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CHHATTISGARH

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Panchayat Elections in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

According to [the Chhattisgarh State Election Commission](#), the state is going to conduct [elections for urban and panchayat bodies](#), including municipal corporations, in **February 2025**.

Key Points

- **About the Election:**
 - Elections for 173 civic bodies, including 10 municipal corporations, 49 municipal councils, and 114 Nagar Panchayats, will take place in a single phase on 11th February 2025.
 - The **three-tier Panchayat elections** will be held in three phases: 17, 20, and 23 February 2025.
 - With the announcement of the election schedule, the **model code of conduct** has come into effect for the civic and panchayat bodies.
- **Voting Method and Election Type:**
 - Civic elections will be conducted using **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)**, while panchayat elections will use **ballot papers**.
 - Civic body elections will be held along party lines, while panchayat elections will be conducted on a no-party basis.

State Election Commissions (SECs)

- The State Election Commission has been entrusted with the function of **conducting free, fair and impartial elections to the local bodies in the state**.
- **Article 243K(1):** It states that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats (**Municipalities under Article 243ZA**) shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor.
- **Article 243K(2):** It states that the **tenure and appointment will be directed as per the law made by the state legislature**. However, the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his/her office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of a High Court.

Maoists Encountered in Indravati National Park

Why in News?

Security forces killed five **Maoists** during an encounter inside **Indravati National Park** in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district.

Key Points

- **Operations in Indravati National Park:**
 - Multiple security teams reached the **Bandepara-Koranjed area**, after receiving intelligence about **Maoist activity**.
 - Security forces identified the Maoists as members of **the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA)** based on their uniforms.
- **Weapons Recovered:**
 - Recovered items included a **self-loading rifle**, a **barrel grenade launcher**, a 12-bore gun, a Bharmar gun, **explosives**, and **other weapons**.

Indravati National Park

- **About:**
 - It is situated in the **Bijapur district** of Chhattisgarh.
 - It was **established in 1981** and **declared a tiger reserve in 1983** under India's **Project Tiger**.
 - It is **named after the Indravati River**, which flows from east to west and forms the reserve's northern boundary with Maharashtra.
- **Vegetation:**
 - Comprises three major forest types:
 - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest with Teak.
 - Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest without Teak.
 - Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest.
- **Flora:**
 - Common tree species include **teak, achar, karra, kullu, shisham, semal, haldu, arjun, bel, and jamun**.
- **Fauna:**
 - Hosts one of the last populations of **rare wild buffalo**.
 - Other species include **Nilgai, Black Buck, Sambar, Gaur, Tiger, Leopard, Chital, Sloth Bears, and more**.

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Note:

Forest Ecosystem and Green GDP

Why in News?

Recently, Chhattisgarh became the first state in India to link its forest ecosystem to the **Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP)**.

- This approach highlights the **economic and environmental value of forests**, focusing biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.

Key Points

➤ Goals and Design of the Action Plan:

- The plan ensures **economic progress while preserving the environment** for future generations.
- Key benefits like **climate regulation, soil enrichment, water purification, and carbon absorption** will now be integrated into the state's economic planning.

➤ Importance of Forest Resources in Chhattisgarh:

- With **44% of its land covered by forests**, Chhattisgarh's natural resources are vital to millions.
- Forest products such as **tendu leaves, lac, honey, and medicinal plants** significantly boost the rural economy.
- Forests absorb **carbon dioxide**, playing a crucial role in combating **climate change**.

➤ Alignment with National Vision:

- The initiative aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of a **"Developed India 2047."**
- The plan emphasizes both the **economic and environmental benefits of forests** in **budget planning** and policy-making.

➤ Findings from ISFR Report:

- **The India State of Forest Report (ISFR)** highlights a significant rise in forest and tree cover in Chhattisgarh, attributed to **biodiversity protection and conservation efforts**.

➤ Cultural and Employment Significance:

- Forests in Chhattisgarh hold **religious and cultural significance**, deeply tied to tribal traditions and spiritual solace for local communities.
- Forests contribute to employment through **eco-tourism** activities such as jungle safaris and camping in **national parks**.

➤ Ecosystem Services Valuation:

- To quantify the **economic value of forests**, scientists will assess their ecosystem services, including:
 - **Clean Air:**
 - **Quantifying CO2 absorption by trees** and its conversion into oxygen.
 - Adding its **market value to Green GDP**.
 - **Water Conservation:**
 - Measuring the **economic impact of water provided by forests** through rivers and springs.
 - **Biodiversity:**
 - Valuing the role of forest fauna in maintaining ecological balance and aiding agriculture.

Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP)

- **Traditional GDP:** A measure of the **annual value of goods and services** produced within a country, **GDP** has been the global standard since 1944.
 - **Simon Kuznets**, the economist who created **GDP**, stated that **GDP doesn't reflect a nation's true welfare**, as it ignores factors like environmental health and social well-being.
- **Green GDP:** It is a **modified version of traditional GDP** that accounts for the **environmental costs of economic activities**.
 - It incorporates factors such as **natural resource depletion, environmental degradation, and pollution into the economic output**, offering a more comprehensive picture of a nation's true wealth.
- **Need for Green GDP:** Traditional GDP overlooks **sustainability, environmental degradation, and social welfare**. It focuses solely on **economic output** without considering the long-term consequences on the environment.
 - Green GDP, on the other hand, ensures that **economic growth aligns with sustainable practices**, reflecting the true cost of environmental damage and the depletion of natural resources.
- **Formula:**
 - According to the **World Bank**, **Green GDP = NDP (Net Domestic Product) – (Cost of Natural Resource Depletion + Cost of Ecosystem Degradation)**.

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Note:

- Where $NDP = GDP - \text{Depreciation of Produced Assets}$.
- **Cost of Natural Resource Depletion** refers to the value lost due to overuse of natural resources.
- **Cost of Ecosystem Degradation** refers to the value lost from environmental damage such as pollution and deforestation.

Security Personnel Killed in Bijapur

Why in News?

Recently, an **improvised explosive device (IED)** planted by **Maoists** killed eight security personnel and a civilian in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district.

Key Points

- **About the Incident:**
 - The incident occurred when a joint-operation party was returning from an **anti-Naxal operation** in the **Abujhmad forests**.
 - The deceased included members of **the District Reserve Guard (DRG)** and **Bastar Fighters**, both specialised forces combating **left-wing extremism** in the Bastar region.
- **Government Response:**
 - The Union Home Minister expressed deep condolences, vowing to **eliminate Naxalism** by **March 2026**.
 - Chhattisgarh Chief Minister condemned the act, attributing it to Naxalites' frustration with ongoing **counter-insurgency operations**.

LEFT WING EXTREMISM

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
- Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala

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)
- **Bastariya 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

A map of India's Maoist conflict showing highly, moderately, and marginally affected regions. The map highlights areas in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal.

Improvised Explosive Device

- An **improvised explosive device (IED)** is a **homemade bomb** designed to destroy or incapacitate targets, commonly used by **criminals, terrorists, and insurgents in various forms**.
- IEDs can be delivered through multiple means, including vehicles, placement by individuals, or roadside concealment, and **gained prominence during the Iraq War** that began in 2003.

	Common uses	Common form	Known IED use
High explosives			
Ammonium nitrate and fuel oil (ANFO)	Mining and blasting ²	Solid	Oklahoma City bombing
Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP)	No common uses; mixed from other materials	Crystalline solid	2005 bombings in London
Semtex, C-4	Primarily military	Plastic solid	Irish Republican Army bombings
Ethylene glycol dinitrate (EGDN)	Component of low-freezing dynamite	Liquid	Millennium Bomber, intended for Los Angeles airport, 1999
Urea nitrate	Fertilizer	Crystalline solid	World Trade Center 1993
Low explosive			
Smokeless powder	Ammunition	Solid	Olympic Park bombings

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Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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