

KOTTAYAM, July 2, 2010

Gandhian counsels restraint

Gandhian S.N. Subba Rao has said that the Central government should not resort to retaliation against Maoists in view of the recent attacks on Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in Chhattisgarh.

Speaking at the inaugural function of a Swadeshi Festival here on Wednesday, Dr. Rao said, "An armed retaliation could trigger further hostility. This will lead to escalation of violence resulting in further civilian and military casualties."

He pointed out that the root cause of such violence was unemployment among the youth. "Being unable to sustain oneself and lead a dignified life, the innocent fall prey to the vested interests of unlawful groups. Their helplessness is exploited to the hilt by these forces," he said.

The 11-day festival is jointly held by the Gandhi Centre for Rural Development and the Kottayam Public Library at Library Auditorium. Dr. Rao, who is also founder of the National Youth Project (NYP), sought policies to promote small-scale industries. "The nation has been witnessing the growth of Special Economic Zones (SEZ). The government should mull over the prospects of introducing Small Industries Zones (SIZ)." "This movement will get India to rid itself of the rampaging economic violence," he said.

Inaugurating the festival, former Union Minister of State and former Governor M.M. Jacob said the hand-made production sector was facing a tough competition from those involving highly sophisticated machinery.

"However, hand-made items have a market of their own. The future of this industry is bright and should be promoted," he said.

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