



Pakistani Hindus in Rajasthan Facing Uncertain Future | Rajasthan | 26 Apr 2024

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Pakistani Hindus in Rajasthan** are facing an **uncertain future** amidst the [Citizenship \(Amendment\) Act \(CAA\) 2019](#).

Key Points

- During the current general elections, amidst the widespread enthusiasm surrounding the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019** which has provided relief for some, individuals **who arrived in India after December 31, 2014**, are facing numerous uncertainties.
- These individuals are now required to seek citizenship under the **primary [Citizenship Act of 1955](#)**, a process that historically has resulted in prolonged waiting periods for applicants.
- **Pakistani Hindu families** who **migrated to Barmer**, a region bordering Pakistan, years ago, express the sentiment that the **CAA or citizenship legislation holds limited value** until their living conditions are improved.
- Despite acquiring [Indian citizenship](#), many of **these families continue to reside in impoverished conditions** and face **social stigmatization**.

Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019

- The **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019** seeks to **amend the Citizenship Act, 1955**.
 - The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (**Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians**) from **Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh** who entered India **on or before 31st December, 2014**.
 - It exempts the members of the **six communities** from any **criminal case** under the [Foreigners Act, 1946](#) and the [Passport Act, 1920](#).
 - The two Acts specify punishment for **entering the country illegally** and staying here on **expired visas and permits**.
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Naxalites Surrender in Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 26 Apr 2024

Why in News?

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

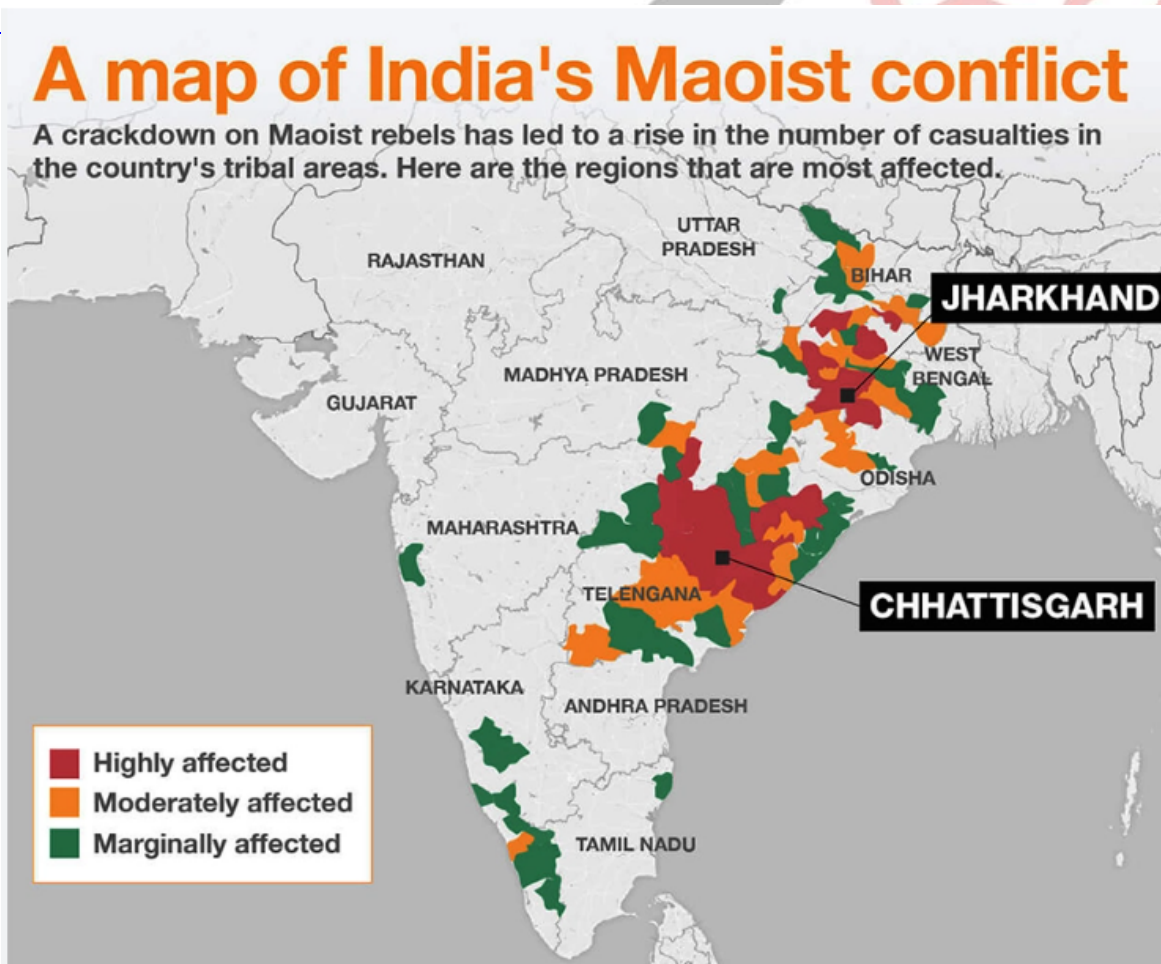
Key Points

- 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.

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**.

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Uttarakhand Braces for Monsoon Rainfall | Uttarakhand | 26 Apr 2024

Why in News?

According to the [Dehradun Meteorological Centre](#), the state government should start preparations for more than normal rainfall in 2024 monsoon in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- A training camp was organised by the **Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA)** for various departments regarding [monsoon](#) preparedness.
- According to the officials, **the Meteorological Department** continuously sends alerts regarding weather-related information and if they are followed, the effects of [disasters](#) can be reduced to a great extent and the loss of life and property can also be reduced.

India Meteorological Department

- IMD was **established in 1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service of the country and the principal government agency** in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
- It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India**.
- It is **headquartered in New Delhi**.
- IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the World Meteorological Organization.

Madhya Pradesh to Boost Cruise Tourism | Madhya Pradesh | 26 Apr 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the [Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board](#) has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** and the **Government of Gujarat** to elevate [cruise tourism](#) in Madhya Pradesh.

Key Points

- Under this collaboration, **two floating jetties, known as pontoons**, have been dispatched from Kolkata to Kukshi in the state.
 - The proposed cruise route is set to embark from [Ekatma Dham \(Statue of Oneness\)](#) in **Omkareshwar, Madhya Pradesh**, and voyage to the [Statue of Unity in Kevadiya, Gujarat](#).
- According to the terms outlined in the MoU, IWAI is committed to providing two floating jetties to both Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.
- Additional **infrastructure and amenities for cruise tourism will be developed by the state** government, fostering economic growth in the region and extending benefits to the local populace.
- **Cruise tourism** promises not only to **enrich the tourism landscape** but also to offer tourists an

immersive experience of the local culture, traditions, lifestyle, and cuisine amid the scenic vistas of the [Narmada River](#).

Narmada River

- The Narmada River (also known as Rewa) serves as a traditional boundary between North and South India.
- It is 1,312 km west of its origin from the [Amarkantak peak](#) of Maikal mountain. It flows into the **Gulf of Khambhat**.
- It drains a large area in Madhya Pradesh besides some areas in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- **It is a West flowing river of the peninsular region** flowing through a rift valley between the Vindhya Range on the north and the Satpura Range on the south.
- **Tributaries:**
 - The **predominant tributaries from the right** are – Hiran, Tendori, Barna, Kolar, Man, Uri, Hatni, and Orsang.
 - The **predominant left tributaries are** – Burner, Banjar, Sher, Shakkar, Dudhi, Tawa, Ganjal, Chhota Tawa, Kundi, Goi, and Karjan.
- **Dams:**
 - The Major dams on the river include Omkareshwar and Maheshwar dams.



Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary | Haryana | 26 Apr 2024

Why in News?

[The Supreme Court](#) stayed construction of four proposed dams inside [Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Haryana's **Yamunanagar district**.

Key Points

- A petition was filed challenging the construction of four dams **Chikan, Kansli, Khillanwala and Ambawali** within **Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary** as it will have a negative impact on the flora and the fauna in the area.
- The [National Board for Wildlife](#) has granted permission to construct dams inside the wildlife sanctuary without taking cognisance of the report of [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#).
- WII has categorically stated in its report namely '**Feasibility Study of Proposed Small Dams in Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana**' that the proposed dams are under protected area boundary of Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary and as such **would significantly affect the terrestrial as well as aquatic biodiversity** of the protected area.
- Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary notified on 13th December 1996, is located on the [Siwalik foothills](#). It is contiguous to [Rajaji National Park \(Uttarakhand\)](#) and **Simbalbara National Park (Himachal Pradesh)**.
 - The whole area is **full of biodiversity**, having dense **Sal forests, Khair forests and patches of grass lands**, which support a variety of plants and animal species.
 - **Royal tigers and mighty elephants** visit this place from the Rajaji National Park. Other animals found there include Monitor Lizard, Grey-hooded Warbler, [King Cobra](#), **Crested Serpent Eagle**, Python, Chital, **Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch**, Sambar, Bar-tailed Treecreeper, [Barking Deer](#), **Ghoral, Red-billed Blue Magpie** and [Leopard](#).

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

- It serves as an **apex body** for the **review of all wildlife-related matters** and for the **approval of projects** in and around **national parks and sanctuaries**.
- The NBWL is **chaired by the Prime Minister** and is responsible for promotion of **conservation and development of wildlife and forests**.
- The **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the Vice-Chairperson** of the board.
- The **board is 'advisory' in nature** and can only advise the Government on policy making for conservation of wildlife.

Wildlife Institute of India

- It is an **autonomous institution** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- It was **established in 1982**.
- It is based in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- It offers training programs, academic courses, and advisory in wildlife research and management.