday for contesting the elections against their order. The 38-year-old sarpanch, Sinderi Karla, was hacked to death by a group of Naxals after being dragged out of his house at Rallagedda of Balapam panchayat. Karla is survived by his wife and two children. According to sources, around 50 Naxals and militia members led by Maoist leaders Kiran and Azad entered the village around 2.30 am on Tuesday, tied up Karla’s hands and dragged him out of his house. The Naxals told the sarpanch's wife that they wanted to discuss some issues with him and also hold a meeting in the village. They took him to a martyrs’ pylon on the outskirts of the village. Interestingly, Karla was one of the persons instrumental in constructing the martyrs’ pylon, sources said Raju told media persons that he soon heard his brother’s cries for help and after a few minutes the villagers found Karla lying lifeless in a pool of blood with a deep wound on his neck. The Reds left a note on Karla's body warning Prem Singh, Sobhan, Soma Raju, Nooka Raju and Sanjeeva Rao that they would meet the same fate if they did not leave the village along with their families. Alleging that Karla was a police informer, the note also accused him of colluding with the Annavaram and Chintapalli police and playing a key role in illegal arrests and surrenders as well as in harassing people agitating for their rights on coffee plantations and at bauxite
mines. They also accused him of playing a key role in laying roads along with the Essar pipeline. The note, left in the name of the Korukonda committee, also alleged that Karla had contested the local body elections though nobody was willing to contest or vote. The Naxals said they had warned Karla through letters, leaflets and the Praja court, but he did not heed their warnings. Karla was unanimously elected sarpanch of Balapam panchayat last month and reportedly joined the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). The Balapam panchayat election was postponed in August last year when no one was willing to contest in the wake of Maoist threats. According to sources, Karla, who was a strong Maoist sympathiser, was among the 75 Maoist militia members and sympathizers that surrendered before the police in 2012. After the surrenders, the police got access to the village that was once considered to be a Maoist stronghold in the Korukonda tracts. Visakha Rural SP Vikram Jeet Duggal told TOI that the police had warned Karla three days ago that he was on the Maoist hit list. "We had warned him to leave the village for a safer place for a few days, but he was confident that the Naxals would not do anything to him if he was in the village," Duggal said, adding that the Naxals were ironically targeting innocent tribals that they were claiming to be fighting for. (Times of India 26/2/14)

Naxals Plan to Thwart Mobile Network Ahead of LS Polls: IB (12)
RAIPUR: Fearing leakage of their strategies ahead of Lok Sabha polls, Naxals are keeping a close watch on people who could act as informers and pass on information using mobile phones in villages of their hot-bed Bastar. In some pockets of restive Narayanpur district comprising a major part of the Abhujmad region, local cadres are visiting villages and collecting information about mobile users and even asking them to deposit the gadgets with rebels assuring to return them after the Lok Sabha elections. "The strategy is being witnessed as a part of their plan ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. It could be an attempt to maintain secrecy of their evil design," a senior Intelligence Bureau official told PTI. "Mobile phone and telecom towers have always been a major target of Naxals in their stronghold of Bastar, but so far such a kind of move of collecting phones from villagers was never witnessed," the official said. Naxals have taken up the task in Mad region villages - Kutulpara, Orchhameta, Kutul and several others, he said. Though these areas have less mobile towers, but at some places like in hilly areas, mobile network is there and these areas are frequently used both by villagers and security forces, he said. Following their failure to execute deadly attempts during the recently-concluded state Assembly elections, Maoist's top leaders believe that the lower rank cadres have failed to maintain secrecy of their operations as the information about gathering of rebels, placement of IEDs and landmines was already leaked to police, he said. As the rebels are now gearing up to create disturbance ahead of Lok Sabha polls, their top rung has asked them to keep a hawk eye on mobile users, whose numbers have increased in the recent past, and seize mobile phones from those villages where important operations will be held, he said. The recent crackdown on the urban network of Maoists in the state with the arrest of 17 alleged Naxal conduits has also posed problems for the ultras in monitoring the intelligence channel working inside forests, he said. When asked about preparations by police department ahead of the polls, the IB official said instructions have already been issued to security personnel to stay alert as Naxal strikes were witnessed more during the Lok Sabha election as compared to Assembly polls in the past. Every kind of suspicious move is under the scanner in the disturbed zone, he added. (New Indian Express 28/2/14)

100 Naxals trap 12 cops in Bastar, kill 5 (12)
RAIPUR: Five security personnel, including a police sub-inspector, were killed and three others injured in a Maoist ambush on Friday in the restive Dantewada district of Bastar region. The 12-member team led by station house officer Vivek Shukla was on a patrol mission at a road construction site in Kowakonda-Bacheli area of Chhattisgarh when they were attacked. The guerrillas set police motorcycles ablaze, looted an AK-47 rifles, two SLR and an INSAS rifle before fleeing to Shyamgiri hills area under Kowakonda police station. "The Maoists fired indiscriminately at the patrol party, killing SHO Vivek Shukla
and four others," said additional director-general of police Rajinder Kumar Vij. "The patrol team comprising 12 police personnel was moving on six motorcycles in Shyamagiri hills region, around five km from Kuwakonda police station, when about 100 armed rebels attacked them, resulting in the death of the sub-inspector and four other policemen on the spot," Vij said. The others killed included Chhavilal Kashi, Sandeep Sahu, Dhaneshwar Mandavi and Naval Kishore Shandiya. Constable Pushpendra Kumar, who was critical, was airlifted to a hospital in Raipur. Assistant constable Pardeshiram and constable Bhagirath Mandavi suffered minor injuries. Additional reinforcements were rushed to the spot for combing operations to flush out the rebels. Chief Minister Raman Singh condemned the attack and expressed grief over the death of security personnel. "Naxals have carried out a cowardly act which has again proved they are against basic facilities like roads," he said. (Times of India 1/3/14)

Two suspected Maoists killed in Odisha encounter (12)
BERHAMPUR: Two suspected Maoists were killed during an exchange of fire inside the jungle under the Pottangi police station area of Koraput district in south Odisha on Tuesday. Speaking to The Hindu, Koraput Superintendent of Police (SP) Awinash Kumar said as per initial reports the uniform of the slain men hinted that they were Maoist commanders. Their identity was being ascertained. But they were suspected to be members of Koraput-Srikakulam division under the “Andhra Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee” (AOBSZC) of the outlawed CPI (Maoist). The security personnel have also seized two carbines, two magazines of firearms and a grenade from the encounter spot. The encounter occurred during an anti-Maoist operation by the District Voluntary Force (DVF) of Koraput police, which had been initiated following intelligence reports that a group of hardcore Maoists were camping in the jungle under Pottangi police station bordering Andhra Pradesh. The DVF personnel tracked down this group of Maoists near Golluru inside the jungle, said the SP. When the ultras opened fire, it was retaliated by the security personnel, leading to the death of the two. Others in the camp managed to escape. Security personnel have intensified search operations in the area with sealing of inter-State border to nab the escaped persons. On August 27, 2013, four personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) were killed and three others were injured in a landmine blast by Maoists on NH26 in Pottangi police station area. After the incident, security personnel have kept extra vigil in this region. (The Hindu 4/3/14)

Join mainstream, SP urges Maoists (12)
VISAKHAPATNAM: The tribal people of Mukudupalli and Gorrilametta and surrounding villages in Koyyuru mandal in the Agency area of the district appealed to Superintendent of Police Vikram Jeet Duggal, Officer on Special Duty (Narsipatnam) A.R. Damodar and their team to sanction roads, schools, transport and water facilities to their villages. These villages, located around 50-km away from the Galikonda base, the Maoist stronghold in the area, do not have basic transport facilities. A meeting, Sadhbhavana Yatra, was held at Mukudupalli village on Monday. Addressing the meeting, the SP said roads were the lifeline for development of the tribal areas and an answer to their problems. The efforts of the government machinery to provide roads and basic infrastructure facilities were being opposed by the Maoists. They were burning road laying equipment and were threatening contractors which indicates that they do not espouse the cause of the development of tribal people. Referring to the recent murder of the Balapam sarpanch Sindri Karla, he said the killing of a man, who was working for the welfare of tribal people was a reflection of the desperation of the Maoists to retain their waning support among tribal people. Mr. Duggal called upon the Maoists to shun violence and join the mainstream of society. He appealed to them to surrender and promised that all they would get all help from the government. Responding to the plea of the tribal people, he promised to take their grievances such as lack of roads and communication facilities to the notice of the Collector and strive to get them solved. The SP distributed saris to tribal women, lungis to men and volleyball kits to youth. The SP and his team had community lunch with the tribal people. Assistant Superintendent of Police (Narsipatnam) Vishal Gunni,
IPS Trainee Kamlesh Kumar and Inspectors Venkata Rao (SBX), G. Somasekhar (Koyyuru), KNSV Prasad (Chintapalli) and G. Rambabu (G.K. Veedhi) participated in the yatra. (The Hindu 4/3/14)

'Adequate Police Force to Be Deployed in Naxal-Hit Areas' (12)
Bokaro: Three of the seven districts under North Chhotanagpur Division in Jharkhand are the most sensitive areas and adequate security personnel would be deployed there in the run up to the General Elections, a senior police official said today. "Areas under Giridih, Bokaro and Chatra districts are sensitive as they are naxalite affected. Maximum security personnel will be deployed in these areas," Inspector General of Police (North Chhotanagpur Division) Laxman Prasad Singh told reporters here. He chaired a meeting with SPs of Giridih, Bokaro, Chatra, Dhanbad, Koderma, Ramgarh and Hazaribagh under the division to chalk out operational strategies ahead of the three-phase elections in the state beginning April 10. "We are ready to conduct elections peacefully. A survey of booths under naxal-affected areas is also underway," he said. The meeting comes in the backdrop of recent reports that the union Home Ministry has sent an advisory to various states to step up operations in naxal strong-hold areas and the forces must remain in 'mission mode' during the entire electoral process to ensure peaceful elections. The 14 Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand are going for polls on April 10, 17 and 24. The police officer also appealed to the extremists to join the mainstream. (Outlook 7/3/14)

Ousted Maoist commander looks for exit from Odisha forest hideout (12)
New Delhi: He was once a darling of the CPI (Maoist) leadership. From his bastion in the Kandhamal forests of Odisha, top Maoist commander Sabyasachi Panda planned and executed many daring operations for his party. But two years after being forsaken by the Maoist leadership, 45-year-old Panda is trapped now somewhere along the Ganjam-Kandhamal border with a bullet injury in the thigh. The police are closing in on his hideout. “We are very close to him and we will get him very soon,” Ganjam district police chief Ashish Singh said. Panda is believed to have been injured in an encounter with the police on February 15. While he took one bullet in the thigh, another shattered his laptop. This has been revealed to the police by his bodyguard Nikita, who was arrested with two other women rebels on the night of February 28. One of Panda’s close associates told The Hindu that he was trapped with only three rebels, one a woman. Other twenty-four associates have either been killed in police action or arrested. The four, the associate believed, had no food left. "They are in possession of very few weapons and hardly any cash," he said. There are indications that in the past two weeks, Panda has been desperate to secure an exit for himself. The Orissa police say he was in touch with the Aam Aadmi Party to save his life and secure his “political career.” However, one of the executive members of the AAP, who the police believe has been in touch with Panda, has denied it. “I have never met Sabyasachi Panda, and he has never contacted me about joining the AAP or anything else,” he said in an e-mail response. Panda, a Mathematics graduate, was the mastermind of the Nayagarh raid in February 2008, in which 14 policemen were killed and a huge cache of arms and ammunition was looted. He faces over 30 charges of murder, including that of Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Laxmanand Saraswati. The killing triggered off the 2008 Kandhamal riots. In a 16-page letter addressed to the Maoist supreme commander, Ganapathi, in July 2012, Panda accused the party’s Telugu leadership of “superiority complex.” Two days later, the CPI (Maoist) expelled him. Panda then went on to create his own outfit. But in the absence of party support, he got isolated along with a handful of rebels. (The Hindu 8/3/14)

16 killed as 200 Naxals draw CRPF into a trap (12)
Raipur: Less than a year after carrying out a ghastly massacre of 32 Congressmen at Jiram Ghati, in Chhattisgarh’s Bastar district, the Maoists on Tuesday chose the same valley to trap the security forces in an ambush, killing 15 jawans — 11 belonging to the CRPF and four local policemen — plus one civilian. The attack was carried out at Takawada in the Tongpal jungle in neighbouring Sukma district of Bastar. Three jawans, including two of the CRPF, were also grievously injured in the incident. It was also a gory
reminder of the 2010 massacre in Dantewada in which 76 CRPF personnel were gunned down in almost the same area. A massive manhunt has been launched to apprehend the attackers, who escaped into the thick jungles. It was not immediately known if the Naxals had suffered any major casualties. The Maoists “led” a road-opening party of 30 jawans of the CRPF’s 80th Battalion and 14 district force personnel of the Chhattisgarh police to walk into their ambush at Takwada in the Tongpal jungle, around 5 km from Jiram Ghati, and opened indiscriminate fire on them from all sides, making the securitymen virtually sitting ducks. “The joint team of the CRPF and DF jawans left Tongpal for road-opening operations to pave the way for ongoing road construction in the stretch (in National Highway 30) in the morning. The team was ambushed by the Naxals between Tongpal and Jiram Ghati between 10-10.30 in the morning, leaving 15 jawans and one civilian dead”, said additional DGP (Naxal operations) R.K. Vij. The firing was followed by a landmine blast. “The ultras laid a 1.5-km-long ambush. The Naxals blocked the road after the security forces walked into the ambush zone, and then opened indiscriminate fire on them from all sides from their elevated positions”, State Intelligence Bureau DIG Dipansu Karba said. “The deaths were caused due to bullet injuries” he added. The dead and injured were pulled out of the attack site by reinforcements rushed to the spot after the attack. They were airlifted to Raipur by two helicopters. The state police is trying to secure the body of a CRPF jawan lying at the attack site reportedly booby-trapped with a pressure bomb by Naxals till reports last came in. Police sources said the Naxalites, who numbered around 200, had gutted three trucks to block the road to deny the troopers an escape route from the ambush. Sources said two IAF helicopters had been sent from Jagdalpur and Raipur to the ambush area with reinforcements drawn from the CoBRA battalion and the CRPF. The Naxals walked away with the arms and ammunition of the slain policemen after the encounter that lasted nearly three hours. The attack came exactly a month prior to the Lok Sabha elections in Chhattisgarh. Mr Karba admitted that the Chhattisgarh police had got intelligence inputs about the presence of Naxals in the surrounding villages, but could not assess their strength. “Special Task Force personnel have been mobilised from Sukma and Jagdalpur to intercept the attackers who were trying to cross over to Maharashtra and Orissa,” he added.

(Asian Age 12/3/14)

**Over 12,000 killed in Naxal violence in past 20 years (12)**

New Delhi: Over 12,000 people, including security force personnel, have been killed by Naxals in nine Left Wing Extremism-hit states in the past 20 years. Of the total 12,183 people killed, 9,471 were civilians and 2,712 central and state security force personnel, the Home Ministry said in reply to an RTI query. The killings were reported in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. About 468 people were killed by Naxals in 1993, 376 in 1994, 396 in 1995, 541 in 1996, 583 in 1997, 489 in 1998, 595 in 1999, 548 in 2000, 564 in 2001, 481 in 2002 and 515 in 2003 in these nine states, it said. As many as 565 people lost their lives due to Naxal violence in 2004, 659 in 2005, 678 in 2006, 691 in 2007, 717 in 2008, 908 in 2009 and a huge 1,005 during 2010, the Home Ministry said. Besides, 608 people (466 civilians and 142 security force personnel), were killed in the nine states by Naxals in 2011, 415 (301 civilians and 114 security force personnel) in 2012 and 381 (267 civilians and 114 security force personnel) between January and December 15, last year, it said. Maoists had on Tuesday ambushed a security patrol killing 16 people, including 11 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, in Naxal-hit Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. The attack was carried out barely five km from the area where top Congress leaders of Chhattisgarh were killed in a Maoist attack in May last year. Mahendra Karma, who started anti-Naxal movement Salwa Judum, Nand Kumar Patel, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee chief and his son Dinesh were among 25 others who were killed in the attack carried out by Naxals on May 25, 2013 in Darbha Valley of the state. Veteran Congress leader Vidya Charan Shukla, who was also injured in the attack, later succumbed to his injuries in a Gurgaon hospital. As many as 75 CRPF personnel and a Chhattisgarh Police official were killed in a Naxal attack in Dantewada district on April 6, 2010. A total of 90 battalions (90,000 men) of central security force personnel and one Indian Reserve Naga Battalion (1,000
personnel) have been deployed for anti-Naxal operations in the nine Naxal-hit states, the reply said. States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal have constituted a unified command to carry out anti-Naxal operations. (Indian Express 12/3/14)

**Eleven Naxals held in Chhattisgarh (12)**
RAIPUR: Eleven suspected Naxals, including six women, were apprehended by security forces from the jungles of Balrampur district in Chhattisgarh early today. Officials said that a joint squad of paramilitary CRPF and state police apprehended the Naxals during a combing operation in Lahsunpath forest of Kushmi area in Sarguja division of the state. "Eleven Naxals including six women have been handed over to the local police after they were held from the jungles," they said. "One .315 bore gun, a pistol and two detonators along with some other explosive material have been seized from the squad," they said. The suspected ultras are being interrogated, they said. The Sarjuga-Ambikapur belt in northern part of Chhattisgarh is not an active Naxal hotbed compared to the southern parts of Bastar and this is after a longtime that Maoists have been apprehended in these areas, they said. (Times of India 15/3/14)

**Anti-naxal forces won’t be used for polls: Odisha DGP (12)**
BHUBANESWAR: Ruling out diversion of the Central paramilitary forces from the ongoing anti-naxal operations in the State, the Odisha Police on Saturday said it required an additional 50 companies of Central forces for the elections in Odisha. “There is no question of diverting the jawans, both the Central paramilitary and the State’s Special Operation Group (SOG), deployed in the anti-naxal operation. They will be engaged in providing security in polling booths in their respective areas,” Director-General of Police (DGP) Prakash Mishra told reporters after reviewing situation in the southern range. Mr. Mishra said the State had asked the Centre to provide an additional 50 companies of the Central forces for the Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls. (The Hindu 16/3/14)

**Chhattisgarh: Naxal camp busted, arms seized (12)**
Bhubaneswar: Ahead of the first phase of election in 70 Assembly seats and 10 Lok Sabha seats in Naxal-dominated districts of Orissa, security forces achieved a major success when they busted a Maoist camp operating in the Chhattisgarh forests on the state border. The operation was initiated from Nawrangpur district side of Orissa two days ago. Senior police officials said around 50 Maoists of Mainpur division and Nuapada division were camping at the forests in Raigarh area of Chhattisgarh when the Border Security Force and District Voluntary Force and Special Operation Group of Nabarangpur district police attacked the camp. The joint team seized 8 landmines, three SBML guns, one 8mm pistol, 70 detonators, seven bundles of wire, a solar panel, five kilogrammes of gun-powder, Maoist uniforms and literature from the camp. Acting on a tip-off, the security personnel tracked the Maoist camp, but soon came under attack from the rebels. The security forces fired in retaliation, but the Naxals managed to escape. There was no report of any casualty from the Maoist side. Meanwhile, in Sorada area of Ganjam, police arrested 4 persons who were allegedly supplying provisions to the Maoists. In Koraput district’s Boipariguda block, the Maoists, in a message through posters, have asked locals to boycott polling on April 10 and accused all political parties of being anti-poor. The posters also asked the people not to let politicians enter villages for campaigning. According to the police, the Maoist central committee has asked its cadres of Jharkhand to plan a major attack on security personnel. Inspector General of Police(Anti-Naxal operations) Soumendra Priyadarshi said the encounters showed police was succeeding in engaging the Maoists. “The Maoists strategy is to avoid any encounter or exchange of fire with cops. They would rather want to surprise us. After their failure in 2013 Chhattisgarh Assembly polls, they have taken a conscious decision to thwart the election process.” To avoid any Darbha-type incident, police would now issue district-specific and area-specific guidelines for candidates during campaigning in Maoist-hit districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Nuapada, Nawrangpur, Kandhamal, Ganjam and Gajapati. “If
someone wants to go to a place like Narayanpatna with just a PSO, we would strongly advise against it,” said a senior police official of Koraput district. (Indian Express 17/3/14)

**Anti-Naxal operations: CRPF to build first road in Maoist hotbed (12)**

NEW DELHI: With civil contractors reluctant to take up road construction work in Naxal-hit areas, the CRPF has for the first time taken upon itself to build a 7 km stretch in the Maoist hotbed of Sukma in Chhattisgarh. The force, which is guarding a number of road projects in the state, one of which came under attack in Tongapal last week killing 15 security men, will soon bid for the tender and related procedures of gaining rights to construct the particular patch which is considered one of the important lifelines of the area. The paramilitary will deploy its civil engineer troopers and supervisors to see the completion of the project and it will be guarded by an armed squad. “This is a pioneer step we have taken to ensure that road projects in Naxal areas are taken up and completed. Our engineering wing will supervise this maiden project that has been undertaken by the force,” CRPF chief Dilip Trivedi told PTI. He was speaking after reviewing the security in the state in the aftermath of last week’s Naxal attack on security personnel in Bastar area of the state. The CRPF Director General said it was essential for security forces to “dominate” the roads in these areas as they are harbingers of development in far-off areas and hence an eyesore for Naxals who do not want progress to usher in order to maintain their strongholds. “We are determined to keep doing the road construction and securing task. Such attacks (last week in Tongapal) will not deter us,” Trivedi said. The particular project route is being kept under wraps for security reasons and the stretch is also crucial for forces as it will enable them to carry men and material to their posts in remote jungle locations. The Union Home Ministry, two years back, had sanctioned a full-fledged civil engineering wing in the country's largest paramilitary force, mainstay for anti-Naxal operations in the country as it was getting difficult to get roads constructed in Naxal areas as civil workers feared for their security. The wing was mandated to not only recruit engineering manpower from the public domain but also depute some of its existing expertise in these areas for the road buildings task. The unit will function under command of the Additional DG (Works) of the CRPF and will also have state police and civil construction officials in its decision-making board. According to sources, some more road projects are under the consideration of the CRPF and Union Home Ministry for independent construction by the force. (The Economic Times 18/3/14)

**Five Naxals Nabbed from Weekly Market in Chhattisgarh (12)**

RAIPUR: Five Naxalites were arrested from a weekly market in the insurgency-hit Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh, police said Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the cadres were nabbed from Narayanpur police station limits by a team of local police last night, Narayanpur Additional Superintendent of Police O P Sharma told PTI. Based on information about some rebels having arrived at the Narayanpur weekly market, security personnel launched an investigation at the spot during which five suspects were held, he said. Later, during interrogation they admitted being involved in the movement, he said. Those arrested were identified as - Chamru Gota (26), Soma Salaam (50), Antu Korram (36), Soma Pattavi (48) and Jainu Gota (36). They were involved in several incidents of crime in the region, the ASP said, adding that it was yet to be ascertained to which ‘dalam’ or group of Maoist they belong. (New Indian Express 24/3/14)

**Equipment re-tendering to delay telecom towers in Naxal areas (12)**

New Delhi: In a development that will further delay plans to beef up communications network in Naxal-affected areas, inter-ministerial body Telecom Commission on Thursday decided to re-tender the purchase of equipment for setting up mobile towers. The project to set up mobile towers in the Naxal-affected areas was originally scheduled for completion by June but it got mired in differing cost estimates as the capex estimated by state-owned BSNL exceeded the budget estimates. “We will re-tender the project in the coming 15 days as its cost is working out to be a bit higher right now,” said a source in the
Department of Telecom. State-owned telecom firm BSNL’s estimate for putting up mobile towers exceeded the project’s budget, approved by the Cabinet, by about Rs 789 crore. The Cabinet had approved the proposal at a cost of about Rs 3,046 crore in nine states affected by Naxal violence soon after 27 people, including senior Congress leaders, were killed in a Maoist attack at Bastar in Chhattisgarh last year. BSNL, called for equipment tender last year but only two firms bid for the project, and foreign players stayed away as they found the cost estimates for work of that magnitude to be too low. Sources said that even the bid cost was higher than estimates and so now the firm will re-tender for the equipment. BSNL was mandated to set up the towers, the cost of which would be borne by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which is administered by the DoT. The lack of telecom infrastructure in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas of Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh severely compromises the position of the security forces vis-a-vis Maoist ultras. On March 11, Naxals ambushed a security team killing 15 people in Chhattisgarh, in a chilling reminder of the 2010 massacre in which 76 security personnel were killed in the same area in the worst-hit Sukma district. (The Hindu 27/3/14)

Centre warns of Maoist attacks in Kerala (12)
Kozhikode: The Union Home Ministry has alerted the State police about the possibility of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) trying to create trouble during the Lok Sabha polls on April 10. Official sources told The Hindu here on Thursday that the Ministry had sounded the warning in view of the campaigning hotting up in the State. Armed cadres belonging to the CPI (Maoist) had earlier visited various Adivasi colonies in Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Malappuram and Palakkad at least 50 times after they were first sighted in Kanjirakolly in Kannur district early last year. Inspector General of Police (Kannur Range) Suresh Raj Purohit, who is overseeing the anti-Maoist operations in the State, said that Thunderbolt commandos, along with the local police, were keeping vigil over suspected tribal regions. No sighting has been reported in north Kerala during the last one month, he said. He said that the police had no idea whether the Naxalites had receded into the forest in the wake of combing operations or whether they were waiting for an opportunity to strike. In any case, the police were on alert and forces were coordinating with their counterparts in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Mr. Purohit said. Several booths in north Kerala have been classified either as hyper-sensitive or critical in the Maoist-sighted regions. Battalions attached to the Central Industrial Security Force would be deployed in these polling stations. All these polling booths would also have video-surveillance. The security in the tri-junction bordering Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has also been stepped up following intelligence inputs. Activities of the banned outfit at the tri-junction were reported as early as 2011. It is believed that the outfit had plans to create a red corridor from Jharkhand to Wayanad. Incidents such as setting ablaze an earth-mover at Kavalumpara panchayat in Kozhikode and attack on local people in Nilambur colonies in Malappuram district had made the police to step up vigil during the polls. Members of the Western Ghats Special Zonal Committee of CPI (Maoist) had distributed copies of Maoist bulletins. Intelligence agencies said that the recent attack on the security forces in South Chhattisgarh was part of the annual tactical counter-offensive campaign of the Maoists. By and large, such operations were to demonstrate their strength during the summer. The attack, however, coincided with the Lok Sabha elections. These counter-attacks are generally carried out in the affected areas, including Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Such types of attacks are not expected in the State. But it is the 10th year of the formation of the CPI (Maoist). So the extremists disrupting Lok Sabha polls or creating mischief could not be ruled out, officials said. (The Hindu 28/3/14)

33 booths shifted in Gadchiroli due to Naxal threat (12)
NAGPUR: Election commission has approved shifting of 33 polling booths to safer places in Naxal-affected Gadchiroli district while polling in four assembly constituencies will be held between 7am and 3pm. Around 22 polling booths in Aheri would be shifted along with six in Armori and five in Gadchiroli. In
the last parliamentary election held in 2009, around 35 booths had to be shifted in Gadchiroli. Around 46 booths were also shifted to safer zones in the last assembly election. This time, polling at Amgaon (Gondia), Gadchiroli, Armori and Aheri assembly segments will be held till 3pm only. However, voters at Brahmapuri and Chimur assembly segments, which is also part of the Gadchiroli-Chimur Lok Sabha parliamentary constituency, can exercise their franchise till 6pm like rest of the state. According to deputy district election officer, Subhas Choudhari, the restriction on voting timing is to ensure that polling parties return to the base camps during the daytime itself due to Naxal threat. Though the official claimed tight security arrangement, he maintained that every precaution is being taken to ensure smooth poll proceedings. “District has been exempted from shifting the polling officials to other talukas during randomization due to inhospitable terrain and Naxal threats but they would be definitely deployed at different polling stations other than the places where they had been posted for regular duties,” he said.

Collector and district election officer Ranjit Kumar stated political parties and candidates or their representatives have been asked to remain present when the electronic voting machines (EVM) are being readied in the first week of April. Party representatives, including independent candidates, were also present during randomization process when polling parties and EVMs were allotted booths last week to ensure transparency. “The lists generated after randomization of EVMs were also handed over to party members and representatives of the candidates,” he said. The administration informed that voters’ slips would be distributed through booth level officials in the first week of April. Apart from Gadchiroli, officials from Gondia and Chandrapur districts too were present during the randomization. The process was conducted in presence of general observer K Shrinivasan. (Times of India 1/4/14)

Maoists urge people to boycott polls (12)
Bhubaneswar: Urging people to stay away from the ensuing elections, the Maoists have called for a bandh in four southern Odisha districts where polling would be held on April 10. In an audio tape released to the media, Maoist leader Umakant of Bansadhara-Ghumusar-Nagabali Division has urged the people of Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Gajapati districts not to allow the political parties including the Congress, BJP, BJD and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as the leaders of these parties are trying to woo the people for power. “The BJD Government during its 15-year rule in Odisha has been exploiting the poor and innocent tribals while it has handed over the land, forest, mines, minerals and water to the companies,” he said, adding the policy of the ruling party would not be tolerated and the people should try their best to unseat the party from power this time. The Maoist leader has also informed that to protest the elections, the Maoist outfits have called for bandh on April 10 in these four districts. Reports said president of the Odisha Maobadi Party Sabyasachi Panda in an audio release has also given the bandh call in these districts. (Pioneer 2/4/14)

Naxal commander surrenders in Rajnandgaon (12)
Raipur: A Naxal commander surrendered before the police here on Saturday. The red-rebel was working for the Maoists since 2007, police informed, adding that the ultra was a commander of the Dallirajhara area committee and deputy commander of Palleme local operating squad (LOS). He was deeply dissatisfied with the dual standards adopted by the Naxals, informed Additional Superintend of Police (Naxal Operation) YP Singh on Saturday. According to police, Dinesh alias Naval alias Billu, resident of Ghodagaon area of Khadgaon region, was working for the Naxals since 2007. Initially he used to paste posters for the ultras and in this way he came in contact with Maoists leaders. He worked for them for about six months after which he detached himself from the Naxal activities. However, in 2010 he formally joined the Naxal cadre and was given a 12-bore gun. In 2012 he was allotted a 303 gun and was made member of the area committee. While he was working for the Naxals he realised that the ground level Naxals had to live hard life. After closely watching the real condition he decided to shun the path of violence, police said. (Pioneer 6/4/14)
Naxal attack in Chattisgarh, CRPF official injured (12)
RAIPUR: A CRPF official was today injured when Naxals attacked a camp of paramilitary forces in insurgency-hit Sukma district in southern Chhattisgarh. The incident took place at the camp of 150 battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force in the premises of Chintagufa police station early this morning, Sukma Additional Superintendent of Police Neeraj Chandrakar told PTI over phone. Armed rebels opened indiscriminate fire at the camp leaving sub inspector rank official Mahendra Singh Meena seriously injured, he said. However, rebels fled the spot after security forces launched retaliatory attack on them, he said adding a rescue team is being sent to retrieve the injured official out of the jungle. (Times of India 7/4/14)

3 CRPF officials killed, 8 injured in landmine blast (12)
AURANGABAD/PATNA: Three CRPF personnel were on Monday killed and eight other security officials injured when a landmine planted by Maoists in Bihar's Aurangabad district went off while it was being defused. The incident took place ahead of the April 10 Lok Sabha polls in the Maoist-affected district. Deputy inspector general of CRPF Chiranjeev Prasad told PTI in Patna that the three deceased were from CRPF and out of eight, excepting for the officer in charge of Dibra police station Amar Kumar Chaudhary, seven hailed from the paramilitary force. The deceased were deputy commandant Indrajeet and jawans — Pawan Dahia and T Punnaraao, the DIG said. Indrajeet was sent to Ranchi Apollo Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, Prasad said. While two critically injured CRPF jawans have been sent to Ranchi Apollo Hospital, the rest six including the OC have been rushed to Anugrah Narayan Magadh Medical College in Gaya. Inspector general of police (Operation) Amit Kumar said a joint team of CRPF and Bihar police was defusing the landmine planted by ultras in Dibra police station area of Aurangabad district when it went off. The IG said two IEDs were recovered from the spot. Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) S K Bhardwaj said the incident took place when the forces were defusing landmines. Sources in the CRPF control room, however, said that while the CRPF team along with the OC of Dibra police station were on way for a search operation in a jungle near Gopal Dera village, the Maoists triggered landmines. (Times of India 8/4/14)

Maoists kill 2 jawans as 53% vote for 6 seats in Bihar (12)
PATNA: Two CRPF jawans were killed and seven others injured in Munger as sporadic incidents of violence threatened to mar polling in the six constituencies that reported 53% turnout in the first phase of parliamentary election in the state on Thursday. State chief electoral officer (CEO) Ajay V Nayak said the turnout figure could increase to 55% after the consolidation of the final figures coming from the fields. He said poll boycott was reported from five polling stations in Karakat constituency. Nayak said the voter turnout went up by about 12% compared to last parliamentary election in the six constituencies. The turnout this time was 56% in Sasaram (SC), 52.25% in Karakat, 51% in Aurangabad, 54% in Gaya (SC) and 52% each in Nawada and Jamui (SC). Two CRPF jawans on way to a polling station for poll duty were killed and seven others of the team injured when Maoists triggered an IED explosion around 3am near Bheembandh which falls under the Jamui parliamentary constituency. The deceased were identified head constables Ravindra Rai and Swami Gowda. While Rai belonged to Saran in Bihar, Gowda hailed from Karnataka. Their bodies were sent to their native places after being given guard of honour. Four of the injured jawans were brought to Patna and admitted to a private hospital where principal secretary (home) Amir Subhani and DGP Abhayanan and also visited them. The hospital's medical superintendent, Dr Anand Paderu, told TOI the injured jawans had received splinter injuries and were recovering. Polling at 22 polling stations in Jamui and Nawada were postponed by the authorities. The polling stations were located in Sikandra, Jhajha and Chakai assembly segments of Jamui and Govindpur assembly segment of Nawada. ADG (HQ) Ravindra Kumar said the police had to resort to firing in the air when a section of anti-social elements tried to damage the EVM and tore the election documents at polling booth number
180 located in a secondary school at Rahim Bigha under the Bela police station area in Gaya district around 1.30pm. Police recovered nine can bombs from Banke Bazar in Gaya. (Times of India 11/4/14)

CRPF, poll personnel among 14 killed in Maoist strikes (12)
Raipur: Relief over the relatively peaceful April 10 polling in Bastar in Chhattisgarh evaporated on Saturday, as Maoists blew up a bus taken by polling official and an ambulance by Central Reserve Police Force personnel, killing 14 and injuring several, in the State. In one of the deadliest acts of election-related violence, Maoists blew up the ambulance, ‘Sanjivani 108,’ near the Darbha Valley in Bastar, killing five CRPF personnel and two ambulance technicians. Five CRPF personnel were injured, the police said. Earlier, seven polling officials were killed and three were seriously injured when Maoists blew up a bus carrying polling officials in the Kednlar area, 22 km from the district headquarters of Bijapur. "The polling officials were advised to walk and not to use any vehicle. But they were tired and boarded the bus, which was blown up in a landmine blast," said Arun Dev Goutam, Inspector-General of Police, Bastar range. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh condemned the attack, and said the Maoists were enemies of democracy. (The Hindu 12/4/14)

Police constable killed in Naxal attack (12)
Mumbai: A 34-year-old police constable was shot dead and five of his colleagues injured after a group of Naxals fired at them and threw pressure bombs while they were escorting poll booth officials in Aheri in the Gadchiroli district on Friday afternoon. The poll booth officials escaped unscathed. According to the Repanpalli sub police, the incident was reported at around 1 am in a jungle area known as Ashgaon, Tondal phata in Jimlagatta. There were about 15 to 16 poll booth officials from four to five booths. They were carrying the EVMs while the police personnel were walking in a circle around them. “Suddenly, the Naxals fired bullets from a distance and escaped into the woods. While one of our constables, identified as Giridhar Aatran succumbed to his injuries, five of our colleagues suffered burn injuries. All of them are being treated at a hospital, but they are out of danger,” said police sub-inspector Dharmendra Joshi, spokesperson for the Gadchiroli police. Suvez Haque, SP, Gadchiroli police, said, “It is difficult to say what firearms were used in the attack, but it will be clear in a day or two. We are trying to trace them.” Aatran is survived by his wife, two sons, mother and a brother. On Saturday, all senior police officers related to anti-naxal efforts paid their tributes to him at his funeral. The election commission has given `20 lakh to Aatran’s family as immediate compensation. (Asian Age 13/4/14)

Maoists apologise for killing poll staff (12)
Raipur: Forty-eight hours after killing seven poll staff in south Bastar district of Bijapur in Chhattisgarh, Maoists on Monday issued a public apology, describing the massacre as a case of “mistaken identity”. Seven poll personnel - six school teachers and one forester — were killed when the bus they were travelling was blown up in a landmine blast triggered by Maoists at Kutelnar in the district on Saturday. They were returning to district headquarters along with election material after conducting polls in remote villages of Bijapur district on April 10. “Our People’s Liberation Guerrilla Army command that led the offensive misunderstood, assuming the poll staff as police (in the bus),” a statement issued by Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DSZC) spokesman Gudsa Usendi said. “It appears the big mistake was due to the misconstrued assessment from our side,” the release said. The Maoist release, however, said police strategies such as changing of vehicles, use of civil transport in the troubled region were to blame for the unfortunate incident. “They (poll personnel) were not our enemy. We will investigate how the lapse occurred, at what level and take steps to prevent recurrence.” (Asian Age 15/4/14)

CRPF jawans among five injured in Jharkhand poll violence (12)
Bokaro: Four CRPF personnel were among five persons injured on Thursday in Maoist violence in Jharkhand’s Bokaro district where polling is underway. Targeting a CRPF patrol, Maoists triggered two
landmine blasts at Lalpania near Jhumra hills, injuring three personnel and a civilian driver, CRPF (26th Battalion) Commandant Sanjay Kumar said. The men were Pratap Singh, Surendra Kumar and P C Mandal while the driver was identified as Ranjit Kumar, Kumar said. Maoists also fired on a CRPF patrol near Tulbul village in the area injuring a personnel in a brief encounter, the CRPF official said. Maoists also blew up a stretch of railway track in Bokaro district, disrupting train services. The rebels damaged the tracks between Dania railway station in Bokaro and Jageshwar station of Bihar under South Eastern Railway disrupting train services, Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Singh said. Passenger trains were held up at different places, he said. Bokaro is under Giridih Lok Sabha constituency where polling is on. A report from Giridih in Jharkhand said the Maoists exploded ten bombs at separate places in Giridih Lok Sabha constituency where polling is on. “Seven bombs were exploded serially near Bistuur under Pirtand police station around 8.30 AM. All the security and polling personnel are safe,” Superintendent of Police Kranti Kumar told reporters. The rebels blasted one bomb at Ghamaria Bharati Chalkari and two at Harladih around 1:30 AM, he said. Polling was unaffected, he said. (Indian Express 17/4/14)

Organizations rally behind youth killed by Anti Naxal Force in case of mistaken identity (12)

MANGALORE: The Dakshina Kannada district units of Muslim Central Committee, Ahinda, and Jamath-E-Islam have demanded a high level probe into circumstances in which Anti Naxal Force (ANF) allegedly shot dead Kabeer, 29, a resident of Krishnapura at Tanikodu check post in Sringeri. The committee in particular has demanded that the state government enhance the compensation amount given to Kabeer's family from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 30 lakh. While Ibrahim Kodijal, an office bearer of the committee and in charge president of District Congress Committee wanted CID probe in to the incident, K S Mohammad Masood, former chairperson, Karnataka State Minorities Commission and president of the committee wanted probe by the CBI. Masood said it does not make any sense for the CID to probe the action by its own personnel and only the CBI can find out the truth of this incident. Masood while upholding right of ANF to check vehicles at the check post, said they did not have the right to shoot Kabeer in his chest. "It is evident that Kabeer was shot at close range and not while attempting to flee as the police are claiming," he said. Noting that this was a deliberate act on part of the ANF despite their claims of mistaken identity, he said trading in cattle was Kabeer's family business and he was only trying to earn a livelihood. Asserting that chief minister Siddaramaiah must personally take interest in ensuring that family of Kabeer gets justice, he said this can be done by handing over the probe to CBI. In addition, Masood said, the government must enhance the compensation amount to Rs 30 lakh on the assumption that Kabeer would have earned a minimum of Rs 1 lakh per annum for the remaining years that one expects a person to be economically productive. Ibrahim Kodijal said police excess in any place needs to be condemned. "We have already apprised the CM of the situation through ministers B Ramanath Rai, and UT Khader, and MLA Mohiuddin Bawa," he said, adding that he has spoken to home minister K J George who has assured a probe by CID. The committee at the same time has also appealed to community leaders and youth not to get carried away by the incident, he said. (The Hindu 20/4/14)

Maoists Kill 'Informers' (12)

KHAMMAM: Branding him a police informer, Maoists shot dead a migrant tribal youth Nupa Shiva (28) at Angaragudem village within Sammakka Bhattupalli panchayat limits under Pinapaka mandal of the district Monday midnight. Shiva belonged to Morupalli village within the limits of Chintalnad police station in Chhattisgarh. He shifted to Angargudem four years ago as he faced a threat to his life in his village of which he was the sarpanch. About 30 armed Maoists rounded off the house of Shiva and fired three rounds. Shiva died on the spot as bullets pierced through his head and chest. He is survived by two wives. Manuguru DSP P Ravindra Rao and Bayyaram CI Ch Bhaskar visited the place of offence. A case was registered and investigation is on. (New Indian Express 23/4/14)

Women led Naxal attack in J'khand (12)
Women Maoists were at the forefront of the landmine blast and heavy firing in Jharkhand’s Dumka that killed five policemen and three polling officials and left 11 others injured on Thursday evening, according to survivors recovering at a hospital in Ranchi. As the Jharkhand police drew flak for sending a rescue team to the blast site more than three hours after the incident and for disregarding the standard rules adopted by policemen for movement in the Maoist-affected areas, state DGP Rajiv Kumar admitted possible lapses by the cops and said this aspect will be investigated. Mr Kumar, chief minister Hemant Soren and his father Sibu Soren, a former chief minister, were present in Dumka on Friday for the ceremony where the deceased were given a gun salute before their last rites. “There were some 20 or 25 armed Maoists, including five women in apparently leading roles, who all came after the blast took place and our mini-bus was violently shaken, thrown up and split apart. The women ordered the male Maoists to shoot us (the injured polling staff) dead and we urged them to spare us. They spared us after the male Maoists so wanted,” said an injured official who received multiple injuries in the blast at Shikaripara in Dumka. The Maoists, who primarily target policemen, had apparently mistaken all the men in the mini-bus as policemen. IGP Anurag Gupta said it was the banned left-wing outfit CPI(Maoist) that had effected the blast. He denied that there was a three-hour delay in the recue team reaching the blast site. “We were well prepared for the first and the second phase of Lok Sabha polls, but it seems we made mistakes somewhere in the third phase. It was definitely wrong to use buses on a sensitive route like this one,” said DGP Rajiv Kumar to reporters. Former Jharkhand chief minister and JVM(P) chief Babulal Marandi, who was locked in an electoral race with JMM chief Sibu Soren in Dumka, accused the district administration of “complete neglect” and demanded a probe by either the CBI or the NIA into the chain of events that led to the landmine blast and firing by the Maoists at Shikaripara. (Asian Age 26/4/14)

**Naxals axe, gun down jawan in market (12)**

**CHANDRAPUR:** Naxalites axed a police jawan and then shot him dead from close range in a weekly market in Gyrapatti village in Korchi tehsil of Gadchiroli on Sunday afternoon. The rebels then fled with the weapon of the jawan, Lalsu Pungati (26), sources claimed. Pungati was on a routine patrol in the market with other cops. The rebels suddenly attacked Pungati with an axe while he was away from his companions. They heaved two blows on his neck from behind and then struck again on his ribs. As Pungati fell down, they shot eight bullets from close range to kill him. The attackers then grabbed Pungati’s weapon and disappeared in the crowd. Pungati is learnt to be the resident of Hitafali village in Bhamragad tehsil. He earlier served as special police officer (SPO) for the Gadchiroli police. He was inducted in the police force in 2010 and was deployed at Gyrapatti police outpost in Korchi tehsil. This is second instance of Naxal attack in village market in broad daylight within a week. On April 21, the rebels had shot dead surrendered Naxalite Vithal Kulmethe, who had also served as an SPO, in the weekly market at Jinhmangutta. A schoolteacher was killed in similar fashion in weekly market at Teragaon in Chhattisgarh a few days back. It appears that Naxal have resorted to strategy of attacking cops and police sympathizers in public places and disappear into the crowd. (Times of India 28/4/14)

**Eight Maoists surrender in Koraput (12)**

**BERHAMPUR:** Eight Maoist militias from Narayanpatna block in Koraput district of south Odisha surrendered before police on Thursday. The surrender took place in the presence of Inspector General of Police (IGP) south-western range Yashwant Jethwa, Inspector General (IG) of Border Security Force (BF) A.K.Sharma and Koraput Superintendent of Police (SP) Awinash Kumar. Five of the surrendered Maoists were from Dumsil village and three others were from Basanaput village. Both these villages under Narayanpatna police station were considered Maoist strongholds. The surrender is considered a major set back for the Maoists as all these eight as they were key cadres of Maoist organisation in Narayanpatna and Bandhugaon blocks. Those who surrendered were Ladda Nachka, Kayu Nachka, Rajeya Kendraka, Rameya Kendruka, Kesari Kenduka from Dumsil village and Rabi Huluka, Sekaru
Huluka, Siu Huluka from Basanaput village. All of them joined the Maoist movement via the controversial tribal organisation Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh (CMAS) which is active in Narayanpatna area. They had joined the CMAS in 2009 and later become members of Koraput Divisional Committee under the Andhra Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee (AOBSZC) of outlawed CPI (Maoist) organisation, said Mr. Jethwa. After their surrender, the Maoists expressed that they had realised the futility of violent path of Maoists. They also added that they had got frustrated by the anti-tribal and anti-development activities of naxalite leaders from Andhra Pradesh who rule the organisation in their area. It was also felt that death of their close associate Purna Huluka in an exchange of fire with security forces in side Palaput-Gadraguda jungle under Narayanpatna police station limits on Apr 13 was also catalyst behind their surrender. Two days back a hardcore female Maoist Tulsi Mandingi alias Jirmai, who was active in Narayanpatna area had also surrendered in Koraput district. (The Hindu 1/5/14)

Naxals worried over impressive voter turnout in Chhattisgarh (12)
Raipur: The unprecedented voter turnout in Lok Sabha polls in insurgency-hit south Chhattisgarh has apparently upset the Naxals, who are holding meetings to express disappointment over participation of tribals in the electoral process, according to Intelligence inputs. Some key leaders of outlawed CPI(Maoist) in Dandakaranya region recently held meetings in areas where they found huge participation of people in polling inspite of their poll boycott call and asked villagers about it, IB sources said. "In some pockets of Bastar, Dantewada, Kondagaon and Narayanpur, Naxal leaders reportedly held meetings with villagers recently after the Lok Sabha election in Bastar constituency," a senior state IB official told PTI on condition of anonymity. "However, police couldn't go deep enough to check the reason behind their meetings at several places. As per the informers, the Naxals were enquiring how voting was recorded high in the region despite their intense poll boycott call," the official said. The two worst Maoist-hit Lok Sabha seats - Bastar and Kanker - recorded 59.40% and 70.29% voting respectively in the last month's three-phased Parliamentary polls in the state. Bastar went to polls on April 10 while voting took place in Kanker on April 17. In the 2009 general elections, Bastar and Kanker seats had witnessed voter turnout of 47.33 and 57.20% respectively. Also, over 70% voters exercised their franchise in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas of the state during last year's Assembly polls. According to the informers, Naxals were asking the tribals why they took part in election. (Business Standard 2/5/14)

Chhattisgarh accounts for 31% Maoist violence (12)
RAIPUR: The union home ministry has asked the Chhattisgarh government to strengthen its intelligence set up and galvanise its task force for their optimal utilisation in conducting anti Naxal operations in the state. The ministry also asked the DRDO to operationalize the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) airfield at Nandini, Bhilai. At a recent high-level meeting, to review the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the country, held under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary, it was observed that basic policing in the Naxal affected areas of the state also need to be strengthened. The state was also directed to expedite construction of fortified police states in the affected areas. The meeting, which reviewed the incidents of LWE violence in the affected states in 2013, observed that Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh remain the worst affected states followed by Bihar, Odisha and Maharashtra. As per the data presented in the meeting 80% of LWE violence remained confined to 23 districts, with Chhattisgarh's Sukma, Bijapur and Dantewada topping the list of the 10 worst affected districts. Incidentally, Chhattisgarh accounted for 31% of the total LWE violence in the country in 2013. It may be recalled that Naxals had brutally massacred almost the entire top leadership of the Congress in an attack in Sukma on May 25 last. Those 28 people killed included VC Shukla, Mahendra Karma (founder of Salwa Judum) and state party president, Nand Kumar Patel, and his son, Dinesh. Even this year, Sukma witnessed a bloody massacre of poll officials and security personnel a day after the second phase of the Lok Sabha polls on April 12. According to information provided at the meeting by the IB Director, there is a huge presence of Naxal cadres on the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border. He advised both the state government's to conduct joint operations in the
border areas and advocated for strict compliance of standard operation procedures (SOPs) by both the state polices and central forces deployed there. While advising all the states to be on a "maximum alert", the Home Ministry has asked the Chhattisgarh government to closely monitor the training in the Counter Insurgency and Anti Terrorist (CIAT) schools. The state government was also directed to finalise locations for Army training ranges within four weeks. The home ministry has also directed the Chhattisgarh government to immediately fill the near 8000 vacancies in the police force. These vacancies include 5000 jawans, 26 additional SPs, 192 DSPs, 982 SI/ASI and 1,362 head constables. The state government was also directed to immediately provide "critical infrastructure" for housing of central forces in the naxal affected areas. These included construction of 107 barracks on priority. The meeting also took stalk of health and educational infrastructure in the Naxal affected areas and directed the Chhattisgarh government to ensure posting of doctors and paramedical staff in the 30 primary health centres in LWE areas of the state. The state government was also directed of foll vacancies of all teachers in these areas within six months. The government was also directed to expedite the tendering process for construction of 512 kms of roads in the LWE area, besides completing on going work on 850 kms. The meeting was held last month and was attended by DGPS and Chief Secretaries of the affected states, officials from the Army, NSA, CRPF, and IB, besides those from the Home Ministry. (Times of India 2/5/14)

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512 kms of roads in the LWE area, besides completing on going work on 850 kms. The meeting was held last month and was attended by DGPS and Chief Secretaries of the affected states, officials from the Army, NSA, CRPF, and IB, besides those from the Home Ministry. (Indian Express 5/5/14)

**Woman Naxal carrying reward arrested in Kanker (12)**

Raipur: A woman Naxal was arrested from a forested patch of Udanpur village under Koyalibeda police station of the insurgency-hit Kanker district, a senior police official informed here on Friday. According to police Lalita (24) resident of Udanpur village and a member of Maoist Military Battalion number 2, active in the region, was arrested during search operation. Bhanupratappur Sub Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) Tarkeshwar Patel talking to The Pioneer over phone informed that a joint team of the BSF and the district police had arrested Lalita from the jungles of Udanpur about 8 kms from Koyalibeda police station. The SDOP said, “We got information that the left wing insurgent had reached her parental home in Udanpur. On the information, police force was sent to the spot and she was nabbed. The arrested Naxal operative was member of Maoist Military Battalion and state government had declared cash reward of Rs 1 lakh each on the arrest of each member of Maoist Military Battalion," the SDOP maintained. Lalita is a prominent member of the military wing of the CPI (Maoist) operating in North Bastar region. She is being interrogated, police said adding that the arrested woman Maoist was involved in several serious criminal incidents happened in the region inducing attack on camp in Udanpur wherein station house officer Todki and a head constable had lost their lives. She was also part of Naxal ambush on police party in Rowghat. (Pioneer 10/5/14)

**7 policemen killed in Maoist blast (12)**

NAGPUR: Seven policemen were killed and two injured when Maoists blew up a police vehicle in the Chamorshi division of Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Sunday. The incident comes two days after the arrest of G.N. Saibaba, a Delhi University Professor, by the Gadchiroli police over his alleged Maoist links. Inspector Dharmendra Joshi, public relations officer of the Gadchiroli police, said a landmine was used to blow up the vehicle carrying the men of the C-60 force (Maharashtra’s special anti-Naxal unit) at 9.40 a.m. A local police officer expressed shock over the Maoists targeting police in a “plain area” such as Chamorshi, considered relatively peaceful. Police sources said the C-60 commandos launched a combing operation at Kotmi on Friday. The men returned to Yedanur after two days of patrolling on foot, and called for vehicles to reach the Gadchiroli headquarters since Yedanur is considered a “less-affected” zone. They boarded eight vehicles. The third one in the convoy was blown up near Murmuri village, police sources said. The dead are Dipak Vighave, Sunil Madavi, Rohan Dambare, Subhash Kumare, Tirupati Allam, Laxman Munde and Duryodhan Naktode of the Gadchiroli police, the Superintendent of Police said in a statement. (The Hindu 11/5/14)

**Naxal pamphlets supporting Saibaba seized (12)**

NAGPUR: Gadchiroli police on Saturday seized several incriminating pamphlets from Jambiya Gatta which is a small hamlet in Etapalli tehsil. They had been issued by the western regional committee of the banned CPI (Maoist) which was protesting the arrest of Delhi university professor GN Saibaba. The pamphlets had similar contents and condemned the action of Gadchiroli police which had filed a case against Saibaba and five others, including Hem Mishra and Prashant Rahi, for their alleged links with Naxals. The rebels said it was a conspiracy by the authorities to terrorize intellectuals who had been raising voices in favour of atrocities against the masses. Police claimed that the wheelchair-bound Saibaba, who is currently housed in the Nagpur Central Jail, had been working as joint-secretary of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (RDF) which acted as a frontal mass organization of the rebels. A senior official, involved in the investigation, claimed that Saibaba was engaged in coordinating the activities of the front organizations at the behest of the Naxals’ central committee based in Abuju-mdh on the Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra border. The Naxals, who have condemned police actions on RDF leaders, also
highlighted the fact that false cases were being registered against the activists in a cultivated manner to suppress their voices. In the pamphlet, the Naxals have also appealed to the masses to come together to fight against state-sponsored terrorism. It has also criticized the central and Maharashtra government. Nagpur and Gadchiroli range IGP, Ravindra Kadam stated that an offence has been registered at Etapalli police station against unidentified Naxals for having issued the pamphlets. “We have invoked the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act among others against the perpetrators,” he said. Saibaba, who was arrested on May 9 in New Delhi, was brought to Aheri the next day. However, since the lock-up did not have facilities for the handicapped, he was sent to Nagpur Central Jail. He is under magisterial custody issued by a lower court in Aheri. Saibaba has also been suspended by his college. (Times of India 18/5/14)

436 Naxals Surrendered in Maharashtra Since 2005 (12)
NAGPUR: 436 Naxals have surrendered in Gadchiroi, Gondia and Yavatmal districts of eastern Maharashtra since the state government launched its scheme to facilitate rehabilitation of the ultras in 2005. Last week, the government extended the ‘Naxal Surrender Scheme’ till August 29, 2015. Interestingly, the Naxals who have laid down their arms under the scheme include 30 couples, official sources said. The authorities have disbursed Rs 3.15 crore to the surrendered rebels by way of financial aid so far. Of this, Rs 2.72 crore was from the state while the rest came from the Centre. The surrendered Naxals were also provided with bullock carts, diesel engines etc so that they could earn their livelihood in a legitimate way. Among the surrendered ultras are a state zonal committee member of Naxals, five ‘divisional committee’ members, 13 ‘dalam commanders’, 17 ‘deputy commanders’ and 166 ‘dalam’ members, besides members of Gram Rakshak Dal and Sangam groups. The highest number of Naxals -- 133 -- surrendered in 2008. As many as 82 rifles were recovered from the surrendered ultras. (Indian Express 19/5/14)

Six of Naxal gang suspected to have killed TRS leader held (12)
Hyderabad: Six members of a gang allegedly belonging to former Naxal leader Nayeem, who is on the radar of Andhra Pradesh police in connection with the murder of TRS leader K Ramulu, were arrested in Thiruvananthapuram today, police said. Ramulu, a member of Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) executive committee and brother of former top Maoist leader Sambashivudu, was shot dead by unidentified persons on May 11 in Nalgonda town of Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, fugitive Nayeemuddin alias Nayeem had emerged as the prime suspect behind the killing of Ramulu. “We have got information on arrest of six persons in Trivandrum. It is still not clear whether they are members of Nayeem's gang. Their involvement in the killing of Ramulu is also not confirmed...However, we are sending a police team to Kerala to interrogate the arrested persons,” Nalgonda district Superintendent of Police T Prabhakar Rao told PTI. Sambashivudu, a TRS polit bureau member, was hacked to death by unidentified assailants using sickles and swords also in Nalgonda district in March 2011. Incidentally, Nayeem was listed as the main accused in the murder of Konapuri Ilaiah alias Sambashivudu. The district police had in April 2011 arrested five of the 12 accused in Sambasivudu’s murder and claimed that the accused killed Sambashivudu at the behest of Nayeem. Even Ramulu had earlier told a private TV news channel that his life was under threat from Nayeem. Police had also suspected the role of Nayeem in the murder of Ramulu. (Pioneer 20/5/14)

Five IEDs planted by naxals recovered in Chhattisgarh (12)
Raipur: Five improvised explosive devices (IEDs), suspected to have planted by Naxals to harm security personnel during just-held parliamentary polls, were recovered today in insurgency-hit Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh, police said. The joint team of security personnel found five IEDs – four of 5 kgs each and a 15 kg one stealthily placed beneath Chhingnar-Muusalnar road under Geedam police station limits, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Narendra Khare said. A team of 195 battalion of Central Reserve
Police Force (CRPF) and district force was mobilised in the restive Geedam region after getting a tip-off about the explosives being planted in the Chhingnar area, the SP said. When they reached near the place they spotted five IEDs packed in steel containers averting a major mishap, he said. Besides, a 50-meter wire was also recovered from the spot. Prima facie it appears that the explosives were allegedly planted by rebels to target the security personnel during last month polling in the region. However, security personnel strictly followed the standard operating procedure (SOP) while moving through this route foiling the evil design of ultras, he said. The IED was immediately destroyed by the bomb disposal squad, the SP added. (Indian Express 22/5/14)

**IB raises alarm over growing Maoists activities in Punjab (12)**

Chandigarh: Though IB's internal report has established growing Naxal activities in Punjab, there is no information about the exact number of frontal organisations active in the state. The Naxal insurgency is not limited to the eastern or central parts of the country. It is slowly advancing in the north too. According to a recent Intelligence Bureau (IB) internal report, the banned CPI (Maoist) is operating through 128 frontal organisations in Haryana, Delhi (NCR), Uttarakhhand, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Kerala. Though IB's internal report has established growing Naxal activities in Punjab, there is no information about the exact number of frontal organisations active in the state. While no arrests were made recently, the Jalandhar Police in January 2009 arrested Jai Parkash Dubey from Phillaur, a senior Communist Party of India (Maoist) Naxalite, who was trying to revive Naxalism in the state. Former chief minister and newly elected Amritsar MP Captain Amarinder Singh in his address delivered during the Chintan Shivir in Jaipur on January 2013 had said, "All 22 districts of Punjab have reported Naxal activities. When I was the chief minister, only two districts had Naxal presence," Captain Amarinder Singh said. Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal too, during a state plan meeting in New Delhi in April 2012, had warned the Planning Commission functionaries. "The farmers are facing challenges like falling agriculture income, rising agriculture debt and high farm investments. If nothing is done soon to deal with this impending crisis, there would be Naxalism in Punjab," Badal had said. Director general of Punjab Police Sumedh Singh Saini, however said no naxal activity has been noticed in the state, and refused to comment any further. Meanwhile, the IB report states that while eight CPI (Maoist) frontal organisations are active in Haryana, activities of nine frontal organisations are under scanner in Delhi NCR. The Naxal connection to Delhi and Gurgaon was established on Friday when the Special Task Force arrested a zonal commander of a naxalite outfit. Krishna Mochi alias Abhay alias Ajay was nabbed from Salarpur area of Gautambudh Nagar. Mochi was wanted in connection with an October 2013 attack on CRPF jawans in Bihar's Gaya district. During his interrogation, Mochi confessed he was treated in a Gurgaon hospital after he was injured by the Bihar Police on March 19 in an encounter. "The probe is on and we are trying to establish his (Mochi's) connection with Gurgaon. We have not received any official communication regarding his involvement in any Naxal activity in the area," Gurgaon Joint Commissioner of Police (crime) Vivek Sharma told MAIL TODAY. This is, however, not the first time that a Naxal movement has been established in Gurgaon. Former minister of state for home Jitendra Singh had said in Rajya Sabha on August 22, 2012, that a number of organisations sympathetic towards the Naxal movement had protested during unrest at Maruti's Manesar plant in 2012. Meanwhile, though no Naxalrelated violence has been reported in Himachal Pradesh or Uttarakhhand, the IB had found at least two Naxal frontal organisations active in Uttarakhand during the 2013 landslide and floods. There are also speculations about the presence of Nepalese Maoists in Himachal Pradesh. (India Today 22/5/14)

**Police, naxals exchange fire in Balaghat (12)**

Balaghat: Police and naxals exchanged fire in a brief encounter in forest area near Raasimeta village in the district on Thursday, a senior officer said. The incident occurred when police confronted the ultras on a tip off that they are arriving in the area to collect “donations” from pluckers of Tendu leaves, district SP
Gaurav Tiwari told PTI. Naxals then fired at police who returned it, forcing the Reds to beat a retreat in deep forest. “Neither any naxal nor any police jawan was injured in the firing,” Mr. Tiwari said. He also dismissed the report that any Maoist cadre was killed in the firing or a dead body found at the spot. Police have seized belongings of ultras, mostly of daily use, the SP added. (The Hindu 23/5/14)

**Naxals spreading base in urban areas: Nagpur police (12)**

Pune: The arrest of Delhi University professor G.N. Saibaba has proved yet again that Naxalites are spreading base in urban areas, Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Nagpur range, Ravindra Kadam said. The Maharashtra police is monitoring cities such as Pune, Mumbai, Nashik and Nagpur, he added. Prof. Saibaba was part of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, an organisation banned by the Andhra Pradesh and Odisha governments. He aided in the spread of Maoist ideology internationally, Mr. Kadam claimed. “Prof. Saibaba was involved with many human rights organisations. We have to investigate to what extent he could influence them,” he said. Stating that the police case against him was strong, he said he could lead them to many other urban cells. Organisations that promise to fight for a cause as a front for luring and radicalising youth was a tactic that the police had been able to crack, Mr. Kadam said. “There are also efforts to tap into the unorganised labour in industrial areas in Maharashtra and Gujarat,” he said. According to him, this was being done through the Golden Corridor Committee established in 2009, which was responsible for mobilisations in the region. Claiming that Kabir Kala Manch, a cultural organisation whose members were arrested over alleged links with Naxalites last year, was one such front, Mr Kadam said: “Expressing dissent is allowed, but within limitations.” The KKM should come out and condemn actions of Naxalites if their goal is pure, he added. (The Hindu 28/5/14)

**Police jawan killed in encounter with naxals (12)**

Raipur: A police jawan was killed and another injured in an encounter with naxalites in insurgency-hit Narayanpur district of Chhattisagrh, police said on Saturday. The face-off took place when the joint party of Special Task Force (STF) and district force was patrolling forests of restive Orchha police station area last evening, Narayanpur Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) O P Sharma told PTI. According to the officer, the security personnel were mobilised from Orchha police station of Abhujmad region for an anti-naxal operation in the region since Thursday night. When the search party was returning to its camp last evening, a group of armed rebels ambushed it between forests of Becha and Ilam villages, located around 400 kms from here. Ultras opened indiscriminate firing on security personnel leaving two constables injured. However, naxals fled to the core forests when jawans retaliated, he added. Constable Pankaj Suryawanshi (22), a native of Narayanpur succumbed to his injuries while being taken out of the jungle last night while another injured constable Ramesh Kumar Nag (23) admitted to a local hospital, he said. The condition of the injured jawan is said to be stable, he added. Soon after getting the news of the incident, additional forces were rushed to the spot, the ASP said, adding a manhunt has been launched in the region to nab the attackers. (Zee News 1/6/14)

**Naxals kill youth for refusing to join outlawed movement (12)**

Raipur: A tribal youth was killed allegedly by Naxals when he refused to join their movement in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, police said on Monday. Devendra Modem, 20, was brutally beaten and then axed to death by rebels at his native place Baiguda under Awapalli police station limits last night, Bijapur Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Sukhnanand Rathore said. About 20-25 rebels stormed Devendra's house in Baiguda village, located around 450 kms away from the state capital, last evening. They demanded from the victim's family members that either Devendra or his brother join the movement. When the family refused to give in to their demand, the Naxals forcibly took Devendra out of his home and started thrashing him. Even after being beaten up when when the victim remained firm on his stand of not joining the outlawed outfit, the rebels axed him to death, the DSP said. Security forces were rushed to the spot after being informed about the incident by the villagers, he said, adding that the body was
brought to Awapalli for postmortem. Security personnel have launched a search in the region to nab the assailants, he said. (Zee News 2/6/14)

**Maoists Kill Cong Worker in Rayagada (12)**
RAYAGADA: Suspected Maoists killed a contractor in Sikarpai village here on Tuesday. Gopal Chetty Gandhi (48), also a Congress worker and panchayat samiti member, took three gun shots on his chest. The ultras, belonging to the Basadhara-Ghumusar-Nagabali Division of the outfit, then used knives to stab him. Sources said Chetty reached the petrol pump owned by him at 6 am and was waiting for a staffer when a group of five armed ultras attacked him. Before Chetty could realise anything, one among them fired three rounds at him. When he fell down, the Maoists stabbed him. Following the attack, they raised slogans in favour of the CPI(Maoist) and fled from the spot. A note found near his body said, “You swallowed money of tribals. So we killed you.” It was written by one Umakant, secretary of the divisional committee, police said. The note also stated that the decision to kill Chetty was taken in a kangaroo court. Police recovered three cartridges from the spot. Combining operation has been launched in the area to track down the killers. Chetty, who was also a lawyer, was in the hit-list of the Maoists. The note warned that whoever is found exploiting the public or supporting multi-national companies would meet the same fate. (New Indian Express 4/6/14)

**Maoist Posters Threaten Villagers (12)**
RAYAGADA: Maoist posters were found in Sirigumma and Bhalumaska villages in the district on Thursday. Both the villages come under Sirigumma panchayat of Kalyansinghpur block. Through the posters, Maoists threatened villagers of dire consequences if they worked as police informers. They also mentioned that the villagers found guilty in this regard would meet the fate of Gopal Chetty Gandhi, a contractor, who was killed by the rebels in Sikarpai village on Tuesday. Gandhi (48), also a Congress worker and panchayat samiti member, received three gun shots on his chest after which the rebels, belonging to the Basadhara-Ghumusar-Nagabali Division of the outfit, stabbed him with knife. A note found near his body said, “You swallowed money of tribals. So we killed you.” It was written by Umakant, secretary of the divisional committee, police said. The note also stated that the decision to kill Chetty was taken in a kangaroo court. In fact, Maoist violence in Rayagada district has increased during the last 10 days when they committed one murder and set ablaze two camps of a contractor. Through the posters and banners, Maoists have also threatened companies like RSB, Utkala Alumina, Vedanta and Aditya Birla groups which have their units in both Rayagada and Kalahandi districts. They directed the companies to cancel all the mining agreements with the State Government. (New Indian Express 6/6/14)

**Twelve Maoists surrender in Koraput (12)**
BERHAMPUR: Twelve Maoists of Srikaulam Koraput Divisional Committee under Andhra Orissa Border State Zonal Committee (AOBSZC) of outlawed CPI (Maoist) organisation surrendered in Koraput district of south Odisha on Sunday. All of them were operating in Narayanpatna and Bandhugaon blocks of Koraput district. They surrendered before the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Yashwant Jethwa and Koraput Superintendent of Police (SP) Awinash Kumar. All the surrendered Maoist militias claimed that they now wanted to join the mainstream to lead normal life. According to the SP, they would be rehabilitated as per the policy of government for surrendering naxalites. According to Mr. Jethwa, in 2014, till now at least 33 Maoist cadres or militias have surrendered in Koraput district. Most of them were from Narayanpatna area. According to him there are hints that more Maoists are planning to shun violence and surrender. The IGP urged other naxalites to take cue from their surrendering compatriots and take similar decision or face the strict action of security forces. According to the recently surrendered Maoists, they had been drawn into the Maoist organisation via the controversial tribal organisation Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh (CMAS) which is active in Narayanpatna and Bandhugaon areas. They had joined the CMAS in 2009 and were later actively involved in building up Maoist organisation in Narayanpatna and
Bandhugaon blocks. “It was suspected that they were involved in abetting several major cases of Maoist violence in the area of their operation,” said Mr. Kumar. All these surrendered Maoist militias were from Narayanpatna police station area. Out of them Lengu Habika of Narikhilwa village was the president of revolutionary peoples committee of Maoists in Narikhilwa area and was a close associate of Maoist leaders like Santu, Andru and Daya. The surrendered Maoist said they had realised the futility of violent activities of Maoist organisation. They were also critical of recent targeting of local tribal leaders of Narayanpatna and Bandhugaon area by Maoist commanders, and other violent activities which were detrimental to development of tribal people of the area. (The Hindu 9/6/14)

No plans for aerial attacks on Maoists: Raman Singh (12)
Raipur: Stressing that “an integrated approach with focus on holistic development of Bastar is the only way to tackle the Maoist problem”, the Chhattisgarh government has refuted speculation that the state is preparing for aerial attacks on the rebels and with the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, an all-out war will be launched against them. The government clarified that the recent meeting of Home Minister Rajnath Singh with Chief Minister Raman Singh and other senior state officials was “not for seeking more choppers or battalions”, but to essentially draw the integrated plan. “No. Not at all. I categorically deny this,” the Chief Minister told The Indian Express, when asked about the possibility of aerial attacks on Maoists. “The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss law and order and development issues in Left Wing Extremism affected region. We need to take a holistic view of the problem and evolve a new strategy particularly for development. We emphasized that the development projects pending at Union level should be fast-tracked as only all-round development can bring permanent solution. The need for streamlining and resolving pending projects in a set time frame was mutually agreed upon,” he said. In fact, during the meeting Singh conveyed that “if the country is to fight Left Wing Extremism then the biggest battle to be fought will be in Bastar, and this battle is possible only through the holistic development of Bastar”. Contrary to the perception that Chhattisgarh sought more firepower, senior officials present in the meeting said the policing aspect occupied less than 10 per cent of the presentation as the state advocated for a paradigm shift in identification and execution of projects in Bastar. Explaining the reason behind the demand of choppers, ADG (Naxal Ops) RK Vij told The Indian Express: “More choppers were asked for improving mobility of forces and response time in crisis situations, not for aerial attacks or dropping bombs.” About the need of more battalions, Vij said, “Security vacuum still exists in many areas of Bastar. Forces are needed to make inroads in such zones and for providing protection to road construction programmes.” Officers pointed out that while the Centre has approved 10 regular and two technical battalions, it has not promised even a single chopper so far, and they at most expect only two aircraft, which will be used for ferrying forces. Many police stations, and posts and CRPF camps are located in remote areas of Bastar where troops and ration is airlifted as roads do not exist. “We need choppers primarily for this reason,” said an official, adding that even the thought of aerial attacks in Bastar is absurd… (New Indian Express 11/6/14)

Naxals becoming parallel force: MHA (12)
New Delhi: Contrary to the UPA government’s claim that Naxal growth is being contained, fresh statistics presented by security forces to Union home minister Rajnath Singh shows the CPI (Maoist) has become almost a parallel force in the “Red Zones”. One lakh sangam cadres, 2,080 dalam members, more than two dozen “platoons” and “companies” of 3,000 Naxalites with regular weapons and 3,000 with sophisticated weapons like LMGs, AK-47s, INSAS rifles, SLRs and mortars are part of a formidable Maoist army. The Reds have key links with the PLA of Manipur, RPF and NSCN-IM, the home ministry has told Mr Singh. The secret note, prepared by the ministry of home affairs (MHA), also warns that Maoists will get more active in espousing the Kashmir cause and work for a strategic “United Front” in its bid to counter the hard anti-Naxal push planned by the new BJP government. The Naxal forces have built up formidable strength and have chalked out a detailed plan of deployment across the red corridor,
making it difficult for the security forces or any government machinery to penetrate, top government sources said. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal being their areas of operations, the deployment plan chalks out core areas of operations. In the Dandkaranya region, two “battalions” and 22-25 “platoons” have been spread out, making it one of the hardest regions for state machinery to penetrate. The Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh zone has at least 12 “battalions” and around 45,000 weapons. The Andhra-Orissa-Bihar special zonal committee of the Maoists has at least the “companies” (180 cadres) deployed in the border areas. (Asian Age 12/6/14)

**Coming soon: Jingles, videos to counter Naxal propaganda (12)**

New Delhi: With themes like ‘Ladai Nahi Padhai’ (Don’t fight, study), the government will soon launch an audio and video campaign to discourage tribals from joining the ultra-Left armed movement. Four jingles will be aired through All India Radio and four videos will be telecast through Doordarshan regularly to reach the maximum number of people in nine Naxal-affected states, officials in the Home Ministry said. Through these jingles and videos, the government plans to educate rural populace — especially tribals — about the negative effects of violence and the armed movement besides the necessity of education and development. The jingles and videos — each 10 minutes long — will be made in five languages; Gondi, Halbi, Nagpuria, Oriya and Telugu. Apart from being telecast on Doordarshan, the videos will also be broadcast in Maoist-affected villages. The government will play the jingles through AIR to counter Maoist propaganda and will urge villagers and tribals to join the mainstream. (Indian Express 14/6/14)

**Four Naxals, including woman surrender (12)**

Raipur: Four Naxalites, including a woman, laid down their arms before the police in the insurgency-hit Bijapur district on Saturday. Superintendent of Police, Bijapur, Prashant Agrawal here said that the surrendered insurgents were highly discontented with the dual standards and ideology of the Naxals in sprawling Bastar region which is made up of seven districts. According to police, the surrendered left wing insurgents have been identified as Lakshman Hemla alias Sagar (24) resident of Palar village under Gangalur police station, Ganesh Irpa (24) of Rajpenta village under Basaguda police station, Jamuna Pallo alias Jatte (26) hailing from Nugur under Bedre police station and Kosa Parsa (19) of Chhote Palli, Bhairamgarh. Giving information about the surrendered naxalites, the police said that Lakshman Hemla had joined Naxal cadre in 2007 as a member of ‘Jan militia’, an offshoot of banned Communist Party of India (Maoist). From 2008 to 2009, he was section commander of militia platoon and from 2011 to 2014 he was president of Jantana Sarkar—a form of local governing system adopted by the Maoists. Ganesh Irpa and Kosa Parsa were members of Naxal supply team. Ganesh joined the outfit in 2001. From 2002 to 2005, he was commander of Janmilita group and in 2009 he was made member of Local Operating Squad (LOS). Kosa Parsa had joined the group in 2005, and he has been member of the platoon number 16 active in the region. Jamuna Pallo alias Jatte was member of platoon number 16. She had joined Naxal cadre in 2006 and had received Naxal training in Abujhmad region. She had also worked as member of LGS (Local Guerrilla Squad) in Narayanpur and Pakhanjur areas, police informed. Discrimination among Naxal cadres hailing from Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, killing of innocents in the name of police informer and having soft corner only for Maoists who are in jail have forced them to lay down their arms, the police claimed. Initially, the surrendered outlaws would be given Rs 10,000. Later the state government would give them all the benefits of different government schemes, the SP Bijapur stated. (Pioneer 15/6/14)

**Five arrested for Maoist links in Odisha (12)**

Five persons were arrested for allegedly providing logistic support to Maoists in Rairakhol area of Sambalpur district, police said today. "The five arrested persons are sympathisers of Maoists. They had come to Rairakhol market to purchase some goods for the ultras. We arrested them while they were going back in an auto rickshaw on the weekend,” Deputy Superintendent of Police of Rairakhol, Abakash
Raoutray said. Police have seized 40 items including medicines, Maoist literature, uniform and footwear besides Rs 16,920 from them, he said. (DNA 17/6/14)

**Chhattisgarh CM devises elaborate development plan for Maoist-hit Bastar (12)**

Raipur (Chhattisgarh), June 19: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh has revealed that he may soon come out with an elaborate plan to develop and strengthen security in Maoist-hit Bastar District. Singh said road construction would be speed up and every police station in the district would have solar power and better connectivity. “We are going to speed up road construction and agency is about to be set up. Bastar will open up and development will take place. Connectivity will increase. In every police station, whether it is connected with electricity or not, we have decided to set up solar plant there,” said Singh. Any development activity in Maoist infested areas is often met with strong opposition from the red rebels. They attack workers and destroy the work done. The rebels have operated for decades across a wide swathe of central and eastern India and grown in strength during recent times in areas where poor, tribal villagers came into conflict with mining companies seeking resources for industrialisation. Maoists say they are fighting for the rights of poor farmers and landless labourers. Thousands have been killed in the insurgency since the late 1960s. (New Kerala 19/6/14)

**Naxals extort Rs 100 crore annually from Chhattisgarh: Police (12)**

Raipur: The naxal-hit Chhattisgarh has become centre of extorting money by the ultras, who collect nearly Rs 100 crore annually from various sources in the state, police said. “Numerous intelligence inputs suggested that Maoist have extorted money to the tune of Rs 80-100 crore from various sources like contractors, businessmen, transporters and tendu patta contractors, every year in the state,” a senior police official, said. Senior naxal leaders were primarily focusing on mineral-rich Chhattisgarh for extorting money for functioning of the banned outfit CPI (Maoist) in the country, the official said. In March this year, based on tip-offs, security forces had unearthed naxal dumps in the forests of Sitagaon and Aundhi in Rajnandagon district and seized nearly Rs 29 lakh, he said. The spokesperson of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee Gudsa Usendi alias GVK Prasad, who surrendered early this year in Andhra Pradesh had revealed that naxals were involved in extorting a hefty amount of money from restive Bastar (south Chhattisgarh) region, he added. Giving details of the account of money extorted by naxals, based on the documents received from State Intelligence Bureau, the officer said, naxals have been extorting money to the tune of Rs 3 crore annually from the locals, Rs 10 crore from businessmen, Rs 20 crore from contractors, Rs 10 crore from transporters. Around Rs 20 crore from tendu leaves contractors, Rs 15 crore from timber contractors, Rs 20 crore from industrials based in naxal-hit areas and Rs 20 crore from the employees and officers, he added. Around 20 per cent of total cost of any projects or development work undertaken in the Maoist-affected zones is extorted as “protection money”, ensuring safety to the work as well as people involved in it till its completion, the State Intelligence Bureau (SIB) document said. Moreover, mobile operators also pay protection money of Rs 20,000 to Maoist to ensure safety of the mobile towers. From the locals, money is raised in the name of “revolutionary tax”, which ranges from Rs 10 to Rs 2,000, it said. The SIB document also revealed that the central committee of CPI (Maoist) take the final call on the amount to be extorted from different sources. The task has been divided among organisation’s segments like zonal committee, area committee and local cadres, and at each level and the place where money kept after collection is known to only two persons. Mostly, money is hidden underneath the earth in deep forests. However, sometimes it is deposited in banks as well, it said. As per the documents, money is used for different purposes like buying vehicles, procuring gold biscuits, weapons and explosives, printing works, medicines, communication, food, training camps, legal aid. Senior police officials said although they believe naxals were largely engaged in extortion in Chhattisgarh but with increasing pressure of police they have been able to control it. “Indeed naxals extort big amount of money in LWE (left wing extremism) affected areas. Instead of complaining to police, contractors, businessmen and industrialists pay them money under their threat,” Additional Director General of Police
(Naxal Operation) R K Vij, said. Gradually, it is being witnessed that contractors and businessmen have refused to pay extortion in places where they (naxals) are losing its grips amid increasing police pressure, he added. (Zee News 22/6/14)

Two Naxals arrested in Jharkhand (12)
Jamshedpur: Acting on a tip-off, the police arrested two Naxals both members of Supai Tuddu squad of CPI-Maoist. The police have recovered a loaded pistol, two cell-phones and Naxal literatures from their possession. Talking to the scribes, SSP Amol V Homkar said that acting on an information that some naxals are extorting levy from the contractors who are carrying out Government projects in Ghurabandha block and adjoining Mosabani block. “We carried out an operation acting on the information and set up a special team in the areas were the development projects like road and check-dam constructions were going on. Finally, two suspected naxals were nabbed,” said Homkar. The senior SP said that a third person, identified as Anil Kisku, had also been nabbed along with the two, but Kisku managed to escape from the police custody. He said on being searched the police recovered the loaded fire-arms, cell-phones and Naxal literatures from their possession. The senior SP said on being questioned, Hinduram and Sadhucharan who were residents of Sudgi village and Lakhtia village of Ghurabandha and Mosabani police station areas respectively, confessed that they were the members of Supai Tuddu, who is the area commander of Ghurabandha and Mosabani blocks. The two arrested Naxals also confessed that they were collecting levy from the contractors engaged in the development work beside spreading naxalism among the villagers by motivating them for joining their outfit by means of distributing naxal pamphlets. Homkar pointed out that they have also nabbed a villager who was suspected to be a naxal sympathiser. He said they were getting the antecedents of the villager and would arrest him only after getting it confirmed that he was also involved in the naxal activity. Homkar said the two arrested rebels would be forwarded to the judicial custody on Tuesday. The senior SP further informed that two admitted to have collected over Rs 15 lakh as levy from the contractors working in the rebel-hit areas during the past one year. (Pioneer 24/6/14)

Naxal-hit States to brief Rajnath (12)
New Delhi: Ten Maoist-affected States will give detailed presentations before Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh here on Friday where strategies will be chalked out to tackle the menace. Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana will brief the Home Minister about the left wing extremism scenario in their respective jurisdiction and the achievements and failures recorded in anti-Maoist operations till now. A critical appraisal of operational performance of security forces, gaps in coordination between the State police forces and Central paramilitary forces will be discussed during the daylong meet. Performance of State Governments in Centrally-sponsored projects like Security-Related Expenditure (SRE), special infrastructure scheme, fortified police stations and infrastructure availability in Central paramilitary forces camps will be reviewed by the Home Minister. Presentations will be given on developments projects like integrated action plan, road projects and installation of over 2,199 mobile phone towers in Naxal-hit areas. Construction of around 5,000 km roads at a cost of Rs10,000 crore are under various stages and plans to set up the mobile phone towers at a cost of Rs3,000 crore is yet to start. Singh is also expected to take a view on a new initiative of the Home Ministry to give special monetary benefits, out-of- turn promotions and choice posting to bureaucrats and security personnel operating in Maoist-hit areas considered “dangerous”. Flaging Naxal areas as the ‘most dangerous zone’ in the country, the Centre is planning to enhance hardship allowance given to paramilitary personnel deployed in these areas more than what they get while serving in Jammu & Kashmir and Northeastern region. At present, a paramilitary constable serving in J&K gets around Rs8,000 per month in addition to his or her normal salary and other entitlements. Meanwhile, Singh visited CRPF headquarters ahead of the meet to take stock of anti-Naxal operations and other internal
security challenges being by the paramilitary. The Minister was given a presentation by CRPF DG Dileep Trivedi. Singh lauded the CRPF for free and fair conduct of the just-concluded Parliamentary polls and termed the paramilitary as playing key role in internal security responsibilities. In his presentation, Trivedi highlighted the lack of mobile phone connectivity to the officers and men in Maoist-affected areas. To this, Singh assured the DG that he would personally take up the issue of setting up mobile phone towers in such areas and also bring the issues concerning the force to the notice of the PMO, an official who attended the meeting said. Apart from underscoring the need to rationalise the allowances, the DG also sought a mechanism to directly route the SRE funds to the paramilitary for speedy action on ground. Presently, the funds are routed through the State Governments that do not spend money for years together, the official said. The controversial reorganisation policy and according the benefits of the old pension scheme was also discussed during the meeting. (Pioneer 27/6/14)

Bihar CM Jitan Manjhi disagrees with Rajnath on Naxals (12)
Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Saturday said that he disagreed with Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh that no talks will be held with Maoists and a befitting reply given if attacked. “Theoretically I disagree with what he has said. Naxalism cannot be solved with the help of gun. We have to find the underlying reasons behind it. The only solution lies in all-round development of society,” Manjhi told reporters here. “Frustration over lack of socio-economic-educational development and employment, as well as unavailability of justice among the weaker sections has led to naxalism. The answer to it lies only in development,” Manjhi said. Manjhi said former chief minister Nitish Kumar tried to solve the Maoist issue in the state and took up development work for marginalised people to tackle it. “This policy actually helped and now the situation in the state has changed so much that our Maoist brothers have to work hard to search for new recruits. Young men don’t want to join them. Development weans people away from Naxalism,” he said. “Our intention is to bring so much development in Bihar that issues like Naxalism automatically get solved. If we take development to the huts of the poor people it will definitely end Naxalism,” added Manjhi. Yesterday, ruling out talks with Maoists, Home Minister Rajnath Singh, has said forces will give a “befitting reply” if they are attacked and announced that it will fully fund the formation of elite commando force in states to deal with the menace. Singh, who met top civil and police brass of ten states affected by Left Wing Extremism, told them that enough funds will be provided to equip and modernise their respective police forces. “There is no question of any talks now. We will take a balanced approach. But the forces will give a befitting reply if the Naxals launch attacks,” Singh has told reporters after chairing a high-level meeting in Delhi. A Home Ministry official later said talks with the Maoists will be held only if they shun violence and come forward for a dialogue. Speaking on the sidelines of a seminar, Manjhi also said that he wanted the Public Distribution System to be run in the state with the help of Primary Agriculture Cooperatives, NGOs and Self Help Groups related to Bihar Rural Livelihood Project also known as Jeevika. Manjhi said if PDS shops needed to be given to individuals, they would be given to people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He said these issues were discussed with Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in a meeting yesterday. (Indian Express 28/6/14)

Woman among 6 Naxals arrested in Bijapur (12)
Bijapur: Six Naxals, including a woman, were arrested by the police in a search operation in Bangoli village forest under Bangapal police station, of the insurgency-hit Bijapur district, on Tuesday. They were at large for many years and four of them carried a reward of Rs 5000 each. District Superintendent of Police KL Dhruv said that the arrests were made during a search operation conducted by the district force in Bangapal police station area. The team started the operation from Satwa village, and moved through Chinger, Karkawada, Kakerlanka and Bangoli villages. In the forest near Bangoli village, the police force spotted six persons moving in a suspicious manner. Suspecting them as Naxals, police cornered them
and interrogated them. They disclosed their identity as Podiya (50) son of Dulla, Somaru Warsa (35), son of Dulla, Gopi (32), son of Dulla, Budhram Tamo (36), son of Sukda Tamo, Kadiyam Nehru (38), son of Dogga, and Sundari Warsa (40), daughter of Soma Warsa. Dhruv said that they all are residents of Sakinan Bangoli under Bangapal police station. They are wanted in a number of cases of murder, dacoity, attempt to murder, arson etc besides Naxal activities in Bangapal police station. (Pioneer 2/7/14)

15 Naxals surrender (12)
NAGPUR: Security agencies received a major fillip in their fight against Naxals after 15 rebel guerillas surrendered before state home and guardian minister of Gadchiroli RR Patil on Thursday. Patil, who headed a DPDC meeting at Gadchiroli, presented cheques to the surrendered Naxals. Apart from welcoming the rebels back to mainstream, Patil also distributed sewing machines and other materials to 34 surrendered Naxals who had earlier laid down their arms before the district administration and police. Patil, in a strong worded address, stated that police were prepared to meet the Naxals on a war footing and also remained behind those who wanted to surrender. The home minister also stated that he aimed at preparing better surrender policies targeted at overall development of the surrendered Naxals. (Times of India 4/7/14)

Ex-Salwa Judum members face Maoist threat (12)
KUTURU (BIJAPUR): Sitting in his barricaded house adjacent to the police station in Kuturu village in Bijapur district of South Bastar and surrounded by heavily-armed bodyguards, Madhukar Rao laughs when he says he is “waiting for death”. Mr. Rao was one of the founders of the anti-Maoist militia Salwa Judum in Bastar — “a people’s resistance movement” — which was begun under his leadership in Ambeli village. “If they can kill Mahendra Karma [another founder and face of the Salwa Judum in Bastar], then we are small players,” Mr. Rao said, pointing out that other Salwa Judum functionaries had either been killed by the Maoists or forced, like himself, to live under tight security. “At times, police deploy Road Opening Parties (ROP) for me,” says Mr. Rao. Following allegations of human rights violations, the Supreme Court in 2011 declared the Salwa Judum illegal and unconstitutional and ordered that it be disbanded. Members of the outfit have been regularly targeted by Maoists for its “anti-tribal” actions. Mahendra Sadgul, who headed Salwa Judum in Bhopalpatnam area, was shot dead in 2008. Budhram Rana, another leader in Bijapur area, was killed some two kilometres away from his house. Chinaram Gota of Faresgad village was killed along with his bodyguards in 2011. “But the biggest jolt to Salwa Judum was the killing of senior Congress leader Mahendra Karma last year,” says Ajay Singh, who headed the outfit in the Bairambagad area and has now been provided Z category security cover. Mr. Singh and another senior Judum leader Vikram Mandavi managed to escape from Jiramghati attack last year. “We threw away our mobiles and identity cards to escape identification, but we are named as the main targets in their meetings,” Mr. Singh told The Hindu. Chaitram Mattami, who actively participated in Salwa Judum activities in the Dantewada area, lives a secluded life and refuses to meet journalists. “He won’t meet you unless he is sure about your identity. He will be in Dantewada, but he would tell you that he is in Raipur or Jagdalpur,” said Bappy Ray, a Dantewada-based journalist. Even Madhukar Rao has been attacked four times by the Maoists. The most recent attempt on his life was made on April 9 this year. “How long will we manage to escape? Only few of us are alive now,” rues Mr. Singh, who charges the Raman Singh-led Chhattisgarh government with being “opportunist”. “There was a time when the CM shared the stage with us and said he would give complete support, but now we have been left to the mercy of God with a few bodyguards,” said Mr. Singh. (The Hindu 5/7/14)

Two CoBRA Jawans Injured in Anti-Naxal Operation in Sukma (12)
RAIPUR: Two CoBRA jawans were injured in a gun-battle between security forces and ultras in Chhattisgarh’s insurgency-hit Sukma district today. The jawans received minor injuries in the firing that took place in the restive Karikunda forests of Bhejji region, Sukma Additional Superintendent of Police
Neeraj Chandrakar said. A joint team of CoBRA's (Compact Battalion for Resolute Action), a specialised unit of CRPF, 208 battalion and district force was mobilised from Bhejji police station for an anti-Naxal operation in the interiors of south Bastar. When they reached Karikunda forests, around 500 kms away from here, Naxals started indiscriminate firing. The rebels fled to the core forests, when jawans retaliated, the ASP said. Two jawans received minor injuries in the incident and were air-lifted to Raipur for treatment, he said. (New Indian Express 7/7/14)

Home Ministry to state governments: Submit proof of funds used for tackling Maoism or Naxalism
NEW DELHI: State governments will have to send photographs to the home ministry by the end of this month as proof that they have executed projects aimed at countering Left-wing extremism. Only then will the states be able to claim further funds under the Centre's Rs 500-crore Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS), a senior official told ET. As part of its efforts to step up the offensive against Maoism or Naxalism, the home ministry has also asked the telecom department to stop inter-ministerial consultations on a mobile tower project for the affected areas and bring it directly before the Cabinet, the official added on condition of anonymity. Home Minister Rajnath Singh has asked all state governments to submit photographs of projects executed by them with central funds under the SIS within 30 days along with physical and financial project reports, the official said. Funds under the SIS are meant to be spent by states on projects that increase mobility of security forces in Maoist-affected areas by way of upgrading roads, providing secure camps and helipads, strengthening police stations and upgrading weaponry. "The utilisation of funds in this regard will now be closely monitored-...future release of such funds will depend on the success of implementation of projects," the official said. Under the Integrated Action Plan (IAP), which caters to development schemes, states have to upload photographs of the completed projects on a portal managed by Planning Commission. A similar monitoring mechanism has been replicated for the home ministry's security schemes. Bihar is struggling to complete projects under both schemes. The home minister has also directed the telecom department to "not waste further time" in inter-ministerial consultations on the proposal of installation of mobile towers in Maoist-affected states, the official added on condition of anonymity. "The minister has asked the telecom department to bring the proposal of installing towers with an increased cost directly before the Cabinet for consideration and approval. The minister feels that the project has already been delayed badly and the installation of towers at least around security force establishments should be done immediately," the official said. (The Economic Times 9/7/14)

6 suspected Maoist trainees detained under NSA in Dharmpuri (12)
DHARMAPURI: Six persons of Natham Colony in Naikankottai village here, who were arrested by the Dharmpuri police on June 28 for their alleged participation in arms training given by the associates of elusive Maoist leader Kalidass, were detained under the National Security Act (NSA) on Friday, police sources said. Based on the recommendations of Superintendent of Police Asra Garg, Collector K. Vivekanandan issued the order. The persons detained are S. Sakthi, 38, M. Durai, 46, C. Santhosh, 22, S. Adhiyaman, 22, G. Ashokan, 27, and G. Shankar, 36. The order was served on the accused at the Salem Central Prison on Friday afternoon, the sources said. The police said two country-made guns and some explosives were recovered from the accused, and they were arrested to foil an armed assault on leaders of a particular community. The prohibitory orders promulgated across the Dharmpuri district last month have been extended for two weeks from July 10. The orders were in force in view of the July 4 death anniversary of Dalit youth I. Ilavarasan of Natham Colony, who committed suicide after his caste-Hindu wife left him to live with her mother. The arrests were made in the run-up to the anniversary. (The Hindu 12/7/14)

Naxalites demand Rs 50 lakh from construction officials (12)
BHOPAL: Naxalites have allegedly demanded Rs 50 lakh extortion money from officials of Dilip Buildcon - a construction company owned by Dilip Suryavanshi, who is considered close to chief minister Shivraj
Singh Chouhan. Dilip Buildcon is constructing a 65km road from Balaghat to Baihar where construction is nearing completion. Balaghat SP Gaurav Tiwari said, "Manager of Dilip Buildcon filed a complaint against Naxalites on July 11. He said four people came to their makeshift office at Parastola, 12 km from Baihar, and demanded money. All four claimed to be Naxalites and threatened to blow up the project, if they failed to pay up. They also said wage of labourers employed by the company should be raised." But police are not convinced the extortionists are Naxalites. "In pamphlets dropped by the miscreants, the extortion amount mentioned was Rs 5 lakh and not Rs 50 lakh as claimed by company officials. Also, there was no mention of their 'dalam' or group as is their usual practice," said Tiwari. "We have registered a case and have begun investigation. Security has been tightened in the area," Tiwari said. (Times of India 14/7/14)

Four wanted Naxals held in Chhattisgarh (12)
Raipur: Security forces on Wednesday apprehended four suspected Naxalites, carrying rewards on their heads, from Maoist-affected Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh. The suspected Naxals were held by a patrol squad led by paramilitary CRPF from the Korenda-Benur axis of the district. The apprehended Naxals have been identified as Rajman (35), Somnath (35), Rejju alias Rai Singh and Kachru Salam. All were wanted by the police and while the former two carried a reward of Rs 5,000, the other two had a bounty of Rs 10,000 on them, a senior official said. All the suspects are residents of Korenda and have been handed over to local police, the official said. (Zee News 16/7/14)

Naxal camp destroyed; arms, explosives seized (12)
Raipur: A joint team of District Police and Special Task Force (STF) destroyed a temporary Naxal camp in a forested patch under Mardapal police station, Superintendent of Police (SP) Kondagaon, Abhishek Meena informed here on Wednesday. "We had specific intelligence inputs that a group of left wing insurgents were camping in a jungle near Kelam village under Mardapal police station. Based on the information, a joint police party consisting of District Police and STF jawans was mobilised to move from Mardapal towards the spot," SP said. Around 10 am on July 15, the police party had face-off with armed insurgents in jungle near Kelam village who were about 30 to 40 in numbers and both the sides engaged in gun battle. The gunfire lasted more than an hour and Naxals finding themselves surrounded by police personnel ran away in the deep forest while taking advantage of dense vegetation and continuous rain, the SP maintained adding that the Naxals were members of Maoist military platoon number-6 active in the region. Later on, during the searching of area police recovered Walkie-talkies, tiffin bombs, live bullets hand grenades detonator wire, flash, watches, tent, radio, ration in huge quantity and other items of daily use from the spot Meena said that Naxals had gathered for organising 'Jan Adalat'. Notably, Naxals had killed a villager in Usri on July 13 in a 'Jan Adalat' branding him as a police informer. However, police had later on denied of having any link with the deceased person. (Pioneer 17/7/14)

Odisha Maoist leader Sabyasachi Panda arrested (12)
Bhubaneshwar: Odisha Police arrested the state's top Maoist leader, Sabyasachi Panda, on Friday, in what authorities said was a major achievement in the anti-Maoist campaign. Panda was wanted in over 60 criminal cases, including the killing of Hindu leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in Kandhamal in 2008 and the abduction of two Italian tourists in 2012. "This is a big achievement for Odisha Police," said director general of police Sanjiv Marik. The Maoists, also known as Naxals, have been fighting for decades across vast swathes of eastern and central India. They say they are fighting for the rights of poor farmers and landless labourers, but authorities see them as the country's biggest internal security threat. Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik announced the arrest in the assembly and congratulated the police personnel who participated in the operation. "I also take the opportunity to appeal to Maoists to shed violence and join the mainstream," he said. Police recovered a revolver, some ammunition, Rs. 2 lakh, 500gm of gold, 10 mobile phones, a laptop, two hard discs and five pen drives from Panda, who was
arrested in Ganjam district. But experts said Panda’s arrest would make little difference to the Maoist movement in the state as he had become powerless in the past two years after falling out with the leadership of the Communist Party of India (Maoist). "His arrest will not impact the Maoist movement in the state, which is being controlled by cadres from Andhra Pradesh," said former Odisha DGP SN Tiwari. (Hindutan Times 18/7/14)

Naxals destroyed tendu worth Rs 55 lakh in 32 years (12)
NAGPUR: Naxalites have destroyed tendu leaves to the tune of more than Rs 55 lakhs within a span of 32 years since 1982 in Maharashtra. A press release, issued by state Anti-Naxal Operations cell, underlined the fact that Naxals have repeatedly tried to sabotage the tendu industry which had been source of livelihood for a substantial population in the remote Gadchiroli district. The tendu business, which brings much needed alternative source of income in the poorly developed Gadchiroli, is also connected to India’s one of the largest rural-based bidi industry. Left-wing extremists have been targeting tendu industry and are engaged in extorting exorbitant amount from contractors. There had been so far around 120 incidents of tendu leaves being destroyed in Naxal violence in three decades till this year. The maximum loss which has been inflicted by the Naxals against the tendu business has taken place in Gadchiroli. Leaves, worth around Rs 40.39 lakh, have been destroyed in 106 incidents alone in Gadchiroli. In Etapalli tehsil of Gadchiroli, there had been 62 incidents in which tendu leaves worth around Rs 11.42 lakhs were destroyed. There were 29 such incidents in Aheri too. Naxals set afire tendu leaves, worth Rs 10.29 lakh, on fire in Chamorshi tehsil on May 18 in 2003 which is being considered as the single biggest loss in such business caused by the rebels. In Gondia district, tendu leaves worth Rs 13.40 lakh have been gutted by the Naxals in 11 incidents. In western Maharashtra, Naxals have destroyed tendu leaves worth Rs 68,600 in three incidents in Nanded district. (Times of India 22/7/14)

Mass support for Naxals behind Bihar stir? (12)
Patna: Substantial public support for Maoists is suspected to be the root cause behind the sudden unrest in Bihar’s Aurangabad that led to police firing on a large crowd of violent agitators on July 19 in which a woman and a child died and five others were injured. This being the second police firing in Bihar a fortnight, the first being in Rohtas on July 8 in which two people died and nine others were injured, Bihar’s JD(U) government and the Opposition BJP are locked in a war of words over the government’s alleged loss of control on the police force’s activities. But, even as a probe is currently on, the suspected Maoist connection in the Aurangabad incident has caused massive disagreements between the government and the Opposition. Top police sources pointed out that villagers in Maoist-affected Aurangabad turned against the police and the district administration so violently, indulging in arson and rioting, because they were angry about the intense, weeklong joint combing operation carried out in the area by the state police and the CRPF in search of some leftwing rebels reportedly hiding there. The Aurangabad SP and DM’s preliminary report on the incident, tabled in the state Assembly on Monday, also said that villagers were suspected of sheltering armed Maoists in their homes. “The entire area was experiencing tension ever since the security forces began conducting raids in Deo and Madanpur to flush out Maoists camping in the area for a fortnight. The security forces also had an encounter with the Maoists at Devagaha village in Deo on July 11," said water resources minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary in the Assembly during a three-hour debate on the issue on Monday. But senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi contested the minister’s claims. “The government is misguided in saying that the Maoists were behind the tension in Aurangabad. A 45-year-old woman and a 12-year-old boy were killed in police firing while protesting. Two boys of class seven were sent to jail for the protests,” he said. (The Asian Age 23/7/14)

Maoist Menace: Police Baffled as Tribals do a Backflip (12)
MALAPPURAM: The Maoist issue is posing a grave and ongoing threat in this forest region of the state and the police are lost in a dark abyss as tribes are showing reluctance in passing information to the police regarding the movement of armed persons. The police force engaged in tracking down the Maoists mainly depends on the information they receive from the tribal colonies. But recently the tribes have become quiet to the point of extreme reticence in informing the police about the deadly Maoist presence. The tribes were very willing and cooperative with the police in the beginning to give information and it was immensely helpful to the police to gauge the strength and nature of the armed gang. The tribes also helped them to identify the key members of the Maoist gang that has found refuge in the dense forest. The police officials are clueless about the current disenchantment of the tribes with the police and their sudden dedication and devotion to the Maoists. They fear the gang members have succeeded in brainwashing the tribals and planted vicious ideas in their minds using the Maoist propaganda. “It is learned that there was a class in Vaniyambalam colony near Nilambur on July 18 by an armed group. But strangely, the police got the information only a day later. The gang had also distributed notices to all the houses in the colony. We fear that frequent meetings of the Maoists with the tribes would definitely impact them in a negative way which would have serious repercussions. The delay in providing tip-offs and reluctance to cooperate with police are examples of it”, said sources in the anti-Maoist force wishing to seek anonymity. The tribes are also open in admitting the fact that the government has betrayed them by giving empty promises. “The Maoists are giving classes about the indifference of the government towards the tribal community. They have to some extent succeeded in creating an image that they are their saviour who would redeem them from their present misery and that the government is their enemy. It is relatively a simple task to convince the tribes, who are already depressed with the attitude of government, with such kind of fiery speeches. The situation in the colonies will prove that there are some truths in what the Maoists are saying. There are no proper houses, roads, drinking water and electricity facilities in the colonies. The development initiatives to be implemented in the colonies sadly depend upon the will, wish and interest of the officials. They do not even ask the tribes if their needs are met”, Chitra, a Mahila Samakhya Savini belongs to Kattunayakan tribe in Appankappu colony near Nilambur told ‘Express’. The tribes have also started bargaining with the police to repay them for the favours they receive at their hands. They demand proper roads, electricity, food, garments, etc from the police. It is suspected that influence of persons outside the colony have brought about this change in them. The tribes have no loyalty whatsoever, to outsiders including the police. They will support anyone offering money and lend a helping hand to them as long as help arrives from any quarter. They will listen to the police and also to extremist groups without any hesitation. But we do not expect that the tribes would join hands with them in the near future due to their inherent laziness”, Perinthalmanna DySP K P Vijayakumaran, who is in charge of the forest areas in Nilambur, said. The police are leaving no stone unturned to maintain a rapport with the tribes. (New Indian Express 28/7/14)

Anti-Naxal operations: Government deploys 1,000 fresh BSF personnel in Chhattisgarh (12)

NEW DELHI: Government has deployed a fresh contingent of about 1,000 Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Chhattisgarh to bolster anti-Naxal operations in the state. The specially trained contingent of the paramilitary will be inducted to operate in Kanker district of the state, situated in the southern part of the state just above Bastar. BSF already has seven similar units in the same district for these operations. "The troops will also undertake some special operations along the state borders once they are fully inducted," a senior officer said. Recently, a similar strength of troops drawn from paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police was sent to the state’s Rajnandgaon district. Chhattisgarh already has over 32,000 personnel of various paramilitary forces like Central Reserve Police Force, BSF and ITBP to undertake these operations. The deployment of the squad was also discussed during the recent meeting of Left Wing Extremism states which was chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh at his office few weeks back. The BSF, country’s largest border guarding force with close to 2.5-lakh personnel in its ranks guards crucial Indian borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. (Economic Times 30/7/14)
493 civilians killed in Naxal-hit Maha districts in 3 decades (12)

Gadchiroli: Naxals, who set up a base in Maharashtra in the early 1980s, have killed as many as 493 civilians in the worst-hit Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Gondia districts of the state over the last three decades, police said. According to a release issued here by the anti-Naxal Cell of Maharashtra police, an overwhelming number of victims of Naxal violence were from Gadchiroli district alone (451). These civilians were killed between February 1985 and July 2014. The remaining victims were from Gondia (33) and Chandrapur (9), it said. The ultras usually target those suspected to be police informers, as well as private contractors, ‘sarpanchs’ and other office-bearers of various local bodies like Zilla Parishads, government officials, among others, the release said on Friday. The civilian victims in these three districts included 206 suspected naxal informers, 188 ordinary citizens, 24 police patils, ten sarpanchs, five former ‘police-patils’ and 14 surrendered rebels. Naxal activities first found ground in Maharashtra at Gadchiroli. The left-wing ultras entered Lankachen village of Sironcha tehsil by crossing the Godavari river from Andhra Pradesh and formed ‘Sironcha dalam’. According to police, 17 to 19 ‘dalams’ of Naxals, comprising 260 cadres are at present active in the Gadchiroli district. Ten civilians have been killed by Naxals in Gadchiroli since January this year, officials said, adding the recent encounters with police had depleted the ultras’ strength to a considerable extent. The ultras, who crossed over to Maharashtra from Andhra Pradesh, are currently observing ‘martyrs’ week. (Indian Express 2/8/14)

Maoists warn timber mafia in Koraput (12)

Koraput: Maoists have put up posters and banners in Odisha’s tribal district Koraput warning timber mafia against felling of trees in the district. The rebels have put up posters and banners at several places under Lamataput block alleging indiscriminate felling of trees by the timber mafia in connivance with officials in Lamataput forest range, Superintendent of Police (Koraput) Awinash Kumar said. "We have asked them to stop their illegal activities, failing which they will be punished. Forest officials who are hand in gloves with the timber mafia will also be taken to task," read a Maoist banner put up at Gunaipada on Saturday, the sixth day of the Martyrs’ Week being observed by the Maoists since July 28. The Maoists have asked villagers too not to cut trees and alleged that tribals were being harassed by security men and warned of retaliation. The depleting forest cover has turned to be a major concern for them as without the thick forests they find it difficult to hide and organise camps. Kumar said the Maoist banners and posters have been seized and no untoward incident was reported. "Putting up of posters and banners is the handiwork of some local Maoist supporters. At present the situation is under control. Our men are on high alert and all required security arrangements have been made to avoid any untoward incident during their Martyrs' Week," he said. Maoists observe the week from July 28 to August 3 every year to pay tribute to their dead leaders and cadres. (Zee News 3/8/14)

Women Naxal cadres sexually exploited: Govt (8)

New Delhi: Government on Tuesday said instances of sexual exploitation of tribal women cadres by senior Naxal leadership have been reported in various Left Wing Extremism affected states. Many instances of exploitation of tribals by the Naxalites/Maoists have come to the notice of the government. Such atrocities primarily include sexual exploitation of tribal women cadres in the Maoist camps which have been disclosed in statements of several surrendered women CPI (Maoist) cadres of Odisha, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand and other states," Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said in a written reply to Lok Sabha. "This has been widely reported in the media also from time to time. Such instances of sexual exploitation include rape, forced marriage and molestation by senior male CPI(Maoist) cadres," he added. Rijiju said that the government has information that some female cadres had to undergo abortions too. "In Chhattisgarh, some surrendered tribal CPI(Maoist) male cadres have disclosed that they were forced by the senior leadership to undergo vasectomy operations as a pre-condition for marriage with
women cadres. There are allegations that women cadres of CPI(Maoist), who become pregnant, are forced to undergo abortion against their will," the Minister said. The surrendered women cadres have also disclosed that even if they are married to male cadres, they are not allowed to have children since the senior leadership of the CPI (Maoist) feel that it impairs their fighting capability and mobility. "Further, forced recruitment of children from families of poor and marginalised segments of the society, including the tribals, by the Maoists has also come to notice. In order to instill a sense of fear in their areas of dominance, the Naxals also kill civilians after branding them as police informers," Rijiju said. Out of 4,955 civilians have been killed by the Maoists since 2004 till July 15, 2014, the Minister said, the "overwhelming majority are tribals." "The Maoists have in reality killed thousands of innocent Adivasis, whose cause they profess to espouse. This tragic reality is glossed over by the Maoist front organisations and their apologists in towns and cities who have launched a propaganda war against the Indian state and project Maoists as the champions of Adivasis," he said. The Minister said the Naxals have recruited "minors" from the tribal belts of LWE affected areas in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha. "In Bihar and Jharkhand, these children are enrolled in 'Bal Dasta' and in Chhattisgarh and Odisha the children's squad is known as ‘Bal Sangham’. The idea behind recruiting tribal children is to wean them away from their rich traditional cultural moorings and indoctrinate them into Maoists ideology. He said that it has been reported that children recruited in 'dalams' are not permitted to leave. "They face severe reprisals including killing of family members if they surrender to security forces.” Rijiju said a number of central and state government schemes were being run in these areas to "bring stability in the lives of children" and to ensure that all their entitlements to protection, health, nutrition, sanitation, education and safety were fulfilled through government action. (Zee news 5/8/14)

CRPF jawan killed in encounter with naxals in Chhattisgarh (12)
RAIPUR: A CRPF jawan was killed today in an exchange of fire with naxals in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, police said. The incident took place at Murdanda village under the Avapalli police limits when a CRPF patrol team from 168th battalion were proceeding for a road-opening, and naxals opened indiscriminate fire leaving one jawan dead, DIG, SIB of Chhattisgarh police Dipanshu Kabra told . The security personnel also fired in retaliation. The face-off continued for a while following which jawan Jignesh Patel was killed on the spot. Meanwhile, additional forces have been rushed to the spot and anti-naxal operations have been intensified in the Maoist-infested area following the incident. (The Economic Times 9/8/14)

New Surrender Scheme for Naxals Under Consideration: Patil (12)
MUMBAI: Maharashtra government is considering a new surrender scheme for naxals and a proposal in this regard would come up for the state cabinet approval, Home Minister R R Patil said here today. The revised scheme envisages increased compensation amount for surrendered naxals, the minister said, adding that a provision of Rs 2.41 crore will be made for the purpose. The new scheme would help in ensuring that more naxals will surrender and would also be useful in speeding up development work in the naxal-affected region, he said. (New Indian Express 10/8/14)

Gadchiroli special forces kill two Naxalites in gun battle on hill (12)
Mumbai: C60 commandos and Special Action Group of the Maharashtra police gunned down two Maoists in the Naxal-affected Gadchiroli district on Tuesday morning. The Gadchiroli police said that both the men were actively involved in violence and two weapons have been seized from them. According to the police, the incident took place around 8 am at Devgad hill in Khobramendha village in Kurkheda tehsil. Acting on a tip off, 40-odd men from the two special forces of the police department went in search of Naxals in the hills when they got caught in the crosshairs of around seven to eight extremists. In the ensuing gun battle, most of the Naxals fled but the forces shot down two of them who succumbed to their injuries. They were armed with a self-loading rifle and a .303 rifle (a gun used during the British Raj). Both weapons have
been recovered and the police suspect they might have been stolen from their armory. The dead have been identified as Sonu and Krishna. Their bodies have been sent for an autopsy. A few men from the force have suffered minor injuries in the incident. The forces have intensified their long distance patrolling. The Maharashtra police has been aggressively taking on Naxalism. Its anti-Naxal operation in 2013 saw the killing of 26 Naxals in police encounters. According to government records, this is the highest figure since 1980. Incidentally, the number of Naxals being arrested has come down in the last year. (Asian Age 13/8/14)

Naxals trigger IED explosion, one CRPF jawan injured
RAIPUR: A CRPF jawan was on Friday injured in an IED explosion triggered by naxals in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh, police said. The incident occurred in the restive Tadmetla forests under Chintalnar police outpost limits when the paramilitary personnel were on an operation to cordon off the region, Sukma Superintendent of Police D Shrawan told PTI. A squad of Central Reserve Police Force was on an area domination exercise in Chintagufa forests, located around 500 kms away from Raipur, early this morning. When they reached near Tademtla, naxals triggered a land mine blast and opened indiscriminate firing on security forces leaving one of them injured, the SP said. However, when security forces launched retaliatory attack Maoists fled to the core forests, he added. Soon after being informed, reinforcement was rushed to the spot and the injured jawan was admitted to a local hospital, he said. A search operation has been launched to nab the attackers, he added. (Times of India 15/8/14)

Four Maoists killed in Bastar encounter
RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh police on Saturday claimed to have killed “at least three to four Maoists” in Narayanpur district of South Chhattisgarh. “A police team carrying out area domination exercise near Horna village came under fire from the Maoists. When police returned the fire, the Maoists managed to escape into the forest. But at least three to four of them must have been killed in the encounter because our Jawans saw them (Maoists) dragging wounded bodies into the forest,” Narayanpur District Superintendent of Police (SP) Amit Kamble told The Hindu. “We have recovered a country made gun, some detonators and secret Maoist literature from the spot of the encounter. From the blood stains on the spot and the secret documents which they (Maoists) usually never leave behind, we can claim that many of them were fatally wounded in the encounter,” added the SP. However, the police couldn’t recover dead bodies of the Maoists. (The Hindu 16/8/14)

Naidu Commission Asks Maoist Leader to Depose
BHUBANESWAR: Justice AS Naidu Commission has issued notice on Maoist leader Sabyasachi Panda to record his statement before it by September 5 in connection with the killing of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati and the communal riots that ensued in Kandhamal district in 2008. The notice has been served on Sabyasachi through the Home Department. He has been given the choice of recording his statement before the Commission in person or through his lawyer. Only after the statement is recorded the panel will take a call on cross-examination process, Justice Naidu told mediapersons. Sabyasachi is currently in the custody of Berhampur SDJM after the completion of remand by the Crime Branch of State Police in connection with the attacks on Nayagarh district police armoury in 2008. The Crime Branch, which is also probing the Laxmanananda Saraswati murder, has submitted petition for Sabyasachi’s remand. The remand petition has been filed before Baliguda SDJM Court. On August 11, Baliguda SDJM Court had directed Kandhamal SP to produce Sabyasachi on August 13 but in view of Independence Day arrangements, the District Police had expressed its inability to provide necessary security to the Maoist leader’s production process. There are over 20 cases pending against Sabyasachi in different police stations of Kandhamal. He is stated to be the brain behind Saraswati’s murder that unleashed communal violence in the district six years back. (New Indian Express 18/8/14)
Three Cobra jawans injured in encounter with Naxals
Raipur: Three Cobra jawans were on Tuesday injured in a gun-battle between paramilitary forces and Maoists in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Dantewada district. The encounter took place in the forests of Kodanar under Aranpur Police Station limits when security forces were returning after an anti-Naxal operation in the region early this morning, Dantewada Superintendent of Police, Kamlochan Kashyap told PTI. A squad of Cobra's (Compact Battalion for Resolute Action), a specialised unit of CRPF, 201 battalion was mobilised from Jagargunda (Sukma) for anti-Naxal operations since Monday. On their way back to their camp when security forces reached Kodanar forests, a group of armed Naxals opened indiscriminate firing on them leaving three jawans injured. However rebels fled to the core forest, when the jawans retaliated, the SP said. Soon after being informed, reinforcement was rushed to the spot, he said, adding the injured personnel are being retrieved from the forests. (The Hindu 19/8/14)

Cabinet nod for mobile towers in Naxal belts, to cost Rs 3,216 cr
New Delhi: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the long-pending proposal to install mobile towers in nine Naxal-affected states by BSNL at cost Rs 3,216 crore that will be borne by the government. "The Cabinet has approved setting up of 1,836 new base transmission towers (BTS) in Left Wing Extremist affected districts. People in these areas and security forces have asked to improve the mobile connectivity in these districts," Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said after a Cabinet meeting. He said 363 towers under the project have already been set up for which subsidy will be given from the Universal Services Obligation Fund. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been pushing for installation of mobile towers in Naxal-hit areas since 2010. "The project implementation cost through the open tendering process is approximately Rs 3,568 crore against the revised cost estimate of approximately Rs 3,216 crore," Prasad said. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been pushing for installation of mobile towers in Naxal-hit areas since 2010. The absence of mobile services has made it tough for security forces to operate and get timely help in critical situations, leading to loss of lives in some incidents. Soon after a Maoist attack at Bastar in Chhattisgarh in which 27 people, including some senior Congress leaders, were killed, the then Cabinet in June 2013 had approved setting up of mobile towers at a cost of around Rs 3,046 crore in nine states affected by the naxal violence to improve communications. The project to install mobile towers at 2,199 locations was to be completed by June but its progress was stuck due to difference in actual bids and project cost approved by then UPA government. The government has identified areas in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. (IBN Live 21/8/14)

CRPF jawan injured in face-off with Naxals in Chhattisgarh
Raipur: A CRPF jawan was injured in a gun-battle between security forces and ultras in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Bijapur district, police said on Sunday. The jawan received bullet injuries in the face-off that occurred in the restive Lingapur forest under Basaguda police station limits late last evening, a senior police official said. A team of paramilitary forces was mobilised from Bijapur for an anti-Naxal operation in the interiors of Basaguda in south Bastar. When they reached Lingapur forests, around 450 kms away from the state capital, the Naxals opened indiscriminate fire on them leaving a constable injured, he said. However, the rebels retreated into the dense forests when the forces retaliated, the official said. The injured constable, Sibu Siyas, was airlifted to Jagdalpur hospital for treatment, he said adding that his condition was stated to be out of danger. Soon after being informed, reinforcement was rushed to the spot and combing operation has been launched in the region to nab the attackers, he said. (Zee News 24/8/14)

Maoist links: Bombay HC quashes Saibaba’s bail plea
Nagpur: The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court has rejected the bail application of Delhi University professor G N Saibaba, under arrest since May for his alleged Maoist links. Justice Sunil Shukre , while
rejecting the argument of Saibaba that he couldn’t be branded a Maoist or even a sympathizer only on the basis of the resemblance of his social activism with Maoist ideology, said a prima facie case exists against him for involvement in Maoist activities and for his being a prominent and important Maoist leader, according to Government Pleader Bharti Dangre. Saibaba also cited his physical disability as ground for bail. That too wasn’t held valid by the court, according to Dangre. His lawyer Surendra Gadling said, “we argued that mere resemblance of social activism to Maoist ideology isn’t ground enough to brand him a sympathiser or a Maoist. Also, we said the police don’t have sufficient material to substantiate their claim.” On court’s rejection of the disability ground, Gadling said, “the court accepted the police argument that he was being provided adequate assistance, facilities and medicines.” Saibaba was arrested by Gadchiroli police in May on the basis of the case they claim to have made out against him for involvement in Maoist activities. Saibaba’s arrest followed interrogation of the two earlier arrested alleged Maoists Hem Mishra and Prashant Rahi, who, the police claim, led them to Saibaba. The court granted bail to Prashant Rahi, who has been in jail since September 2013. Rahi, originally from Nashik, has been allegedly working for the urban front of the Maoists in Uttarakhand for past few years. A lot of material, pen drives and hard disks were recovered from Saibaba’s house by the police that, they claim, contain clear evidences of his involvement in Maoist activities as one of its prominent leaders co-ordinating urban and international activities of banned organisation CPI (Maoist). Confined to wheel-chair, Saibaba is currently lodged in Nagpur’s Central Prison. (Indian Express 25/8/14)

Two Naxals involved in Jiram valley attack arrested
Raipur: Two dreaded Maoists allegedly involved in last year’s ghastly Jiram valley attack which killed 31 people including some Congress leaders, were on Tuesday arrested in Chhattisgarh’s insurgency-hit Bastar district. A cache of explosives was also recovered from the ultras, police said. Acting on specific inputs, the cadres were apprehended by a joint team of district force and Central Reserve Police Force from a mobile check post under Darbha police station limits this evening, Bastar Superintendent of Police Ajay Yadav told PTI. During the interrogation, the arrested rebels, identified as Sukhdev Naag (31) and Manjhiram Kashyap (32), natives of Tongpal police station limits in bordering Sukma district, revealed that they were among the cadres who targeted Congress convoy in Jiram valley, Yadav said. As per their statements, Sukhdev was in the group of armed rebels, who gunned down senior Congress leader Mahendra Karma and other Congressmen, while Manjhiram passed on crucial information regarding the movement of Congress convoy and security forces in the region ahead of executing the attack to military platoon of CPI (Maoist), the SP said. Manjhiram also acted as an informer in dispensing key details about the movement of security personnel ahead of Tahakwada attack under Tongpal police station limits killing 15 security personnel and a civilian in March this year, he said. Notably, based on the statements of three ultras, including two women, who surrendered yesterday in Jagdalpur, the security personnel intensified its combing in the region to catch those local cadres who were involved in attack on Congress convoy in Jiram valley of Darbha. Meanwhile, Sukhdev and Manjhiram were nabbed while they were riding on a bike along with explosives between Darbha and Jiram camp of security personnel during checking of the vehicles, he said. (Zee news 27/8/14)

Jharkhand Police's initiative against Naxals successful: DGP (12)
Jamshedpur: The “stringent steps” taken by the Jharkhand Police against naxal activities have yielded results, with the state recording 35 per cent decrease in naxal-related incidents this year compared to the previous years, Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar said on Sunday. Barring a naxal-related incident in Dumka district, parliamentary polls held in three phases in Jharkhand four months ago were satisfactory, with the voting percentage registering an increase and no report of naxal incidents in the first two phases, Kumar said at a press conference. All the nefarious designs of the ultras, barring one incident, had been foiled and voters turned out in large number despite a poll boycott call given by the
extremists outfit because of the steps taken by the police, Kumar said. There had been an improvement in containing the naxal activities in the state and several naxals were arrested following the anti-naxal operation launched by the police, he said. On the national-level Shooter Tara Shahdeo incident, Kumar said the police investigation was going on in the right direction and assured that no accused would be spared as police have been discharging its responsibility sincerely. To a query about Jharkhand government's decision to recommend the case to CBI, he said the victim had requested for it. The DGP who was here to inaugurate the Integrated Surveillance and Response Centre (ISRC) at Crime Control Room on the premises of Sakchi police station assured of more such comprehensive steps in the future to curb the naxal activities. (Zee News 1/9/14)

Hazaribagh police nab five Naxals; arms, ammunition seized (12)
Hazaribagh: The Hazaribagh police arrested five Naxalites from the border areas of the district on Monday night. They seized two country-made carbines and live cartridges. The Naxals confessed their involvement in many cases in Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, Chatra and Koderma districts. At a press conference hereb on Tuesday, SP Hazaribagh Manoj Kaushik said that the police got the information of a new Naxalite group active in different areas of Hazaribagh. On a tip-off the Giddi police raided a house in Chumba village of Dadi block. As the police reached, the Naxals tried to run away but the police team managed to nab them. The SP said that the police recovered two country-made carbines, 10 live cartridges, six mobiles and some posters from them. Kaushik said that they have confessed that they were involved in kidnappings in Barkagaon and other seven cases. They also confessed that they collected levy five times from different business firms. The arrested have been identified as Raj Kumar Gupta, Sandeep Sao, Nakul Sao, Prakash Kumar Sao and Ram Chandra Sao. All the four are between 20 to 22 years of age. The SP said they had formed a new organisation named Jharkhand Tiger Group (JTG). (Pioneer 3/9/14)

Centre to introduce plan to deal with Naxalism (12)
Jaipur: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday indicated that the Centre would introduce a comprehensive plan to deal with the issues of Naxalism, terrorism and insurgency. Singh said he has been brainstorming with sitting and retired officers and has prepared a comprehensive plan, and invited suggestions from the heads of police training academies and police officers on the issue. “There has been a drastic change in situations since independence... There are challenges of terrorism, Maoism and insurgency and to meet these challenges... I invite your suggestions on our website,” he said. “I have been brainstorming with sitting and retired officers and a comprehensive plan is almost ready,” he said while addressing the heads of police training academies of different states at a national symposium here. The Union Minister said there was a need to make perceptual change in the image of police. “People see front of government, Chief Minister and Prime Minister in cops... even a police constable regulating traffic reflects the (functioning of the) government hence the police should ensure that their behaviour is proper,” he said. (The Hindu 4/9/14)

23 CRPF men, cops ‘left without a fight’ as Naxals ambushed colleagues (12)
Raipur: The inquiry into a Maoist attack six months ago at Tahakwada in Chhattisgarh’s Sukma district — in which 11 CRPF and four police personnel were killed — has found that most of the survivors, who followed the first section that was ambushed, instead of helping their trapped colleagues stayed behind and later deserted them. The probe ordered by IG CRPF (Chhattisgarh) H S Siddhu has found 23 of the 28 survivors prima facie guilty of “inaction and lack of satisfactory counter-action”. The paramilitary force has already suspended 17 of its personnel as reported by The Sunday Express, and suggested the police to act against six of its men for dereliction of duty. “In our communication to the state police, we have recommended disciplinary action against them,” said the IG office in a statement to The Indian Express. The probe report also said that the deceased personnel fought bravely and has recommended gallantry
award to 10 of the 11 CRPF personnel killed in the encounter. Forty three personnel — 31 CRPF and 12 Chhattisgarh police — had left Tongpal police station on March 11 morning when they were caught in an ambush on a National Highway with open fields on both sides. Fifteen securitymen, who comprised the first line of the party, died on the spot, while most of the others deserted their embattled colleagues, the probe has found. Of the five survivors who were let-off in the probe, three could have been charged with “non-action” but they had suffered injuries in the gunbattle. It is probably the first instance when over half of a police team involved in an anti-Naxal operation has been found guilty of “lack of satisfactory counter-action”. The inquiry also noted that “there was delay in sending reinforcement”. Tongpal police camp was only four to five-minute drive from the spot, but the reinforcement party did not arrive in time. “These comprise around 25 personnel (both CRPF and police) who were present at the camp. They have not been suspended now, but will face a separate departmental enquiry,” said a CRPF officer. “The role of Tongpal thana in-charge is also under scanner.” The state police, however, said they were waiting for the CRPF report. “We are yet to receive the CRPF report,” Bastar IG SRP Kalluri said. Interestingly, while 15 securitymen had died in the ambush, the Maoists snatched 18 rifles indicating that those who survived could not even manage to save their weapons. Six AK-47s, some of which were fitted with under barrel grenade launchers, 18 magazines of the same rifles, one light machine gun with 10 magazines, nine INSAS rifles with 30 magazines, two SLRs with six magazines and two wireless sets were looted — sufficient to raise a company of the Maoists. (Indian Express 8/9/14)

10 naxals including seven women surrender (12)
Nagpur: Ten Naxals, including three couples, surrendered before Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Sandip Patil on Friday. The Naxals include a platoon commander and his deputy. Seven of the surrendered cadres are women. Police have been identified them as Jagdish alias Ramesh Katwo(28) — the platoon commander, company number 4 — his deputy Sandhya alias Jyoti Tumreddy (25), and members of various dalams identified as Imla alias Tullo Madavi (23), Munni alias Chukli Narote, (22), Ranita alias Sanno Gawade, (23), Surekha alias Rajkala Madavi, (23), Ashish alias Tibru Pendam, (28), Suman alias Saguna Madavi, (25), Sadhu alias Ramesh Holi, (25), Chinni Baklu Telami, (23). They had been in touch with the police for some time and had expressed desire to lead normal life. Police officials said the naxals will get benefits under the surrender policy and would also get higher compensation. However, police did not identify the couples in the press note issued on Friday (Indian Express 13/9/14)

Naxal mine blast in Gadchiroli kills jawan, hurts four (12)
NAGPUR: One Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) jawan was killed while four others were injured in a Claymore mine blast allegedly triggered by Naxals near Yerkad in Dhanora tehsil of Gadchiroli on Monday. A combined squad of 18-member security force, comprising district police and IRB, was heading towards weekly market at Yerkad village when the mine planted on the side of the road exploded, killing one jawan instantly. The security forces were deployed at Yerkad Armed Outpost. A State Reserve Police Force camp is also located in the AOP where the IRB battalion is posted. The incident, with the state assembly election exactly a month from now, has left the police and district administrations ratted. After the rebels suffered repeated setbacks, intelligence wing had started sending feedback of a possible strike back by them. It is learnt a couple of attempts made by the Naxals had been thwarted in the last one month despite police operations being interrupted by rains lashing the district. Desperate Naxals were also trying to target the civilians. Inspector general of police, Nagpur and Naxal range, Ravindra Kadam stated that Naxals could not risk meeting the cops head-on in gun battles so have to try triggering blasts like this. “The recent blast too is likely to be an outcome of one-man ambush. The culprit must have anticipated the police movement and had been waiting for it. He seemed to have fled into forest,” said Kadam. He added that the rebels were trying to make a desperate comeback in north Gadchiroli after losing several top leaders and cadres in police encounters. IRB jawan Chetan Salve was declared brought dead at city’s Orange City Hospital where the injured were flown from the spot of incident by a
helicopter sent to evacuate the jawans. Another IRB jawan, Nitesh Bandekar’s condition is learnt to be critical. Kamlesh Mahajan, also in IRB, is learnt to be stable. Two other district police constables- Manik Mankar and Subhash Samarth- are also conscious. The police party was heading towards the market for purchasing vegetable and also keeping a vigil on the market where Naxals too come. After a series of incidents, police had been keeping these weekly markets under scanner. Superintendent of police, Gadchiroli, Sandeep Patil felt the latest blast would not have repercussion on the next month's election. "The mine was concealed under the ground. The Naxalites had used muck on the surface to ensure it could not be traced on the wet ground," he said. Patil stated that police had also started chasing the suspect but he managed to flee. "The suspect could not be chased as the injured cops too had to be taken care of. The choppers were pressed into action immediately after the incident," he said. (Times of India 16/9/14)

State to Give Naxals Rehab Grant of up to Rs 5 Lakh (12)
BANGALORE: The state government has announced a rehabilitation package to wean away Naxals from their guns and persuade them to join the social mainstream. Naxalites who surrender could expect a grant-cum-loan of up to `5 lakh and other benefits. The rehabilitation package, recently announced by the state home department, offers cash incentives to those who surrender arms and provide information to nab other extremists or help unearth arms dumps. The left wing extremists have been grouped into ‘A’ and ‘B’ categories. The team leaders or Dalams, most of whom are known to have committed heinous crimes, belong to category A and the other members are in category B. The notification states, “A grant-cum-loan of `5 lakh or the amount of reward announced on his or her capture, whichever is higher, will be released to the surrendering left wing extremist group member. Fifty per cent of the amount will be a one-time grant and the other 50 per cent will be sanctioned as loan through the District Cooperative Bank.” If the surrendered member wants to take up a vocation, a training stipend of `5,000 per month would be paid after the person enrolls for the course. The amount would be for a maximum of one year and support would be extended for two years if a member pursues formal education. If the surrendered member brings and gives up any weapon or equipment, he or she would get further incentives (see box). Those ready to surrender could submit their request to the district-level committee headed by the district magistrate. However, the request should be approved by the state-level committee headed by the home secretary. (New Indian Express 16/9/14)

Probe to find how Naxals get bulletproof jackets (12)
Patna: The Gaya police Wednesday set up a team under a deputy superintendent of police to find possible links between serving or retired Armymen and conduits of Maoist leaders in supplying bulletproof jackets to some top Naxals in Bihar. A joint team of STF and Gaya police had arrested two persons, including an ex-Armyman, and seized a bulletproof jacket that had to be delivered to a local Maoist leader, Shivji Dhobi alias Tyagiji. The police, who recovered an Army bulletproof vest from one Mohammed Shams on Monday, said he had procured the jacket from Rajiv Kumar, a retired Armyman from Ark Devaria village. Rajiv Kumar, who now works as a guard at a bank in Aurangabad, has also been arrested. Shams was arrested when he was to deliver the jacket to one Gautam Kumar, a Sherghati (Gaya) resident, who had to give it to Maoist leader Tyagiji. The police were now looking for a serving Armyman, Amresh Kumar, who is currently posted at Ranchi. Shams told the police that he had to deliver two more jackets to top Maoist leader in Magadh zone Sandeepji. A senior STF officer said: “On prima facie, it looks an Army bulletproof jacket. We are trying to know how the jacket reached an ex-Army man and if serving Armymen are behind this.” Rampur police station in-charge Gaurishanker Gupta said, “An FIR had been lodged against Shams and Rajiv Kumar, Gautam Kumar and Amresh Kumar under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and some IPC sections.” Gaya DSP Alok Kumar Singh had been asked to probe the matter. (Indian Express 18/9/14)
CRPF has curbed recruitment of naxals in region, says IGP (12)
COIMBATORE: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has effectively stopped Maoists from recruiting naxals from villages, said CRPF inspector general of police (southern state), Mandava Vishnuvardhana Rao. The CRPF would also provide medical aid to personnel injured during attacks, he added. He was speaking at the CRPF training college at Kurudampalayam near Coimbatore, where he witnessed the passing out parade of 166 sub-inspectors. The para military agency has managed to gather information about 80 % of the Maoists and has been taking efforts to curb supply of weapons to them, he said. "Maoist movements have been controlled in various states by the CRPF. There is no fresh recruitment from tribal villages and naxalism will end soon," said Rao. Violence is not a solution to any problem and the CRPF is against killing of Maoists. "Our job is to ensure they change their ideologies and integrate with mainstream society," he said. "Maoists have not succeeded in passing on their ideas to the new generation. Their numbers are dwindling. The police and security forces have succeeded on several occasions in making them surrender using a multi-pronged approach," said Rao. "The CRPF is willing to provide medical aid to injured Maoists. They should refrain from getting treatment from quacks," he said. "We have provided the National Investigation Agency (NIA) with ample information to track and curb Maoist movements and identify where and how they are procuring their weapons," said Rao. CRPF personnel conducted a demo to control the mob during protests by using mild lathi charge and weapons. Later, a group of CRPF personnel showcased their karate skills for the audience. (Times of India 20/9/14)

Maoist camp busted; laptops, printers seized (12)
Raipur: In a major success, a joint team of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and District Force (DF) busted a Maoist camp and seized laptops, printer and other electronic gadgets in the insurgency-hit Rajnandgaon district. The encounter took place in the dense jungles of Katema about 90 km from district headquarters. Rajnandgaon, Superintendent of Police Dr Sanjeev Shukla told The Pioneer on Sunday. The spot where the forces conducted the raid is located in a thick vegetated hilly track near the borders of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, he said. We had intelligence inputs that insurgents had set up a camp in jungles of Katema in the Kanghurra region of the district. Accordingly, a joint team of ITBP and DF was immediately mobilised towards the spot, the SP said. After reaching the jungles of Katema, the joint team and insurgents had a fierce gun battle following which the insurgents fled away leaving behind computers, laptop (i-5 generation), mouse, backpacks, torches, cords, medicines and other items, SP said. Blood stains were spotted at the encounter site which suggests few insurgents would have sustained serious injuries, SP said. (Pioneer 22/9/14)

Top Maoist arrested in Bihar (12)
Patna: In a major catch a top Maoist, involved in several naxal-related incidents in Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, was Tuesday arrested along with three accomplices, police said. Shambhuji alias Sunil Kumar alias Lambuji, member of Special area committee of the banned outfit in Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, was arrested from Gandhi Maidan police station area here, a press release from the office of Senior Superintendent of Police Manu Maharaj said. Acting on a tip off, the city police netted him with three aides when he had come here to collect levy money, the release added. The three others arrested were Sanjay Kumar, Sunil Singh and Lakshaman Yadav. 'Shambhu ji' was involved in brutal massacre of 16 members of TPC (Third Presentation Committee) in Jharkhand on August 8 this year, the release said. Several cases of loot, murder and extortion have been listed against him in the three states. A total of 25 detonators, 3 Chinese make radio sets, medicines to make someone unconscious besides Rs 25,000 were recovered from him, it said. (Zee News 23/9/14)

Battling Maoists: Home ministry clears proposal to buy motorcycles for BSF, CRPF (12)
NEW DELHI: Home minister Rajnath Singh's two-kilometre long motorcycle ride through the hotbed of Maoist insurgency in Jharkhand's Saranda forests on Tuesday signified more than just a photo op. The
ministry is in the process of clearing a proposal from paramilitary forces CRPF and BSF to buy over 5,000 motorcycles for its troops battling Maoists as twowheelers have emerged as the "safest" mode of transport for troops in the region, given the use of landmines by ultras to target cops. BSF last week sent a proposal to the home ministry, seeking 10 new motorcycles for each of its companies posted in Maoist-infested areas, a ministry official said. (Economic Times 25/9/14)

Two naxals surrender in Chhattisgarh (12)
Raipur: Two naxals carrying a reward of Rs 10,000 each on their head surrendered in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, police said. Naxal Sukhadas (40) and Keshu (40) laid down their arms at the district headquarters. Both the outlaws had joined the naxal movement in 2008 and used to work for their area commanders. Later in 2010, Sukhadas was promoted as the head of Sonpur Dandkaranya Kisan Mazdoor Sanghatan while Keshu was made the Sonpur Militia Commander. Both are involved in several cases including those of murder and Maoist attacks on security personnel in Chhattisgarh. Disillusioned with the naxal ideology and treatment met out to them by Andhra Maoist leaders, the duo decided to surrender, police said, adding that the two will be facilitated into the mainstream soon. (Zee news 27/9/14)

Naxals kill panchayat secretary in Chhattisgarh (12)
RAIPUR: A panchayat secretary was killed by naxalites in Maoist-hit Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, police said on Thursday. Hingaram Kodiyam, cousin brother of late Chinnaram Gota, who was a leader of the erstwhile anti-naxalite movement Salwa Judum, was killed by ultras near Keshkutul village under Bhairamgarh police station limits last night, Bijapur additional superintendent of police Indira Kalyan Elesele told PTI. Prima facie, it appears that the victim was killed with sharp-edged weapons, the ASP said. According to villagers, a group of naxalites stormed into the victim's house yesterday in Keshkutul village where he is the Panchayat Secretary and dragged him out of his home. Kodiyam's body was found lying in a pool of blood in a restive patch of Bhairamgarh-Kutru road this morning, the ASP said. Soon after receiving information, security forces were immediately dispatched to the spot, the official said, adding, Kodiyam's body has been recovered. The reason behind the attack was yet to be known, he said, adding that security forces have launched combing in the region to nab the assailants. A former Janpad member and influential Salwa Judum leader, Chinnaram Gota was gunned down by Maoists in Bijapur in December 2012. A police jawan, who was guarding him, had also lost his life in the incident. Later, the elder brother of Gota, Banshilal was also killed by naxals in May last year. Salwa Judum, an anti-Maoist civil militia, was disarmed and disbanded in the state following the Supreme Court order declaring as illegal and unconstitutional the deployment of tribal youth as special police officers in the fight against Maoist insurgency. (Times of India 2/10/14)

Naxal deputy commander shot dead in Bijapur (12)
Raipur: In a major success, the police shot dead a Naxal Deputy Commander after a fierce gun battle in a forested patch of Bijapur district, a senior police officer said here on Thursday. Superintendent of Police, Bijapur, KL Dhruv informed that a police team comprising District Force (DF) personnel had started on a search operation from the district headquarters on September 30. The team came under heavy Naxal fire twice in the jungles of Bodla Pusnar village. However, the police personnel returned the fire making the Naxals flee into the jungles, the SP said. On September 1, police party searching in Munga village of the district had an encounter with the Naxals. Both sides engaged in fierce gun battle and once again the insurgents ran away, he said. During the operation at different places, the police team were attacked by Naxals who had also placed IED (Improvised Explosive Device) and pressure bombs in different places and a Head Constable of district police Dasrath Nag was injured in one of the blasts during the operation, Dhruv stated. While Dasrath was injured in the blast, Naxals resumed attack on the police team but had
to run away after the force returned fire. Later, the injured Head Constable was airlifted to Jagdalpur for treatment, he said. While searching the area after the gun battle in forests of Munga village, body of a Naxal was found who was identified as Korsa Ayatu (26) resident of Munga Devgudipara village. The deceased was identified as Deputy Commander of CNM (Chetna Natya Mandli) one of the offshoots of banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), the SP said. Ayatu had joined Naxal cadre in 2005 as a Sangham member and in 2007 he became an active member of Gangalur Local Operating Squad (LOS). After working as LOS for three years in 2011 he was made Deputy Commander of CNM. A muzzle gun, backpack and items of daily use were found near the body. (Pioneer 3/10/14)

Jharkhand MLA with Maoist links arrested in Delhi (12)
NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police crime branch in a joint operation with Jharkhand Police arrested former agriculture minister and sitting Congress MLA of Jharkhand Assembly, Yogendra Saw, on Saturday evening. Saw is a suspected Maoist sympathizer and accused of running two terror organizations-Jharkhand Tiger Group and Jharkhand Bachao Andolan—which carry out anti-social activities, police said. Saw is involved in 13 cases of murder, attempt to murder, rioting, criminal intimidation and extortion as well as several alleged massacres in Jharkhand. Cops have taken Saw on a transit remand and took him to Ranchi on Sunday, police said. Police said Saw has close associations with several area commanders of banned Maoist outfits and had been hiding and operating out of Delhi since he resigned as minister and absconded from Jharkhand early September. Addl CP (crime), Ashok Chand, said that Jharkhand Police had information that Saw had been hiding in Delhi. "A joint operation was launched by the crime branch and Jharkhand CID and several raids were conducted to track Saw. Finally, a team led by ACP Hoshiyar Singh and inspector Sandeep Malhotra tracked him to a JJ colony in Shakurpur of northwest Delhi. He was apprehended around 6.30pm on Saturday,” Chand said. On September 1, five members of Jharkhand Tigers Group were arrested and the mentor, Raj Kumar Saw, was found to have Maoist links, police said. Police had phone records of the arrested people talking to the ex-minister. "Huge cache of arms and ammunition and other incriminating material were recovered from them. During interrogation they revealed that Saw was providing arms, ammunition and vehicles to commit extortion, kidnapping for ransom, murder, etc. On September 23, the case was transferred to CID Ranchi and 11 members of this group have been apprehended since,” said DCP (crime) Dinesh Gupta. Saw, Congress MLA from Barkagaon, resigned on September 12 following confessions by arrested Jharkhand Tigers leader Rajkumar Gupta that the politician had ‘founded’ the outfit. Security agencies were left baffled when Gupta disclosed that a Maoist training camp in Hazaribagh was being run by Saw. Sources said police have evidence that Saw was involved in the Beltu massacre of Hazaribagh in 2001. Maoists had beheaded 13 people in the incident and allegedly played football with the heads. The arrested men in the case - Dwarika Singh and Bigan Turi - had confessed that Saw was involved in the conspiracy. Congress had made a three-member panel to probe the allegations against Saw following which he had to resign from his portfolios on September 12. A non-bailable warrant was issued against Saw and he absconded mid-September. (Times of India 6/10/14)

Incentives fail to lure Naxal rebels (12)
Raipur: The Chhattisgarh government’s latest policy of increasing incentives on surrendered weapons by Maoists who return to the mainstream by leaving red cadre seems to have few takers among the “reformed rebels”. No Naxal leaders who have surrendered before police in Bastar in the past three months have carried their weapons with them despite the fact that the incentives on surrendered arms have been made very attractive, a senior police officer told this newspaper here on Monday. “The spate of surrender of Maoists in Bastar witnessed in the past three months is quite encouraging for us. But, at the same time, we are puzzled as well as disappointed that Naxals preferred to surrender without their weapons”, the police officer said unwilling to be quoted. The rehabilitation policy for surrendered rebels has been revised by the Chhattisgarh government. (Asian Age 7/10/14)
Naxalites call for poll boycott over separate Vidarbha issue (12)

NAGPUR: The Maharashtra state committee of banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), popularly known as Naxals, has urged for boycott of the assembly elections on October 15 over the separate Vidarbha issue. The reds have claimed that the four prominent political parties, including Congress and BJP, have opposed the century-old demand of statehood for Vidarbha, and this warrants a boycott of the polls as a mark of protest. A press release by the secretary of the Maharashtra state committee of Naxals claims that Shiv Sena has openly opposed the issue of statehood for Vidarbha while others like Congress, NCP and BJP have refrained from taking a stand only to mislead the masses. The Naxals have appealed to the electorate to use boycott to punish parties for the injustice to Vidarbha. The press release says that this mechanism of boycott is part of a bigger struggle for mass revolution, which should be used at this juncture to protest exploitative and corrupt political parties, irrespective of their banners. The outfit has also claimed that boycotting poll is within the ambit of democratic rights, and should be used to ensure that the four big parties and their allies are ousted. The rebels hold the political parties responsible for suicides of at least eight ryots per day between 1995 and 2013 during the government of Shiv Sena-BJP alliance and later Congress-NCP combine. The Naxals have underlined the fact that around 60,000 farmers ended their life in two decades, which includes 3,146 suicides in 2013, quoting statistics from National Crime Records Bureau. The guerrilla outfits have claimed that governments of all political parties have only added to the woes of the farmers by displacing them from their native places to promote capitalist projects like Surjagarh mining and special economic zones. The Naxals also claimed that the big four political parties are actually hand-in-glove, with not much difference in their policies and agenda. These parties have an internal 'setting', from local bodies to the highest government, in order to distribute the exploited wealth of the masses among themselves, Naxals say. Referring to Mumbai's growth, the Naxals claimed that the development of Maharashtra's economic capital was at the cost of the labour and working class, whose wealth has filled the coffers of capitalists and industrialists. The reds also took a dig at the so-called encounter specialists of Mumbai, saying that they have replaced the 'bhais' after eliminating them. (Times of India 13/10/14)

Making a wave: 20-fold increase in Maoist surrender since May-end (12)

NEW DELHI: The number of Maoists giving up arms has shot up since the Narendra Modi government took over earlier this year, mainly in the Maoist backyard of Bastar in the BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh, which has reported a 20-fold increase in surrenders since the end of May. Home Minister Rajnath Singh is said to be highly enthused by these high figures of desertion among the insurgent ranks in Bastar as this could pave the way for his plan to go after the top leadership of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), which is holed up deep inside the district. According to a report with the Ministry of Home Affairs, which was accessed by ET, 395 Maoists have surrendered across the country till September 30 this year, almost double the 206 who laid down arms in the corresponding period last year. The home ministry is highly optimistic about the way ahead, especially because of a report from the Chhattisgarh police, which shows that the number of Maoists who surrendered in the worst-affected Bastar range surged to 221 as of October 8, a 20-fold jump from only 11 at the end of May, when the Modi government came to power. The highest number of surrenders was in the worst-affected districts of Sukma (50) and Kondagaon (67), which fall in the Bastar range, as per the state police report to the home ministry. The report shows 73 Maoists surrendered in Bastar last month. According to the home ministry, only 24 Maoists gave up their arms in the January-September period last year in all of Chhattisgarh, where Chief Minister Raman Singh has been at the helm for more than a decade. "Intelligence agencies are excited over the record desertions in Maoist ranks in Bastar. There seems to be panic among the Maoists in their den," a home ministry official said. However, the number of surrenders in other affected states, except Andhra Pradesh, leaves a lot to be desired. While Andhra Pradesh has reported 76 surrenders this year against 44 last year, there have been only four surrenders in Bihar and 17 in Jharkhand this year, similar to their
respective figures for last year. "Both Bihar and Jharkhand have been unable to cash in on the attractive surrender and rerehabilitation policy floated by the Centre," a ministry official said. Bastar has performed well on other parameters too. There have been 143 police-Maoist encounters there this year, leading to the killing of 29 insurgents, and 459 of them have been arrested, leading to the seizure of 121 weapons, 115 improvised explosive devices, 269 detonators and 753 rounds of ammunition, as per Bastar police. 

(Economic Times 14/10/14)

**Naxals gun down tribal person in Bhadrachalam division (12)**
KHAMMAM: Fear gripped the tribal pockets in Venkatapuram mandal of Bhadrachalam division following the kidnap and killing of a tribal person by Maoists late on Tuesday night after branding a police informer. Midiam Balakrishna (29), a farm labourer, hailed from Tippapuram in Venkatapuram mandal. Police reportedly recovered a letter left behind by Maoists near Ramachandrapuram, where they dumped the body of Balakrishna after running him down. Police handed over the body of Balakrishna to his family members after a post-mortem examination at the government hospital at Venkatapuram on Wednesday afternoon. He is survived by wife and two children. Police registered a case. (The Hindu 16/10/14)

**Senior CAF officer suspended after Naxals kill a jawan (12)**
Raipur: A senior officer was suspended for not taking standard security measures, after a jawan of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force was killed by Naxals in the state's insurgency-hit Sukma district today. Constable Shivkumar Sidar was abducted by Naxals on his way to hospital and killed earlier today. Company Commander Vinod Thapa was suspended for failing to take standard security measures while sending Sidar to Dornapal for medical treatment from Temelwada camp, said Inspector General of Police, SRP Kalluri. Sidar was sick for the last few days. While he was on his way to Dornpal today, Naxals abducted him from a private bus and killed him. He was travelling without any security personnel accompanying him, unarmed, and dressed in civilian clothes. The Naxals stopped the bus between Temelwada and Kusawada and asked him to get down. He was taken a little away and killed, Kalluri said. His body was later retrieved by the security personnel and a combing operation was launched in the area to nab the Naxals. (Zee News 18/10/14)

**BJP woos Chhattisgarh Naxals who surrendered (12)**
Raipur: A latest move by ruling BJP in Chhattisgarh to woo Naxals who surrendered to join the party has baffled not only the Opposition but also a section of saffron party leaders. After Chhattisgarh home minister Ramsevak Paikre “welcomed surrendered Naxals” to join his party last week, AICC general secretary Digvijay Singh accused BJP of creating base in tribal-dominated Bastar, a Maoist stronghold, with the help of left wing radicals. “BJP’s move to draft surrendered Naxals has clearly established the party’s nexus with Maoists that helped the saffron outfit win elections after elections in the conflict zone of Bastar in Chhattisgarh,” Mr Singh said. However, criticism by Congress has not deterred the saffron outfit from maintaining its stand, taking a strong section in BJP by surprise. On Tuesday, BJP MP from Bastar Dinesh Kashyap restated that his party would welcome to surrendered Maoists. (Deccan Chronicles 22/10/14)

National Investigation Agency report reveals chilling details of Naxal planning (12)
NEW DELHI: A three-month long conspiracy culminated into the meticulously planned Naxal attack, which was rehearsed over six days, on the convoy of senior Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh last year, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has concluded after conducting a probe for nearly 16 months. "Presence of Salwa Judum founder and Congress leader Mahendra Karma in the convoy was one of tempting and lucrative reason for CPI (Maoist) in taking decision to attack the convoy of Congress. The previous and post conduct of the accused persons establish their intention, conspiracy, preparation, and execution to lay ambush on the Congress Parivartan yatra to avenge against Mahendra Karma," says the
36-page NIA chargesheet, that was accessed by ET. It was submitted in a court in Bilaspur on September 23 and says Naxals celebrated with a "macabre dance of death" on the spot after killing Karma. About 24 persons, including senior Congress leaders like the state congress president Nand Kumar Patel, his son Dinesh Patel, former union minister VC Shukla, Mahendra Karma, Uday Mudaliyar and a dozen police personnel were killed. The NIA says over 150 Naxals armed with AK-47 and INSAS rifles, hand grenades and huge quantity of explosives for making landmines trapped the Congress convoy and the mayhem carried on for two hours. It says a big attack was planned for over three months and after concrete information of Karma's movement in Darbha was received a week before the actual attack, detailed rehearsals were carried out by the Maoists for six days on how to execute it. "A decision to carry out a big attack in Darbha region was hatched in the meeting of South Regional Unified Command (SRUC) of CPI (Maoist) held from February 16-25, 2013, somewhere in forest area near village Pidia of Bijapur district and various Maoist formations were asked to assemble in Darbha", the chargesheet says. A week before the attack, Naxals got "information" of possible movement of Karma and other Congress leaders in Darbha to participate in Parivartan Yatra and decided to target it, the NIA says. "In pursuant to the conspiracy to attack Parivartan Yatra, Maoist commanders conducted recce of Sukma - Jagdalpur Highway (NH221, now NH-31) and identified a suitable spot in Jheeram valley for ambush. The rehearsal / mock drills for the attack was carried out for fivesix days in the forest area near Ekkum-Chikpal. During mock drills, cadres were divided into various teams/groups like Assault group, Stop Group, Signal Group, Blast Squad, Seizing party and Senior Commanders briefed them about the terrain, possible situation, their individual role, snatching tactics & escape routes," the NIA says. The NIA Investigation has also brought out that Maoists planted a landmine (IED) under the NH- 221 near the culvert as well as at different places for defensive measures as well as to inflict causality on probable reinforcement/ rescue team. (The Economic Times 24/10/14)

**Maoists losing ground in tribal hamlets: DGP (12)**

VIJAYAWADA: The Maoists are losing ground in their stronghold areas in tribal hamlets along the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB), Director General of Police (DGP) J.V. Ramudu has said. To substantiate his statement, the DGP recently told the media that villagers of Korukonda in A. Annavaram police station limits in Visakhapatnam district thrashed four CPI-ML Maoists to death to avenge the killing of an ex-militia member and a local tribal person, Gemini Sanjeeva Rao, on October 20. "The revolt of tribals against the naxalites, when a big number of armed militants were gathered was a rare incident. The inhuman act of the Maoists when prompted the attack," said Mr. Ramudu. Asked whether naxals were still active in the State, the police chief said except for remote villages, the Maoist movement was very much under control. When police are chasing naxalites, they are escaping into forests in the neighbouring States, he said. "The attack on naxalites by tribals is an example on how villagers are opposing the Maoist activities. Earlier, the extremists had damaged a pipeline and were involved in some other anti-development activities in the same village, which was strongly opposed by the locals," said the DGP. However, the dalam headed by Maoist district committee member Sindri Chinna Ranga Rao alias Sharat (who was killed by the locals) shot dead one Sanjeeva Rao, branding him as a police informer. They had alleged that the ex-Maoist was campaigning against the Maoists in the area, thereby damaging the movement. The DGP denied the allegations that Sanjeeva Rao was a police informer, and made it clear that he had not been involved in any Maoist activities for the past 13 years. Sanjeeva Rao had not passed any information on the Maoists to the police, he added. (The Hindu 26/10/14)

**Orissa Maoist who helped abduct BJD MLA ‘surrenders’ (12)**

Bhubaneswar: Prominent Maoist leader Nachika Linga, who in 2006 formed Maoist frontal organisation Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangh (CMAS), surrendered before the police on Tuesday in his native village Bhaliaput in Koraput district. Linga (42), a tribal leader from Narayanpatna block of rebel-hit Koraput district with 49 cases of violence including abduction and murder against him, shot to prominence in April
2012 when he helped the Maoists abduct BJD MLA Jhina Hikaka two years ago. He had gone underground after allegedly leading an attack on police in 2009. Inspector general of police (southwestern range) Y K Jethwa said the police had persuaded Linga through intermediaries to surrender. “During negotiation, we had told him he would be produced before court as he has 33 non-bailable warrants pending against him,” said Jethwa. Of the 49 cases against him, Linga has been chargesheeted in 43. Social activist Prafulla Samantara, however, claimed that Linga was arrested from Bhaliaput and police’s story of surrender is false. He urged the state government to withdraw “false” cases against Linga as he was not a member of any banned organisation. In March this year, Linga was supposed to surrender in Narayanpatna block in presence of social activists, but he did not surface due to presence of police and paramilitary officials in large numbers. Sources said that though Linga helped the Maoists in Hikaka’s abduction, differences between him and the rebels cropped up soon over his plans of joining electoral politics. In March, the Srikakulam-Koraput Divisional Committee and Narayanpatna Anchalika Committee of the Maoists had publicly denounced him. The Maoists then had termed Nachika’s surrender move as “drama” that would serve his own interests at the cost of interests of the tribals. Maoists had also accused Linga of weakening the tribal agitation by joining hands with BJD. (Indian Express 29/10/14)

New Naxal strategy to protect arms (12)
Raipur: A sudden spurt in cases of Naxal surrenders in Chhattisgarh’s conflict zone of Bastar has forced the Maoist leadership to evolve strategies to secure their weapons. The rebel leadership appeared so worried about the prospect of its arsenal falling into the hands of security forces owing to a growing number of their cadre joining the mainstream in the past few months that it resorted to superstitious practices to protect their arms and ammunition, intelligence sources told this newspaper Friday. “They are painting the small weapons, such as countrymade guns available to the jan militia members (foot soldiers), in green colour to invoke the fear of god among the lower-rung cadre, who mostly comprise tribals. The tribal cadre have been given the impression that the weapon has been anointed and any attempt to steal it will invite the wrath of the forest goddess,” a senior police officer posted in Bastar division, comprising seven Maoist-infested districts, said on condition of anonymity. A surrendered Naxal has brought to light the superstitious practice, which, incidentally, is banned in the Maoist ideology pursued by the ultras currently. “This clearly indicates how the surrender spree of the Naxals has caused the panic button to be pressed in the Maoist camp. The rebel leadership is now more concerned about protecting their armoury,” an intelligence officer said. The development has also led Maoists to prohibit their cadre from carrying weapons while leaving camp, apparently to ensure that the arms do not fall into the hands of the security forces. When contacted, Bastar district SP Ajey Yadav said, “All I can say is that the Maoists have become extra-cautious about securing their weapons.” (Asian Age 1/11/14)

Top Maoist leader accused in 2010 Dantewada attack arrested (12)
NEW DELHI: In a major success for the counter-Naxal forces, top Maoist leader and an accused in the April 2010 Dantewada attack that killed 75 CRPF personnel, Hemant Mandavi alias Bijja, was arrested in Dantewada on Sunday. The Chhattisgarh police, which made the arrest, claimed that he was involved in the murder of 136 civilians and security personnel and was leading Platoon no 1 of a CPI(Maoist) military company. The Chhattisgarh police picked up Bijja after he was spotted and identified by some surrendered Naxal cadres during a procession in Dantewada. Though he initially claimed that he was only an ordinary tribal and a case of mistaken identity, the video of the attack at Tadmetla, Dantewada, seized earlier from Naxalites, nailed his lie. He is clearly visible in the video, according to an intelligence source. When confronted with the video, Bijja is said to have confessed to his being part of the armed Maoist group that killed 76 security personnel in a single ambush. Bijja’s arrest comes days after a top tribal leader from Odisha with alleged Maoist links, Nachika Linga, surrendered in Koraput district of the state. Linga, leader of the Chasi Mulia Adivasi Sangha (CMAS), was wanted by the Odisha police after as many
as 43 cases were registered against him. There was non-bailable warrants (NBW) against Nachika Linga's name in 23 cases. The Odisha police had been hunting for Linga since 2009, after he led an attack on a police station at Narayanpatna. He is said to have carried a Rs 25 lakh reward. Linga had set up CMAS with the alleged help of left wing extremists, with the aim of demanding land settlement in Narayanpatna and Badhugaon blocks of Koraput district. (Times of India 3/11/14)

Naxals gun down seven in Gumla (12)
Ranchi: In yet another attack by Maoists ahead of the Jharkhand Assembly elections, members of the banned People’s Liberation Front of India (PLFI) on Monday ambushed seven people between Redwa and Hapu village under Kamdara police station in Gumla district. All the seven victims were reportedly former members of Shanti Sena, an outfit comprising reformed Naxals supported by the Jharkhand Government. According to the police, the Naxals were waiting for a car near Rewada jungle under Kamdara police station. When the vehicle approached the forest the ultras started indiscriminate firing in which all the seven occupants were killed. The four-wheeler was then burnt by the extremists, a splinter group of the CPI-Maoist. According to sources, three of the deceased have been identified by the local villagers. Jharkhand has been on high alert ahead of the Assembly polls this month. (Pioneer 4/11/14)

Naxals set vehicles afire, block roads during Bastar bandh (12)
Raipur: Naxals resorted to looting and arson besides uprooting a railway track in restive Bastar region in Chhattisgarh during the one-day ‘Dandkaranya bandh’ called by them, police said. Maoists set on fire three vehicles at Nareli Ghati between Bhansi and Bacheli areas under Bhansi police station limits in Dantewada district in early hours, police said. In another incident in Bastar district, rebels looted a walkie-talkie handset, a mobile phone and a computer terminal from the office of station master of Kaknoor railway station, senior police officials told PTI. According to sources, three of the deceased have been identified by the local villagers. Jharkhand has been on high alert ahead of the Assembly polls this month. (Pioneer 4/11/14)

Six Maoists, including a woman, surrender before cops in Chhattisgarh (12)
Raipur: Six Maoists, including a woman cadre, on Tuesday surrendered in Chhattisgarh’s Kondagaon district, police said. “The Maoist cadres turned themselves in before senior police officials citing disappointment with exploitation of lower rung cadres by senior leaders of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) and getting impressed with the surrender policy of the Chhattisgarh state government,” Kondagaon Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Surjit Atri told PTI. Among those who surrendered, Agnu alias Sagnu (30), who was Kiskodo Jamnilitia commander of the banned CPI (Maoist), is the most dreaded one, Atri said. He was trained in making bombs, laying booby traps and using emergency
medical aid in the forests of Karimnagar district of then undivided Andhra Pradesh state, the ASP said adding, he worked there from 2008 to 2013. He was involved in several Maoist incidents in both Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh and carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head, he said. Other Maoists cadres who surrendered were identified as Pankaram Gond, 47, Sukhdev Marai 48, Sukhram 25, Lakru Ram, 28 and a woman cadre Ramo Bai, 32. All of them were working as Maoist squad members, Atri said. They would be provided assistance as per the Chhattisgarh government's policy, he said. According to Chhattisgarh government statistics, the total number of Maoist rebels laying down their arms this year has crossed 340 in the insurgency-hit state. (Zee News 11/11/14)

Anti-Naxal ops: CRPF finds Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand most tough (12)
New Delhi: CRPF, the lead anti-Naxal force, considers Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand as the most challenging states when it comes to tackling the menace of left-wing extremism (LWE) in the country. It also feels that states are "under utilising" the paramilitary force's potential in security-related tasks. "Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand remain to be the most challenging states for us given the high density of forests and difficult terrain in these states," Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General Dilip Trivedi told reporters on the eve of the forces' 75th Raising Day. "There is some truth in the whole situation," he said when asked if state police forces were not taking a lead role in anti-Naxal operations. "I did feel that there was some underutilisation of our capabilities (by the states) but these issues can be solved through mutual interactions and we have done so on many occasions," he said. The DG said the force's largest area of concern, when it came to violence perpetrated by armed Maoist cadres, was the use of "explosives" and various kinds of improvised devices. "The major concern is explosives. There has been an improvement in the type of explosives being used by them (Naxals) like pressure bombs and command wires for triggering them. They are obtaining capabilities to detonate a mine from a large distance. We are not bothered about the weaponry that they use but explosives that they possess," Trivedi said when asked about the biggest challenge for the force in this theatre of operations. The DG said Naxals are getting explosives "easily". It has been found by security and intelligence agencies and through seized Naxal literature that the ultras are running short of weapons, he said. "Explosive and mine attacks are also very demoralising for our troops as in such an ambush CRPF men do not even get an opportunity to fight back," he said. (Zee News 12/11/14)

Naxals appeal for ‘caste eradication organizations’ across state (12)
Nagpur: The banned Communist party of India (Maoist) has called for setting up of ‘caste eradication organizations’ across state in the backdrop of killings of three of a Dalit family in Javkheda village in Pathardi taluka of Ahmednagar district last month. The rebel outfit, comparing the brutality of the incident with that of Khairlanji murders, has also appealed before the cross-sections of the society for intensifying struggle at grass-root level against the Fascism of Brahman-driven BJP's central government under Prime minister Narendra Modi. The reds have appealed to the masses on behalf of their Peoples' liberation guerilla warfare (PLGA) and 'Jantana sarkar' to shun democratic means of protest and resort to violence for protest on the lines of agitations following Khairlanji and Ramabai Ambedkar incidents in the past against Modi sarkar or government. Maharashtra state committee and Dandakaranya special zonal committee, issuing press releases and pamphlets, have strongly criticized the killings blaming the Hindu fascism for the brutalities. The reds have also claimed that RSS and such organizations are fast trying to spread its influences which required to be challenged at every level of the society. They have also highlighted that national broadcaster preferred beaming RSS's programme rather than focusing on the congregation at the Deekshabhoomi on Dussera. The Naxals have also held the communal forces to target Muslims apart from Dalits in different pockets of the country. The fascist Hindu, the reds claimed, has been also trying to stifle the voice of the other weaker sections like women in their press communication. The reds have also hit out at the majority radical system for engaging in conversing tribal population and usurping their native places for gains of the corporate world. The so-called political
prisoners lodged in Nagpur central jail, nabbed for their alleged involvement in Naxal involvement, also have observed a day long hunger strike protesting the Javkheda killings. The naxals have put up their trademark red banners at different places in Gadchiroli protesting the Javkheda incident. A banner at a place like Solapur, which far away from the affected districts of Gadchiroli, Gondia and Chandrapur, have raised the concern of the security and intelligence wings. A section of the security forces feel that Naxals are trying to provoke the Dalit to initiate mass struggle against the government and target its establishments and forces which is part of their national agenda. A senior security and intelligence advisor stated that Naxals' ‘Strategy and Tactics of the Indian Revolution’ of 2007 already has laid down elaborate agenda for the banned outfit to capitalize on Dalit section and try to draw them into mass struggle and resistance movements. The Naxal literature, in possession of TOI, stresses on the need to ‘initiate and lead the struggles against violence on Dalits from our own class organization. There is also urgent need to build organisations to fight against caste discrimination and in eradicayion of the caste system as a part of the new democratic transformation of the society’. (Times of India 14/11/14)

Compensation sought for kin of civilians slain by Naxals (12)
KARIMNAGAR: The district administration has decided to write to the government recommending compensation of Rs. 5 lakh each to 43 bereaved family members of civilians, who were killed by the naxalites in Karimnagar district. At a meeting here on Saturday, Collector M Veerabrahmaiah said that “the government order says that if there is no eligible family members in the family at the time of death of civilian to provide compassionate appointment, the ex-gratia can be sanctioned in addition”. (The Hindu 16/11/14)

Maoist vs Maoist in Daltonganj and Tamar (12)
RANCHI: It is Maoist versus Maoist in Daltonganj and Tamar. Girija Singh alias Giriji, a former sub-zonal commander of the Tritiya Prastuti Committee (a Maoist breakaway faction), is set to fight it out with Vinod Sharma, an exMaoist zonal commander, in Daltonganj. Girija has been fielded by Nawjawan Sangarh Morcha led by former minister Bhanu Pratap Shahi. Tamar will witness a contest between former Maoist Marshal Turi’s wife, Salomi Turi, and Mahadev Ravinath Pahan, brother of Maoist zonal commander Kundan Pahan. Salomi is fighting on a JMM ticket while Mahadev is a JVM-P candidate. Considering their past, police are keeping a close watch on them so that they do not take support from their former organizations. Dissatisfied with extremism, Giriji has decided to join mainstream politics to help the poor. "He is a popular candidate and should win from Daltonganj. The sitting MLA, KN Tripathi does not stand a chance against him. In fact, Tripathi has not done anything for the people in the last five years," said his aide Shambhu Chaurasia. He also added that Giriji is campaigning in forested areas. Vinod Sharma, Giriji's opponent, is sure of winning from Daltonganj. "I have lived the life of both a Maoist and civilian. I know what problems people face. I can represent them better," said Sharma on Tuesday. Sharma was earlier arrested in 2008 and spent four years in jail. "There are pending cases against me in court but I am sure of being acquitted in all of them," said Sharma, who is contesting as an independent. Salomi Turi and Kundan claim they have a better chance of victory. "We are keeping a watch in Tamar. No reports of covert support have been extended to the candidates by Maoists. However, if they do come out in support, it will help us arrest them," said Ranchi IG, M S Bhatia. (Times of India 19/11/14)

Naxals, police in verbal war over Gopi’s surrender (12)
NAGPUR: The cadres of the banned outfit of Communist party of India (Maoist) and police machineries have locked horns through a pitched propaganda battle over the surrender of senior red cadre Nirangsa Madavi, alias Gopi, last week. In the period when guns have not fired, both camps have kept the flames alive through claims and counter-claims. Anti-Naxal Operation’s (ANO) publicity wing, which is part of the state’s information and mass communication department, was quick to issue a press communication following Gopi's surrender stating that the Korchi-Kurkheda's former area committee secretary had
decided to leave the movement due to intense internal squabbling and dissent among the cadres. North Gadchiroli-Gondia division's secretary Baburao Togha has now interpreted Gopi's surrender, through a counter press release which is in possession of TOI, as a compromise with one's self-esteem and betrayal of the oppressed masses for whom once he worked. The reds have claimed that Gopi's worth in the party had come to end due to indiscipline but police had declared a reward of few lakhs on a spent force of the movement to highlight their own achievement. The Naxals have now appealed to the people of Gadchiroli district to criticize the spineless surrender of Gopi. A week ago, the ANO press release had claimed that Gopi had lost the faith and confidence of his seniors. The party bosses were also upset over Gopi's relationship with Shamco, alias Shanta Korcha, who was killed in a police encounter. Already married, Gopi had developed an illicit relation with Shanta while participating in dalam movements. The police's press note had details of the Gopi's agony in the party as the seniors started strongly objecting to his romantic liaison. The note also stated that the Central committee member and former secretary of Maharashtra state committee Milind Teltumbde had assigned the then commander of Gadchiroli-Gondia division Pahad Singh, alias Kumarsai Katlami, to keep a watch on Gopi. This was mentioned in a letter dated June 28, 2013 which was seized during an operation. The Naxals have now claimed that Gopi, elevated to higher post in 2011 as area committee secretary for Korchi-Kurkheda, had lost focus and also place in the party due to indiscipline. He had also started conducting activities revolving around his vested interests deviating from party agenda and path of revolution. Gopi ignored party's repeated alerts to him to remain away from indiscipline. A senior official stated that the Naxals are getting it back in the propaganda war from the security forces. "The Naxal and police are now almost at par in propaganda war too as government has realized that the movement needs to be tackled at psychological levels too," said the official. (Times of India 21/11/14)

**Maoist-hit areas to get 78 communication towers (2)**

VARANASI: Problems like weak signals and unavailability of cellular mobile phone services in remote jungles of Maoist-affected districts of east UP will end soon as the Union home ministry has paved way for installation of 78 new communication towers. Work on the project will start from December. IG Varanasi zone Amarendra Kumar Sengar said on Monday that all basic formalities for installation of mobile towers have been completed and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited will start work from December. It is expected to be completed by March 2015. "The installation of new towers will help in maintaining communication with operational forces," he said. After facing menace of Maoist groups in Sonebhadra, Chandauli and Mirzapur since mid-90s, police started evolving strategies to put an end to it. But efforts for developing infrastructures like road started after 2004. Even after development of good network of roads in difficult terrains of these three districts, the police and paramilitary forces faced problem in maintaining communication with the teams moving in the remote zones. The police and paramilitary forces identified areas, where mobile signals were either unavailable or weak. These spots were declared as 'shadow areas'. A proposal was sent to Union ministry of home affairs to set up communication towers. The officials said that many other ministries and departments, including forest and communication had to give clearance. The technicalities of inter-departmental coordination lingered the issue for years. Later, the proposal of installing 78 towers, including 66 in Sonebhadra and six each in Chandauli and Mirzapur, was considered. Before giving final approval to this proposal, the government also sought details of the sites of installation to know whether these would remain safe or could be damaged by Maoist ultras. Sengar said that the site of 20 towers was shifted in safer zones. He informed that 71 towers had already been procured by the BSNL and work is expected to start from December. (Times of India 25/11/14)

**472 Naxals surrendered this year, highest in 3 years: Govt (12)**

New Delhi: A total 472 Naxals have surrendered to security forces in Maoist-affected states so far this year, highest in last three years. Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju today told Lok Sabha that of the 472 Maoists who surrendered till October 2014, 247 laid down arms in Chhattisgarh, 80 in Odisha, 76 in
Andhra Pradesh, 30 in Maharashtra, 17 in Jharkhand and 15 in Telangana. The total number of Naxals who surrendered in 2013 was 283, 445 in 2012 and 394 in 2011. Rijiju said to bring left-wing extremists (LWEs) into the mainstream, the state governments have their own surrender and rehabilitation policies. The central government reimburses the expenditure incurred by the state governments for rehabilitation of surrendered LWEs in terms of its own policy in this regard. It has revised the guidelines for the scheme in the affected states with effect from April 1, 2013. The rehabilitation package in the revised policy includes an immediate grant of Rs 2.5 lakh for high-ranked LWE cadre and Rs 1.5 lakh for middle/lower-ranked cadres who surrender before the state government concerned. The cadres are provided a monthly stipend of Rs 4,000 for a period of three years for vocational training, Rijiju said. (Zee News 26/11/14)

“Maoists who surrendered are facing villagers’ ire” (12)
RAIPUR: The outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) has said that some of their cadres are getting attracted towards the “corrupt surrender policy” of the government. “The revolutionary public terms those who surrender before police enemies of people. The revolutionary public hates such people. When such people are coming back to their villages, they have to face people’s ire,” claimed Gudsa Usendi, spokesperson of the Danda Karanya Special Zonal Committee of the CPI(Maoist). “Under this surrender policy, hundreds of crores of rupees of un-audit able funds are being given to the police and paramilitary officials, which is leading to criminalisation of security forces in conflict areas. The government has also declared internal rewards and promotions for security forces. To get the benefits of rewards and promotion, security forces are increasingly attacking villages and arresting tribal people, non-tribal activists and youths and declaring them Maoists,” contended the Maoist leader. (The Hindu 30/11/14)

14 CRPF men killed in Chhattisgarh Naxal ambush, toll may rise (12)
RAIPUR: Within a day of Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh asserting that the state will become "Naxal-free", Maoists struck in Sukma district on Monday, killing 14 Central Reserve Police Force personnel, including two officers. The Maoists allegedly adopted a cowardly tactic by using villagers as human shields for the ambush that took place about 6 km from Taarmetla, where 76 CRPF jawans were mowed down in April 2010 in the deadliest single-day insurgent attack yet on Indian security forces. “The Naxals used villagers as shields, so our troops couldn't retaliate with full force as that would have cost villagers' lives,” a senior CRPF officer said. “The slain officers included deputy commandant D S Verma and assistant commandant Rajesh Kapuriya. At least 13 to 14 jawans were injured,” a senior CRPF officer supervising the rescue operations said over phone from Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of Bastar. The toll could rise further as the wounded jawans would have to survive the night on first-aid at CRPF medical camps. The nearest hospital is 100km away. Helicopters have left for Jagdalpur to carry the injured to the state capital, but the evacuation could be done only on Tuesday morning. A CRPF officer said there could be casualties on the Maoist side as well. The daring attack took place on a day when a team of National Security Advisory Board was in Chhattisgarh to meet the CM and top officials on the security situation in Maoist hotbeds. CM Singh is learnt to have drawn the team's attention towards Maoist cadres surrendering in Bastar and expressing hope that the region was on track to normalcy. CRPF personnel, drawn from paramilitary's 223 and 206 battalions, were on an area domination exercise in the forests between Elmaguda and Errabore, where the rebels attacked. The precise location of the ambush is Kasalnar village, near Chintagufa and Chintalnar, close to Dornapal-Jagargunda road in Sukma district. "Our forces retaliated and engaged the rebels in a fierce encounter," a CRPF officer said. The security forces in Bastar have been on a propaganda drive in the recent weeks following surrender of a number of Maoists, with many rebels saying they want to join the political mainstream. But there has also been criticism that those surrendering were small-time cadres facing court cases for giving support to the Maoists. Union home minister Rajnath Singh condemned the attack as an act of cowardice. He will visit Raipur on Tuesday to assess the situation. "My condolences to the families of our brave CRPF men.
who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. It was an act of cowardice. I strongly condemn this dastardly act of violence," Singh said. He spoke to the CM, asking him to closely monitor the situation. Reinforcements were being sent to the area and the offensive was being led by CRPF inspector general (Chhattisgarh), H S Sidhu. Few days ago, Sidhu had announced the killing of 15 Maoists during an encounter with CRPF forces in Sukma near the same place where the Maoists struck on Monday. The Maoists had then fired at an MI-17 helicopter, flown in to evacuate the CRPF men wounded in the operation. (Times of India 2/12/14)

**Rising number of surrenders may have prompted Maoist attack (12)**

NEW DELHI: Senior home ministry officials on Tuesday said a record 327 surrenders by Maoist cadres in the Naxal pocket borough of Bastar over the past few months may have led a "desperate" CPI (Maoist) to hit back with a high-casualty attack against CRPF. As per data placed in Lok Sabha in reply to a question, Sukma, where a Maoist ambush claimed the lives of 14 CRPF personnel on Monday, witnessed 40 surrenders until November 24, though this was lower than the 92 surrenders reported in Kondagaon, 60 in Kanker and 54 in Dantewada over the same period. As for other districts in the Naxal-infested Bastar division, Bijapur saw 40 surrenders, followed by Narayanpur with 28 surrenders and Jagdalpur with four. Earlier statistics placed in Lok Sabha (until October 2014) put the total number of surrenders across the Naxal-hit states at 472, with Chhattisgarh alone accounting for 247. Obviously, the 24 days of November have seen a further increase in surrenders across Chhattisgarh to 327, which may have added to the anxiety of CPI (Maoist). “The tribals who joined Maoist ranks are increasingly getting disenchanted with the Naxal movement, which has now degenerated into more of an extortion racket than a class struggle based on ideology. The sharp rise in surrenders across Bastar division, a stronghold of the Maoists, has exposed the weakening hold of CPI (Maoist) over local tribals, who now want to shift to the mainstream,” said a senior home ministry officer. “Though Monday’s attack is a setback, one cannot wish away such casualties in the long-drawn war against Left-wing extremism. We have to sustain the momentum of the fight come what may,” a senior home ministry official told TOI. (Times of India 3/12/14)

**Naxal’s central military commission lauds increased agitation in jails across India (12)**

NAGPUR: The efforts of jailed cadres (political prisoners) of Naxal movement to shape up a steady movement in different jails across India have now found praise in the higher echelons of the Reds’ central military commission (CMC). It prepares the strategies to take on establishment. The commission has expressed its satisfaction in a document issued on the occasion of the ongoing 14th Peoples’ Liberation Guerilla Army (PLGA) week (December 2-8). The Naxals campaign vigorously during this week, observed to commemorate the formation of the PLG army, to highlight the ‘heroic’ exploits by their guerilla cadres and also work done by the other comrades to attract masses towards the movement. The CMC has urged its cadres to step up offensive against government security forces and vibrantly kick up campaigns for the party. It has also lambasted Prime minister Narendra Modi and his government for misleading masses with various projects. The commission has extolled the ongoing Naxal movements in central and other prisons. The Naxal cadres’ observing various significant days and weeks in support of their outfit’s agenda has been highlighted by the commission. The central body has also underlined the tenacious fights of the jailed cadres against various authorities for their rights despite languishing behind bars. A senior officer stated that one of the key focus of the Naxals are to ensure that they keep the jail authorities under pressure through different tactics so that they are not able to frustrate the reds’ campaigns inside the prisons. “The Naxals undertake hunger strikes, signature campaigns against authorities and also undertake symbolic movements to protest or support social issues inside the jails which form the basis of their agitations behind bars. The reds also try keeping the prosecution under pressure by involving in different agitations regarding the cases on them inside the prisons,” said the official. The commission has also claimed that the masses have sacrificed maximum in Dandakaranya, comprising Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, in the fight against government forces which included
martyrdom of 13 women commandos. The military body also hailed the strong tactical counter offensives
by their guerilla forces in the last one year despite central government's increasing pressure on them
through huge armed manpower deployment and penetrative operations. The commission has underlined
the fact that Naxal guerillas have killed 70 personnel from different security forces and injuring another
132 in the battle zones. (Times of India 6/12/14)

Two Maoists shot dead in Jharkhand jail, 10 escape (12)
Ranchi: Two hardcore Maoists were gunned down and three others suffered injuries when they tried to
escape from Chaibasa jail while getting down from the prisoners' van on Tuesday evening. Ten others,
however, managed to flee. The incident took place in Chaibasa district, nearly 200 km from Ranchi.
According to Jharkhand police sources, 54 prisoners were taken to a local court on Tuesday for their
appearance before the judge. After returning to jail premises, the inmates were getting down from the
police van when 15 prisoners tried to escape by throwing chilli powder in the eyes of the police. In the
scuffle that followed, the jail guards fired on the escaping prisoners which led to the instant death of two
Maoists. Three other prisoners, who sustained injuries, have been shifted to Sadar hospital where they
are recuperating. The two killed have been identified as Tipa Das and Ram Vilas Tanti, both members of
the CPI (Maoists). Meanwhile, as the news of the escape of 10 prisoners spread, the border of Chaibasa
was sealed and a manhunt was launched. Since the incident took place at about 4.30 pm, police had very
little time to look for the ultras in the dusk. Secondly, most of the Maoists lodged in Chaibasa jail have
been apprehended from Saranda forest (the main hideout of the ultras in Jharkhand), they are familiar
with the difficult terrain and could make an easy escape. “We have confirmed reports that two Maoists
have been killed and three injured while trying to escape from Chaibasa jail. Ten others have managed to
flee. The incident took place as the main gate of the jail was open after the prisoners' van entered the jail
premises. Prima facie, there appears to be a huge lapse on the part of the prison staff who left the gate
open, thereby giving ample opportunity to the hardcore prisoners to flee,” said Jharkhand DGP Rajiv
Kumar. (Deccan Herald 10/12/14)

Maoist attack: With officers killed, troops were in shock (12)
New Delhi: During the attack in Chhattisgarh on December 1, after the Maoists opened fire, the CRPF
personnel tried to take cover wherever they could. The deputy commandant of the 223 Battalion B.S.
Verma was badly injured in the first round of fire. Eyewitnesses say despite receiving a burst of fire on the
right foot, he stood behind a tree on the other foot and kept firing at the Maoists. But he collapsed soon
afterwards, probably due to excessive blood loss. Assistant commandant Rajesh Kapooria was also killed
very early in the attack. With nobody in command, the troops, according to CRPF sources, became
hysterical and began firing indiscriminately in all directions. It was so indiscriminate that the men are
believed to have fired about 7,000 rounds of bullets in response to a few hundred rounds fired by the
Maoists. With their ammunition exhausted, and several of their colleagues having died, many troops just
stood motionless in a daze, revealed eyewitnesses. They were ultimately saved by CoBRA commandos
who pulled them out and offered first aid to the injured. (The Hindu 13/12/14)

Jharkhand police arrest Maoist commander from Latehar district (12)
Latehar: The Jharkhand police along with the help of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Saturday
nabbed a Sub Zonal Commander of the Naxal organization BKP (Maoist) from Kurund village of the
Manika region in Jharkhand. “He (Maoist commander) was sub-zonal commander & an active member,
his arrest is big achievement for this area,” Latehar Superintendent of Police Michael S Raj told ANI. The
SP further said, “He was wanted for his involvement in 8 cases, he has confessed that Maoism is
weakening over the time.” He added that the operation to arrest Santosh Khervar was carried out based
on the intelligence input from security agencies. “We have arrested Santosh Khervar, who was a sub
zonal commander and an active member of the Maoists. He was arrested from the residence of his
friend,” Raj said. "Khervar was arrested with 25 rounds of SLR bullets, six mobile phones, 13 sim cards, around Rs. 27,000 cash and some Maoist receipts. He was an active member [of the BKP] and was wanted by the police in eight cases," he added. Police made the arrest amidst voting was under way in the state. Fourth phase of the Assembly Elections took place in Jharkhand today at 5,482 booths, including 36 auxiliary ones. The state police on Thursday had arrested Naxal leader and alleged mastermind of Jharkhand jailbreak Sanjay Ganju, who carried a reward of Rs 10 lakh on his head. As per reports, Jharkhand fared as the state with the highest incidence of Naxal violence in the first quarter of this year. (Zee News 14/12/14)

‘Cheyutha’ to wean away youth from naxals (12)
TADVAI (WARANGAL DT.): With a view to wean away youth from naxals, the district police organised a mass contact programme in Medaram forest area where the DIG and SP reached out to hundreds of tribals here on Sunday. At a special programme termed as ‘Cheyutha’ the DIG, B Malla Reddy and SP, AK Jha distributed woollen blankets to over 300 Gothi Koya tribals and volleyball kits and dresses to more than 100 youths besides rice and other essentials to the parents of underground cadre. They also organised a mega health camp involving 13 doctors and about 50 para medical staff. The parents of present top cadre of Maoist party - Bathukamma, mother of Bade Chokka Rao alias Damodar of Kaluvapalli village; Dhanlaxmi wife of Eruva Siva Reddy alias Kiran; Yakamma sister-in-law of KummariKunta Saraiiah; Sammaiah father of Koyyada Sambhaiah alias Gopanna and Satyam, father of Kadari Sadavali attended the programme. They expressed their desire to their relatives to surrender and come home. Wailing relentlessly, Satyam appealed to his son Kadari Sadavali who has gone underground since 16 years. “Your mother is about to die. You come home before she dies,” he said crying inconsolably. DIG Malla Reddy said the tribals need not worry about their safety as the police were always with them. He said the present State government was bent on developing all the tribal hamlets and improve their standard of living. “If your hamlet is free from violence, more development will come. If you entertain anti-social elements, development will not come. You cooperate with the police and they will ensure peace and law and order,” he told the hundreds of Gothi Koya tribals who came from over 30 habitations in forest belt. Mulug DSP R Mahendra Naik, SB Inspetor Jani Narasimhulu were present. (The Hindu 15/12/14)

Are the police losing ground in Warangal? (12)
WARANGAL: Is Warangal police losing their ground that they had built up working over a decade against the Maoist party naxals? The police say they had information that there was some movement of armed naxals in Eturunagaram and Tadvai forest areas of late. Nearly 400 greyhounds police fan the entire forest tracts extending from the hamlets abutting forest and extending upto villages in Karimnagar district and those of neighbouring Chhattisgarh State. According to the top police officials, hundreds of Gothi Koya tribals who migrated from Chhattisgarh state due to ongoing naxal activity there have raised settlements in deep forests of Eturunagaram and Tadvai and other agency mandals in Warangal district. In the recent past, some naxal squads moved into the forest here trying to establish contact with these Gothi Koya. “The naxals are in desperation to recruit new cadre. These Gothi Koya youth are easy targets to them. The naxals try to exploit their innocence and raise their own shelters here,” said a police officer. From the height of a blast here and an encounter there a decade ago, the Warangal police and the naxals lost their cadre to gain ground. It was the police who gained upper hand and succeeded in driving away the naxal groups from district. Though the police maintained that they were on vigil despite migration of naxal groups from district into other parts of the country, particularly to Chhattisgarh on the other side of river Godavari, the latest information about the movement of armed squads is giving the police sleepless nights. Superintendent of Police Mr AK Jha said they got information that some naxals were moving in the forest in district and were trying to establish contacts with the migrant Gothi Koya population. We have new outposts all along the river Godavari keeping a watch on Maoists trying to cross
Naxalites hold raiding foresters captive; snatch away guns, ammo (12)
Chandrapur: The armed offensive initiated by forest department to check interstate teakwood smuggling in Maharashtra-Telangana border in Gadchiroli received a serious jolt on Saturday afternoon after Naxalites took a raiding party of forest department staffs captive and looted three self-loaded rifles (SLR) and 60 live cartridges from them in Konjed forest in Dechlipetha range. The Red rebels thrashed the foresters brutally, injuring at least half a dozen staffs of the raiding party, before they were allowed to walk away traumatized in the evening. Sources said that the forest department had dispatched a raiding party into Dechlipetha forest following a tip-off about movement of bullock-carts carrying illegally fallen logs by teakwood smugglers. A joint posse of 24 foresters, including six guards and 17 van-majors (forest labourers) from Dechlipetha and Jimalgatta, led by a round officer began search operation in the forest near Konjed village in the morning. Foresters looking for teakwood smugglers, however stumbled upon the group of armed Naxalites in the jungle in the afternoon. The three forest guards, identified as SN Rathod, RV Nimrad and CK Choudhary, were learnt to have received more of the thrashing from Naxalites. The posse of around 50 Naxalites surrounded the forest staffs' team and asked them to surrender. The entire team of 24 was then taken captive and three rifles and ammunition of 60 cartridges they were carrying were snatched away. Sources claimed that some foresters tried to confront the Naxalites and one of them even dared to level his gun at the rebels. But their trivial attempt was subdued brutally and those dared to confront were brutally thrashed. At least half a dozen members of forest department's posse sustained grievous injuries in thumping. A section of the cops have expressed surprise as to why there was no efforts in resisting the arms loot from the trained forest guard. "No a single bullet was fired," said an official expressing shock. The Naxalites reportedly warned the apprehended foresters against carrying firearms in the forest and took their class for the failure of the department to curb rampant destruction of forests. The assaulted foresters were allowed to walk away later in the evening. Foresters filed a complaint about the looting of firearms with Jimalgatta police station after returning to their base. They said that the Naxalites first separated the van majors from the arm-wielding forest officials. The way the large posse of 50 armed Naxalites waylaid the foresters into the jungle smells of a well-laid plan. However, Sironcha DCF Prabhunath Shukla ruled out that it was a trap. He said that it was a mere coincidence that the foresters met with the Naxalites. Earlier on December 5, 2009, Naxalites had captured the base camp in Somnur forest, near the confluence of Indrawati and Godavari river on the state border, where 35 forest department staffs were camping to curb cross-border teakwood smuggling. A posse of over 50 armed rebels had looted two guns and 20 cartridges from forest officers in the midnight raid at that time. (Times of India 22/12/14)

ISIS, Naxals kept home ministry busy in 2014 (12)
NEW DELHI: Terror outfit ISIS appeared to have emerged as a threat factor in the Indian security radar during 2014 which wrapped up on a tragic note with massacre of over 60 adivasis by Bodo rebels in Assam after witnessing unabated Naxal violence. However, there was considerable calm in Jammu & Kashmir, which witnessed a record turn out in the just-concluded largely peaceful assembly polls during the year in which over 560 incidents of communal violence came as a matter of concern. With the new government in saddle in Delhi and new minister Rajnath Singh in North Block, some occupants in Raj Bhavans nominated by the earlier UPA government, were nudged out and new ones appointed in their place. However, a few incumbents continued. The long struggle for separate statehood in Andhra Pradesh culminated in the creation of Telangana in June that become the country's 29th state. The arrest of a Bangalore-based executive, who was operating a pro-ISIS Twitter handle to propagate the ideology of the Middle-East terrorist group, climaxed some disquieting events earlier in the year. The disappearance of four Mumbai youths in Iraq-Syria and return of one of them raised concerns over how
some of the Indian Muslim youths have become radicalized through social networking sites and other cyber outlets. Intelligence Bureau chief Asif Ibrahim recently said there was an imminent danger of Indian youths moving to the conflict zone (Iraq-Syria), emerging as a role model and such developments may directly or indirectly pose a threat to the country. "The threat potential is accentuated with some lower rung elements returning from conflict zone," he had said. The Indian hinterland continues to remain the prime focus of Pakistan-based terrorist outfits, particularly the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Indian Mujahideen, as the home ministry found that these groups were setting up their infrastructure in Bangladesh and using the porous Indo-Bangla border to send arms and ammunition into India. Blast in a madrassa in West Bengal's Burdwan has pointed out designs of the terrorists of the neighbouring country to set up bases in India. The home ministry oversaw the creation of Telangana in two phases — one before the Lok Sabha polls and the other after the simultaneous elections to the assembly. Maoists violence continued to be top security challenge for the Home Ministry in 10 Naxal-hit states, particularly in Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh, where 14 CRPF personnel were killed in an ambush early this month. Altogether, nearly 200 civilians and more than 60 security personnel were killed in Left-wing violence. The home ministry says that Naxals have been extorting money to the tune of Rs 140 crore annually from contractors, businessmen and corporate houses while their front organisations are suspected to be receiving foreign funds clandestinely. The sudden unprovoked attack by Bodo tribals on adivasis in three Assam districts on Tuesday shattered the peace of northeast and caught the security establishment on the wrong foot. The massacre forced the government to adopt a tough stand when it decided to go all out against the insurgents. The home ministry deployed more than 1.2 lakh paramilitary personnel to provide security during the multi-phased Lok Sabha elections across the country and was credited with its successful completion with relative peace. During 2014, the home ministry extended the ban imposed on Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) saying if not curbed, the outfit will reorganise and "disrupt the secular fabric" of the country. The extension came as the government found that the activities of the outfit continue to be "prejudicial to the integrity and security of the country". Its five members, who had fled from a jail in Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, have become a new headache for the security establishment as there have been multiple intelligence inputs that the SIMI operatives were out to carry out terror attacks. The unprecedented floods in Jammu and Kashmir also saw the Home Ministry deeply involved in rescue and relief operations and restoring communication network. The Union home secretary himself was camping in Srinagar for nearly a week to personally supervise the entire operation. (Times of India 25/12/14)

**Maoist group eyes Northern Kerala (12)**

NEW DELHI: The banned CPI(Maoist) is eyeing fertile ground in at least three districts of northern Kerala - Malappuram, Palakkad and Wayanad. Exploiting popular sentiment against environmental pollution caused by mining and quarrying activity, exploitation of natural resources, alleged highhandedness and misdeeds of forest and police officials and displacement of tribals due to tourism projects and wildlife sanctuaries, the Maoists have announced their arrival in Kerala with recent actions including vandalism of a forest outpost in Wayanad, MNC-owned fast food restaurants in Palakkad and a tourist resort in Wayanad. Recently, CPI(Maoist), through its mouthpiece, highlighted alleged miserable condition of tribals in Manjeri in Malappuram district and blamed it on the attitude of forest and tribal welfare departments. It claimed to have forced the state government to address problems of the affected people, including tribals. The extremist outfit has already formed an armed squad in Malappuram district. A series of recent actions undertaken by Western Ghats special zonal committee of the CPI(Maoist) in Palakkad and Wayanad over the past few days have left the Central security establishment worried over Kerala being the latest entrant to the list of LWE-hit states. For instance, suspected Maoists vandalized a forest outpost in Wayanad and a forest range office in Palakkad on December 21 and 22. Another group targeted two fast food restaurants of multi-national companies in Palakkad on December 22. Pamphlets
issued by the outfit were recovered from the attack site, giving the call for intensification of “class struggle” and asserting people’s right over land, water and forest resources. (Times of India 27/12/14)

**Mobile towers to be set up in naxal-affected districts (12)**

BHUBANESWAR: Mobile towers will come up in Berhampur, Cuttack, Keonjhar and Sambalpur districts. Telecom equipment maker VNL Limited has been identified as vendor for the project. Besides, BSNL has been asked to replace expired batteries of existing telecom towers. Left wing extremists have been consistently targeting telecom towers, which play an important role in keeping mobile phone communication intact, in southern Odisha districts like Gajapati, Malkanagiri and Rayagada. The instances of setting telecom towers on fire have come down in the recent past as towers are being installed near security establishments. After the gradual increase in deployment of security forces in naxal affected districts, extremists are finding it difficult to target towers. (The Hindu 30/12/14)