



Maoist Attack in Sukma

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 \(UAPA\)](#).

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Deadly attacks

Sukma has witnessed several Maoist attacks in the past. A look at some of the previous encounters



MARCH 23, 2021: Five DRG personnel of the Chhattisgarh police killed after their bus is blown up by a powerful bomb in Narayanpur district

MAY 9, 2020: A sub-inspector of the Chhattisgarh police killed in an encounter with the Maoists in Rajnandgaon

MARCH 22, 2020: 17 members of a police patrol killed in an ambush in Sukma

OCT. 27, 2018: Four CRPF personnel killed in an ambush in Bijapur district

MARCH 11, 2017: 12 CRPF personnel killed in an ambush in Sukma district

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:**

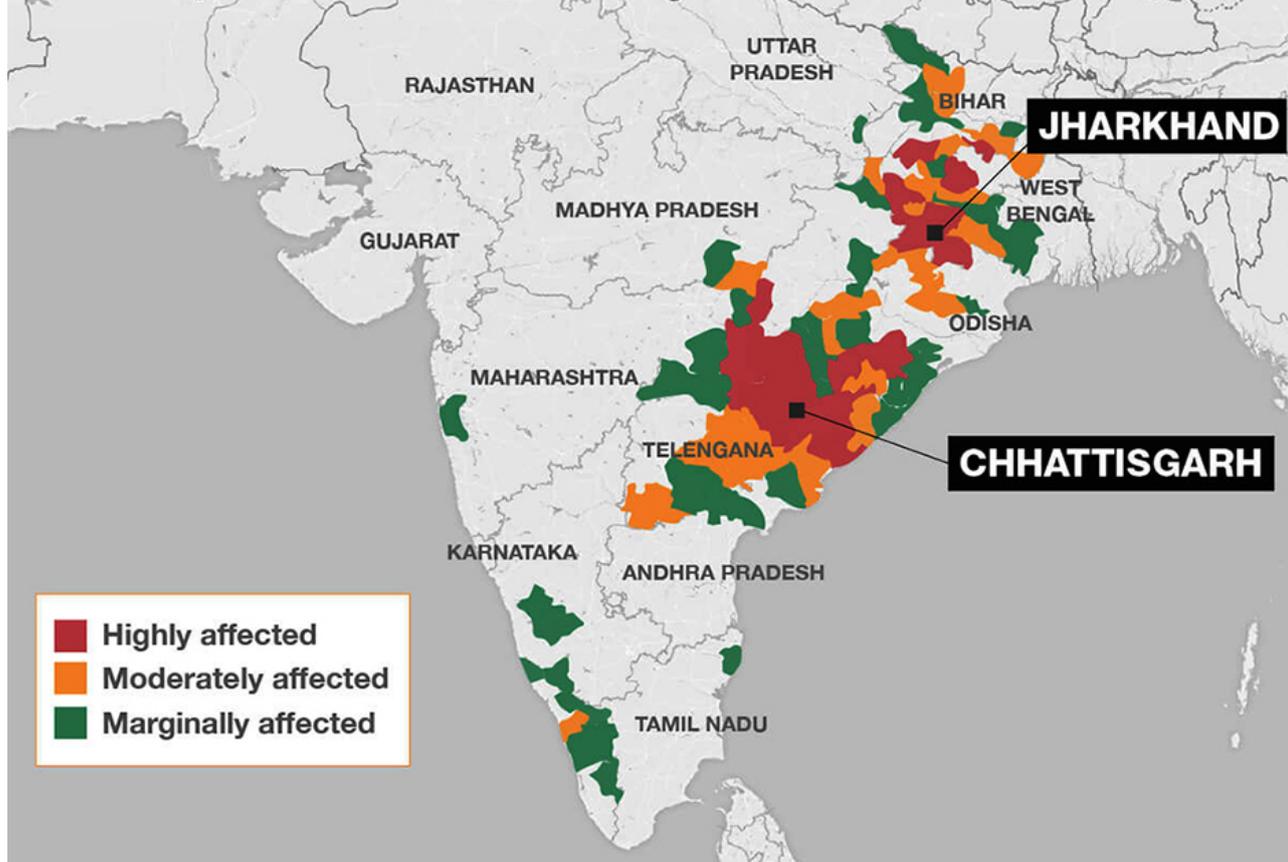
- **Greyhounds:** It was raised in 1989 as an elite anti-naxal force.
- **Operation Green Hunt:** It was started in 2009-10 and massive deployment of security forces was done in the naxal-affected areas.
- **LWE Mobile Tower Project:** To improve mobile connectivity in the LWE areas, the Government in 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.

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.



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](#)

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