

## NEWS WRAP AGD

There are sustained joint operations being conducted in West Bengal against the Maoist insurgents by 35 companies of Central Reserve Police Force, six companies of Nagaland Police and 51 companies of State Police. Not similar to the situation in other states, the expanding Maoist tide is increasingly confronted by the well organized armed cadres of the ruling CPI(M), in West Bengal. With the dramatic spurt in Maoist-related fatalities in West Bengal, the state has recorded the highest Maoist-related casualties in 2010, toppling Chattisgarh which headed the list since 2006. The Maoist related fatalities in West Bengal rose from 158 in 2009 to 440 in 2010. The fatal casualties include about 332 civilians, 40 security forces personnel and 65 Maoists, including cadres of the Maoist backed People's Committee Against Police Atrocities. The civilians killed in 2010, include the 122 CPI(M) leaders and cadres. The Maoist movement in Lalgarh expands rapidly, after a failed assassination attempt on West Bengal's Chief Minister, and the then union minister of Steel (Shri Ram Vilas Paswan), at nearby Salbani on 02 November, 2008, and the ensuing clumsy police responses. On 15 June 2010, the state government had announced a new surrender policy for Maoists to lay down arms. The monetary 'package' was in the shape of guidelines laid down by the union government. At end 2010 only five Maoists had surrendered.

### CANCUN CLIMATE CHANGE

The Cancun climate-change accord (December, 2010) activates the official United Nations process. The developing countries would offer US \$100 billion a year as climate assistance by 2020. A climate fund is being set up, under the auspices of the World Bank, through which much of the money might be channelized. A deal has been agreed under which countries may be paid to decrease the damage being done to their forests. Even though the details are left vague, the world's biggest carbon emitters, China and USA, are not bound by the protocol. There has been no universal legally binding agreement. Technology transfer clauses assure adaptation to emission cuts, saving forests, and building up renewable energy capacity. Japan maintains that it would not make a new commitment to emissions cuts, under the Kyoto protocol, after 2012, when its current promise expires. The Cancun agreement text omits any deal on shipping and aircraft fuel, which is unpopular with oil producers and big oil companies. However, the Copenhagen accord and the Cancun UN process may not be strong enough to limit climate change to an increase of *two degrees*.

### HUNGARY TODAY

Hungary has been a democracy for two decades. EU's lowest employment rate of 55%, prevails in Hungary. The eastern half of the country is less developed. About 33% of the population in Hungary, live on or below the poverty line. The Roma gypsy minority is far more poor. 70% of all household and business debt is denominated in foreign currencies, mainly Swiss francs, over which Hungary has limited controls. The right wing Fidesz party government, led by prime minister Victor Orban, won an unprecedented two-thirds majority in April 2010 general election. Power grab has driven Fidesz to taking over almost every independent institution. All five seats on a powerful new media council, have party nominees. This supervisory body has a mandate for imposing large fines on print, on-line and broadcast media for vague transgressions. Severe restrictions have been imposed on the constitutional court's jurisdiction over financial matters. Crisis taxes on banks, energy, telecoms and retail companies have been imposed, which have alarmed foreign investors. The fiscal council, which oversaw the budget has been made defunct. In 2011, growth may touch 3% of GDP; and government budget deficit curtailed at 2.9% of GDP. □□□