



# Maoist Tunnel Found in Chhattisgarh's Bastar

## Why in News?

- Recently, troops returning from an operation in **Maoist-hit Bijapur** discovered a **130 ft-long Viet Cong-style tunnel dug by the insurgents.**

## Key Points

- It's the **first such discovery in Bastar** since the insurgency began nearly two decades ago and **adds a layer of complexity to counter-insurgency operations.**
- District Reserve Guard jawans **found the tunnel near Tadopot village** on the **banks of Indravati**, around 330 km south of Raipur.
- The discovery of such a tunnel indicates that Maoists are changing tactics to tackle the intensification of **security operations and aerial surveillance.**

## 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 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.**