

Speculation rife over LTTE-Maoist links. (1994, November 29). *The Island*.

## Speculation rife over LTTE — Maoist links

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There was speculation in defence circles that the LTTE had helped Maoist guerrillas to improve and expand mine-warfare against the Indian security forces. The last week's blasting of an Indian security forces patrol at Karimnagar in Andhra Pradesh fuelled speculation that the LTTE had links with Maoist guerrillas.

"There could be strong links between the LTTE and Indian rebels," a senior Sri Lank-

an security forces officer said yesterday. Andhra Pradesh is one of the states neighbouring Tamil Nadu where the LTTE remains very active even after the assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi.

Maoist guerrillas activated a mine last Saturday killing thirteen Indian security forces personnel at Karimnagar.

The landmine is a favourite Naxalite weapon and Andhra Pradesh police, who have lost more than 100 men to Maoist

attacks over the past three years, do not travel in vehicles in Naxalite controlled areas, a Reuters report datelined November 27 stated.

The introduction of mines has multiplied the guerrilla strength many times over, the report added.

Apparently last Saturday's landmine attack had been the worst so far against the security forces in the area.

The LTTE used various types of mines successfully against the Indian Army when it

was deployed in North East Sri Lanka according to defence sources.

An AFP report filed from India stated that the outlawed People's War Group (PWG) which reputedly has links with Sri Lankan Tamil separatists, specialises in landmine explosions, targeting security forces and is active in Karimnagar. The report identified the 13 security personnel killed including three officers as commandos.

Asked for comments, an Indian diplomat in Colombo said that he was not aware of details of this incident.

The LTTE is believed to be in contact with many international rebel organisations.