



Maoist Insurgency on Decline | Chhattisgarh | 13 Jul 2024

Why in News?

In 2024, India has observed **162 Maoist-related fatalities**, with **Chhattisgarh accounting for 141 of these deaths**.

- This marks one of the **highest casualty figures for extremists** in the predominantly tribal state since the establishment of the **Communist Party of India (Maoist) (CPI-M)** in 2004.

Key Points

- "[Operation Green Hunt](#)," started in 2009 by involving the **Central Reserve Police Force's CoBRA force** and Chhattisgarh police "**search and comb**" operations led to decline in Maoist activities in India.
- While Maoist casualties have increased, the deaths of security force personnel have come down.
 - In **2024, 14 security force personnel died** in the insurgency, compared to the highest of **198 in 2007**.
 - The number of civilian deaths has also been at its **lowest since 2014**, with 23 people killed in Maoist attacks.
- Bijapur and neighboring Sukma have 20 [Border Security Force \(BSF\)](#) camps due to intense operations.
- In Kanker, a joint BSF and District Reserve Guard operation killed 29 Maoists, including a top commander. In Dantewada, declared 'Maoist-free' in 2021, only 15 Maoists were killed in 2024.

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**.

Operation Green Hunt

- [Operation Green Hunt](#) was a **military operation by paramilitary forces** and the states forces against the Naxalites.
- The **operation began in November 2009 along 5 states** in the "**Red Corridor**."

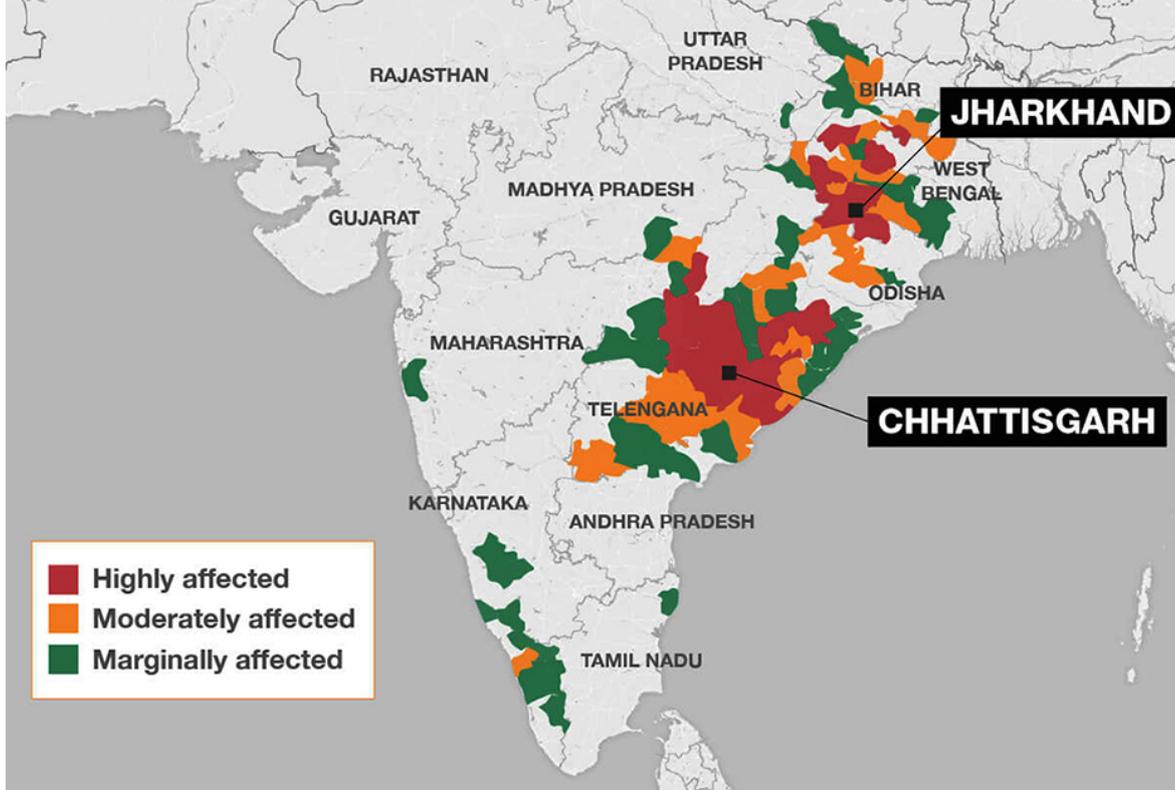
Red Corridor

- The [Red Corridor](#) is the region in the central, eastern and southern parts of India that experience severe **Naxalism-Maoist insurgency**.
- It includes the states of **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala**

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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.



New User Interface for Blind | Uttar Pradesh | 13 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Experts from the [Indian Institute of Information Technology \(IIIT\), Allahabad](#), in collaboration with the [Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany](#), have created a **tool for blind and visually impaired individuals** to create and access chart images.

Key Points

- Blind people can **use this tool to search images** and **understand them with alternative texts (Alt-text) generated by Artificial Intelligence** based software.
- The research work discussed in a paper titled '**Alt4 Blind: A User Interface to Simplify Charts Alt-Text Creation**' is presented at an **international conference on computers helping people with special needs** in Linz, **Austria**.
 - **Alt-Text is manually crafted by authors**, but this approach frequently results in problems such as **oversimplification or overcomplexity**.
 - Emerging trends have seen the adoption of AI technology for the generation of Alt-Text.

- The research presented an **online, open-source tool to enhance alt-text writing by using AI image retrieval**, making it more engaging.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- AI is defined as the **ability of machines** and systems to **acquire and apply knowledge and to carry out intelligent behaviour**.
 - The term "Artificial Intelligence" was **coined by John McCarthy**, an American computer scientist and cognitive scientist. He was one of the founders of the discipline of AI.
- It includes technologies like [machine learning](#), [Deep Learning](#), [Big Data](#), [Neural Networks](#), Computer vision, [Large Language Models](#) etc.
- The ideal characteristic of artificial intelligence is its ability to rationalize and take actions that have the best chance of achieving a specific goal.

Sajjangarh Biological Park | Rajasthan | 13 Jul 2024

Why in News?

[Sajjangarh Biological Park in Udaipur](#) is anticipated to **receive a pair of lions from Sakkarbaug Zoological Park in Junagadh, Gujarat, as part of an animal exchange initiative.**

Key Points

- The [lion safari project](#), with a budget of Rs 3.45 crore, aims to **boost the attractiveness of the biological park established in 2015**.
 - Covering 26 hectares, the safari will include both a holding area and a display area for the lions, capable of accommodating up to eight lions.
- In exchange, Sajjangarh Biological Park will provide Sakkarbaug Zoo with **two pairs of foxes, one pair of hyenas, two pairs of jackals, a pair of wild cats, and two** chinkaras.
- The [Central Zoo Authority](#) approved the transfer of the lions in February 2024 to boost tourism in Udaipur by launching the lion safari before the year's end.
 - Besides the lion safari, the biological park is also expanding its facilities to include a reptile section, a nocturnal animals' section, and a leopard rescue center.

Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is located in **Udaipur (Rajasthan)**.
- It is a part of **Sajjangarh Palace (also known as Monsoon Palace) built in 1884**.
 - The Palace derived its name from Maharana Sajjan Singh, one of the rulers of the **Mewar dynasty**.
- It is famous for **chitals, panthers, hares, blue bulls (Nilgais), jackals, wild boars, hyenas, and sambhar**.