Maoist Attack in Sukma

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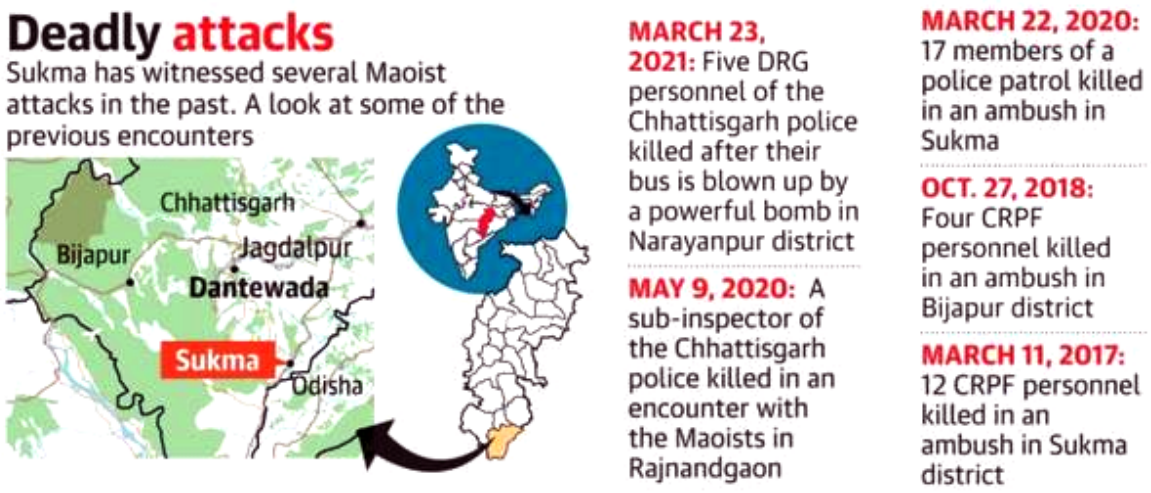
Why in News

A team of security forces was attacked by a **People's Liberation Guerilla Army (PLGA)** unit in the Tarrem area near the **Sukma-Bijapur district border, Chhattisgarh**. Several security personnel were killed and many were injured.

> PLGA was founded in 2000. It has been declared as a terrorist organisation and banned under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act-1967 (UAPA)**.



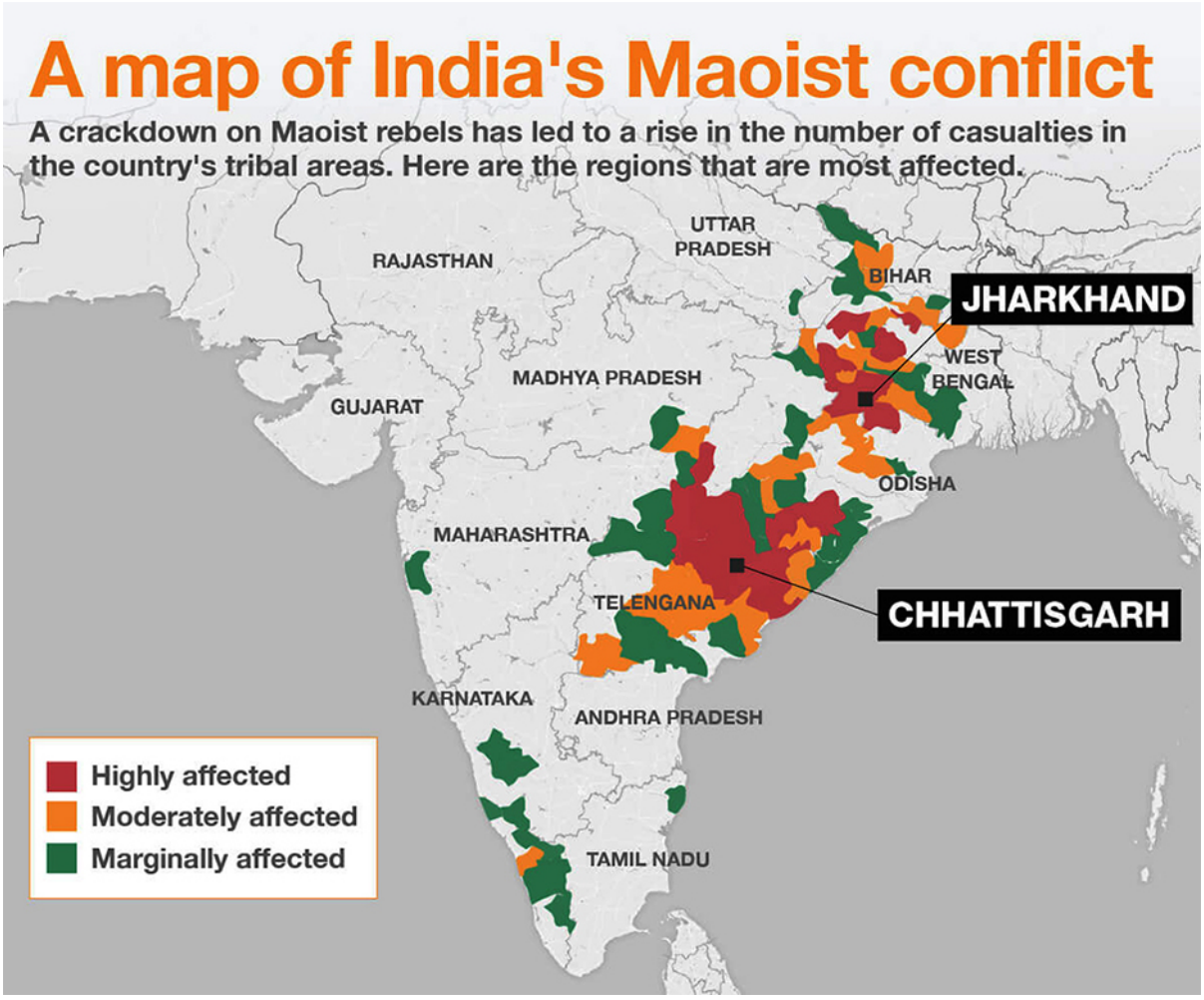
Key Points

- **About the Sukma District:**
    - Located in the **southern tip of the state of Chhattisgarh,** the district was carved out of Dantewada in the year 2012.
    - It is covered with the **semi-tropical forest** and is a mainland of tribal community **Gond**.
    - One major river that flows through the district is **Sabari (a tributary of Godavari river).**
    - Over a few decades, this region has become a fostering ground for **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)** activities.
        - Uneven terrains and the tricky geographic locations made this region a safer hideout for the LWE activists.
- **Left Wing Extremism in India:**
    - **Left-wing extremists,** popularly known as Maoists worldwide and as Naxalites in India.
    - The **term Naxalism** derives its name from the village **Naxalbari of West Bengal.** It **originated as a rebellion against local landlords** who bashed a peasant over a land dispute.
        - The rebellion was **initiated in 1967,** with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants under the leadership of Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal.
    - The movement has **spread across the Eastern India in less developed areas** of states such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
    - It is considered that **Naxals support Maoist political sentiments and ideology.**
        - Maoism is **a form of communism developed by Mao Tse Tung.** It is a doctrine to capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.

- **Reasons for Left Wing Extremism:**
  - **Tribal Discontent:**
    - The **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** has been used to target tribals, who depend on forest produce for their living.
    - **Massive displacement of tribal population** in the naxalism-affected states due to development projects, mining operations and other reasons.
  - **Easy Target for Maoists:** Such people who do not have any source of living are taken into naxalism by Maoists.

    Maoists provide arms and ammunition and money to such people.
  - **Gaps in the Socio-Economic system of the Country:**
    - Government measures its success on the basis of the number of violent attacks rather than the development done in the naxal-affected areas.
    - Absence of strong **technical intelligence to fight** with naxalites.
    - **Infrastructural problems,** for instance, some villages are not yet connected properly with any communication network.
  - **No Follow-Up from Administration:** It is seen that even after police take hold of a region, administration fails to provide essential services to the people of that region.
  - **Confusion** over tackling naxalism as a **social issue or as a security threat.**

- **Government Initiatives to Fight LWE:**
  - **Greyhounds:** It was raised in 1989 as an elite anti-naxal force.
  - **Operation Green Hunt:** It was started in 2009-10 and massive deployment of security forces was done in the naxal-affected areas.
  - **LWE Mobile Tower Project:** To improve mobile connectivity in the LWE areas, the Government in 2014, approved installation of mobile towers in LWE affected States.
  - **Aspirational Districts Programme:** Launched in 2018, it **aims to rapidly transform the districts** that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.
  - **SAMADHAN:**
    It stands for
    - 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, and
      - N- No access to Financing.
    - This doctrine is the **one-stop solution for the LWE problem.** It encompasses the entire strategy of government from **short-term policy to long-term policy** formulated at different levels.



Way Forward

- Though the **number of incidents of LWE violence has come down** in the recent past, **continued efforts and focus are needed** in eliminating such groups.
- Government needs to ensure two things; **security of the peace-loving people and the development of the naxalism-affected regions.**
- **Centre and states** should continue with their **coordinated efforts in development and security** both where Centre should play a supportive role with state police forces taking the lead.
- Government needs to undertake **technological solutions** such as the **use of drones** to minimize loss of lives of security personnel.

Source:TH