



CRPF's New Operations Base in Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 17 Feb 2025

Why in News?

The [Central Reserve Police Force \(CRPF\)](#) has established a new operations base in the [Maoist corridor](#) in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar region, strengthening its presence in core [Left Wing Extremism-affected areas](#) of the State.

Key Points

- **About Forward Operating Base (FOB):**
 - The **196th and 205th Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA)**, along with other paramilitary units, assisted in establishing the base.
 - The FOB is in a remote, hilly region that houses Maoist training camps, weapons, ammunition dumps, and ration units.
 - It **lies within the stronghold of the Maoists** from the south and west Bastar divisions.
- **Security Challenges and Resistance:**
 - The area serves as the operations centre of the first battalion of armed Maoist cadres.
 - The CRPF demolished a tall red-colored memorial erected by Maoists in memory of their fallen cadres using a heavy earth-moving machine.
- **Government Strategy and Expansion:**
 - This base is the **13th in a series of new FOBs being created** as part of the Union government's goal to **eliminate Left-Wing Extremism by March 2026**.
 - More FOBs are planned before the Maoists' annual **Tactical Counter-Offensive Campaign (TCOC) begins**.
 - The TCOC is a **summer offensive by Naxals**, leveraging improved visibility in dry forests to launch attacks on security forces.
- **Anti-Naxal Operations in Chhattisgarh:**
 - Over the **past three to four years**, the CRPF has established more than **40 FOBs in Chhattisgarh**.
 - The most intense [anti-Naxal operations](#) are concentrated in southern Bastar, bordering Odisha and Telangana.

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.

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

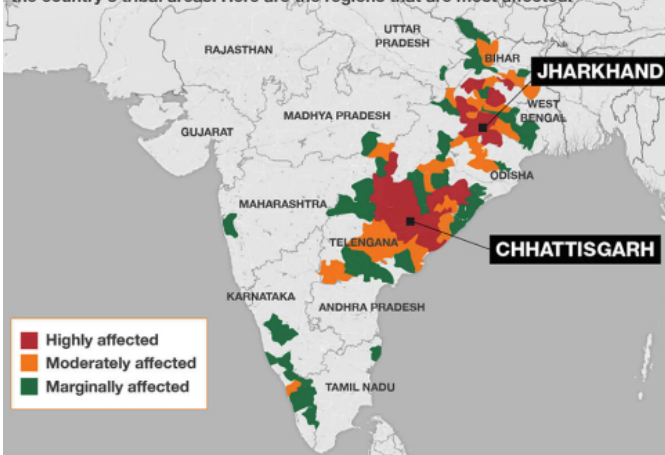
- ↳ **Red Corridor:** Experiences severe Naxalism–Maoist insurgency
- ↳ Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala

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)

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.



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



Drishti IAS

Oncology Conclave 2025 | Haryana | 17 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Health Minister** inaugurated the **second AIIMS Oncology Conclave 2025** at [the National Cancer Institute \(NCI\) of AIIMS, Jhajjar](#), in Haryana.

Key Points

- **Jhajjar Institute:**
 - The Jhajjar institute is **among India's largest public-funded healthcare projects**.
 - It **focuses on advancing cancer care** and enhancing research capabilities.
- **Oncology Conclave:**
 - The two-day conclave gathered top oncology experts from Institutes of National Importance (INIs) across India.
 - Discussions centered on advancements in **cancer care, treatment methodologies, and ongoing research initiatives**.
 - The event highlighted collaborative efforts in **preventing and managing breast cancers** as well as **head and neck cancers**.
- **Innovation and Research at the Institute:**
 - The centre collaborates with [start-ups](#), engages Ph.D. students, and involves scientists in research.
 - The **research aims to create real-world applications** benefiting both the market and society.

Cancer

- It is a complex and broad term used to describe **a group of diseases characterised by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells** in the body.
 - These **abnormal cells, known as cancer cells**, have the ability to invade and **destroy healthy tissues and organs**.
- In a healthy body, cells grow, divide, and die in a regulated manner, allowing for the normal functioning of tissues and organs.
 - However, in the **case of cancer, certain genetic mutations or abnormalities disrupt this normal cell cycle**, causing cells to divide and grow uncontrollably.

Tremor in Bihar | Bihar | 17 Feb 2025

Why in News?

According to [the National Center for Seismology](#), a **4.0-magnitude earthquake** struck Siwan, Bihar, on 17th February 2025.

Key Points

- **National Centre for Seismology (NCS):**

- This is the agency responsible for **monitoring and reporting the seismic activity** in India and its neighbourhood.
- It **operates a network of seismological observatories** across the country, and provides real-time data and information on earthquakes and **tsunamis**.
- It also **maintains a website and a mobile app, called BhooKamp**, to provide earthquake alerts and updates to the public.



EARTHQUAKE



ABOUT

- Shaking of the earth; caused due to release of energy, generating **seismic waves in all directions**

EARTHQUAKE WAVES

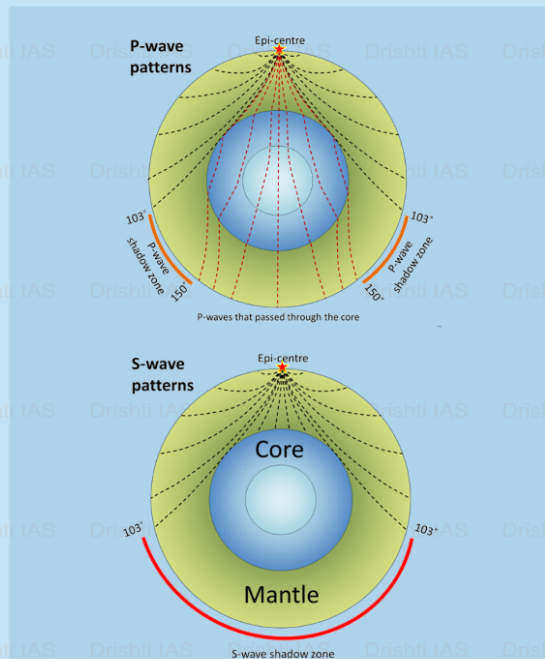
- Body Waves:** Move in all directions travelling through the body of the earth
 - P Waves:** Move faster, First to arrive at surface, Similar to sound waves, Travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials
 - S Waves:** Arrive at surface with some time lag, Travel only through solid materials
- Surface Waves:** Last to report on seismographs, More destructive, Cause displacement of rocks
 - Love Waves:** Same motion as S-waves (horizontal) without vertical displacement, Sideways motion perpendicular to the direction of propagation, Faster than Rayleigh waves
 - Rayleigh Waves:** Cause the ground to shake in an elliptical pattern, Spread out the most of all seismic waves, Move vertically and horizontally in a vertical plane

HYPOCENTER

- Location where the earthquake starts (below earth's surface)

EPICENTER

- Location right above the Hypocenter (on the earth's surface)



CAUSES OF EARTHQUAKES

- Release of energy along a Fault/Fault Zones** (break in the crustal rocks)
- Movement of **tectonic plates (most common)**
- Volcanic eruption** (stress changes in rock-injection/withdrawal of magma)
- Human activities** (mining, explosion of chemical/nuclear devices etc.)

MEASURING EARTHQUAKE

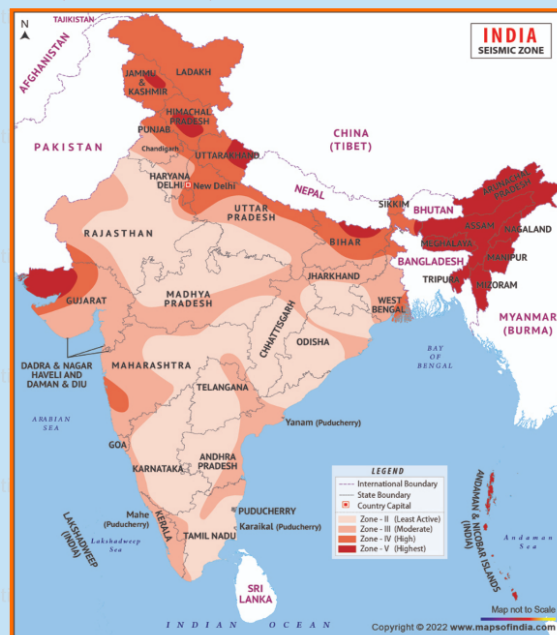
- Seismometers** - Measures seismic waves
- Richter Scale** - Measures magnitude (energy released; range: 0-10)
- Mercalli** - Measures intensity (visible damage; range: 1-12)

DISTRIBUTION

- Circum-Pacific Belt** - 81% of earthquakes
- Alpide Earthquake Belt** - 17% of the largest earthquakes
- Mid-Atlantic Ridge** - Mostly submerged underwater

EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

- India is **one of the highly earthquake affected countries** due to the presence of technically active mountains - the Himalayas.
- India has been divided into **4 seismic zones (II, III, IV, and V)**



Madhya Pradesh GCC Policy 2025 | Madhya Pradesh | 17 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh has introduced the **country's first** dedicated [Global Capability Centre \(GCC\) policy](#), aiming to establish the state as a leading hub for **global innovation and collaboration**.

Key Points

- **Madhya Pradesh GCC Policy 2025:**
 - The Madhya Pradesh GCC Policy 2025 integrates **incentives for capital expenditure, payroll, upskilling, and research and development**.
 - A dedicated nodal agency, the [Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Limited \(MPSeDC\)](#), will oversee policy implementation.
- **Target Sectors and Strategic Focus:**
 - The policy targets key sectors, including IT, finance, engineering, human resources, and emerging technologies.
 - Special emphasis is placed on [artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#) and [cybersecurity](#) to drive digital transformation.
- **Decentralizing Business Hubs:**
 - This is **India's first dedicated framework for fostering GCC growth** in tier-2 cities.
 - The initiative aims to **shift business hubs beyond traditional metro cities**, promoting regional economic development.
 - The policy **seeks to attract over 50 GCCs**, generating more than **37,000 direct jobs**.
 - It aims to position **Madhya Pradesh as a center of excellence for IT/ITeS, advanced analytics, R&D, and digital transformation**.
- **Foreign Investments and Industrial Ecosystem:**
 - The policy facilitates **foreign investments and infrastructure development** across multiple industries.
 - The policy was unveiled ahead of the biennial [Global Investors' Summit](#) in Bhopal.
- **Infrastructure:**
 - Madhya Pradesh houses over **five Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**, 15+ IT parks, and 150+ Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) units.
 - Key IT hubs include Indore, Bhopal, and Jabalpur, with upcoming projects like [Knowledge City](#) and [Electronics Manufacturing Cluster 2.0](#).
 - **Ranked 4th in the Ease of Doing Business Rankings (2023)**, Madhya Pradesh ensures streamlined regulatory processes and **investor-friendly policies**.
- **Policy Implementation and Governance:**
 - The **MPSeDC serves as the nodal agency** for policy execution.
 - A dedicated **Policy Implementation Unit (PIU)** will manage project approvals, incentive allocation, and compliance monitoring.
 - By fostering innovation and attracting global tech centers, Madhya Pradesh contributes to **India's vision of a USD 110 billion GCC market by 2030**.

Global Capability Centers (GCCs)

- **About:**
 - Global Capability Centers (GCCs), also known as Global In-House Centers (GICs), are strategic outposts established by [multinational corporations \(MNCs\)](#) in countries

around the world.

- Operating as internal entities within the global corporate framework, these centres **offer specialised capabilities including IT services, research** and development, customer support, and various other business functions.
- **Examples of GCCs:**
 - General Electric (GE) has a large GCC in Bangalore, focused on R&D and engineering for its aviation and healthcare businesses.
 - **Nestle** has established a **GCC in Lausanne, Switzerland**, dedicated to product development and innovation for its food and beverage brands.

Ammonia Gas Leak in Kota | Rajasthan | 17 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Ammonia gas leaked from a **Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL)** plant near Gadepan village in **Kota district of Rajasthan**. This leak caused **students of a government school to fall sick**, with the children complaining of nausea and fainting after inhaling the gas's sharp, suffocating odor.

Key Points

- **Impact of the Gas Leak:**
 - The gas leak affected students who went to the school grounds to fetch water, with some **complaining of breathlessness and abdominal pain**.
 - The **school and the CFCL factory share boundaries**, likely contributing to the exposure.
 - School staff immediately transported the students to the hospital in their own vehicles as their condition worsened.
- **Precautionary Measures:**
 - As a precautionary measure, the school was closed, and children were sent home after the incident, which caused panic in the village.
 - **Lok Sabha Speaker** and local officials visited the hospital to check on the affected students.

Ammonia Gas (NH₃)

- **About:**
 - It is a compound of Nitrogen and Hydrogen.
 - It is a **colorless** gas with a pungent, penetrating odor.
 - Ammonia is highly reactive and a soluble alkaline gas.
- **Mode of Production:**
 - **Natural:**
 - Produced in soil through bacterial processes.
 - Generated during the decomposition of organic matter, including plants, animals, and animal waste.
 - Bacteria in the intestines also produce ammonia, and a small amount is generated by lightning strikes.
 - **Commercial:**
 - Produced through steam reforming of natural gas and coal gasification.
- **Uses:**
 - Used to **produce nitrogen compounds like urea**, the most commonly used **source of**

nitrogen in fertilizers.

- **Applied directly to soil** for crops, lawns, and plants.
- Utilized in various **cleaning products**.
- Forms compounds like **ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, and various ammonium phosphates**.
- Used in the **manufacture of explosives**.
- Used in **refrigeration and cooling systems**.

▪ **Impact:**

◦ **Plants:**

- Causes **direct toxic damage to leaves**.
- Alters plant susceptibility to **frost, drought, and pathogens**, including insect pests and invasive species.

◦ **Health Risks:**

- Long-term exposure to low concentrations or short-term exposure to high concentrations can cause **adverse health effects from inhalation**.
- Symptoms may include **burning sensations in the nose, throat, and respiratory tract irritation**.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam | Uttar Pradesh | 17 Feb 2025

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated **the third edition of [the Kashi Tamil Sangamam](#)** in **Varanasi**. The unique event highlights **India's cultural foundations** and emphasizes the **emotional and creative bond** shared **between Kashi and Tamil Nadu**.



Key Points

- **Inspiration and Vision:**
 - The Sangamam is inspired by the vision of '[Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat \(One India, Excellent India\)](#)'.
 - Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister highlighted that the event is part of a **grand spiritual and cultural initiative** aimed at advancing this vision.
 - The event is integrated with the grand [Maha Kumbh 2025](#) celebrations, elevating the centuries-old tradition and strengthening the vision of uniting India through the Kashi Tamil Sangamam.
- **Significance of Kashi, Kumbh, and Ayodhya:**
 - This edition holds special significance as the **first to be held after the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya**.
 - Delegates will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the divinity of Kashi, Kumbh, and Ayodhya.
 - The CM emphasized **Kashi's** historical significance as a **centre of India's cultural heritage and spirituality** and praised the legacy of Tamil literature.
 - The event reconnects participants with this invaluable heritage.
- **Theme of '4S':**
 - This year's Sangamam is centered around the theme of '4S', uniting **India's Saint tradition, Scientists, Social reformers, and Students**.
 - The theme draws inspiration from **Maharishi Agastya, believed to be the sage who bridged north and south India**.
 - The Kashi Tamil Sangamam has become an **effective platform for dialogue** between the people of north and south India.
- **Music, Heritage, and Devotion:**
 - The Union Education Minister stated that the **celebration weaves together music, heritage, and devotion** on the banks of [the Ganga](#).
 - He emphasized that **development and heritage must go hand in hand**.
- **Union Government Initiatives:**
 - Initiatives such as the establishment of **the National Digital Repository of the Indian Knowledge System** to [digitize ancient texts](#) and use [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#) for **research** were highlighted.
 - [The Bharatiya Bhasha Pustaka Yojana](#), which will **translate textbooks into 22 Indian languages**, creating a "digital Maha Kumbh" for students.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam Significance

- The ancient connection between **Kashi (Uttar Pradesh)** and Tamil Nadu dates back to the **15th century** when [King Parakrama Pandya](#), ruler of the region around [Madurai](#), traveled to Kashi to bring back the **lingam for his temple**.
 - While returning, he **stopped to rest under a tree** — but when he tried to continue his journey, **the cow carrying the lingam refused to move**.
- Parakrama Pandya **understood this to be the Lord's wish, and installed the lingam there**, a place that came to be known as **Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu**.
- For devotees **who could not visit Kashi, the Pandyas had built the Kasi Viswanathar Temple** in what is today **Tenkasi in southwestern Tamil Nadu**, close to the state's border with Kerala.