



Road Leading to China Border Washed Away | Uttarakhand | 26 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The **national highway linking [Joshimath](#) to the border villages of Malari and Niti** along the [Indo-China frontier](#) was destroyed at Miram.

Key Points

- The blockade entirely stopped the movement of vehicles, especially **impacting Army and [Indo Tibetan Border Police \(ITBP\)](#)** convoys traveling towards the border.
- Over **100 roads, including many national highways, remain blocked** in the state due to **continuous rainfall** and frequent landslides, particularly in hilly areas.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- The ITBP is a specialized mountain force of India, which was established on **24th October 1962**, soon after the India-China war which was initially meant for deployment **along the [India-China border](#)**.
- ITBP was initially raised under the [Central Reserve Police Force \(CRPF\) Act, 1949](#). However, in **1992**, parliament enacted the [ITBP Act](#) and the rules were framed in 1994.
- However, over the years, ITBP has **also been deployed for various internal security duties, including [anti-Naxal operations](#)**. The force is known for its expertise in **high-altitude rescue and mountaineering operations**.

Central Assistance to Manage Pilgrims | Uttarakhand | 26 Jul 2024

Why in News?

The **Uttarakhand government will seek help from the Centre** through [Niti Aayog](#) to **manage the large number of tourists**.

Key Points

- Uttarakhand, known for [spiritual tourism](#), is facing a significant challenge with its **annual floating population increasing eight-fold**.
- The Uttarakhand government requested the Centre to include **compensation for damages** caused by [forest fires](#) and **high-voltage transmission line losses** in the [State Disaster Response Fund \(SDRF\)](#) norms in the [Union Budget](#).

- The state has **not received any allocation for green bonus or floating population**, despite being **one of the 147 most landslide-prone districts** in the country.
- Districts like Rudraprayag and Tehri had hoped for relief, such as the **establishment of glacier or landslide research centers**, but the **budget did not address these concerns**.

State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

- SDRF has been constituted under **Section 48 (1) (a)** of the [Disaster Management Act, 2005](#).
- It was constituted based on the recommendations of the [13th Finance Commission](#).
- It is the **primary fund available with the State governments** for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
- It is audited by the [Comptroller and Auditor General of India \(CAG\)](#) every year.

Deforestation for Mining in Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 26 Jul 2024

Why in News?

According to the Centre **approximately 273,000 additional trees are expected to be cut down for mining activities in the Hasdeo Arand forests**, as the **wildlife and biodiversity institutions have not recommended a total prohibition** on mining in the area.

Key Points

- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** provided information on two of the most contentious environmental issues in the country. The diversion of forests from **Hasdeo Arand in Chhattisgarh** and the **Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island in Andaman & Nicobar Islands** project of [Niti Aayog](#).
- The Government of Chhattisgarh commissioned the [Indian Council of Forestry, Research and Education, Dehradun](#), in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India to carry out a **Biodiversity Assessment Study of the entire Hasdeo-Arand Coalfields region**.
 - The study was conducted, and the report was subsequently submitted to the **ministry of environment, forest & climate change**.
 - According to the report, **94,460 trees have been felled in Parsa East Kete Basen Mine**, while over **5.3 million trees were planted as compensatory afforestation, mine reclamation and translocation**.
 - As informed by the Chhattisgarh government, **273,757 trees are required to be felled in the coming years for mining in Hasdeo Arand**.
- Hasdeo Arand is one of the **largest contiguous stretches of very dense forest** in central India spanning 170,000 hectares and has **23 coal blocks**.
 - In 2009, the **environment ministry categorised Hasdeo Arand to be a "No-Go" zone for mining** because of its rich forest cover but **allowed it again because there was no policy finalised**.

Hasdeo Arand Forest

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- 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](#)**.

Naxalites Surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma | Chhattisgarh | 26 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Five [Naxalites](#), collectively carrying a **cash reward of Rs 19 lakh on their heads**, **surrendered in Sukma district** of Chhattisgarh.

Key Points

- They surrendered themselves to senior police officials here, citing that they were disillusioned with the atrocities committed by senior Naxalites and the **inhuman and hollow [Maoist ideology](#)**.
- According to the state government's **Naxal elimination policy and welfare schemes**, all the **surrendered Naxalites were provided an assistance of Rs 25,000 each** and **will be further rehabilitated**.

Government Initiatives to Control Naxalites

- [SAMADHAN doctrine](#) is the one-stop solution for the Naxalites problem. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from **short-term policy** to long-term policy formulated at different levels.
SAMADHAN stands for:
 - **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
- **National Policy and Action Plan in 2015:** It consists of a **multi-pronged approach** comprising **security measures, development initiatives and ensuring rights & entitlements** of local communities.
 - The **MHA** is supporting the **State Governments** extensively by way of deployment of [Central Armed Police Force \(CAPF\) Battalions](#), **provision of helicopters and UAVs** and sanction of **India Reserve Battalions (IRBs)/ Special India Reserve Battalions (SIRBs) etc.**
 - Funds are provided under [Modernization of Police Force \(MPF\)](#), **Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme and Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)** for modernization and training of State Police.
 - Funds for development are also provided to most **LWE affected districts** under the **Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme.**
- **Aspirational Districts Programme:** [Aspirational Districts Programme](#) launched in **2018**, aims to rapidly transform the districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.
- **Greyhounds:** [Greyhounds](#) was raised in **1989** as an **elite anti-naxal force.**
- **Operation Green Hunt:** [Operation Green Hunt](#) was started in **2009-10** and massive deployment of security forces was done in the **naxal-affected areas.**
- **Bastariya Battalion:** In Chhattisgarh, the CRPF raised a **Bastariya Battalion** the recruits for which were taken from the local population, who knew the **language and terrain**, and could **generate intelligence.**
 - This unit now has **400 recruits** and regularly **conducts operations in Chhattisgarh.**

Doctors Strike in Haryana | Haryana | 26 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Government doctors in Haryana** have commenced an **indefinite strike to protest against the non-fulfilment of their diverse demands**, disrupting services in State-run hospitals.

Key Points

- The strike was initiated by the [Haryana Civil Medical Services Association](#), an organization that **represents government doctors in the state.**
- The doctors are **demanding the creation of a specialized department for them and a career advancement program** that provides parity with their counterparts working for the Central government.
 - The other demands of the doctors include **no direct recruitment of senior medical**

officers and reduction in the bond amount for postgraduate courses.

- The State government has appealed to the body to consider the effect of the strike on patients.

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