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CHHATTISGARH

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Content

Polavaram Project

Why in News?

The **Prime Minister** is going to chair a meeting with **chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh** to discuss the **Polavaram project.**

Key Points

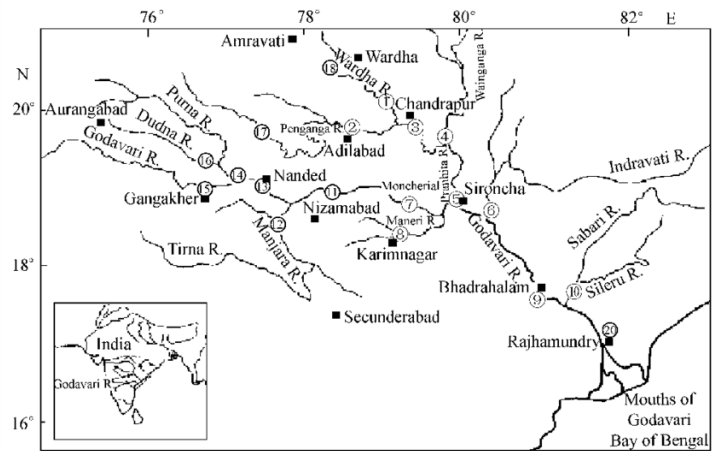- 💡 **Polavaram Irrigation Project:**
  - ✦ Polavaram Project is located **in Andhra Pradesh on the river Godavari,** near Polavaram village.
  - ✦ It is a **multi-purpose irrigation project** as the project once completed will provide irrigation benefits and will generate **Hydroelectric Power.**
    - 🖉 In addition, this project will also supply drinking water.
  - ✦ It will facilitate an **inter-basin transfer to the Krishna river** basin through its Right canal.
  - ✦ It will also provide indirect benefits such as the development of **Pisciculture** (breeding and rearing of fish), tourism and urbanisation.
  - ✦ The Project has been **accorded national project status by the union government in 2014** (under Section 90 of the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014**).

- 💡 **Background & Related Issues:**
  - ✦ Despite multiple rounds of high-level deliberations, states have failed to resolve the **inter-state disputes over the Polavaram project.**
  - ✦ Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana have filed petitions in **the Supreme Court** challenging aspects of the project such as regulatory compliance issues, impact on **tribal communities,** etc.

- ✦ Andhra Pradesh proposed **constructing a retaining wall** to protect villages facing submergence.
- ✦ However, Odisha and Chhattisgarh raised **objections regarding land acquisition** and inadequate rehabilitation measures.

Godavari River

- 💡 The Godavari is the **largest Peninsular river system**. It is also called the **Dakshin Ganga.**
- 💡 **Source:** Godavari River rises from **Trimbakeshwar near Nasik** in Maharashtra and flows for a length of about 1465 km before **outfalling into the Bay of Bengal.**
- 💡 **Drainage Basin:** The Godavari basin extends over the states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and the Union territory of Puducherry.
- 💡 **Tributaries:** Pravara, Purna, Manjra, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha), Indravati, Maner and the Sabri.
- 💡 **Cultural Significance:** **Kumbh Mela** also takes place on the **banks of the Godavari River in Nashik.**
- 💡 **Godavari River Dispute:** **Godavari river water sharing** is a bone of contention among Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Karnataka.
- 💡 **Important Projects on Godavari:**
  - ✦ Polavaram Irrigation Project
  - ✦ Kaleshwaram
  - ✦ **Sadarmatt Anicut** across river Godavari is one of the two irrigation projects in the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) Register of **Heritage Irrigation Structures.**

- ✦ **Inchampalli:** The Inchampalli project is proposed on the Godavari River about 12 km downstream of the **confluence of Indravati with the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh.**
  - 🔗 It is a joint project among the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ **Sriram Sagar Project (SRSP):** The Sriram Sagar Project is a multipurpose project, located across the Godavari River near Pochampad of Nizamabad District in Telangana.

Operation Black Forest

Why in News?

Under **Operation Black Forest**, security forces scored a major success in their **anti-Maoist campaign** by killing 27 Naxals, including the **top Maoist leader Nambala Keshav Rao**, during an encounter in the Abujhmad region on the Chhattisgarh border between Narayanpur and Bijapur districts.

Key Points

Black Forest Operation

- 💡 **About:**
  - ✦ **Operation Black Forest** marked the **longest continuous anti-Naxal campaign,** executed jointly by the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Chhattisgarh Police** over a span of 21 days.
  - ✦ The operation was **launched in the vicinity of Karreguttalu Hill (KGH),** a known **Naxal stronghold** situated along the Chhattisgarh–Telangana border, making it a strategically sensitive zone.
  - ✦ The **Ghalgam Forward Operating Base set up in 2022,** functioned as the central command hub for the mission, enabling effective coordination and sustained operational momentum in the challenging terrain.
  - ✦ The **operation led to 54 arrests and 84 surrenders** across Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Maharashtra.
- 💡 **Strategic Significance of the Operation:**
  - ✦ For the **first time in three decades,** a **general secretary-level leader of the CPI-Maoist has been neutralised**, marking a critical milestone in anti-Naxal operations.
    - 🔗 The removal of top leadership is likely to **disrupt the Maoist organisational hierarchy,** weakening their strategic coordination and communication channels.
  - ✦ The success of the operation demonstrates **enhanced collaboration between central and state forces,** supported by actionable intelligence and logistical coordination across state boundaries.
  - ✦ The rising number of Maoist surrenders and arrests indicates that support for their ideology and organisation is weakening, which could **lead to lasting peace in areas affected by Left Wing Extremism**.

Maoist Leader- Nambala Keshav Rao

- 💡 He served as the **General Secretary of CPI-Maoist,** holding the highest position in the insurgent leadership.
- 💡 He was widely known for his expertise in **guerrilla warfare**, including jungle combat tactics and **Improvised Explosive Device (IED)** making.
- 💡 He was the **mastermind behind the 2010 Dantewada massacre,** which resulted in the killing of 76 CRPF personnel.

Read more: Anti-Maoist Operation at Kareguttalu Hill

Government Measures to Counter Naxalism

- 💡 **Security and Counterinsurgency Operations:**
  - ✦ **Major Operations:** Key campaigns such as **Operation Steeplechase (1971)** and **Operation Green Hunt (2009)** involved joint action by central and state forces, including elite **CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) commandos**, to dismantle Naxalite networks.
  - ✦ **Specialised Forces:** Units like the **Greyhounds in Andhra Pradesh** and the **Bastariya Battalion in Chhattisgarh** were raised with active participation from tribal youth to ensure region-specific counterinsurgency effectiveness.
  - ✦ **Unified Command Mechanism (2010):** This framework was established to promote inter-state coordination, ensuring unified response among LWE-affected states.
- 💡 **SAMADHAN Strategy:**
  - ✦ A holistic framework adopted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** to counter Naxalism with the following components:
    - 📎 Smart leadership
    - 📎 Aggressive strategy
    - 📎 Motivation and training
    - 📎 Actionable intelligence
    - 📎 Dashboard-based KPIs
    - 📎 Harnessing technology
    - 📎 Action plans for specific zones
    - 📎 No financial access to insurgents
- 💡 **Infrastructure Development:**
  - ✦ **Road Requirement Plan-I (RRP-I):** Launched in 2016, the Road Connectivity Project for LWE Affected Areas (RCPLWE) aims to improve road connectivity in areas impacted by LWE.
  - ✦ **Construction of Fortified Police Stations:** As part of strengthening local law enforcement, several fortified police stations have been constructed in sensitive districts of the state under the **Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)**.
- 💡 **Skill Development and Employment Generation:**
  - ✦ **ROSHNI Scheme:** Focuses on skill development and employment-linked training for youth in LWE-affected districts.
  - ✦ **Establishment of ITIs:** Industrial Training Institutes have been set up to enhance vocational skills and boost local employment.
- 💡 **Socio-Economic and Developmental Initiatives:**
  - ✦ **Forest Rights Act (2006):** Recognizes the **land and forest rights of tribal communities**, addressing longstanding grievances and empowering local governance.
  - ✦ **Civic Action Programme (CAP):** Aims to build trust between security forces and local populations through welfare activities and outreach.
  - ✦ **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP):** Launched in 2018, aims to transform LWE affected districts across health, education, infrastructure, and governance metrics.
- 💡 **Data-Driven Governance via GIS Mapping:**
  - ✦ **GIS-Based Planning:** The government is leveraging **GIS technology** to map essential services—schools, banks, post offices, health centres, roads, and police stations—in **LWE-affected regions**, enabling targeted developmental and security interventions.

Red Corridor

- 💡 The **Red Corridor** is the region in the central, eastern and southern parts of India that experience severe **Naxalism–Maoist insurgency.**
- 💡 It includes the states of **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.**

LEFT WING EXTREMISM

ABOUT

- **Originated:** 1967 uprising in Naxalbari, West Bengal
- **Aim:** Societal and political change through revolutionary methods

IDEOLOGY

- Overthrow central government through armed revolution (Violence and guerilla warfare)
- Establishment of a communist state based on Maoist principles
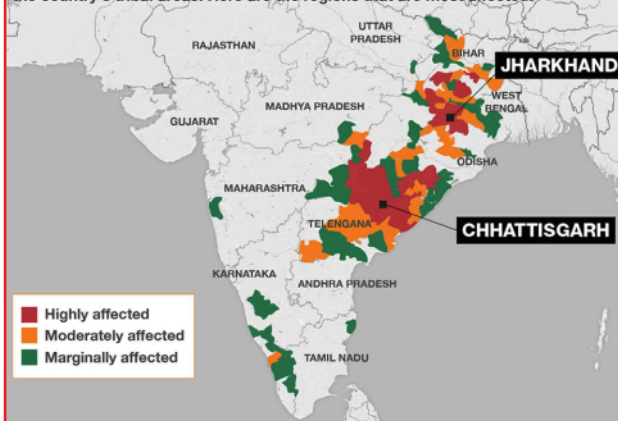
FACTORS RESPONSIBLE

- **Massive displacement of tribal population;** Due to development projects, mining operations
- **Tribal dissatisfaction;** Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 prohibits tribes from harvesting forest resources
- **Poverty and lack of sustainable means;** Driving factors for joining Naxalite movement
- **Lack of effective governance;** Insufficient technical intelligence against Naxalism

STATES AFFECTED BY LWE

- **Red Corridor:** Experiences severe Naxalism–Maoist insurgency
- Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala

A map of India's Maoist conflict

A crackdown on Maoist rebels has led to a rise in the number of casualties in the country's tribal areas. Here are the regions that are most affected.

- Highly affected
- Moderately affected
- Marginally affected

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO CURB LWE

- National Policy and Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism 2015
- **SAMADHAN Doctrine**
  - **S-** Smart Leadership
  - **A-** Aggressive Strategy
  - **M-** Motivation and Training
  - **A-** Actionable Intelligence
  - **D-** Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas)
  - **H-** Harnessing Technology
  - **A-** Action plan for each Theatre
  - **N-** No access to Financing
- **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** in Public Infrastructure and Services
- **Operation Green Hunt**
- **Greyhounds** (Elite commando force in Andhra Pradesh)
- **Bastariya Battalion** (local recruits in Chhattisgarh who know the language and terrain that could generate intelligence and conduct operations)

Countering Naxalism - Bandyopadhyay Committee (2006)

- Highlighted the lack of governance, economic, socio-political and cultural discrimination against the tribals
- Recommended tribal-friendly land acquisition and rehabilitation

Drishti IAS

Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (USTR)

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh's **Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (USTR)** has recorded a remarkable resurgence in wildlife activity, highlighting the **reserve's transformation into a thriving ecological sanctuary**.

Key Points

- **Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve (USTR):**
  - **About:**
    - It is located in the **Gariaband and Dhamtari districts of Chhattisgarh**. It was formed by **combining the Udanti and Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuaries.**
    - It is the **source of three major rivers—Mahanadi, Sitanadi, and Udanti—**which sustain both Chhattisgarh and Odisha.
    - The reserve's dense forests act like natural sponges, storing rainwater and supporting biodiversity as well as agriculture.
  - **Ecological Diversity:**
    - It contains various types of **forest crops** mixed with **Sal forest.**
    - The **Asiatic Wild Buffalo** is a key endangered species found in the reserve.
    - Apart from the tiger, other endangered and rare species include the Indian Wolf, **Leopard**, **Sloth Bear**, and Mouse Deer.
  - **Strategic Wildlife Corridor:**
    - USTR functions as a **key tiger corridor**, connecting Maharashtra's **Gadchiroli forests** and Chhattisgarh's **Indravati Tiger Reserve** with Odisha's Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.
    - This linkage **supports genetic diversity and long-range animal movement** across state borders.
- **Protection Measures by the State Government:**
  - **Community-Centric Conservation Model:**
    - Local communities are playing a crucial role through participatory initiatives such as **Charwaha Sammelans** and the recognition of **Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights.**
    - These measures have fostered trust, leading to active local involvement in **curbing poaching, illegal logging, and forest fires**.
  - **Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation:**
    - The **'Elephant Alert App'** has become an effective tool for early warning and tracking **elephant** movement, thereby reducing **human-wildlife conflict.**

Note: In 2022, **Chhattisgarh became the second** state after Odisha to have recognised CFR rights inside a national park i.e., **Kanger Ghati National Park.**

National Parks & Sanctuaries of Chhattisgarh

Indravati National Park

- **About:**
  - It is situated in the **Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.**
  - It was **established in 1981** and **declared a tiger reserve in 1983** under India's **Project Tiger.**
  - It is **named after the Indravati River**, which flows from east to west and forms the reserve's northern boundary with Maharashtra.
- **Vegetation:**
  - **Comprises three major forest types:**
    - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest with Teak
    - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest without Teak
    - Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest.
- **Flora:**
  - Common tree species include **teak, achar, karra, kullu, shisham, semal, haldu, arjun, bel, and jamun.**
- **Fauna:**
  - Hosts one of the last populations of **rare wild buffalo.**
  - Other species include **Nilgai, Black Buck, Sambar, Gaur, Tiger, Leopard, Chital, Sloth Bears, etc.**

Community Forest Resource (CFR)

- **About CFR:**
  - CFR area is **common forest land** that has been traditionally protected and conserved for sustainable use by a particular community.
  - The **community uses it to access resources available within the traditional and customary boundary of the village** and for seasonal use of landscape in the case of pastoralist communities.
  - **Each CFR area has a customary boundary** with identifiable landmarks recognised by the community and its neighbouring villages.

- **Community Forest Resource (CFR) Rights:**
  - CFR rights under Section 3(1)(i) of the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006** (commonly referred to as the Forest Rights Act) provides for **recognition of the right to "protect, regenerate or conserve or manage"** the community forest resource.

Anti-Maoist Operation at Kareguttalu Hill

Why in News?

The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** and Chhattisgarh Police recently concluded a **21-day intensive anti-Maoist operation** at the **Kareguttalu Hill (KGH)**, situated on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border.

- This operation marks a significant breakthrough in India's ongoing struggle to eradicate **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)** and achieve a Naxal-free India by 31st March, 2026.

Key Points

Strategic Importance of Kareguttalu Hill

- Kareguttalu Hill, a rugged, hilly terrain about 60 km long and 5–20 km wide, had become a stronghold and unified command centre for major **Maoist outfits like the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA)** Battalion No. 1, thier most potent military formation.
- The region acted as a refuge for 300–350 armed Maoist cadres, **including weapon manufacturing units of the Technical Department**, facilitating prolonged insurgency in the area.
- The Maoists considered it **impregnable due to its geography and proximity to two states** (Chhattisgarh & Telangana), complicating security forces' operations.

Objectives and Outcomes of the Operation

- The **primary aim was to dislocate the top Maoist leadership** concentrated at Kareguttalu Hill and dismantle their unified military structure.

- It is considered the **"largest comprehensive and coordinated anti-Maoist operation"** in Chhattisgarh to date, reflecting increased capacity and resolve of security forces to reclaim inaccessible Maoist bastions.
- Similar operations in other previously inaccessible regions, such as **Chakarbanda Hilly Region and Boodha Pahad** signal a broader trend of reversing Maoist territorial dominance.

- The operation witnessed 21 encounters over 21 days, **resulting in the elimination of several Maoists, including women cadres**.
- Destruction of weapon manufacturing **units was a major outcome, curbing Maoist capabilities to launch attacks** on security installations, particularly in Bastar.
- The operation **involved coordinated efforts of multiple units such as** the District Reserve Guard, Bastar Fighters, **Special Task Force**, CRPF's **Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA)** unit, and State Police, showcasing inter-agency synergy.

People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA)

- The PLGA was **formed on 2nd December, 2000**.
- It operates as the armed wing of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), **a banned political organisation in India**.
- The group seeks to overthrow the government through a prolonged civil war.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- **Inception and Growth:** The CRPF was raised in the year 1939 as the Crown Representative Police in response to political turmoil and unrest in the princely states .
  - In the year 1949, the **name of this force was changed to Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**.
  - **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, the then Home Minister, envisioned a multifaceted role for the CRPF and aligned its functions with the emerging needs of the newly independent nation.

- **Special Units:** The CRPF has several special units, including the Rapid Action Force (RAF), CoBRA, VIP security wing and women battalion.

Bhoramdev Wildlife Sanctuary

Why in News?

In the Kawardha range of **Bhoramdev Wildlife Sanctuary**, bear attacked victims while they were collecting tendu leaves.

Key Points

- **Bhoramdev Wildlife Sanctuary:**
  - **About:**
    - Bhoramdev Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Kabirdham district, Chhattisgarh**.
    - It lies within the **Maikal range of the Satpura hills**, known for its rich biodiversity and undisturbed ecosystem.
    - The sanctuary spreads across an area of approximately 352 sq.km.
  - **Cultural Significance:**
    - Named after the **ancient Bhoramdeo Temple**, located nearby and over 1,000 years old.
    - The temple is **dedicated to Lord Shiva** and is popularly referred to as the **"Khajuraho of Chhattisgarh"** due to its intricate sculptures.
  - **Ecological Importance:**
    - Bhoramdev is part of the **Kanha-Achanakmar Wildlife Corridor**, linking **Kanha National Park** (Madhya Pradesh) with **Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary** (Chhattisgarh).
    - The terrain includes undulating hills, dense forests, and seasonal streams.
  - **Water Bodies:**
    - The sanctuary is the origin point of the **Fen and Sankari rivers**, which sustain its forest ecosystem.

- **Vegetation:**
  - Hosts a mix of **tropical moist and dry deciduous forests.**
  - Common trees include Saaj (Terminalia tomentosa), **Sal** (Shorea robusta), **Tendu** (Diospyros melanoxylon), and Nilgiri (Eucalyptus).
- **Wildlife:**
  - Inhabited by a diverse range of fauna such as **Tigers**, **Leopards**, **Sloth bears**, various **deer species and birdlife.**

Kanha National Park

- **Location:**
  - It stretches over an area of 940 square km in the **two districts - Mandla and Balaghat - of Madhya Pradesh.**
- **History:**
  - The present-day Kanha area was divided into **two sanctuaries, Hallon and Banjar.**
  - It was **created in 1955** and in **1973 was made the Kanha Tiger Reserve.**
  - Kanha National Park is the **largest National Park in Central India.**
- **Features:**
  - **Fauna:**
    - The **State animal of Madhya Pradesh - Hard Ground Barasingha (Swamp deer or Rucervus duvaucelii)** is found exclusively in Kanha Tiger Reserve.
    - Other Species found include **Tiger**, **Leopard**, Dhole, Bear, **Gaur** and Indian Python etc.
  - **Flora:**
    - It is best known for its evergreen **Sal forests** *(Shorea Robusta)*.
    - It is the **first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, "Bhoorsingh the Barasingha".**

Achanakmar Tiger Reserve

- **About:**
  - It is situated in **Bilaspur district** of Chhattisgarh. **Established in 1975** and was **declared a tiger reserve in 2009.**

- It is **part of the huge Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve.**
- It has a **corridor connecting Kanha** and **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** and plays a critical role in the dispersal of tigers among these reserves.
- **River:**
  - The **Maniyari River** flows right from the centre of this reserve, which is the forest's lifeline.
- **Tribe:**
  - It is home to the Baigas, a forest-dwelling tribal community classified as a **"Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)"**.
  - In 626 hectares of the core area of the reserve, there are 25 forest villages, with approximately 75% of the population belonging to the **Baiga tribe.**
- **Vegetation:**
  - **Tropical moist deciduous vegetation** covers the majority of the area.
- **Flora:**
  - **Sal, bija, saja, haldu, teak, tinsa, dhawara, lendia, khamar, and bamboo bloom** along with other 600 species of medicinal plants.
- **Fauna:**
  - It includes the **tiger**, **leopard**, **bison**, **flying squirrel**, **Indian giant squirrel**, **chinkara**, **wild dog**, **hyena**, sambar, **chital**, and over 150 species of birds.

PMAY–G in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan is going to review the **implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin (PMAY–G) and PM Janman Yojana** by the **Chhattisgarh government** in Raipur.

Key Points

- **About the Programme:**
  - The Minister will be the Chief Guest at the **"Mor Awas Mor Adhikar"** event at Ambikapur.

- He distributed house keys under **PMAY–G** and **PM Janman Yojana** and led the grih pravesh ceremony for 51,000 new PMAY beneficiaries.
- He also felicitated **Self-Help Group (SHG)** members and **'Lakhpati Didis'** who have shown outstanding achievement in rural empowerment.

💡 **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G):**

- **About:** Launched in 2016, the PMAY-G aims to provide housing for the poorest segments of society.
  - The selection of beneficiaries involves a thorough **three-stage validation process**, including the **Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011**, **Gram Sabha** approvals, and **geo-tagging**, ensuring that aid reaches the most deserving individuals.
- **Under PMAY-G Beneficiaries Receive:**
  - **Financial Assistance:** Rs 1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs 1.30 lakh in hilly states, including northeastern states and union territories.
  - **Additional Support for Toilets:** Rs 12,000 for constructing toilets through convergence with schemes like **Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G)** or **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** or any other dedicated source of funding.
  - **Employment Support:** Mandatory provision of 90/95 person-days of unskilled wage employment for beneficiaries through **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** for house construction.
  - **Basic Amenities:** Access to water, **Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)**, and electricity connections through convergence with relevant schemes.

💡 **PM-JANMAN Scheme:**

- PM JANMAN is a government scheme that aims to **bring tribal communities into the mainstream.**

- The scheme (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) will be implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTG communities.
- The scheme will **concentrate on 11 critical interventions overseen by 9 line Ministries**, ensuring the implementation of existing schemes in villages inhabited by PVTGs.
  - It encompasses various sectors, including safe housing under the **PM-AWAS Scheme**, access to **clean drinking water**, improved **healthcare, education, nutrition,** road and telecommunications connectivity, as well as opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.
- The plan also includes the establishment of **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras** for **trading in forest produce**, off-grid solar power systems for 1 lakh households, and solar street lights.

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

💡 **About:** A Self Help Group is a **self-governed, peer-controlled information group of people** with **similar socio-economic backgrounds** and a desire to collectively perform a common purpose.

- An SHG normally **consists of not less than five persons** (with a maximum of twenty) of similar economic outlook and social status.

💡 **Origins of Self-Help Groups in India:**

- **Early Efforts (Pre-1970s):** There were **scattered instances** of informal SHGs, particularly among women, for collective action and mutual support.
- **SEWA (1972):** The **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**, established by Ela Bhatt, is often considered a defining moment.
  - It organised poor and self-employed women workers, providing a platform for income generation and advocacy.

- ✦ **MYRADA and Pilot Programs (Mid-1980s):** In the mid-1980s, Mysore Resettlement and Area Development Agencies (MYRADA) pioneered SHGs as a microfinance strategy to provide credit to the poor, especially women in rural areas.
- ✦ **NABARD and SHG-Bank Linkage (1992):** The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme in 1992.
  - ✐ This initiative connected SHGs with formal banking institutions, enabling access to credit and financial services for various groups.
- ✦ **Government Recognition (1990s-Present):** Since the 1990s, the Government has actively supported SHGs through various schemes like **Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)** and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).
  - ✐ These initiatives have significantly expanded the reach and impact of the SHG movement in India.

Operation Sankalp

Why in News?

Security forces killed Naxalites during an encounter in the **forests of Chhattisgarh's Bijapur** district, as part of **Operation Sankalp**, a massive counter-insurgency initiative.

Key Points

- 💡 **About Operation Sankalp:**
  - ✦ Security forces launched Operation Sankalp on 21 April based on **intelligence inputs** about the presence of senior cadres of the **Maoist battalion no. 1, Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC)**, and the **Telangana state committee of Maoists.**
  - ✦ The operation targets Maoist strongholds in the Karregutta hills and surrounding forest areas along the Chhattisgarh–Telangana border.

- 💡 **Forces Involved:**
  - ✗ Around 28,000 security personnel are taking part in the operation.
  - ✗ These include units from the **District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters,** Special Task Force (STF), Chhattisgarh Police, **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF),** and its elite **CoBRA unit (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action).**
- 💡 **Area of Operation:**
  - ✗ The operation covers nearly 800 sq km in the **forested and hilly terrain straddling Bijapur (Chhattisgarh)** and **Mulugu and Bhadradri-Kothagudem (Telangana)**, located over 450 km from Raipur.
  - ✗ **Forces have seized:**
    - ✐ Over 400 **improvised explosive devices (IEDs)**
    - ✐ Around 2 tonnes of **explosive materials**
    - ✐ More than 6 tonnes of **rations, medicines, daily-use items, and other Maoist belongings**

District Reserve Guard (DRG)

- 💡 The District Reserve Guard (DRG) is a **specialized police unit in Chhattisgarh, established in 2008** to combat **Maoist violence**.
- 💡 It consists of **specially trained personnel operating** in affected districts, conducting anti-Maoist operations, **search and seizure, and gathering intelligence.**
- 💡 The DRG collaborates with other security forces, like the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, to counter the Maoist insurgency.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- 💡 The CRPF was initially **established as the Crown Representatives Police in 1939** in response to political turmoil and unrest within the princely states.
- 💡 The force was **renamed the Central Reserve Police Force in 1949.**
- 💡 **Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the then Home Minister**, envisioned a multifaceted role for the CRPF, aligning its functions with the evolving needs of a newly independent nation.

- 💡 **COBRA:**
  - ✦ It is a **special operation unit of the Central Reserve Police Force of India** proficient in guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare. Originally established to counter the **Naxalite movement.**
  - ✦ CoBRA is deployed to address insurgent groups engaging in asymmetrical warfare.

India's First AI-Based Data Park

Why in News?

On 4 May 2025, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh inaugurated the **Artificial Intelligence** Aided Data Centre Park in Nava Raipur.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Initiative:**
  - ✦ This first-of-its-kind initiative in India is being developed with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore, to be utilised over two years.
  - ✦ The 13.5-acre park includes a 2.7-hectare **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** dedicated exclusively to AI-based services.
- 💡 **Empowering Tribal Communities Through Technology:**
  - ✦ The AI Data Centre Park is envisioned as a **catalyst for socio-economic transformation in Chhattisgarh.**
  - ✦ It aims to deliver **advanced AI-driven solutions in agriculture** and **education,** directly benefiting students, farmers, and rural populations.
  - ✦ By hosting a dedicated SEZ, the park is **expected to attract domestic and international tech firms,** fostering an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- 💡 **Strategic Vision:**
  - ✦ It represents a milestone in Chhattisgarh's push toward **digital governance** and public service transformation.
  - ✦ The government plans to **use AI** to enhance **service delivery, resource management, and economic productivity** across the state.
  - ✦ Complementary initiatives such as the **creation of Data AI Clubs in schools** and educational partnerships aim to strengthen digital literacy and infrastructure.

Special Economic Zone
💡 A **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** is a geographical region that has economic laws that are **more liberal than a country's domestic economic laws.**
💡 The category 'SEZ' covers a broad range of more specific zone types, including, but not limited to: ✦ Free Trade Zones (FTZs)   ✦ Export Processing Zones (EPZs)   ✦ Free Zones (FZs)   ✦ Industrial Estates (IEs)
💡 India was one of the first in Asia to recognize the effectiveness of the Export Processing Zone model in promoting exports, with **Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965.**

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Key Points

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Summary

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