



Bastar Pandum Programme

Why in News?

- The **Union Home Minister** addressed the **Bastar Pandum festival in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh**, celebrating tribal heritage while highlighting ongoing efforts to eradicate Naxalism and ensure holistic development of the region.

Key Points

- **Cultural Recognition and Bastar Pandum:**
 - The Bastar area of Chhattisgarh is known for its tribal culture, tradition, customs and diverse tribal cuisine.
 - Bastar Pandum is being organized to revive this rich tribal art and culture of Bastar and bring it in front of the country and abroad.
 - Under this three-day program, competitions were organized in seven disciplines including **tribal dance, folk song, tribal drama, musical instruments, costumes, jewelry, crafts and cuisine**.
 - It will be celebrated in twelve categories next year, and tribal people from across the country will participate.
- **Fight Against Naxalism:** The address highlighted:
 - **Government Target:** **Naxalism**-free India by March 2026.
 - **Village Incentive Scheme:** Villages declared Naxal-free will receive **Rs. 1 crore** as development fund.
- **Governance & Development Initiatives:**
 - Promotion of Tribal Identity and History: **GI Tagging** and "**Vocal for Local**" initiative for tribal products.
 - **National Recognition of Tribal Freedom Fighters:**
 - Honouring **Veer Gundadhar** of Bastar
 - **Birsa Munda's birth anniversary** declared as **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**
 - The 150th anniversary year as **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsha** was celebrated on 15 November 2024.