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STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

CHHATTISGARH

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Muria Tribe

Why in News?

According to the reports, **Muria tribes** fled Dandakaranya region in Chhattisgarh during the conflict between **left wing extremists** and State-sponsored **Salwa Judum**, and settled in the reserve forests of Andhra Pradesh.

- However, their access to primary education, safe drinking water, and social welfare benefits remains a dream, and now, they are at risk of displacement.

Key Points

- The settlement lies within **'India's Red Corridor'** on the Andhra Pradesh-Chhattisgarh border hit by **Naxalism**, and stands as an oasis within a reserved forest, protected by stringent laws prohibiting settlement and deforestation.
 - They fled from the districts of Sukma, Dantewada, and Bijapur in Dandakaranya region of Chhattisgarh, settled in the erstwhile East and West Godavari districts.
- The Muria settlements are known as habitations of **Internally Displaced People (IDPs)**, whose population is around **6,600 in AP**, and the Murias here are referred to as **'Gutti Koyas'** by the native tribes.
- According to a survey done by a group of **Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)**, there are 1,621 Muria households in the State.

Salwa Judum

- It is a **group of tribal persons** mobilized for resistance against outlawed armed **naxalites**. The group was reportedly backed by government machinery in Chhattisgarh.
- In **2011, Supreme Court of India** ruled against arming civilians in this manner banned Salwa-Judum and **directed Chhattisgarh government to disband any militia force** founded to combat Maoist guerrillas.

Muria Tribe

- The Muria are an **indigenous Adivasi**, scheduled tribe **Dravidian community** of the **Bastar district** of Chhattisgarh, India. They are part of the **Gondi people**.
- They speak **Koya**, which is a Dravidian language.

- They have progressive perspective towards marriage and life as a whole. The biggest example being the **Ghotul (a commune or dormitory)**, which is meant to create an environment for Muria youth to understand their sexuality.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

- IDPs are persons or **groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee** or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order **to avoid the effects of armed conflict**, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border.

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.

Note:

- 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.

Voting To Be Held On 19th April in Bastar

Why in News?

In **Bastar parliamentary constituency of Chhattisgarh**, voting will be held on **April 19** under the **first phase of Lok Sabha elections**.

Key Points

- In this **Left Wing Extremism** affected constituency, about two thousand polling stations have been set up. More than 200 of these polling stations have been shifted due to security reasons.
- The **Election Commission** has made all preparations to conduct the voting in a fair and peaceful manner.
- Under this Lok Sabha constituency, there are six polling stations in Bijapur district where people will be able to vote again after about twenty years.

Left Wing Extremism

- Also known as left-wing terrorism or radical left-wing movements, refers to political ideologies and groups that advocate for significant **societal and political change through revolutionary means**.
- LWE groups may target **government institutions, law enforcement agencies**, or private property to further their agenda.
- The LWE movement in India originated in a **1967 uprising in Naxalbari, West Bengal**.

Election Commission of India (ECI)

About

- **Autonomous Constitutional Authority** - Administers Union/state election
 - LS, RS, State LA, the offices of the President and VP
- **Est'd - 25th Jan 1950** (National Voters' Day)



Constitutional Provisions

Part XV - Article 324 to 329

Structure

- 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners **appointed by President**
- **Tenure- 6 years, or up to the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier
- Retiring ECs – **eligible for further appointment by the govt.**
- **Removal of CEC-** Resolution on the **ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity**, with majority of 2/3rd members present and voting, supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house



Major Roles and Responsibilities



- Determining Electoral Constituencies
- Preparing/Revising electoral rolls
- Notifying the schedules and dates of elections
- **Registering political parties and granting them the status of national or state parties**
- Issuing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for political parties
- Advising the President on matters concerning the **disqualification of MPs**

Challenges

- Truncated Tenure of CEC
- Executive Influence in Appointments
- Dependence on Centre for Finance
- Lack of Independent Staff



Note:

Mahanadi River

Why in News?

Recently, a boat accident on **Mahanadi river** led to the death of seven people. Chief Minister has announced an **ex-gratia** amount of **₹4 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased**,

Key Points

➤ About:

- The Mahanadi River system is the **third largest of peninsular India after Godavari and Krishna**, and the **largest river of Odisha state**.
- The catchment area of the river **extends to Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra**.
- Its basin is **bounded by the Central India hills on the north**, by the **Eastern Ghats on the south and east** and by the **Maikala range in the west**.

➤ Source:

- It rises from a place near **Sihawa, near Raipur in the state of Chhattisgarh** to the south of Amarkantak.

➤ Major Tributaries:

- The **Seonath, the Hasdeo, the Mand** and the **Ib** joins Mahanadi from left whereas the **Ong, the Tel and the Jonk** joins it from right.

➤ Mahanadi River Dispute:

- The Central Government constituted **Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal in 2018**.

➤ Major Dams/Projects on Mahanadi:

- **Hirakud Dam**: This is the longest dam of India.
- Ravishankar Sagar, Dudhawa Reservoir, Sondur Reservoir, Hasdeo Bango and Tandula are other major projects.

➤ Urban Centres:

- Three important urban centres in the basin are **Raipur, Durg and Cuttack**.

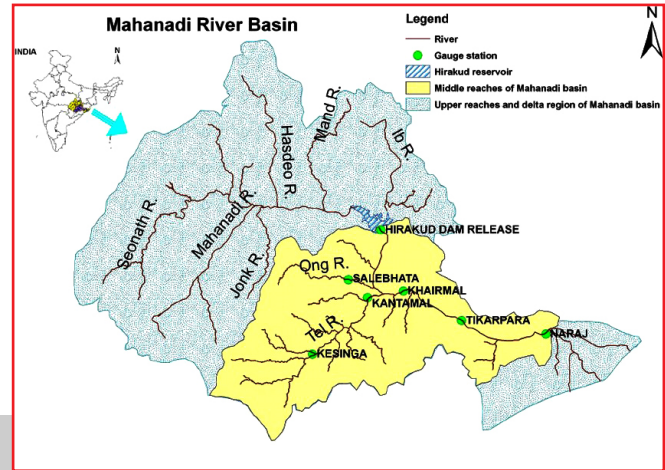
➤ Industries:

- Mahanadi basin, because of its rich mineral resource and adequate power resource, **has a favourable industrial climate**.
 - **Iron and Steel plant** at Bhilai
 - **Aluminium factories** at Hirakud and Korba

- **Paper mill** near Cuttack

- **Cement factory** at Sundargarh.

- Other industries based primarily on agricultural produce are **sugar and textile mills**.
- **Mining of coal, iron and manganese** are other industrial activities.



Naxalites Surrender in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

According to the sources, **18 Naxalites**, including a militia platoon section commander and three women, **surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada**.

Key Points

- They were **part of Bhairamgarh, and Malanger area committees** of the **Maoists** in south Bastar.
- According to the sources, these cadres were tasked with digging roads, felling trees to block roads and putting up posters and banners during shutdowns called by **Naxalites**.
 - They will be provided facilities as per the **government's surrender and rehabilitation policy**.
 - With this, 738 Naxalites, including 177 of them carrying rewards on their heads, have so far joined the mainstream in Dantewada district.
- Security forces have implemented a **stringent enforcement measure on Naxalites** in Chhattisgarh's **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-hit districts**.

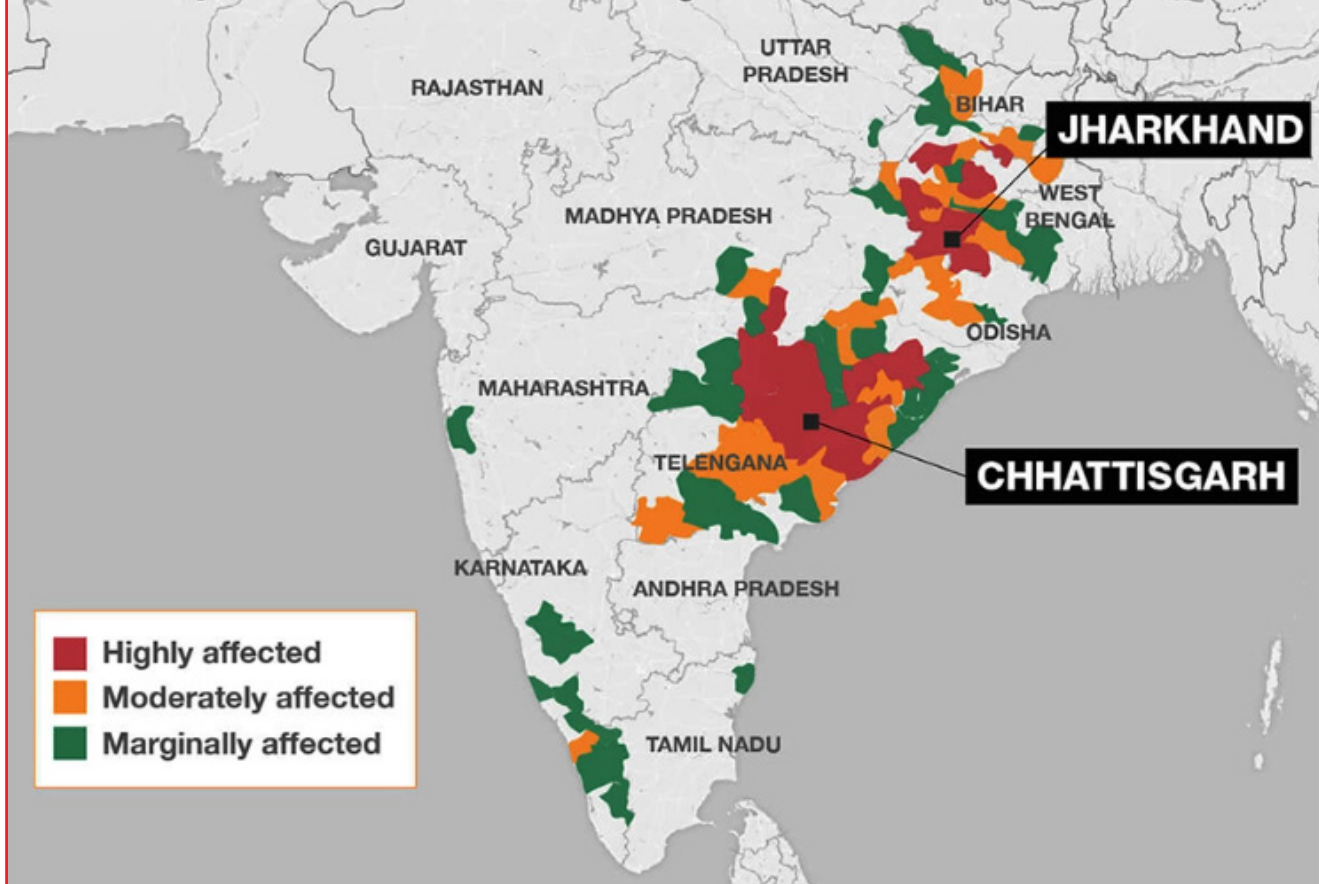
Note:

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)

- It refers to political ideologies and groups that **advocate for significant societal and political change through revolutionary means.**
- LWE groups may target government institutions, law enforcement agencies, or private property to further their agenda.
- The LWE movement in India originated in a **1967 uprising in Naxalbari, West Bengal.**
- Status in India:
 - The Union Home Ministry has stated that violence related to LWE had **come down by 76% in 2022 as compared to 2010.**
 - Also, there has been a decrease in the geographical spread of violence as only **46 districts reported LWE-related violence in 2021**, compared to **96 districts in 2010.**

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.



Note:



Earthquake In Chhattisgarh


Why in News?

Recently, a light magnitude of 2.6 **earthquake** hit 1.3 km away from Jagdalpur, Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. It had a very shallow depth of 5 km and was felt widely in the area.

Key Points

- **National Center for Seismology** (under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**) is the **nodal agency** of the Government of India for monitoring of earthquake activity in the country.
- Currently, **India has only 115 earthquake observatories**.
 - The most important aspect of the Earthquake Observatory is to be able to accurately predict the time of the earthquake.

EARTHQUAKE



ABOUT

- ▣ Shaking of the earth; caused due to release of energy, generating **seismic waves** in all directions

EARTHQUAKE WAVES

- ▣ **Body Waves:** Move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth
 - **P Waves:** Move faster, First to arrive at surface, Similar to sound waves, Travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials
 - **S Waves:** Arrive at surface with some time lag, Travel only through solid materials
- ▣ **Surface Waves:** Last to report on seismographs, More destructive, Cause displacement of rocks
 - **Love Waves:** Same motion as S-waves (horizontal) without vertical displacement, Sideways motion perpendicular to the direction of propagation, Faster than Rayleigh waves
 - **Rayleigh Waves:** Cause the ground to shake in an elliptical pattern, Spread out the most of all seismic waves, Move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane

CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

- ▣ **Release of energy along a Fault/Fault Zones** (break in the crustal rocks)
- ▣ Movement of **tectonic plates** (most common)
- ▣ **Volcanic eruption** (stress changes in rock-injection/withdrawal of magma)
- ▣ **Human activities** (mining, explosion of chemical/nuclear devices etc.)

MEASURING EARTHQUAKE

- ▣ **Seismometers** - Measures seismic waves
- ▣ **Richter Scale** - Measures magnitude (energy released; range: 0-10)
- ▣ **Mercalli** - Measures intensity (visible damage; range: 1-12)

DISTRIBUTION

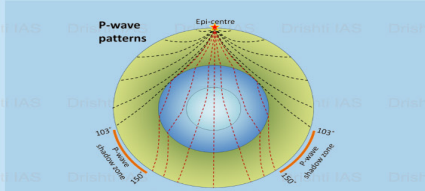
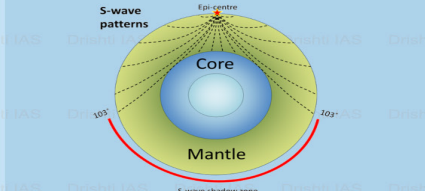
- ▣ **Circum-Pacific Belt** - 81% of earthquakes
- ▣ **Alpine Earthquake Belt** - 17% of the largest earthquakes
- ▣ **Mid-Atlantic Ridge** - Mostly submerged underwater

HYPOCENTER

- ▣ Location where the earthquake starts (below earth's surface)

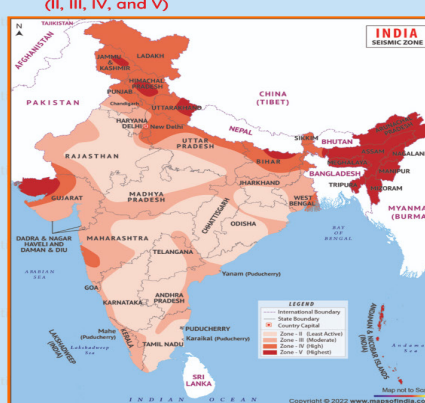
EPICENTER


- ▣ Location right above the Hypocenter (on the earth's surface)

EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

- ▣ India is **one of the highly earthquake affected countries** due to the presence of technically active mountains - the Himalayas.
- ▣ India has been divided into **4 seismic zones** (II, III, IV, and V)





Note:

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

Why in News?

Recently, **the Supreme Court** expressed displeasure over the failure of some states in framing the requisite rules in implementation of the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**.

Key Points

- According to the Act, the **rule-making powers of the state** include the formation of a committee for research on disability, the composition of district-level committees and prescribing **salaries, allowances** and other **conditions of services** of the state commissioner and creating funds for persons with disabilities.
- The apex court observed that it had passed several orders calling for proper implementation of the Act but several states and Union Territories were yet to fulfill their obligations.
 - **States and UTs like** Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have **not appointed the state commissioners**.
 - While Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, West Bengal, Delhi, Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh have **not yet constituted the prescribed funds**.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

- The Act was **passed by the Parliament of India** to give effect to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**, which India ratified in 2007.
- The Act replaces the earlier **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**, which was considered inadequate and outdated in addressing the needs and challenges of persons with disabilities in India.
- One of the major changes introduced by the Act is the expansion of the definition and classification of disabilities.
- The **Act recognises 21 types of disabilities**, as compared to 7 types under the previous law. These are:
 - Blindness, Low-vision, Leprosy cured persons,

- Hearing impairment (deaf and hard of hearing), Locomotor disability, Dwarfism,
- Intellectual disability, Mental illness, Autism spectrum disorder,
- Cerebral palsy, Muscular dystrophy, Chronic neurological conditions,
- Specific learning disabilities, Multiple sclerosis, Speech and language disability,
- Thalassemia, Hemophilia, Sickle cell disease,
- Multiple disabilities including deafblindness, Acid attack victim, and Parkinson's disease.

- It empowers the central government to notify any other category of specified disability.
- It defines a person with a disability as a person with a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others.
- It **defines a person with benchmark disability** as a person with not less than 40% of a specified disability where a specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes a person with a disability where a specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority.
- It recognises persons with disabilities have high support needs and need intensive support from others for their daily activities.

Chhattisgarh Activist to Receive Green Nobel

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convener of **Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan (CBA)**, Alok Shukla has been selected for prestigious international level award **Goldman Environmental Prize 2024**, also known as the **Green Nobel**.

Key Points

- He is selected for his struggles and initiatives to protect the environment including **Hasdeo Arand**, one of the largest dense forests in central India spanning up to 170,000 hectares, having **23 coal blocks into it**. He will be felicitated in the United States.

Note:



- He successfully **campaigned and mobilized the indigenous communities** and those affected by coal mining to campaign **against Adani mining to save 445,000 acres of biodiversity-rich forests** from 21 planned coal mines in the tribal dominated state Chhattisgarh.
 - In 2009, the environment ministry notified Hasdeo Arand to be a **“No-Go” zone for mining** due to its rich forest cover but opened it again for mining. The CBA continuously fought to make Hasdeo Arand mining free.

Hasdeo Arand Forest

- Hasdeo Arand, a sprawling forest in the **northern part of Chhattisgarh is known for its biodiversity and its coal deposits.**

- The forest falls under **Korba, Sujapur and Surguja districts** with significant tribal population.
- The **Hasdeo river, a tributary of Mahanadi**, flows through it.
- Hasdeo Arand is the **largest un-fragmented forest in Central India consisting of pristine Sal (Shorea robusta) and teak forests.**
- It is a **noted migratory corridor** and has a significant presence of elephants.

Green Nobel Prize

- The **Goldman Environmental Prize** (also known as **Green Nobel Prize**) recognizes **individuals** for sustained and significant efforts **to protect and enhance the natural environment**, often at great personal risk.
- It has been awarded **annually by the Goldman Environmental Foundation since 1990.**
- It honours people from the world’s six continental regions: **Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America.**
- The Goldman Prize views **“grassroots” leaders** as those involved in local efforts, where positive change is created through community or citizen participation in the issues that affect them.
- Goldman Prize recipients are usually people from isolated villages or inner cities who choose to take great personal risks to safeguard the environment.
- The **winners are announced on Earth Day** which is observed on **22nd April every year.**



Note:

