

Anti-Maoist Operation at Kareguttalu Hill

Why in News?

The <u>Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)</u> and Chhattisgarh Police recently concluded a **21-day intensive anti-Maoist operation** at the **Kareguttalu Hill (KGH)**, situated on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border.

This operation marks a significant breakthrough in India's ongoing struggle to eradicate <u>Left Wing</u>
 <u>Extremism (LWE)</u> and achieve a Naxal-free India by 31st March, 2026.

Key Points

Strategic Importance of Kareguttalu Hill

- Kareguttalu Hill, a rugged, hilly terrain about 60 km long and 5-20 km wide, had become a stronghold and unified command centre for major Maoist outfits like the <u>People's Liberation</u> Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1, thier most potent military formation.
- The region acted as a refuge for 300-350 armed Maoist cadres, including weapon manufacturing units of the Technical Department, facilitating prolonged insurgency in the area.
- The Maoists considered it impregnable due to its geography and proximity to two states (Chhattisgarh & Telangana), complicating security forces' operations.

Objectives and Outcomes of the Operation

- The **primary aim was to dislocate the top Maoist leadership** concentrated at Kareguttalu Hill and dismantle their unified military structure.
 - It is considered the "largest comprehensive and coordinated anti-Maoist operation" in Chhattisgarh to date, reflecting increased capacity and resolve of security forces to reclaim inaccessible Maoist bastions.
 - Similar operations in other previously inaccessible regions, such as Chakarbanda Hilly Region and Boodha Pahad signal a broader trend of reversing Maoist territorial dominance.
- The operation witnessed 21 encounters over 21 days, resulting in the elimination of several Maoists, including women cadres.
- Destruction of weapon manufacturing units was a major outcome, curbing Maoist capabilities to launch attacks on security installations, particularly in Bastar.
- The operation involved coordinated efforts of multiple units such as the District Reserve
 Guard, Bastar Fighters, <u>Special Task Force</u>, CRPF's <u>Commando Battalion for Resolute Action</u>
 (<u>CoBRA</u>) unit, and State Police, showcasing inter-agency synergy.

State PCS Course



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People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA)

- The PLGA was formed on 2nd December, 2000.
- It operates as the armed wing of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), a banned political organisation in India.
- The group seeks to overthrow the government through a prolonged civil war.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- Inception and Growth: The CRPF was raised in the year 1939 as the Crown Representative Police in response to political turmoil and unrest in the princely states.
 - In the year 1949, the name of this force was changed to Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Home Minister, envisioned a multifaceted role for the CRPF and aligned its functions with the emerging needs of the newly independent nation.
- **Special Units:** The CRPF has several special units, including the Rapid Action Force (RAF), CoBRA, VIP security wing and women battalion.

LEFT WING

ABOUT_

- Originated: 1967 uprising in Naxalbari, West Bengal
- Aim: Societal and political change through revolutionary methods

IDEOLOGY_

- Overthrow central government through armed revolution (Violence and guerilla warfare)
- Establishment of a communist state based on Maoist principles

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE _

- Massive displacement of tribal population;
- Due to development projects, mining operations

 Tribal dissatisfaction; Forest (Conservation)

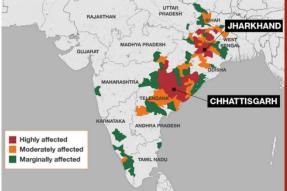
 Act 1980 prohibits tribes from harvesting forest resources
- Poverty and lack of sustainable means;
 Driving factors for joining Naxalite movement
- Lack of effective governance; Insufficient technical intelligence against Naxalism

STATES AFFECTED BY LWE

- Red Corridor: Experiences severe Naxalism— Maoist insurgency
- Schhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala

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.



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO CURB LWE_

- National Policy and Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism 2015
- SAMADHAN Doctrine
 - **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
 - N-No access to Financing
- Special Central Assistance (SCA) in Public Infrastructure and Services
- Operation Green Hunt
- Greyhounds (Elite commando force in Andhra Pradesh)
- Sastariya Battalion (local recruits in Chhattisgarh who know the language and terrain that could generate intelligence and conduct operations)

Countering Naxalism - Bandyopadhyay Committee (2006)

- Highlighted the lack of governance, economic, socio-political and cultural discrimination against the tribals
- Recommended tribal-friendly land acquisition and rehabilitation





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