



SC STRIKES DOWN ARMY'S GENDER-BASED QUOTA FOR JAG RECRUITMENT

Army reserved 6/9 JAG vacancies for men. SC struck down the policy.

- ⌘ JAG (Judge Advocate General) is the Army's legal arm, advising on military law under the Army Act, 1950. JAG officers (commissioned combatants) - can be deployed in combat-support roles during wartime.

Women in India's defence forces grew from 3,000 (2014) to 11,000+ (2025)

SC DIRECTIVE	DETAILS
Common Merit List	Army must prepare a merit-based, single common list for recruitment
Equal Opportunity in Combat-Support Roles	Excluding women from counterinsurgency or counter-terror roles lacks legal basis, violates equality
Operational Capability	Highlighted examples of women excelling in high-risk roles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh (Pilot of Rafale Jet)• Major Gopika Bhatti (Convoy Command in Militant-prone areas)• Colonel Anshu Jamwal (UN Peacekeeping Missions in combat zones)

Past Rulings of SC

CASE	YEAR	OUTCOME
Secretary, Ministry of Defence vs. Babita Puniya	2020	Permanent Commission for women in Army
Kush Kalra vs. Union of India	2021	Women allowed to enter NDA

Keywords for Mains

- ⌘ **"Diversity Strengthens Strategy"**: Gender inclusion improves operational effectiveness.
- ⌘ **"Peace Through Inclusion"**: Women's role in humanitarian, peacekeeping, and civic operations.
- ⌘ **"Combat-Ready Equality"**: Women eligible for all combat-support roles.
- ⌘ **"Merit Over Gender"**: Selection in armed forces based on capability, not sex.

During **Operation Sindoor**, **Col. Sofia Qureshi** and **Wg Cdr. Vyomika Singh** demonstrated leadership, making a significant social impact

FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS (FTSCS)

As of June 2025, FTSCs in Delhi have disposed of only 43% of rape and child sexual abuse cases.

FTSC Scheme

- ⌘ **Overview:**
 - ❖ Centrally Sponsored scheme (2019) under Ministry of Law & Justice.
 - ❖ Funded by the Nirbhaya Fund.
 - ❖ Each FTSC to dispose of at least 165 cases annually.
 - ❖ Extended till March 2026, aiming for 790 FTSCs.
- ⌘ **Background:**
 - ❖ SC (July 2019) directed exclusive special courts for districts with >100 POCSO cases (Case Backlogs).
 - ❖ POCSO Act, 2012 mandates that Special Courts must conclude trials within 1 year from the date of taking cognizance of the offence (Timely Justice)
- ⌘ **Performance:**
 - ❖ 725 FTSCs operational (including 392 POCSO courts) in 29 States/UTs.
 - ❖ 96% disposal rate in 2024.

Challenges

- ⌘ **Insufficient FTSCs:** Only **700 out of 1,023** sanctioned FTSCs are functional; around **1,000 more** needed to clear backlog.
- ⌘ **Quality Concerns:** Seen as a 'political gimmick'; fast-tracking one case delays others due to judge reallocation.
- ⌘ **Lack of Victim-Friendly Facilities:** Absence of **Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centers (VWDCs)** and **female prosecutors** or counselors in many FTSCs.

Suggestions

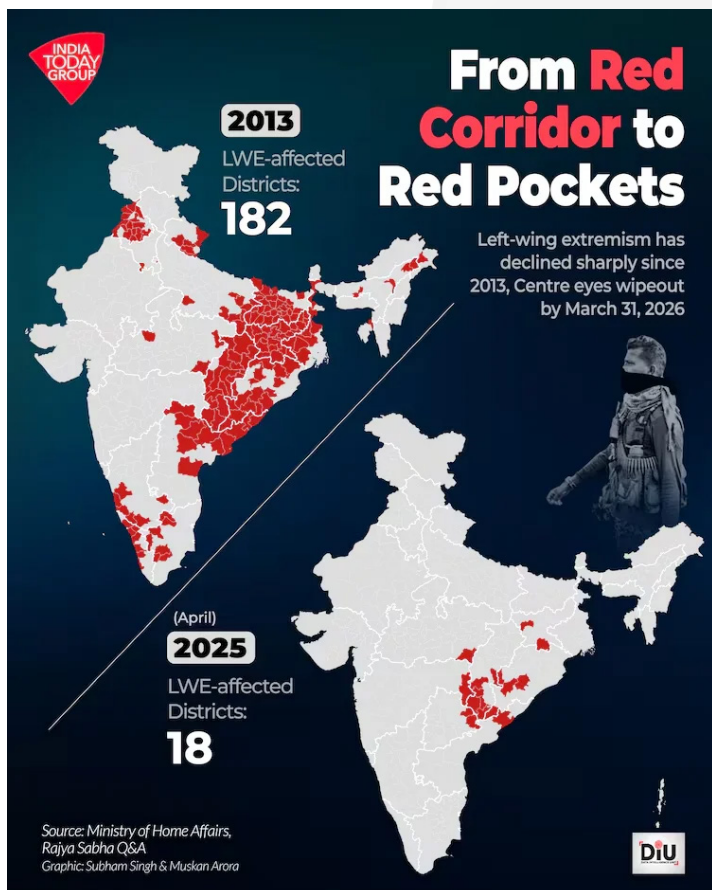
- ⌘ **Judicial Improvements:** Appoint **Special Judges for POCSO cases**, provide sensitization training, and ensure female public prosecutors.
- ⌘ **Victim Support:** Establish **VWDCs** in all districts; deploy **child psychologists** to assist during trials.
- ⌘ **Technology:** Upgrade courtrooms with **audio-video recording, LCD projectors**, and **e-filing** systems.
- ⌘ **Forensic Strengthening:** Expand forensic labs and train staff to expedite DNA reports and clear pending cases.

DISMANTLING THE ROOTS OF LEFT WING EXTREMISM

The Red Corridor has contracted from 180 districts at its peak (late 2000s) to just 18 districts due to targeted development, sustained security operations, and erosion of grassroots support.

Key Points

- ⌘ **Drop in LWE Incidents:** ↓ by over **50%** between **2004-14** and **2014-23**.
- ⌘ **Target:** India aims to **eliminate Naxalism by March 2026**.
- ⌘ **Example of Recent Operation:** **Karreguttalu Hill operation (Chhattisgarh 2025)** led to elimination of key Maoist operatives.
- ⌘ **Recent Initiatives:** Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (Centre - 2024), New Maoist Rehabilitation Policy by Chhattisgarh



- S** Smart Leadership
- A** Aggressive strategy
- M** Motivation and training
- A** Actionable intelligence
- D** Dashboard based KPIs
- H** Harness technology
- A** Action plan for each theatre
- N** No access to financing

8 Pillars of fighting Maoism

Keywords for Mains

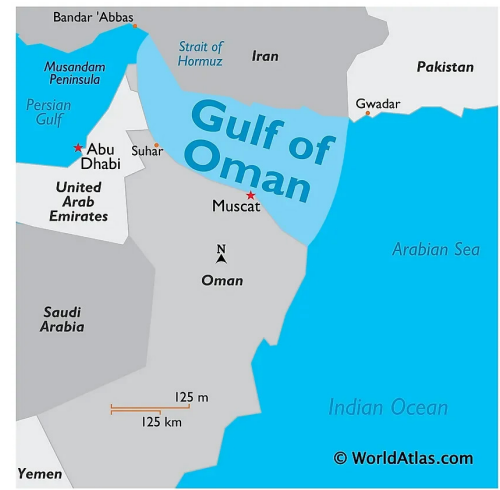
- ⌘ **"Development Defeats Dissent"** – Accelerated infrastructure, livelihoods, and welfare.
- ⌘ **"Security with Sensitivity"** – Balanced use of force (including smart policing) with respect for rights and local culture.
- ⌘ **"Connectivity as Counter-Insurgency"** – Roads, telecom, and digital access as enablers of integration.
- ⌘ **"Education Ends Extremism"** – Schools and skill training to break recruitment cycles.

INDIA-OMAN CEPA NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED

India concluded negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Oman, aimed at boosting trade and investment.

CEPA VS FTA

- ✎ CEPA is **more comprehensive and ambitious than traditional FTAs**.
- ✎ **FTA focuses mainly on goods**, while CEPA covers a wide range of areas like services, investment, competition, government procurement, and dispute resolution.
- ✎ **CEPA goes deeper into regulatory aspects** of trade compared to an FTA.



India-Oman Relations

Strategic Partnership

- ✎ Diplomatic ties since **1955**, upgraded to **strategic partnership** in **2008**.

Multilateral Cooperation

- ✎ Oman is key in the **GCC**, **Arab League**, and **IORA** (Indian Ocean Rim Association).

Trade & Economic Relations

- ✎ Oman = **India's 3rd largest export destination in the GCC** after UAE and Saudi Arabia.
- ✎ **India's exports**: Light oils, rice, machinery, metals.
- ✎ **India's imports**: Crude oil, LNG, fertilizers, chemicals.

INDIA'S FIRST EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE CONSTELLATION

India to launch its first **fully indigenous EO satellite constellation** under a **Public-Private Partnership**.

- ⌘ **PixxelSpace-led** consortium selected by **IN-SPACe** to build **12 satellites over 5 years**.
- ⌘ **Constellation** will include **high-resolution**, **SAR** and **hyper-spectral satellites** for wide coverage.
- ⌘ Will ensure **data sovereignty** and **reduce dependence on foreign satellite data**.

IN-SPACe is an independent agency under **Department of Space** that enables private sector participation in space activities, acting as a link between ISRO and non-governmental entities

DHIRIO BULL FIGHTING OF GOA

Demand to legalize Dhirio or Dhiri bull fighting in Goa for cultural and tourism reasons.

- ⌘ Traditional Goan sport from the Portuguese era.
- ⌘ Banned by Bombay High Court in 1997 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 - upheld by the Supreme Court in 1997.

Jallikattu (bull-taming sport of Tamil Nadu) was banned by SC in 2014 for animal cruelty, but later upheld by SC in 2023 as part of Tamil Nadu's culture.