

Hindu, 1 June 2008

### **Gujjar stalemate continues; invitation for talks renewed**

Gujjar stalemate continues; invitation for talks renewed JAIPUR: The impasse over disposal of the bodies of Gujjars killed in police firing in Rajasthan continued on Saturday with the government and the Gujjar Arakshan Sangarsh Samiti (Gujjar reservation action committee), leading the agitation demanding Scheduled Tribe status for Gujjars, unable to begin talks

Hindu, 1 June 2008

### **Fatwa against terrorism**

New Delhi: Leading Islamic Seminary Darul Uloom on Saturday issued a fatwa against terrorism. 'In its [Islam's] eyes, on any part over the surface of the earth spreading mischief, rioting, breach of peace, bloodshed, killing of innocent persons and plundering are the most inhuman crimes,' read the fatwa. Reading out the fatwa, Deoband's cleric Riyasat Ali Bijnouri quoted the Holy Koran as saying: 'Do not mischief on the earth after it has been set in order.' 'Islam loves peace. Islam rejects all kinds of unjust violence ... and does not allow it in any form,' the fatwa said

Asian Age, 1 June 2008

### **Editorial: One state, two governments**

Maoist unrest and violence are common to 155 districts in as many as 13 states, but it is to the BJP-controlled Chhattisgarh that the dubious honour goes for being the most hospitable to the Naxalite cadres. What is even more noteworthy is that Chhattisgarh has also turned out to be the only state that boasts of hosting two governments, one an elected one and the second a people-supported parallel administration set up by the Maoist movement's leaders. At a chief ministers' conference convened by Union home minister Shivraj Patil, Chhattisgarh's chief minister Raman Singh claimed that the Maoists were on the run in his state following concerted police action and that the movement's back had been broken. He claimed that the government-sponsored volunteer force, Salwa Judum, had forced the Maoist cadres to flee to the jungles. This was nothing short of a misleading assessment since the ground realities have always been different in that state. Salwa Judum itself is anything but a civilian volunteer force set up to combat Naxalite violence

Asian Age, 1 June 2008

### **Sops for babus in Naxal areas (Dilip Cherian)**

Though the security forces engage with the Maoists, the babus posted in the Naxal-affected areas don't have it any easier. Good governance, is a key tool in combating Left-wing extremism. The Centre has announced a new transfer policy providing for more stable tenures for the babus in these areas. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended a special training programme for babu at national-level institutes, including the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy for Administration in Mussoorie. The idea is to boost good governance and increase government presence in the Naxal areas. The additional secretary for Naxal management at the home ministry, Mr Vinay Kumar, who also heads the inter-ministerial group, will oversee the plan besides supervising welfare schemes being operated in the Naxal-affected states. Babu-watchers also hint at the introduction of a national policy, which would reimburse state governments for the additional resources required, to make it attractive for babus to voluntarily opt to serve under difficult conditions in such areas. There is another reason to ensure better governance in the Naxal areas

Hindu, 2 June 2008

### **Karnataka: the BJP victory in perspective**

Parvathi Menon & V. Sridhar There can be little doubt that the Bharatiya Janata Party has achieved an electoral breakthrough and that its win in the recent elections in Karnataka marks a watershed for the politics of the State and country. After all, its victory is the fulfilment of the party's long-cherished goal of forming a government on its own strength in a southern State. The jubilant saffron party now regards itself as a frontrunner in the Lok Sabha contest that is due in a year. However, a closer reading of the results would indicate that the party's euphoria is misplaced

Indian Express, 2 June 2008

### **Four Naxals gunned down in Jharkhand**

RANCHI, JUNE 1: Four Naxalites were killed in an encounter near Sundermardo village in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district on Saturday night. A female Naxalite was arrested from the spot and explosive and arms recovered. Arjun Yadav, one of the Naxalites killed in the encounter, was the main accused in the CPI(ML) MLA Mahendra Singh murder case. The other three were identified as CPI(Maoist) sub-zonal commander Jodha Sao, Vijay and Rashmi. Meanwhile, Kanti, a member of the Nari Mukti Manch, CPI(Maoist)'s women's wing, has been giving the police a tough

Asian Age, 2 June 2008

### **BJP chief raises Hindutva agenda**

June 1: With eye on polls, BJP president Rajnath Singh on Sunday brought on to the frontburner the contentious issues of the cultural nationalism, Article 370, uniform civil code and true secularism. The toughening of stand on the Hindutva agenda was significant in the context of the string of state Assembly elections slated for 2008. Coupled with terrorism, role of sleeper cells in the spate of serial blasts and the issue of Bangladeshi infiltration, the Hindutva agenda was complete

Times of India, 2 June 2008

### **Jamiat issues fatwa against terrorism**

NEW DELHI: A day after the influential seminary of Darul Uloom Deoband and its political arm Jamiat-i-Hind issued a fatwa against terrorism at a large rally in Delhi, a gathering comprising largely of religious and political figures under the Jama Masjid United Forum (JMUF) denounced terrorist violence as un-Islamic. The JMUF endorsed the formulation of ex-super cop K P S Gill that "a terrorist cannot be a religious person and a religious person cannot be a terrorist". Speakers like Hasham Baber from Pakistan's Awami National Party opposed state support to terrorism and pointed out that madrassas in the north-west of Pakistan were a breeding ground for terror

Hindu, 3 June 2008

### **Maoists blast tracks in Bihar**

PATNA: Communist Party of India (Maoist) members caused derailment of a train and crippled train services on the Howrah-Delhi route by blasting both the up and down tracks early on Monday, during a bandh they called in five districts of Bihar. Earlier, they blew up a sub-divisional office and looted foodgrains from the FCI granary in Munger district

Asian Age, 3 June 2008

### **Navy, Coast Guard must get more funds, powers (Arun Kumar Singh)**

A couple of months ago, the French admiral of the Indian Ocean Forces ("Al Indien"), a vice-admiral, was expected to visit New Delhi. The admiral has a modest sea command of one tanker, one frigate and one nuclear submarine (SSN) to look after French interests in the 28m sq km of the Indian Ocean, spread from Africa to

Polynesia. At the last minute, the visit was cancelled as a French merchant ship had been hijacked by pirates off Somalia, and the tiny French flotilla, under "Al Indien, was directed to carry out a rescue mission. A fortnight later, the BBC telecast video clippings of a French heliborne commando team from the French Navy landing inside Somalia and capturing the pirates after a successful rescue mission

Indian Express, 4 June 2008

### **Border issue on agenda as Pranab leaves for China today**

New Delhi: : Contentious boundary issues between India and China are expected to be taken up during External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's three-day China visit, starting Wednesday. Mukherjee, besides meeting Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao and Foreign minister Yang Jiechi, is also expected to meet the Chinese special representative for boundary talks, Dai Bingguo. Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon will be accompanying Mukherjee

Indian Express, 4 June 2008

### **Terms of inclusion**

P.S. KRISHNAN The stand-off between the Gurjjars and the Rajasthan Government over the community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status continues. Several lives have been lost due to police firing. Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje wrote a letter to the prime minister, reportedly recommending an additional four to six per cent quota for Gurjjars in the category of de-notified tribes. On Monday, the law ministry tossed the ball back into the Rajasthan government's court. What exactly is the procedure by which groups can be included in the Scheduled Tribe list? Is it always a contentious process?

Indian Express, 4 June 2008

### **Keep the lines straight in Kashmir**

Muzamil Jaleel As Jammu and Kashmir prepares for an assembly election, both politics and the government are heading towards a polarisation along communal lines. The reason is the government's dangerous policy of bringing major religious bodies within state control, apparently to ensure transparency in their functioning. But they are actually turning into extra-constitutional entities with no legislative oversight. The takeover of these religious bodies was done through legislations: Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was set up in 1986, Amarnath in 2000, J&K Muslim Waqf Board in 2003. According to the law, the governor, if Hindu, will be the chairman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, in ex officio capacity. The Muslim Waqf Board is led by the chief minister, if Muslim. The move to bring religious bodies within the domain of the Raj Bhavan and chief minister's office improved pilgrims' facilities but has dangerous political ramifications

Asian Age, 4 June 2008

### **Meghalaya, Assam may go to top court**

Meghalaya, Assam may go to top court Guwahati, June 3: Meghalaya on Tuesday threatened to go to the Supreme Court if talks with Assam failed to resolve the boundary dispute between the two states. The issue is likely to snowball with Assam claiming that traces of uranium have been found in the disputed area. Meghalaya chief minister Donkumar Roy told reporters: "We do not want to create a warlike situation between the two states. If a solution cannot be found through talks with our counterparts in Assam, we will have the option of going to the Central government or the Supreme Court." He added, however, that his government was still waiting for a reply from Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi on talks on the boundary dispute

Asian Age, 4 June 2008

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Hindu, 5 June 2008

### **Petrol price up by Rs. 5, diesel Rs. 3, LPG Rs. 50**

NEW DELHI: The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government on Wednesday announced a steep hike in fuel prices. It increased the price of petrol by Rs. 5, diesel by Rs. 3 and LPG by Rs. 50 a cylinder, but did not touch kerosene. Almost all Opposition parties, the Left and the UPA's allies criticised the government for the 'anti-people' step and threatened to launch nationwide protests. The left parties called for a 'powerful, nationwide protest movement' from Thursday till June 11.

Hindu, 5 June 2008

### **Science & Technology Ministry launches new meteorological service for farmers**

NEW DELHI: The agriculture productivity in the country could be in for some significant improvement, with the Union Science and Technology Ministry on Wednesday launching a new agro-meteorological advisory service, which promises to offer more precise advice to farmers. So far, the agro-met advisory service was operating at the level of agro-climatic zones. Now, it will operate at a smaller scale. From now on, it will offer district-wise advisories

Hindu, 5 June 2008

### **NSCN (I-M): unification faction started the fight**

Guwahati: Twelve Naga militants were killed in a gun battle between the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah) and its rival faction NSCN (Unification) at Qhelhozhe Basti, near Nagaland's commercial capital Dimapur during the early hours of Wednesday. Superintendent of Police, Dimapur, L. Lotha told The Hindu that bodies of 12 cadres of the Unification faction were recovered from the battle site. Since there was no witness it was not yet clear who started the fight

Hindu, 5 June 2008

### **Police probe Infosys Jaipur employee for 'SIMI links'**

Bangalore, June 4: The probe into the May 13 serial blasts in Jaipur, that killed 60 people and injured 200, has led to the detention of an Infosys employee in Jaipur for alleged links to the Students Islamic Movement of India. Rasheed Hussein, 31, an employee of the BPO unit of the IT major, was picked up by the Jaipur police as part of the investigations into the Jaipur blasts, sources said in Bangalore. Hussein who has been employed with the company for around three years was earlier with the Bangalore unit before being transferred to Jaipur two years ago. He studied in Patna before moving to Bangalore, police sources said

Hindu, 6 June 2008

### **Bill to curb money laundering**

NEW DELHI: In a tough measure against money laundering, the Centre on Thursday decided to bring casinos, international credit card payment gateways such as VISA and MasterCard, full-fledged money changers (FFMCs) and money transfer service providers (MTSPs) such as the Western Union under the purview of Indian laws. The Cabinet approved the amendment of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) which would make it mandatory for these financial intermediaries to report all suspected transactions involving international transfers. A new category of offences having cross-border implications is also to be added to the provisions of the Act to prevent the transfer of funds related to international crime

Hindu, 6 June 2008

### **Indian Muslims and their linkages (Harish Khare)**

Last Saturday, the nation's capital witnessed a remarkable political event: a massive gathering of Muslims at the historic Ram Lila ground issued a fatwa against terrorism. It is only a coincidence that this dramatic and demonstrative gathering took place a day before the Bharatiya Janata Party began its two-day national executive in Delhi; and the party found itself welcoming the fatwa. L.K. Advani even felt it expedient to exhort his party to reach out to Muslims. This restraint was in sharp contrast to the BJP president's stridency a day earlier

Indian Express, 6 June 2008

### **I stand by my editorial: Loksatta editor**

Thane, June 5: Unfazed by the attack on his house by Shiv Sangram activists, Loksatta newspaper editor Kumar Ketkar on Thursday said he stood by the opinion in his editorial about the statue of the Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji. Speaking to the media after the attack, Ketkar said "The people who attacked me must not have read the editorial. I never said anything denigrating to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and I stand by my opinion on the proposed statue."

Daily Excelsior, 7 June 2008

### **PM likely to inaugurate train service in Valley by June end**

JAMMU, June 6: Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh is likely to inaugurate first ever train service in Kashmir valley by the end of current month. Informed sources told EXCELSIOR that with the work on 60 kilometre railway track from Anantnag to Budgam having been completed by the IRCON India International and frequent trial runs being conducted for the past several days, the Union Railway Ministry has desired to formally give a green signal to the start of first ever train service in Kashmir valley by the end of current month

Indian Express, 9 June 2008

### **3 CISF men killed in Naxal attack**

RAIPUR: : A Central Industrial Security Force officer and two other personnel were killed and two others injured in a Naxalite attack in Durg district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday. The police said the extremists blew up a jeep carrying CISF personnel using an IED near Mahamaya mines area under Dallirajehra police station of the district. Of the five CISF personnel in the vehicle, a Sub-Inspector, a havaldar and a jawan were killed on the spot. The other two sustained serious injuries, they said. The injured were admitted to a hospital in Bhilai. The Naxalites, numbering about 40, also made off with the weapons of the injured men. A hunt is on to nab the extremists

Asian Age, 9 June 2008

## **Centre must be more proactive to set up a federal anti-terror agency (Joginder Singh)**

Centre must be more proactive to set up a federal anti-terror agency (Joginder Singh) We are governed by laws given to us by the British more than 145 years ago. There was no need for them to have a federal investigating agency as the top rulers - the governors-general and viceroys, governors and district heads - were all British. There was no question of working at cross-purposes as sometimes happens now. As absolute foreign rulers they did not have to indulge in popularity contests or votebank politics as is now the case. Even in the first 30 years of India's independence, there was no need for a federal investigating agency because there was one ruling party, both at the Centre and the states. Besides, at that time, problems such as terrorism, hijacking and drug-peddling did not exist to the extent that they do now.

Times of India, 9 June 2008

### **Risk of terrorists getting N-arms' access: PM**

NEW DELHI: Cautioning about "growing risk" of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists or extremists, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday said all countries must ensure that "dangerous hands" are denied atomic material and technology. He advocated the need for "truly collective approaches" internationally to ensure universal nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in a time-bound manner and expressed India's readiness to contribute in this regard

Hindu, 10 June 2008

### **Gujjar talks 'encouraging'**

JAIPUR: The Rajasthan government and Gujjar leaders on Monday began preliminary talks at Bayana in Bharatpur district. Both sides found the outcome 'encouraging' and decided to keep the talks on. It is the first meeting between the two sides after the breakout of a violent agitation by the Gujjars over their demand for the Scheduled Tribes status. The Gujjar team comprised 37 members and the government's four. 'It is a good beginning. The talks would help normalise the situation,' Principal Secretary S.N. Thanvi, who joined the talks, told The Hindu over phone from Bayana

Hindu, 10 June 2008

### **'Nuclear energy the best option'**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Monday India was left with no option but to tap all possible sources of energy, including nuclear, due to the steady increase in power consumption predicted for the coming years. While arguing for reliance on nuclear energy, Dr. Singh also called for greater controls on proliferation of nuclear energy and material. 'Our energy needs will continue to rise in the foreseeable future. We do not have the luxury of limiting our options of energy sources. We therefore wish to create an international environment in which nuclear technology is used not for destructive purposes but for helping us meet our national development goals and our energy security,' he said inaugurating a conference on nuclear disarmament here

Hindu, 10 June 2008

### **Maoists resort to arson in Dantewada**

BHADRACHALAM: Naxalites observing the 'anti-oppression week' (Jan pituri Saptah) on Monday struck terror in the industrial belt of Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh, resorting to arson and large-scale destruction. Some 22 tipper trucks of Essar Steel were burnt and a stretch of the Kirandole rail line was removed, resulting in the

derailment of two engines. About 200 naxalites belonging to the CPI(Maoist), armed with sophisticated weapons, stormed the industrial pocket at Bacheli village near Kirandole, asked the crew members to stay away and burnt the trucks meant for transporting iron-ore. The arson continued till late in the night and the loss was said to be quite extensive

Indian Express, 10 June 2008

### **ICRC looks at Naxal-hit Bastar, CM doesn't mind**

RAIPUR, JUNE 9: For the first time, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is willing to enter the Naxalite conflict zone to provide assistance to violence-hit people in Chhattisgarh's backward Bastar region. International humanitarian organisation Medicins Sans Frontieres - popularly known as Doctors Without Borders, it won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999 - already has a presence in Dantewada district of South Bastar. In the last three years, Naxalite violence in Bastar has claimed nearly 1000 lives, 250 security personnel included. Maimed and displaced tribals have been forced to seek refuge in relief camps or flee to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra

Indian Express, 10 June 2008

### **Maoists force a blackout in Bastar**

Raipur, June 9: Blackout continued for the fourth consecutive day in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh as Maoists blew up high-tension towers and uprooted electric poles, disrupting normal life in more than 5,800 villages and small towns spread over four districts of the state. Extensive damage to transmission lines left major parts of Bijapur, Narayanpur, Bastar and Dantewara in darkness. Drinking water supplies and functioning of hospitals were badly affected and train traffic on Jagdalpur-Visakhapatnam line was disrupted following power breakdown. Production at National Mineral Development Corporation mines at Bailadila came to a grinding halt, causing heavy loss to the public sector undertaking. Though the Railways tried to restore traffic by pressing diesel engines into service, Maoists removed fish plates at places

Hindu, 11 June 2008

### **Gujjars agree to continue talks**

JAIPUR: Gujjar leaders, who put certain conditions for talks with the Rajasthan government in Jaipur, late on Tuesday agreed to continue the dialogue. Indications are that their leader Kirori Singh Bainsla will delegate a team to hold negotiations here on Wednesday. However, the Gujjar camp at Pilupura is yet to confirm this. The talks on the agitating Gujjars' demand for grant of Scheduled Tribe status to the community were on the verge of getting bogged down after the first round held at Bayana on Monday. Four government representatives and 37 Gujjar delegates participated in the two-hour meeting and it ended on an optimistic note

Hindu, 11 June 2008

### **India's GDP growth may dip to 7%: World Bank**

NEW DELHI: The World Bank has projected India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth to slow further to seven per cent in 2008 on account of the tight monetary policy in place as a measure to rein in inflation leading to a consequent slowdown in demand for industrial goods. In its report on 'Global Development Finance' released on Tuesday, the World Bank said: 'GDP growth in India eased to a still strong 8.7 per cent in 2007, from 9.7 per cent in 2006, and is projected to slow further to 7 per cent in 2008.' The Bank attributed the moderation in the country's economic growth to the 'monetary tightening in 2007 [that] led to softening in domestic demand.'

Hindu, 11 June 2008

### **War for the soul of Islam in India**

Deoband's rejection of the jihad will do nothing to persuade violent Islamists to end their campaign. It has made clear, though, that jihadists enjoy no support except at the polar fringes of Islam in India. In 1867, under the shade of a pomegranate tree nestled next to Deoband's Chatta Masjid, Mullah Mahmood gave Mahmood Hasan his first class in theology. Figures such as Mohammad Qasim Nanautawi, who had for a brief period established an independent Muslim state near Meerut, saw the defeat of the great rebellion of 1857 as a special catastrophe for Muslims. It was, in their reading, the outcome of the corruption of Islam by its contact with an alien milieu. Hasan's class under the pomegranate tree was an effort to undo this damage, by propagating what its founders took to be an authentic, pure Islam

Asian Age, 11 June 2008

### **Maoist rebels begin urban push**

June 10: Maoist rebels, who are now observing "Jan Pituri Saptah (revolutionary week)" in Chhattisgarh, have blown up power lines and disrupted communication links, targeting industries and power stations in the Abhujmar and Bastar regions and plunging much of the state into darkness. A senior state police officer, in a telephonic conversation with this newspaper, said that the Maoists, who had declared a "parallel government" some time back, were now trying to move from the jungles to urban areas. The blast at Durg on June 8, in which three CRPF jawans were killed, and the attack on the Bishrampur police station "are clear signals that they are pushing towards urban areas," he said. Comrade Sonu, a top Maoist central committee member, confirmed this. "If we fail to build our movement in the cities, the revolution will remain a dream," he told this newspaper

Hindu, 12 June 2008

### **Three ULFA militants killed in encounter**

Guwahati: Three hardcore militants of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) were killed in an encounter with the Army at Borbam village in Dibrugarh district late on Tuesday. They were Madhurjya Gohain, self-styled lieutenant of ULFA's 28 battalion wanted in connection with the killing of 72 Hindi-speaking persons by the outfit in upper Assam last year; and self-styled sergeants Major Baba Dadhora and Krishna Gogoi

Hindu, 12 June 2008

### **Islam is against terror, says Maulana Madani**

NEW DELHI: Reiterating that terrorism and extremism were against the very basic tenets of Islam, Maulana Arshad Madani, President of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind, on Wednesday alleged that a vilification campaign has been launched globally to hold Islam responsible for the rise of violence, extremism and political unrest in various parts of the world. Talking to reporters here, Maulana Arshad Madani said Darul-Uloom, Deoband, a reputed and respected institute of Islamic learning, has decided to present Islam in its real and true perspective to create greater awareness about the Prophet's message of harmony and amity

Hindu, 12 June 2008

### **'War' against Indian state: real victims & outcome (M.S. Prabhakara)**

Almost all movements of militant ethno-nationalistic mobilisation in Assam and its environs claim that their ultimate objective is the attainment of sovereignty and freedom for a people seen as suffering unendurable diminution and oppression by the Indian state. The fact that this part of the country became part of British India

through conquest and annexation between 1826 and 1898 and, later, of the modern Indian state as a consequence of the arrangements that led to the transfer of power in August 1947 is almost invariably cited as clinching proof that the territories and the people of this region were historically never part of India. Since the modern Indian state has never agreed to negotiate on these fundamental issues, the argument goes, the only path left for the people of the region is to wage an armed struggle to regain their lost independence and sovereignty. To put it simply, and in the rhetoric of the public pronouncements of their leaders, they are at 'war' with the Indian state

Indian Express, 12 June 2008

**Vohra: Just the man for Kashmir**

New Delhi, June 11: That Narinder Nath Vohra would be appointed the next Governor of Jammu and Kashmir was one of the worst kept secrets of the past few weeks. Many would say it is also one of the best decisions taken by the Centre in recent times in furtherance of its Kashmir policy. There are very few people at the Centre, politicians included, with the kind of knowledge and expertise of the situation in Kashmir that Vohra has. A retired bureaucrat who has occupied the topmost posts in the government, Vohra is the first civilian governor for the troubled state in the last 18 years, the previous one being Jagmohan. And he seems to have all the right qualifications for the job

Indian Express, 12 June 2008

**Naxal violence on rise due to factional feud: Patil**

Naxal violence on rise due to factional feud: Patil Ranchi, June 11: Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil on Tuesday attributed the rise in extremist related incidents in Jharkhand to an increase in factional feuds rather than direct confrontations with security forces or civilians. Addressing a press conference here after touring Maoist-infested Daltongunj and Chatra towns, Patil observed that like in Nagaland, factional fight between extremist organisations were on the rise in Jharkhand too. Asked if there was any possibility of a dialogue between the extremists and the Government, Patil said talks were possible if all sides agreed to it. He said the number of police stations and personnel in Naxalite-affected areas would be increased, adding that the police would be given sophisticated arms and better training. 'They are trying to do their best. The morale of the security forces is high,' he said. People thinking of grabbing power by the barrel of gun would never succeed as 'our society seeks peaceful existence,' he added

Indian Express, 12 June 2008

**With 64 men dead, ULFA on the run 'like never before'**

Guwahati: : With the killing of Madhurjya Gohain, a self-styled Lieutenant of the 'C' company of ULFA's 28th Battalion, in an encounter on Tuesday, the outfit has lost as many as 64 cadres in less than six months. According to the security forces, this has severely hit the activities of the outfit in the region. 'ULFA's moral is at an all-time low. It has lost 64 cadres since January, while 182 of its members have surrendered to security forces during the same period,' a spokesperson at the Army's Four Corps headquarters in Tezpur said on Wednesday. Altogether, 11 ULFA cadres have been killed in the current month at the hands of security forces. 'In January alone, 16 ULFA militants were killed,' the spokesman said. The counter-insurgency operations in the region were intensified after an officer, Captain S Choudhury of the Gorkha Regiment, was killed in an encounter with the outfit in Tinsukia in January

Asian Age, 12 June 2008

### **Editorial: A failed state**

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal (now renamed Uttarakhand) were the three new states carved out of the original Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively by an overzealous BJP-NDA government headed by Atal Behari Vajpayee. It was an out-and-out populist action intended to score political points over the Congress and to show it up as insensitive to popular agitations. Strangely enough, none of the three states, though young, can be described as successful or remarkable for either good governance, political stability or development and progress. Each of them has been in the news ever since their birth for the wrong reasons. While Uttarakhand is relatively free from Naxalite unrest, the other two have allowed, through sheer negligence, inefficiency and indifference, the Maoists to hold sway in large rural areas. Vigilance would have pre-empted the entry, entrenchment and spread of the lawless elements. Chhattisgarh, however, is the worst of the lot in terms of governance, crisis management or maintenance of law and order. Indeed, it is exhibiting all the signs of a failed state, what with highly disturbing developments indicating that the BJP government of chief minister Raman Singh is not even in full control of the entire state

Times of India, 12 June 2008

### **Petrapole, on Indo-Bangla border, gateway of terror?**

NEW DELHI: Petrapole on the Indo-Bangladesh border is currently the most active in terms of jihadi activities, intelligence reports indicated recently. And acting on these reports, surveillance in this area was heightened which paid rich dividends when fake Indian currency notes worth Rs 38 lakh were seized on Tuesday. Sleuths of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) nabbed a young couple from Dhaka, claiming to be husband and wife, with a consignment of Rs 38 lakh of FICN in Kolkata

Times of India, 12 June 2008

### **Tourism hotspot turns hot target**

JAIPUR: For over two decades now, India has been a playground for terrorists. From Srinagar to Coimbatore, Malegaon to Varanasi every corner of the country has come under attack. No place seems safe enough. Yet one major state largely bucked the trend: Rajasthan. Barring the Ajmer bomb attack last October that left three dead, the western state was largely free of terrorist strikes

Hindu, 13 June 2008

### **Bail granted to 25 women, Gujjars agree to resume talks**

JAIPUR: The decks were cleared on Thursday for the resumption of talks between the Rajasthan government and the Gujjar representatives after the court of the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dausa, granted bail to 25 Gujjar women arrested at Bandikui last week for blocking the Delhi-Jaipur rail route. Gujjar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla, who had laid their release as one of the conditions for resuming the talks after the first round held at Bayana on Monday, relented thereafter

Hindu, 13 June 2008

### **Violence rocks Siliguri, Army alerted**

KOLKATA: The Army was alerted and jawans of the Sashastra Seema Bal patrolled the streets of Siliguri and its adjoining areas in West Bengal on Thursday following clashes between those for and against the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha's (GJM) demand for a separate State, comprising the Darjeeling hills and some areas contiguous to it. The trouble occurred on the first day of a two-day bandh called by 'Amra Bangali' and other organisations in protest against the GJM's call for an

indefinite bandh to highlight its statehood demand that began on Tuesday but was relaxed for 60 hours on Wednesday evening

Hindu, 13 June 2008

### **RTI Act effective against graft: U.N. report**

NEW DELHI: The Right to Information Act 2005 was 'one of the most progressive legislations' in the developing world for tackling corruption, according to a United Nations report released on Thursday. India was one of the eight countries in Asia and the Pacific to enact such a legislation, the United Nations Development Report on 'Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives Accelerating Human Development in Asia and the Pacific' said, adding it was perhaps too soon to judge whether the legislation had worked throughout the region

Hindu, 13 June 2008

### **Does India need a different electoral system? (Arvind Sivaramakrishnan)**

It is not often appreciated that electoral systems make a difference to general political life and not just to the composition of elected assemblies. A Round Table recently hosted by the Observer Research Foundation and the University of Madras provided an opportunity to explore some questions about electoral systems. The disjunction between the Indian electorate's commitment to democracy and the functioning of Indian political institutions has long caused concern. That disjunction could well be exacerbated by the simple majority or SM electoral system, which is used for all but the indirect elections from the State Assemblies to the Rajya Sabha, and has been copied from the system used for the British lower house, the House of Commons

Hindu, 13 June 2008

### **Behind the surge in Naga violence (Namrata Goswami)**

The last few months have seen much violence in the Naga-inhabited areas of India. The National Socialist Council of Nagalim led by Thuingaleng Muivah and Isak Chisi Swu, or the NSCN(I-M), split on November 23, 2007, and a new armed outfit emerged from within its fold: the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Unification), or the NSCN(U). The violence between these factions has led to more than 40 deaths in April-May alone. This surge in violence compelled Naga civil society groups led by the Joint Forum of Gaonburahs (village headmen) and Doaibashis (elders), or the JFGBDB, supported by the Naga Hoho (Council), to convene several peoples' consultative meetings to garner support for an overarching ceasefire between the underground outfits. Subsequently, on May 20, an eventful day for Nagaland, tens of thousands of Naga people took out a 'peace march' across the State demanding that the insurgents withdraw from civilian areas and respect the ceasefire between different outfits as declared by the JFGBDB on July 24, 2007

Indian Express, 13 June 2008

### **Maoists, Muslim fundamentalists to fight 'state terror' together**

New Delhi, June 12: Maoists and Muslim fundamentalists - they may seem to be the most unlikely partners. But in a move which is rife with much internal contradictions and political ramifications, the two are coming together to forge a national platform to combat 'state terror'. Calling themselves 'the victims of state terror', the two improbable partners had sat together for the first time and called for resistance against all kinds of terror unleashed by the State and Central governments against Maoists and Muslims. The meeting was held in Kerala last month.

Indian Express, 13 June 2008

### **Army ops, surrenders bring ULFA down to 400 men**

New Delhi, June 12: A series of encounters and an unprecedented number of surrenders over the past 12 months has brought down the number of armed ULFA cadres to just over 400 from an estimated strength of 1,000 two years ago, show latest intelligence estimates. While a concerted Army offensive since the start of this year has pushed up casualty figures to over 64 armed cadres, intelligence officials say the biggest dent for the ULFA has come from a deluge of surrenders that are taking place due to a 'loss of ideology' within the organisation

Times of India, 13 June 2008

### **Gorkhaland, a story of political bungling**

The images of violence from north Bengal show how New Delhi and Kolkata have mishandled the emotive issue of Gorkhaland for decades. Since 1907, Nepali-speaking people have been seeking separation of Darjeeling from Bengal for years. The problem has simmered since pre-independence days when in 1946 CPI's Darjeeling unit asked for "Gorkhasthan" comprising Darjeeling, Sikkim (then an independent kingdom) and Nepal.

Hindu, 14 June 2008

### **Nuclear energy vital, says Sonia**

Guwahati: United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi said on Friday that the country should realise the importance of nuclear energy in view of the increasing oil price at the international level and its fallout. Speaking at a farmers rally organised by the Congress here, she said: 'The challenges before the country today are inflation and escalating prices that are fallouts of the surging global oil prices. The prices of petrol and diesel in our neighbouring countries are higher than in our country. Our government is making all efforts to protect people from the impact of the global crude oil price hike.'

Hindu, 14 June 2008

### **GJM rejects Buddhadeb's invitation for talks**

KOLKATA: Even as Siliguri and adjoining areas in West Bengal remained tense on Friday with paramilitary forces patrolling the streets, the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) turned down an invitation from Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee for talks here on June 18 to end the stalemate in Darjeeling hills. 'We have received a letter from the Chief Minister but what it states is that the talks will essentially be over ways to speed up development in the region when what we are seeking is nothing but a political solution to a political problem,' Roshan Giri, GJM general secretary, told The Hindu over telephone from Darjeeling.

Hindu, 14 June 2008

### **Talks with Gujjars held in cordial atmosphere**

JAIPUR: The second round of talks between Gujjars agitating for Scheduled Tribe status and the Rajasthan government started here on Friday in, what both sides described as, a 'very cordial atmosphere.' The two-hour talks, held at the Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration (RIPA) between a nine-member government team and a 28-member Gujjar delegation, remained inconclusive. The Gujjar leader, Kirori Singh Bainsla, was not present Both sides agreed to continue the talks at the same venue from 11 a.m. on Saturday. The first round was held at Bayana in Bharatpur district on Monday. The day's talks were facilitated after the Sessions Court on Thursday granted bail to 25 Gujjar women taken into custody a week ago for laying siege to the railway line at Bandikui in Dausa district. The women were released from the Alwar jail on Friday

Hindu, 14 June 2008

#### **4 BRO personnel killed in Kishtwar ambush**

Jammu: Four Border Roads Organisation (BRO) personnel, including a Lt. Colonel and another officer, were killed in an ambush by militants in the Chatru area of Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. The BRO personnel, who had gone on a survey at the Symthan Pass, were fired upon by the militants when they were returning to Kishtwar, a defence spokesman said. The militants continued firing on their vehicle until all its occupants were killed. The ultras later fled

Asian Age, 14 June 2008

#### **Editorial: Darjeeling needs political solution**

The three-day-old ethnic flareup in North Bengal's Darjeeling hills and in the adjoining Siliguri-Jalpaiguri plains threatens to assume civil war dimensions, with supporters and opponents of "Gorkhaland" unleashing violence. People have been injured, vehicles burnt and property destroyed in the attacks and counter-attacks between two sets of agitators. The situation deteriorated within hours of the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha's call for an indefinite bandh in support of its demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland, carved out of the Darjeeling hills and certain contiguous areas. West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee made negotiations with the GJM conditional on its dropping the demand for statehood. The GJM, predictably, rejected this. The situation worsened following the entry into the fray of three or four anti-Gorkhaland outfits. The agitation for an autonomous Gorkhaland, a "state within a state", is not new

Times of India, 15 June 2008

#### **Maoists' new blueprint for terror**

RAIPUR: Emboldened by an effete administration and their own increased firepower for a war of attrition against the Indian state, Maoist rebels are now beginning to show flexibility in strategy - from striking against the police and paramilitary forces in dense forests, they are now targeting infrastructure around urban areas to cripple Chhattisgarh's economy. In May last year, the Maoists - active in 13 out of the 18 districts of Chhattisgarh - struck vital power infrastructure in the state's tribal region of Bastar for the first time that left it in darkness for a fortnight.

Asian Age, 16 June 2008

#### **Army kills 4 Ulfa militants in Assam**

June 15: The outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam received a major setback on Sunday when the Army shot dead four of its cadres in upper Assam's Sibsagar district. Defence spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia told this newspaper that the incident took place in Balijan area of the district at about 1.30 pm on Sunday. Acting on a specific tip-off, the Army had launched a search operation in a particular area where the Ulfa militants were taking shelter

Indian Express, 16 June 2008

#### **ULFA may give up territorial sovereignty demand: peace broker**

Guwahati, June 15 : The outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) is unlikely to stick to its earlier demand of outright territorial sovereignty and may rather ask the Indian nation to address the insecurity of the people of Assam. Disclosing this at a seminar here on Saturday, Hiranya Saikia, a member of the ULFA-nominated People's Consultative Group (PCG) that has been talking to New Delhi since 2006, said ULFA was becoming flexible as far as its demands go, and that discussing sovereignty of Assam did not necessarily mean granting outright territorial

sovereignty

Hindu, 18 June 2008

**'Solution' found for Gujjar imbroglio**

JAIPUR: A solution to the 26-day-old violent agitation by Gujjars, to press for Scheduled Tribe status, appeared to have been found late on Tuesday. Leaders negotiating on behalf of the community and the Rajasthan government told the media that they had found a 'solution' but desisted from making the contents of the agreement public. They promised that it would be made known on Wednesday. 'I am happy to announce that the talks have been successful,' said BJP national treasurer Ramdas Agarwal, who led the government side at the weeklong talks, said.

Indian Express, 18 June 2008

**Naxals storm marriage function, kill bridegroom**

RAIPUR, JUNE 17: Naxalites stormed a marriage function and killed the bridegroom by slitting his throat before the guests at Koder village in Maoist infested Bijapur district on Monday night. The extremists fled from the scene after killing Laxman Parlipal, who used to assist security forces at the Cherpal relief camp. Meanwhile, CRPF personnel and Maoist rebels had a two-hour long encounter near Kondagaon in Kanker district on Tuesday afternoon. The paramilitary forces were attacked by the rebels on their way to a nearby village following information that the Naxalites had killed a trader

Tribune, 18 June 2008

**Failure to tackle food crisis can be unsettling (H.K. Dua)**

GEORGE W. BUSH understands oil better than food. This was evident when he recently held India responsible for the food crisis the world is caught in. When he heard that his remarks had ruffled Indian feelings, he came out with a gobbledegook kind of an explanation, which accused only the 400 million people who make its middle class, not all the people of India for causing the global food crisis. To quote the spokesman of the White House, 'As you increase your standard of living, the food that you eat it can venture more into meats that require more commodities to feed the livestock, which uses more of those commodities, whether it's corn or wheat or other commodities, and it drives up the price. So that is just a function of how those food prices that we've seen spike in the world.'

Times of India, 19 June 2008

**Thackeray calls for Hindu suicide squad**

MUMBAI: A Hindu fidayeen band is necessary to combat Muslim fundamentalism, Shiv Sena mouthpiece, Saamna, edited by party boss Bal Thackeray, said on Wednesday. In a leader comment, the paper said a "Hindu bomb" was needed to combat the "Muslim bomb" in response to the arrest of those allegedly involved in the bomb blasts in Vashi and Thane theatres last month in which there was no fatality but several people were hurt

Asian Age, 19 June 2008

**Antony cautions Army: Be alert for J&K polls**

June 18: Defence minister A.K. Antony has said that though the situation prevailing along the Line of Control and in the hinterland in Jammu and Kashmir was relatively peaceful, in all likelihood concerted efforts would be made to upset it in the coming months. Mr Antony, who was addressing troops of 19 Infantry Brigade at an Army garrison in Baramulla, 58 km northwest from here, on Wednesday on the second leg of his two-day visit of the state, reiterated that militant strikes and infiltration

incidence along the Line of Control could increase. "In the coming three months or so there could be more attempts of infiltration and violence," he told reporters later. He reiterated what he had told a meeting of top government functionaries and the police, paramilitary forces and intelligence officers, besides Army commanders, here on Tuesday that there are forces within and outside the country "which do not want free and fair elections and would try to disrupt peace and create problems". Mr Antony added, "From our side, we will provide logistic support towards holding a free and peaceful election. We have to be more vigilant and are ready to meet any eventuality."

Asian Age, 19 June 2008

### **Opinion: Centre, Bengal must act fast on Darjeeling (Nitish Sengupta)**

Both the Centre and the West Bengal government owe the nation an explanation for the total collapse of law and order in the Darjeeling hills and surrounding plains over the past week. The summary diktat to all tourists to leave the hills within 48 hours, and the humiliation and physical assault many of them were subjected to by anti-socials and rowdies operating in the name of the so-called Gorkha Janmukti Morcha was atrocious and unacceptable. Instructions such as these could have been issued only by local government authorities, who chose instead to remain quiet when hoteliers were being forced to turn away their guests and people who had come from long distances, not only from Kolkata and other parts of West Bengal but from elsewhere in the country and even overseas, were compelled to cut short their holidays abruptly and scrounge for places in crowded taxis, buses and trains to return home. Some of them were assaulted and others were robbed of their belongings. All were subjected to extortion by transport operators. No one bothered to remember that tourism is the mainstay of the economy of the Darjeeling hills and that, in the process of taking the law into their own hands, they were killing the goose that laid the golden eggs

Hindu, 20 June 2008

### **Militants stall J&K infrastructure projects**

Kishtwar: Disruption of construction activities by militants has adversely affected infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir. On June 13, five persons, including Lt. Colonel Ajay Verma of the Border Roads Organisation, were killed by militants in Kishtwar district. The group had gone to the Sinthan pass to review the road project that would connect Kishtwar district with Anantnag district. The 193 km Batote-Kishtwar-Sinthan Pass-Anantnag National Highway 1B is an important project.

Indian Express, 20 June 2008

### **A ghost village**

Dalelchak(Aurangabad), June 19: A massacre and 21 years later, Baghaura has turned into a ghost village. Its twin village, Dalelchak, which shared the tragedy that night, is falling off the map too. On the evening of May 29, 1987, Naxalities killed 42 upper castes villagers in Baghaura and Dalelchak, 25 km from Aurangabad. The massacre was in retaliation for the murder of seven OBC men at Chukti-Chechani, a village barely three km away from the twin villages, earlier that year

Times of India, 24 June 2008

### **Centre ready for tripartite talks on Gorkha issue**

NEW DELHI: The Centre has agreed to Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) leader Bimal Gurung's demand for tripartite talks involving the Centre and the West Bengal government but gave no assurances on forming a separate state. It also asked the Gorkha delegation that met home minister Shivraj Patil on Tuesday to first meet

chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee

Asian Age, 24 June 2008

### **'Gag' on RAW, IB, BSF, CRPF officers**

June 24: The Centre has imposed a blanket gag order on officers working in 18 organisations which are deemed sensitive - including intelligence agencies like IB and RAW, and paramilitary outfits like the BSF and CRPF - to prevent information leaking to the public. This will be applicable after the officers are no longer working with the departments in question, and even after they have retired. The officers working in these "strategic" outfits are barred from sharing their "knowledge" of the internal working of these organisations, according to a notification issued by the department of personnel and training. Failure to do so would result in the officer being penalised with reduction or withdrawal of pension "in part or full", or even prosecution in some cases. This will come into force with immediate effect.

Asian Age, 24 June 2008

### **Ceasefire is likely with Ulfa**

June 24: The outlawed Ulfa got a major jolt on Tuesday when some of its "commanders" moved to a camp in Tinsukia district, set up in consultation with the security forces. Sources said 150 Ulfa cadres were at the camp with weapons and would hand these over to the security forces after declaring a ceasefire. Security sources said this would be swiftly accepted by the Assam government in consultation with New Delhi. The rebels are learnt to have lost faith in the leadership of Paresh Barua.

Asian Age, 24 June 2008

### **Maoists more organised**

June 24: The operational preparedness of the Maoists has taken the government by surprise. A "strategy dossier" of the ultras, recently seized by security forces, shows that Maoists are much more organised and motivated than before. The dossier, which is religiously read by each member of the ultra groups operating in various states, details every ambush or skirmish, enlisting reasons for their successes and failures. The dossier also lists huge losses incurred by the government during the last three years

Times of India, 24 June 2008

### **32 militants surrender in Assam**

MARIANI (ASSAM): As many as 32 militants belonging to various outfits like ULFA, NSCN-IM and NSCN-K bade surrendered before the army in upper Assam's Mariani on Tuesday. Of the 32 militants who have surrendered, 26 belonged to United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). They included two women, five sergeant majors and as many sergeants. Of the rest, four belonged to National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and two from NSCN-K (Khaplang)

Hindu, 26 June 2008

### **Three cops killed in Naxal ambush**

Raipur: Three policemen were killed in an ambush by Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Wednesday, the police said. The incident took place when a police party was on a combing operation in Orchha area

Times of India, 27 June 2008

### **'ULFA wings may declare truce soon'**

DIBRUGARH: Asserting there was no split in the ULFA ranks, a top leader of the

group's strike force 28 battalion, which recently declared unilateral ceasefire, on Friday hoped the other three wings will soon follow it and facilitate talks with the government. "We have talked to the commanders of the other three battalions and all of them are in favour of ceasefire and there is a possibility that there will be a positive response soon," said Jiten Dutta, commander of the 28 battalion's Alpha and Charlie companies that declared a truce on June 24

Hindu, 28 June 2008

### **Stirring send-off to Sam Bahadur**

UDHAGAMANDALAM/NEW DELHI: Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw was given the final salute in a state funeral with full military honours in the Nilgiris on Friday. He died at the age of 94 early on Friday at the Wellington Military Hospital where he was battling lung disease. He was considered one of the country's great war heroes. The victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war that he masterminded helped create Bangladesh

Hindu, 28 June 2008

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Hindu, 29 June 2008

### **PDP pulls out of J&K government**

SRINAGAR: The coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir headed by Ghulam Nabi Azad of the Congress on Saturday plunged into a major crisis as its key partner, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), withdrew support over the issue of land transfer to Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board. The government has been reduced to a minority. In the 89-strong House (this includes two nominated members), the Congress has 22 members and has the support of 15 Independents. The PDP has 18 members and the support of one Independent, while the main Opposition, the National Conference, has 24 members, the National Panther's Party 4, the CPI (M) 2, and the BJP one member. Reports said the NPP extended support to the Azad government after the PDP pulled out. This will take the Congress' tally to 41, still 4 short of a majority.

Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2008

### **Demonstrations, shutdowns all across Valley**

SRINAGAR, June 27: On 5th consecutive day of massive protests over diversion of 800 kanal of land at Baltal in favour of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB), entire Kashmir valley today observed total shutdown as over a hundred demonstrations were staged in the Capital city and all major towns. Even as today's rallies were by and large peaceful and only thin groups of youngsters clashed with police at about 10 places in the Valley, at least 40 persons, including 15 police personnel, sustained injuries in ding-dong clashes, mostly after the Friday prayers concluded at mosques

Daily Excelsior, 29 June 2008

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Hindu, 30 June 2008

### **32 constables missing after naxalite attack**

VISAKHAPATNAM: Thirty two Greyhound constables of the Andhra Pradesh police were missing and 10 injured after the banned CPI (Maoist) attacked a motor launch carrying a police team in the Chitrakonda reservoir in Orissa, close to the Andhra Pradesh border, on Sunday morning. The launch, carrying 62 officers and constables, capsized when those on board tried to counter the attack. A large number of policemen were engaged in the rescue operation, said Director General of Police S.S.P. Yadav late in the evening.

Hindu, 30 June 2008

### **Two bomb blasts in Assam kill five**

Guwahati: Five persons were killed about 80 injured in two bomb blasts in Assam on Sunday - the first at a weekly pig market close to Indo-Bhutan border at Kumarikata under Tamulpur police station of lower Assam's Baksa district and the second at Haibargaon in central Assam's Nagaon district. Four police personnel were among those injured. Police suspect that the blasts are handiwork of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). However, the outfit has not owned responsibility for either of the blasts

Hindu, 30 June 2008

### **Greyhounds become sitting ducks**

VISAKHAPATNAM: It is believed that a training session organised by the State military committee of the CPI (Maoist)'s Andhra Orissa Border Special Zonal Committee near the State border during the last few days prompted the Greyhounds to launch the joint operation with the Orissa police. But they became virtually sitting ducks with 62 of them travelling in the same motor launch to cross the Chitrakonda (Balimela) reservoir while the Maoists positioned themselves at vantage points on the surrounding hillocks. The recently formed military committee had reportedly stalked the Greyhounds after noticing their movement, as they were returning to the Andhra Pradesh border on Sunday morning