29 Maoists Killed in Massive Chhattisgarh Encounter

Why in News?

According to the sources, in one of the largest operations by security forces in Chhattisgarh,29 **Naxalites** have been killed in the **Kanker area.**

Key Points

- Before this, **Greyhound commandos** had eliminated 30 Naxalites in an operation **in 2016.**
  - In another **operation in 2021**, top Naxal leader along with 25 others was eliminated.
- On April 16, a search operation by a **joint team of Kanker District Reserve Guard (DRG) and** Border Security Force (BSF) was launched in the Chhottebetiya police station limit area in Kanker district.
  - There was an exchange of fire between Maoists and security forces near Binagunda-Koragutta jungles of the Chhottebetiya Police station area.

The Greyhounds

- It is an elite **anti-Maoist force raised in 1989** by IPS officer K.S. Vyas to combat the growing Maoist threat in Andhra Pradesh.
- The members are **well-trained in guerilla and jungle warfare.**
- Members of the force **cannot be over 35 years.**
- Once they cross 35, they are drafted into the civil police until retirement.
- This special police force became the root cause for the downfall of **Left Wing Extremism** in Andhra Pradesh.
- It also inspired other similar forces to fight the Maoists.

Naxalism in India

- The term Naxalism derives its name from the village **Naxalbari of West Bengal.**
- It originated as 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.
- Started in West Bengal, 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.