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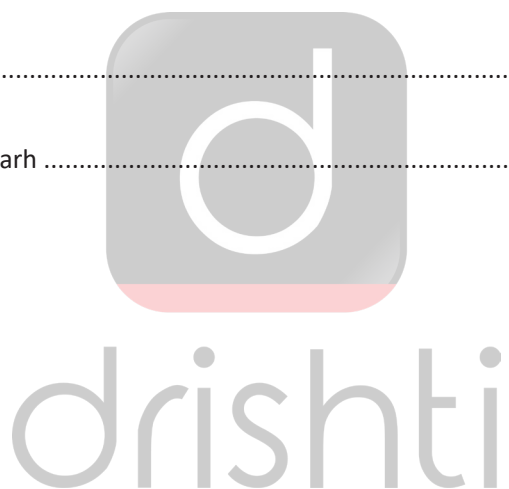Inquiry: +91-87501-87501

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Content

Special Incentives for 'Maoism free' Panchayats

Why in News?

The **Chhattisgarh government** has introduced a scheme to **incentivize Maoist surrenders** in Bastar, providing **Rs 1 crore** in **construction projects and other benefits to panchayats** designated as **"Maoism-free."**

Key Points

➢ **Maoist Surrender Requirement:**
  ○ The state Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma announced that under **the Elvad Panchayat Abhiyan**, a panchayat must **ensure the surrender of all residents involved in Naxal activities.** After this, the village can submit a proposal to be declared "Maoism-free."

➢ **Incentives for Maoism-Free Panchayats:**
  ○ Immediate sanction of **Rs 1 crore for construction projects.**
  ○ **Installation of mobile towers or signal transmission** from nearby towers to improve network access.
  ○ **Extension of electricity lines to the panchayat,** with **solar lighting** as a temporary measure until grid connections are established.

➢ **Comparison with ODF Villages and Rehabilitation Policy:**
  ○ The Deputy CM compared the initiative to **the Open Defecation-Free (ODF) village campaign**, emphasizing collective community participation.
  ○ He also highlighted provisions of **the Chhattisgarh Naxal Surrender/Victim Relief and Rehabilitation Policy-2025,** which includes:
    ● **Skill Development:** Training for surrendered Maoists.
    ● **Housing and Land Allocation:** Under the **PM Housing Scheme.**
    ● **Financial Assistance:** Additional relief measures for rehabilitation.

Maoism

➢ **About:**
  ○ 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.**
    ● Mao called this process, the **'Protracted People's War'**, where the emphasis is on **'military line'** to capture power.

➢ **Maoist Ideology:**
  ○ The central theme of Maoist ideology is the use of **violence and armed insurrection** as a means to capture State power.
  ○ **'Bearing of arms is non-negotiable'** as per the Maoist insurgency doctrine.

➢ **Indian Maoists:**
  ○ The largest and the most violent Maoist formation in India is the **Communist Party of India (Maoist) formed in 2004.**
  ○ The **CPI (Maoist) and its front organizations** were banned under **the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.**
  ○ Front Organizations are the **off-shoots** of the parent Maoist party, which professes a separate existence **to escape legal liability.**

Increase in Chhattisgarh Mineral Revenue

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh's efficient mineral resource extraction has propelled an unprecedented **30-fold increase in** the state's mineral revenue since its formation, reaching Rs 13,000 crore in 2023-24.

Key Points

➢ **Successful E-Auctions of Mineral Blocks:**
  ○ Chhattisgarh has conducted e-auctions for 44 mineral blocks, ensuring transparency and efficiency in resource allocation.

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○ **India's first lithium block auction** was conducted in Chhattisgarh, with the **Katghora lithium block in Korba district** allocated to South Maiki Mining Company at a 76% premium.

○ Further **lithium exploration is underway in Sukma and Korba districts**, with officials reporting promising reserves.

➤ **National Critical Minerals Mission:**

○ Recognizing the importance of critical minerals, the Government of India launched **the National Critical Minerals Mission in January 2025.**

○ In alignment with this initiative, **Chhattisgarh has prioritized exploration, focusing on 31 out of 56 ongoing projects** on critical and deep-seated minerals.

➤ **Iron Ore Mining and E-Auction Expansion:**

○ **Bailadila region r**emains a **major iron ore mining region**, housing one of **India's largest iron ore reserves.**

○ The state is conducting e-auctions for three new iron ore blocks, expected to conclude by March 2025.

○ **The Hahaladdi iron ore block in Kanker district** is in the final auction stage.

➤ **Chhattisgarh's Rich Natural Resource Base:**

○ The state is home to 28 types of minerals, including Coal, Iron ore, Limestone, Bauxite, Gold, Nickel, Chromium, Platinum group elements.

National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

➤ **Objective:** The NCMM aims to reduce India's dependence on imports of critical minerals and ensure **self-reliance for high-tech industries**, clean energy, and **national defense.**

○ The mission will cover **all stages**, including mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.

○ The mission will intensify the **exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.**

➤ **Approach:** The NCMM will adopt a **"whole-of-government" approach**, working closely with various ministries, **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)**, private companies, and research institutions.

○ A fast-track approval process will be established to expedite mining projects for critical minerals.

➤ **Stockpiling Minerals:** NCMM provisions to **develop stockpiles of critical minerals** will ensure that India has sufficient reserves to meet future demands.

➤ **International Strategy:** Encourages Indian companies to acquire critical mineral **assets abroad** and build trade ties with resource-rich nations.

➤ **Infrastructure:** The mission will establish **mineral processing parks**, promote recycling of critical minerals, and support research in related technologies, including the creation of a **Centre of Excellence for Critical Minerals.**

○ Encourages industries to **establish processing units within India** through financial incentives.

○ Expands **Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Startups And MSMEs (PRISM) initiative** to fund startups and **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** in the critical minerals sector.

Kanger Valley National Park UNESCO Recognition

Why in News?

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has added Kanger Valley National Park (KVNP) in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region to its Tentative List of World Heritage Sites under **the Natural Heritage category.**

Key Points

➤ **UNESCO Tentative List Inclusion:**

○ The state Chief Minister expressed pride in this achievement, highlighting KVNP's role in **biodiversity conservation, tribal culture promotion, and eco-tourism.**

○ He emphasized that **global recognition would boost tourism** and bring prestige to Bastar and Chhattisgarh.

➤ **UNESCO Criteria Fulfillment:**

○ KVNP qualified for the UNESCO listing based on three critical criteria:

● **Natural beauty** – landscapes, waterfalls, and valleys.

● **Geological significance** – Unique rock formations and limestone caves.

● **Biodiversity** – Rich flora and fauna, including rare species.

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➢ **Proposal Submission Process:**
- ❍ The park's management submitted a proposal to **the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** under the Ministry of Culture, leading to UNESCO's selection of KVNP for the tentative list.

Kanger Valley National Park

➢ **Location:**
- ❍ Situated in Jagdalpur, **Bastar district, Chhattisgarh.**
- ❍ It lies on the banks of **the Kholaba River**, a tributary of **the Godavari River.**
- ❍ It is named after **the Kanger River**, which flows through its length.
- ❍ It was **declared a national park in 1982.**
- ❍ The entire park is a **core area with no buffer zone.**

➢ **Topography:**
- ❍ It features diverse landscapes, including **plateaus, valleys, steep slopes, and stream courses.**
- ❍ It houses three famous limestone caves— **Kutumbasar, Kailash, and Dandak**—known for **stalactites and stalagmites**.
  - ● **Stalactite** is an icicle-shaped formation that hangs from the ceiling of a cave and is produced by the **precipitation of minerals** from water dripping through the cave ceiling. Most stalactites have **pointed tips.**
  - ● **Stalagmite** is an **upward-growing mound** of mineral deposits that have precipitated from water dripping onto the floor of a cave. Most stalagmites **have rounded or flattened tips.**
- ❍ It hosts **Tirathgarh Waterfall**, a major tourist attraction and is home to a significant **tribal population.**
- ❍ It contains **underground limestone caves with dripstone and flowstone formations.**

➢ **Flora:**
- ❍ Characterized by mixed **humid deciduous forests**.
- ❍ Abundant tree species include **Sal, Saugaun, Teak**, and **Bamboo.**

➢ **Fauna:**
- ❍ **Major mammals: Tigers**, Mouse Deer, **Leopards**, **Wildcat**, **Sambar**, Chital, Barking Deer, Langurs, Jackals, **Rhesus Macaque**, and Flying Squirrel.
- ❍ **Aerial fauna:** Common Hill Myna, Red Jungle Fowl, **Spotted Owlet,** Racket-Tailed Drongos, and Parrots.

UNESCO's Tentative List

➢ UNESCO's tentative list is an **inventory of properties which each state party intends to consider for nomination.**
- ❍ As per Operational Guidelines, 2019 of **UNESCO**, it is **mandatory to put any monument/site on the tentative list for one year before it is considered** for the final nomination dossier.
- ❍ Once the nomination is done, it is **sent to the World Heritage Centre (WHC).**

First Mobile Tower at Remote CRPF Base

Why in News?

The **first mobile phone tower** was set up inside **the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** camp in Tekulagudem village, a remote area in the **Naxal-affected Sukma district** of Chhattisgarh.

➢ The initiative aligns with the Union Government's goal to **eliminate Left Wing Extremism (LWE) by March 2026.**

Key Points

➢ **BSNL Mobile Tower Operationalized:**
- ❍ A **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** mobile tower is the first mobile connectivity facility in the area, **benefiting both villagers and security personnel.**
- ❍ The tower will serve Tekulagudem and nearby hamlets, including Timmapuram, Jonaguda, and Puvarti.
  - ● The village is in Sukma district, which has been heavily affected by **Naxal violence** and shares a border with Bijapur in the Bastar region.

➢ **Special Initiative for Villagers:**
- ❍ BSNL officials traveled from Sukma headquarters and Raipur to operationalize the tower.
- ❍ A **special camp was organized to distribute and activate SIM cards for the local population.**

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Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

➢ **Inception and Evolution:**
  ❍ The CRPF was initially **established as the Crown Representatives Police in 1939** in response to political turmoil and unrest within the princely states.
  ❍ The force was **renamed the Central Reserve Police Force in 1949.**
  ❍ **Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the then Home Minister**, envisioned a multifaceted role for the CRPF, aligning its functions with the evolving needs of a newly independent nation.

➢ **Specialised Units:**
  ❍ The CRPF has several specialised units, including **the Rapid Action Force (RAF), Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), VIP Security Wing, and Mahila Battalions.**

➢ **Achievements and Contributions:**
  ❍ The force has thwarted attacks on important national landmarks, **controlled militancy in Punjab and insurgency in Tripura,** and made significant contributions to **eradicating Naxalism.**

➢ **Honouring the Bravehearts:**
  ❍ The CRPF has paid a heavy price, with 2,255 of its **soldiers making the supreme sacrifice** and being honoured with decorations, including **the George Cross, Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, etc.**

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)
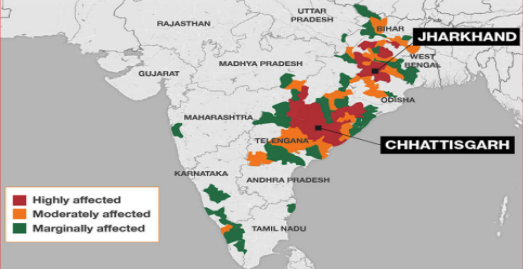
Countering Naxalism - Bandyopadhyay Committee (2006)
■ Highlighted the lack of governance, economic, socio-political and cultural discrimination against the tribals
■ Recommended tribal-friendly land acquisition and rehabilitation

A map of India's Maoist conflict
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.

■ Highly affected
■ Moderately affected
■ Marginally affected

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New Maoist Rehabilitation Policy

Why in News?

On 12th March 2025, **the Chhattisgarh Government** approved a **new rehabilitation policy** for **surrendered Maoists** ensuring **financial aid, education, employment, and security** for them.

Key Points

➢ **Approval of New Maoist Rehabilitation Policy:**
  ○ **The Chhattisgarh Naxal Surrender/Victim Relief and Rehabilitation Policy-2025** replaces the 2023 policy.
  ○ The policy offers **financial aid, education, employment, and security to surrendered Maoists**.
  ○ Special schemes will assist in **self-employment and skill development**, ensuring reintegration into society.
  ○ **Victims** of Maoist violence will **receive support and rehabilitation.**

➢ Establishment of State Water Informatics Centre (SWIC):
  ○ The Cabinet approved setting up SWIC for scientific water resource management.
  ○ An MoU will be signed with **the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti** for collaboration.
  ○ SWIC will **collect, analyze, and store data on rainfall, groundwater quality, reservoir levels, and more.**
  ○ **The National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC)** will support the initiative with a digital platform for policymaking and strategic decisions.

➢ Approval of Key Legislative Bills:
  ○ Chhattisgarh State Industrial Security Force Bill-2025
  ○ Chhattisgarh Cooperative Society (Amendment) Bill-2025
  ○ Chhattisgarh Private University (Establishment and Operation) (Amendment) Bill-2025

➢ Launch of Chief Minister's Good Governance Fellowship Scheme:
  ○ The scheme aims to engage youth in governance and policy implementation.
  ○ It will enhance **good governance** practices in the state.

Cyber Frauds in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Chhattisgarh has reported **cybercrime** cases totaling **Rs 168 crore,** with a recovery of **Rs 5.2 crore.**

Key Points

➢ **Cyber Fraud:** It is a kind of **cybercrime** that aims to **steal money** (or other valuable assets) from an entity. It involves using **online solutions** (internet based) to **commit fraud.**

➢ **Types of Cyber Fraud:**

Cyber Fraud	Description
Phishing	**Phishing** involves emails that appear to be from trusted sources, tricking users into clicking links that lead to fake websites and attackers gain sensitive details e.g., credit card numbers.
Malware	**Malware** is used to steal personal information that allows cyber criminals to gain control of a victim's computer.
Ransomware	**Ransomware** encrypts a victim's files and demands payment for decryption. E.g., **WannaCry attack** in 2016
Cyberbullying	Cyberbullying includes any threat to a person's safety, coercion to say or do anything.
Cyber Spying	**Cyber Spying** targets a public or private entity's network to gain access to classified data, private information, or intellectual property.
Business Email Compromise (BEC)	Scammers hack legitimate email accounts to impersonate suppliers, employees, or tax office members, considered a white-collar crime.
Dating Hoodwinks	Hackers use dating websites, chat rooms, and online dating apps to pose as potential partners and gain access to personal data.

➢ **Cyber Cell in each District:** All five divisions in Chhattisgarh now have **one cyber cell** in **each district** and the police stations were upgraded to handle such cases.
  ○ All district police stations are being upgraded to cyber police stations, with expert manpower being trained at national centers.
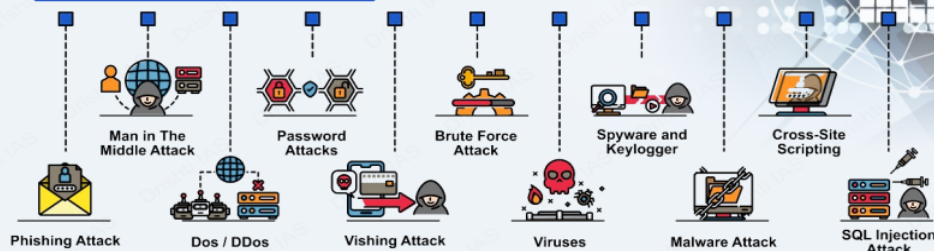
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- ➢ **Investment:** The state government has invested **Rs 2.77 crore** in constructing a **cyber building,** equipped with **state-of-the-art devices,** including a **unified forensic device, mobile forensic kits,** and **disk storage systems**.
  - ❍ These technological advancements are part of the ongoing efforts to **combat cybercrime** and **fraud** in the state.
- ➢ **Increase in Cyber Fraud:** Cybercrime has been increasing globally, with digital transactions surpassing **Rs 20 lakh crore last year.** As digital transactions grow, incidents of cyber fraud have also surged.

CYBER SECURITY

Cybersecurity refers to any technology, measure, or practice for preventing cyberattacks or mitigating their impact.

CYBER SECURITY ATTACKS

- Man in The Middle Attack
- Password Attacks
- Brute Force Attack
- Spyware and Keylogger
- Cross-Site Scripting
- Phishing Attack
- Dos / DDos
- Vishing Attack
- Viruses
- Malware Attack
- SQL Injection Attack

'Crime in India' Report 2022 (NCRB) highlighted 24.4% surge in cybercrimes in India since 2021.

Common Cybersecurity Myths

- ↻ Strong passwords alone are adequate protection
- ↻ Major cybersecurity risks are well-known
- ↻ All cyberattack vectors are contained
- ↻ Cybercriminals don't attack small businesses

Cyber Warfare

- ↻ Digital attacks to disrupt vital computer systems, to inflict damage, death, and destruction.

CYBER THREAT ACTORS

CYBER THREAT ACTOR	MOTIVATION
NATION-STATES	GEOPOLITICAL
CYBERCRIMINALS	PROFIT
HACKTIVISTS	IDEOLOGICAL
TERRORIST GROUPS	IDEOLOGICAL VIOLENCE
THRILL-SEEKERS	SATISFACTION
INSIDER THREATS	DISCONTENT

Types of Cybersecurity

- ↻ Critical infrastructure security (Robust access controls)
- ↻ Network security (Deploying firewalls)
- ↻ Application security (Code reviews)
- ↻ Cloud Security (Tokenization)
- ↻ Information security (Data masking)

Recent Major Cyber Attacks

- ↻ WannaCry Ransomware Attack (2017)
- ↻ Cambridge Analytica Data Breach (2018)
- ↻ Financial data of 9M+ cardholders, including SBI, leaked (2022)

Regulations & Initiatives

- ↻ **International:**
  - ↪ UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace
  - ↪ NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)
  - ↪ Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, 2001 (**India not a signatory**)
- ↻ **India:**
  - ↪ IT Act, 2000 (Sections 43, 66, 66B, 66C, 66D)
  - ↪ National Cyber Security Policy, 2013
  - ↪ National Cyber Security Strategy 2020
  - ↪ Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative
  - ↪ Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
  - ↪ Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In)

Steps Needed for Cyber Security

- ↻ Network Security
- ↻ Malware Protection
- ↻ Incident Management
- ↻ User Education and Awareness
- ↻ Secure Configuration
- ↻ Managing User Privileges
- ↻ Information Risk Management Regime

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Proxy Oath for Women Panchayat Representatives in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

The husbands **(Pradhan Pati)** of six newly elected **women panchayat representatives** allegedly took the oath in their place, in Paraswara village panchayat, Kabirdham district, Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

➤ **Pradhan Pati:** It is a term used in India to describe the **husbands of elected women representatives** in **panchayats (village councils)** who unofficially exercise the power on behalf of their **wives (actual panchayat representatives).**

  ❍ This phenomenon arises due to **socio-cultural norms** where, despite women holding official positions, their husbands or male family members make decisions and perform administrative duties.

➤ **Swearing-in Controversy**: A video surfaced on social media, showing the husbands of six newly elected women panchayat representatives allegedly taking the oath in their place.

  ❍ In response to this, **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Pandariya Janpad Panchayat was instructed to investigate the matter. He confirmed that action would be taken based on the probe report.

➤ **Irregular Oath-taking**: The **panchayat secretary allegedly administered the oath** to the husbands of the six elected women representatives instead of the actual representatives.

➤ **Public Outrage**: Locals and social activists condemned the incident as a **violation of women's empowerment** and demanded strict action against those responsible. They warned that failure to act could encourage similar incidents in the future.

Governance of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

➤ **State Subject:** Local governance falls under the jurisdiction of state governments, with PRIs operating as per respective **State Panchayati Raj Acts.**

➤ **Constitutional Framework:**

  ❍ **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992)** established a three-tiered Panchayat system and mandated **1/3rd reservation for women,** later increased to **50% in 21 states** and **2 UTs.**

  ❍ **Article 243D** provides for **reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes,** and **Backward Classes** in PRIs.

  ❍ **Article 40** of the Constitution, a **Directive Principle of State Policy,** mandates the State to establish village panchayats and grant them the necessary powers and authority to function as self-governing units.

➤ The **Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996,** grants Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas special powers to manage natural resources and protect tribal culture and livelihoods.

Chhattisgarh Budget

Why in News?

The **Chhattisgarh Finance Minister** presented the **Rs 1,65,000 crore Budget** in the State Assembly and unveiled measures to **reduce red-tapism** and boost **capital expenditure**.

➤ He also introduced the acronym **GATI (good governance, accelerating infrastructure, technology, and industrial growth)** to highlight the government's vision.

Key Points

➤ **Reform Push:**

  ❍ The government has set a target of implementing 216 reforms in 20 departments in the first phase to promote **ease of doing business.**

  ❍ **The Business Reform Action Plan** aims to **enhance transparency and simplify rules.**

Note:

- ○ **Digitisation initiatives** are being implemented at various levels to **prevent fraud, curb corruption, and enable paperless and faceless processes.**
  - ○ A **new land registration system**, similar to passport office procedures, will be introduced for simplification.
  - ○ A fixed Rs 500 charge will replace high fees for relinquishment and division of assets, helping prevent revenue disputes.
- ➢ **Sectoral Initiatives:**
  - ○ New initiatives announced for education, rural development, urban infrastructure, and security.
  - ○ Special schemes will focus on **transport and mobile connectivity** in remote tribal regions like Bastar and Sarguja.
- ➢ **Budget Estimates & Growth Projections:**
  - ○ **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** for the upcoming fiscal is projected at Rs 6,35,918 crore, marking a 12% growth from the 2024-25 estimate of Rs 5,67,880 crore.
  - ○ Capital expenditure has increased by 18%, from Rs 22,300 crore to Rs 26,341 crore.
- ➢ **Infrastructure and Road Plan 2030:**
  - ○ The budget allocates Rs 2,000 crore for road construction, the highest since the State's creation.
  - ○ **Road Plan 2030** will connect the State capital with districts and improve connectivity among districts and development blocks.
- ➢ **Mobile Connectivity & Transport:**
  - ○ **Mukhyamantri Mobile Tower Scheme** will enhance cellphone connectivity in remote areas.
  - ○ **The Mukhyamantri Parivahan Yojana** will fund transport services from gram panchayats to blocks and districts, addressing the lack of public transport in low-density areas.
- ➢ **Technology & Industrial Growth:**
  - ○ Budget allocations include:
    - Computerisation of courts
    - State data centre creation

- Emergency response systems
- ○ The industry budget outlay has tripled compared to the previous year.
- ➢ **Pension Fund & Financial Stability:**
  - ○ A **new pension fund** ensures secure pensions for government employees, a first-of-its-kind initiative in India.
  - ○ The Chhattisgarh Growth and Stability Fund will strengthen the State's financial position.
  - ○ This pension fund addresses concerns about fiscal burden post-2039, when a majority of employees recruited after the State's creation will retire.
- ➢ **Cooperatives & Education:**
  - ○ 500 **new cooperative societies** will be established.
  - ○ A **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** will be set up in the State.
- ➢ **Welfare Schemes & Fiscal Management:**
  - ○ **Krishak Unnati Yojana** (for farmers) receives Rs 10,000 crore allocation.
  - ○ **Pradhanmantri Aawas Yojana (Rural)** gets Rs 8,500 crore.
  - ○ **Mahtari Vandan Yojana**, a cash assistance scheme for eligible married women, receives Rs 5,500 crore.
  - ○ The fiscal deficit has increased from 2.90% to 2.97% of GSDP.
  - ○ No new taxes were announced, but **Value Added Tax (VAT)** on petrol will be reduced by Rs 1 per litre from 1st April, 2025.

Mahtari Vandan Yojana
➢ The scheme aims to ensure the **economic empowerment of women, provide them with financial security**, promote gender equality, and strengthen their decisive role within families.
○ All married women above the age of 21, including widows, divorced, and deserted women, are eligible to benefit from this scheme.
➢ Eligible married women in Chhattisgarh will receive financial aid of **Rs 1000 per month** through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).**

Note:

Pradhanmantri Aawas Yojana (Rural)

➤ **Launch:** To achieve the objective of **"Housing for All"**, the erstwhile rural housing scheme Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was restructured to **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) w.e.f 1st April, 2016.**

➤ **Ministry Involved:** Ministry of Rural development.

➤ **Aim:** To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families, who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses.

  ❍ To help **rural people Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutcha houses** by providing assistance in the form of a full grant.

➤ **Beneficiaries:** People belonging to SCs/STs, freed bonded labourers and non-SC/ST categories, widows or next-of-kin of defence personnel killed in action, ex servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces, disabled persons and minorities.

Maoists Encounter in Chhattisgarh

Why in News?

Maoists were **killed in an encounter** with security forces in **Sukma district of Chhattisgarh.**

Key Points

➤ **Maoist Casualties:**

  ❍ The latest encounter **increased the number of Maoists killed** in the conflict-hit Bastar region to 67 in the first 60 days of 2025.

  ❍ **Sukma**, where the encounter took place, is **one of the seven districts in the Bastar region.**

  ❍ Additionally, **security forces killed 17 Maoists in encounters in Gariaband district,** which lies outside Bastar.

  ❍ The total number of **Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh in 2025 is 84.**

  ❍ In 2024, during intensified **anti-Naxal operations (ANOs),** security forces eliminated 219 Maoists in the state.

➤ **Details of the Sukma Encounter:**

  ❍ The Inspector-General of Police stated that **security forces launched a search operation** after receiving intelligence about Maoist presence in the area.

  ❍ The operation involved personnel from Chhattisgarh Police's **District Reserve Guards (DRG)** and **Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA)**, an elite unit of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).**

District Reserve Guard (DRG)

➤ The District Reserve Guard (DRG) is a **specialized police unit in Chhattisgarh, established in 2008** to combat **Maoist violence.**

➤ It consists of **specially trained personnel operating** in affected districts, conducting anti-Maoist operations, **search and seizure, and gathering intelligence.**

➤ The DRG collaborates with other security forces, like the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, to counter the Maoist insurgency.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

➤ The CRPF was initially **established as the Crown Representatives Police in 1939** in response to political turmoil and unrest within the princely states.

➤ The force was **renamed the Central Reserve Police Force in 1949.**

➤ **Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel,** the then Home Minister, envisioned a multifaceted role for the CRPF, aligning its functions with the evolving needs of a newly independent nation.

COBRA

➤ It is a **special operation unit of the Central Reserve Police Force of India** proficient in guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare. Originally established to counter **the Naxalite movement.**

➤ CoBRA is deployed to address insurgent groups engaging in asymmetrical warfare.

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Note:

Key Points   **Details**

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