

Chhattisgarh firms up new plan to take on Maoists by Shivanand Shukla (INDIA)

Raipur: In view of the spate of violence by Left extremists in Chhattisgarh in recent times, the State Government is preparing a fresh action plan to combat the Maoists.

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The action plan will be presented to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at a meeting, which will be attended by chief ministers of all the affected states in April.

Sources said the action plan being drawn would also be discussed with the Central Government. The Government will stress on the need for an integrated action plan by all the affected states.

Sources said Chhattisgarh will demand more Central forces, helicopter and mine-detecting devices from the Central Government.

What has concerned the authorities and analysts here more is that through continued violence, the Maoists have tried to send a message that they can attack any place, any time, any one they wished to.

"Repeated attacks are a very serious matter," an official admitted. So far, extremists have not only successfully targeted the central forces, including personnel of Naga forces, CRPF, CISF and SAF, but, of late, departing from their earlier strategy of not harming common people, have also killed the pro-salwa judum activists in landmine blast and exploding a private bus. What is more, all the incidents have taken place in the Bastar region, particularly, in Dantewada, which has a large concentration of security forces.

Peeved at the spate of violence, Chief Minister Raman Singh directed Director General of Police OP Rathod and Additional Chief Secretary (Home) BKS Ray to concentrate on Bastar regions and find out why ultras were succeeding in their acts of violence.

The Chief Minister at a meeting directed them to ensure security at the relief camps. Both the officials were directed to immediately rush to Bastar and find out why incidents were repeatedly taking place. They were asked to review the anti-Maoist operation and do the needful for people's security.

In fact, the recent incidents, which the Government has dubbed as acts of desperation, has made the Government reorient its strategy.

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