

## Two killed in Maoist attack

Two assistants of two truck drivers were killed in Jharkhand Saturday when Maoist guerrillas protesting against rising food prices fired at trucks on a highway, the police said.

A driver was seriously injured in the attack in Seraikela Kharsawa district, about 210 km from here. The dead were identified as `khalasi' (assistants) of two drivers.

The attack came during a strike Maoist guerrillas called in Jharkhand to protest against rising prices of food and other essential commodities.

Maoists are active in 18 of the 24 districts of the state. Since Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar in 2000, 614 civilians and 290 security personnel have been killed in the state in Maoist related violence.

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