Glossary of the terms used

Adivasi : Tribal

Alchiki : Santhali script

Aman : Paddy crop cultivated during the monsoon

Aush : First paddy crop harvested by early October

Bandh : Strike

Boro : Paddy crop cultivated in the spring

Babui : A variety of long grass used for making strings and ropes

Bidi : Indigenous cigri made of Kendu leaves

Dalit : The lower caste people, Mahatma Gandhi called them as the

untouchables.

Durga Puja : The ten-day long festival of Goddess Durga, usually in the

months of September or October

Ganaadalat : People's court set up by the Maoists to deliver instant justice.

Gram Panchayat : The lowest local self-government body at the rural level in

India, comprising one large or several small villages

Got tandi : A sacred place of the Santal, located near the Jaherthan

Gurubaba : A kind of traditional medical practitioners of the Santals

Hari : A Scheduled Caste community

Harmad : Hired goons

Haat : Local weekly market

Jawan : Soldier (para military force)

Jaherthan : Sacred grove of Santals

Kali Puja : Festival of Goddess Kali

Kendu pata : Leaf of the kendu tree (Diospyrosmelanoxion); used to make

bidis

Majhi : Headman of Santal tribal group

Majhithan : A sacred place, which is located near Majhi's house or at the

centre of a Santal village.

Multi-ethnic : A village, which is inhabited by more than one ethnic groups

Para : Hamlet

Panchayat Samiti : Intermediate local self-government body at the block-level

Patta : Deed of temporary ownership of land/land title document

Pradhan : Chairperson of a Gram Panchayat

Puja : Religious ceremony

Red corridor : The wide region spanning from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh,

Telangan, Chhatisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal to Bihar and up to Nepal. The region is marked by Maoist

extremism over several decades.

Sal pata : Leaf of sal tree (Shorea robusta)

Soloaana : Traditional village council of the Santals

Teli : A Other Backward Classes community

Thana : Police station

Uni-ethnic : A village, which is exclusively inhabited by one ethnic groups