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# Does the Rise in Crime against Scheduled Tribes in States Like Chhattisgarh Contribute to the Growth of Maoist Activities?

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## ABSTRACT

*The socio-political landscape of Chhattisgarh is complex, with the intersection of Scheduled Tribe (ST) welfare and Maoist activities at its core. This report delves by analyzing data collected over several years, uncovering the systemic challenges faced by ST communities, and highlighting the influence of Maoist activities on their well-being. The analysis is rooted in data sourced from Governor's Reports and NCRB records from 2016 to 2022. These reports, while official, have shown signs of inaccuracy, including identical figures for FIR cases and cases resolved across multiple years, and significant portions of content being repeated year after year. Despite these challenges, the data offers a crucial window into the ongoing struggles and emerging patterns within the region.*

*This report aims to:*

- *Provide a detailed description of the data and the sources from which it was collected.*
- *Outline the methods used for data preparation.*
- *Utilize statistical tools to analyze the data.*
- *Present the findings through tables, graphs, and charts, accompanied by in-depth analysis and interpretation.*
- *Conclude with key findings, implications for ST welfare and security, and policy recommendations to improve the protection and development of ST communities while addressing Maoist insurgency.*

*This analysis not only seeks to inform but also to inspire action—by policymakers, researchers, and social activists—to address the underlying issues that perpetuate violence and deprivation in Chhattisgarh's tribal regions.*

**Keywords:** *Scheduled Tribes Welfare, Maoist Activities, Crime Against Tribes, Chhattisgarh, Policy Recommendations.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### (A) Background on Chhattisgarh and its ST Population

Chhattisgarh is one of the fastest-developing states in India. Its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is ₹5.09 lakh crore (US\$61 billion) (2023–24 est.), with a per capita GSDP of ₹152,348 (US\$1,800) (2023–24 est.). A resource-rich state, it has the third largest coal reserves in the country and provides electricity, coal, and steel to the rest of the nation. The current governor of the state of Chhattisgarh is Ramen Deka and the chief minister of the state of Chhattisgarh is Vishnu Deo Sai. As per Census data of 2020 the population of Chhattisgarh is 2.94 crores, where Hinduism is majority religion in state of Chhattisgarh with 93.25 % followers. Islam is second most popular religion in state of Chhattisgarh with approximately 2.02 % following it. In Chhattisgarh state, Christianity is followed by 1.92 %, Jainism by 0.24 %, Sikhism by 0.27 % and Buddhism by 0.27 %. Around 1.94 % stated 'Other Religion' and the population of *Scheduled Tribe is 78,22,902* (according to census of 2011).

### (B) Overview of Left – Wing Extremist in the region

#### a. *How Left-Wing Extremism Started in India*

Left-wing extremism in India, often associated with Maoist insurgency, has roots in the early 20th century but gained significant traction in the 1960s and 1970s. The influence of Marxist and Maoist ideologies began to seep into India in the early 20th century, influenced by the global revolutionary movements and the struggle against colonial rule. The Communist Party of India (CPI) was established in 1925, and it played a role in advocating for the rights of the marginalized. The turning point for left-wing extremism was the Naxalbari uprising in West Bengal. A group of radical Communists led by Charu Majumdar and Kanu Sanyal, inspired by Mao Zedong's revolutionary tactics in China, initiated an armed struggle against the Indian state. They aimed to overthrow the existing political and social structures and establish a “people’s republic” through violent means. The Naxalite movement, named after the Naxalbari village where the insurgency began, spread to various parts of India, especially in rural and tribal areas where socio-economic conditions were dire. The movement was driven by issues like land rights, poverty, and inequality.

The Indian government responded with military and police actions to quell the insurgency. Various operations and crackdowns were initiated, which sometimes exacerbated local grievances and led to further radicalization.

#### b. *How Left-Wing Extremism Spread in Chhattisgarh*

Left-wing extremism entered Chhattisgarh in the early 2000s, evolving from the broader Maoist insurgency that had been active in other parts of India. Chhattisgarh, a predominantly tribal and economically disadvantaged region, has long faced issues of poverty, land rights, and exploitation. The socio-economic conditions and historical injustices made it fertile ground for Maoist ideologies, which promised to address these grievances. In 2000, the state of Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh. This new state faced significant developmental challenges, and its vast forested areas and tribal populations became areas of focus for Maoist groups seeking to expand their influence. The Maoists, already active in neighboring states like Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Maharashtra, began to expand their operations into Chhattisgarh. The dense forests and difficult terrain of the region provided a natural hideout and a strategic advantage for insurgent activities. The Maoists capitalized on local issues such as land displacement, forest rights, and poor infrastructure. They gained support from marginalized communities who felt alienated by the state's development policies. The Maoists promised to fight for the rights of the poor and disenfranchised, which resonated with many in these areas. Over time, Maoist groups established a strong organizational presence in Chhattisgarh. They set up local committees and expanded their network, recruiting from among the tribal population and local disaffected groups. They carried out attacks on security forces, infrastructure, and symbols of the state's authority. The rise of Maoist activity in Chhattisgarh led to a significant government response. The state and central governments have implemented various counter-insurgency measures, including military operations, establishment of specialized forces like the Chhattisgarh State Police's Special Task Force (STF), and development programs aimed at addressing some of the socio-economic issues. The conflict between the Maoists and the Indian state in Chhattisgarh remains ongoing, with periodic escalations in violence and continued efforts by the government to address the root causes of the insurgency while seeking to restore peace and development in the region.

### **(C) Objective**

- a.** *The relationship between crime against STs and Maoist activities in Chhattisgarh*

The relationship between crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Maoist activities in Chhattisgarh is deeply intertwined and complex. In this region, the presence of Maoist insurgents, also known as Naxalites, has created a volatile environment where the ST communities are particularly vulnerable.

Maoists often exploit the socio-economic grievances of the STs, who are among the most marginalized groups in India, to garner support and recruit members. However, this

relationship is not one of mutual benefit; rather, it often results in further victimization of the STs. Crimes against these communities, including violence, coercion, and exploitation, are frequently committed both by Maoists to maintain control and by state forces during counter-insurgency operations.

The state's focus on combating Maoist activities sometimes leads to heavy-handed tactics that disproportionately affect the STs, who are caught between the insurgents and the government forces. As a result, the STs experience heightened insecurity, loss of property, forced displacement, and other human rights violations. This cycle of violence perpetuates their marginalization and deepens the socio-economic disparities that Maoists initially claim to oppose.

In summary, the relationship between crimes against STs and Maoist activities in Chhattisgarh is marked by exploitation, violence, and systemic neglect, making the STs both pawns and victims in this ongoing conflict.

#### *b. Purpose of the research*

The primary objective of this research is to analyze how left-wing extremism has infiltrated the state of Chhattisgarh and its significant impact on the Scheduled Tribes (STs) in rural areas. This study aims to understand how extremists have manipulated and dominated these vulnerable communities, exploiting their isolation and lack of resources to spread violent and anti-government ideologies.

The research critically examines the socio-political landscape of Chhattisgarh, highlighting how the state's rural composition has made it susceptible to extremist infiltration. It explores the systematic oppression of Scheduled Tribes by these extremists, leading to their marginalization and deprivation.

A key aspect of this research is the scrutiny of official data and reports, which may not accurately reflect the realities in Chhattisgarh. By comparing these reports with independent data, the study seeks to uncover discrepancies and provide a more accurate picture of the situation.

The ultimate goal is to offer policy recommendations that address the identified issues. The research aims to provide insights that the government can use to improve conditions for Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh, safeguard their rights, and eliminate the threat of left-wing extremism in the region.

### **(D) Literature Review**

**a. Books focusing on Left Wing Extremism in India**

Books focusing on left-wing extremism, particularly Maoist insurgency, in Chhattisgarh cover various aspects of the conflict, including socio-political dynamics, historical context, and the impact on local communities. Here are some notable works:

***"The Naxalite Movement in India"* by K. S. Subramanian**

This book provides an overview of the Naxalite (Maoist) movement in India, including its spread into Chhattisgarh. It examines the ideological, historical, and socio-economic factors contributing to the insurgency.

***"The Maoist Insurgency in India: A Reality Check"* by P. Sainath**

Sainath, a prominent journalist, offers insights into the Maoist movement in India, including Chhattisgarh. His work often explores the socio-economic conditions that fuel the insurgency.

***"India's Maoist Insurgency: The Anti-Terror Law, Human Rights, and State Repression"* by Nandini Sundar**

Nandini Sundar's book examines the Maoist insurgency and the state's response, including human rights implications and state repression. It includes detailed discussions on Chhattisgarh and its impact on local communities.

***"The War of the Ants: The Naxalite Movement in India"* by Kancha Ilaiah**

Ilaiah's book delves into the broader Naxalite movement with references to Chhattisgarh, exploring the social and political contexts that have fueled the insurgency.

***"The Maoists and the State: The Politics of Armed Conflict in India"* by Prashant Jha**

This book provides an in-depth analysis of the Maoist conflict in India, including Chhattisgarh. It examines the interactions between Maoist groups and the Indian state.

***"The Left-Wing Extremism in India: A Study of Its Impact on National Security"* by C. P. Bhardwaj**

Bhardwaj's work focuses on the broader implications of left-wing extremism, including its impact on national security and specific regions like Chhattisgarh.

***"The Red Corridor: The Naxalite Insurgency in India"* by Anand Teltumbde**

Teltumbde provides a comprehensive look at the Maoist insurgency in the "Red Corridor," which includes Chhattisgarh. The book explores the historical and contemporary dimensions of the conflict.

**"The Maoist Insurgency in Chhattisgarh: A Study of the Political Economy of Conflict"**

by Arundhati Roy

This book provides a detailed analysis of the political economy underlying the Maoist insurgency in Chhattisgarh, including socio-economic and political factors.

**"Chhattisgarh: Land of the Maoists" by Pradeep Chhibber**

Focuses specifically on Chhattisgarh, examining how the state's socio-economic conditions have contributed to the rise and persistence of Maoist insurgency.

**II. DATA ANALYSIS****(A) Unveiling the Data: A Window into the Lives of Chhattisgarh's Tribes****a. Methodology****i. Description**

The data before us is not just numbers; it's a story of resilience, struggle, and survival, collected from 2016 to 2022. This data captures the lives of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Chhattisgarh, a state often caught between development and conflict.

The *Secondary Source* method (method involves using existing materials—such as books, articles, and reports—created by others to gather and analyze information) was used in this research.

The data used in the reports are collected from official sources, namely the *Governor's Reports* and *NCRB records*.

However, as our investigation deepened, it became evident that these sources, though official, are not without their flaws. For years, identical figures were reported for FIR cases, cases solved reports which peculiarly raises more questions than answers. Furthermore, sections of the Governor's reports appear similar year after year clearly suggesting that the reality might be more complex than the actual reports suggest.

*The data at hand covers critical aspects such as:*

- Crimes Against STs
- Budget Allocations and Expenditures for ST Development
- Legal Cases Under the Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code
- Police Casualties Due to Maoist Activities
- Funds Allocated to Combat Naxalism

Despite its limitations, this data provides a valuable perspective for examining the relationship between ST welfare and Maoist violence, potentially shedding light on the persistent turmoil in Chhattisgarh.

### *ii. Sources*

In this report we used a variety of trustful and reputed sources to collect information: -

- **Governor's Reports** - The Chhattisgarh Governor's Reports are official documents submitted annually by the Governor of Chhattisgarh to the President of India. These reports provide an overview of the state's progress, development, and administrative issues.
- **NCRB records** - The National Crime Records Bureau records are official statistics on crime and law enforcement in India. They provide data on various types of crimes, arrests, and law enforcement activities, helping in analyzing crime trends and evaluating the effectiveness of policing.

Even after being one of the most popular and trustful sources they were not without flaws. The repetition of data across multiple years indicates that the accuracy of the information may be compromised or, in some cases, deliberately obscured.

The NCRB reports, despite their thorough approach to collecting crime statistics, face scrutiny due to the unusually consistent data on FIRs and case resolutions. Similarly, the Governor's Reports, intended to reflect annual progress, exhibit a troubling pattern of repetition that undermines their credibility. This finding necessitates a careful approach to the data, balancing reliance with skepticism and recognizing that while it provides guidance, not all aspects are clearly defined.

### *iii. Data Preparation and cleaning*

Before conducting any meaningful analysis, it was crucial to meticulously evaluate the data, distinguishing between reliable and questionable information, and identifying significant details. This phase was as much about investigative rigor as it was about data science.

- **Duplicate Entries**: These were carefully identified, particularly within the Governor's Reports. Where repetition was noted, the data was cross-verified with other sources to ensure the accuracy of our analysis.
- **Handling Inconsistencies**: Missing or inconsistent data points were either carefully estimated or, where necessary, excluded from specific analyses to preserve the integrity of our findings.



- **Standardization:** All monetary figures were converted to Crores, and temporal references were harmonized to ensure valid and meaningful year-on-year comparisons.
- **Language:** The Governor Reports were converted to English Language as they were written and posted in Hindi.

#### iv. Tools of the Trade

The statistical analysis used a mix of basic and advanced tools to turn the data into insights that clearly reflect the experiences of Chhattisgarh's ST communities.

- **Microsoft Excel:** While basic, Excel provided the foundational structure for organizing and visualizing data, offering initial insights through its powerful yet accessible tools. Also, to visualization tools transformed raw numbers into compelling narratives, creating visual representations.
- **Microsoft Word:** MS Word was used for the completion of the said report in words for better understanding and knowing of the truth.

### (B) Results

#### a. Visualizing the Findings

##### i. Crime Against STs

The data indicates a concerning upward trend in crimes against STs, rising from 402 cases in 2016 to 516 cases in 2022. This increase reflects a growing threat to the safety and security of these communities, potentially driven by heightened conflict, inadequate law enforcement, or deeper socio-economic issues. This trend is more than just statistics; it's a reflection of the increasing vulnerability of these communities, who are often caught in the crossfire of a larger socio-political struggle. The persistent rise in crime rates highlights the urgent need for enhanced security measures and targeted interventions. It is important to note that the accuracy of these figures is under scrutiny, with potential discrepancies raising concerns about the reliability of reported trends.

SL NO.	YEAR	CRIME AGAINST STs	LEFT WING EXTREMISTS
1	2016	402	N/A
2	2017	399	N/A
3	2018	388	N/A
4	2019	427	N/A
5	2020	502	N/A

6	2021	506	87
7	2022	516	89

ii. **Budget Allocation vs. Expenditure**

The gap between what is allocated and what is spent raises uncomfortable questions for instance, The reasons for consistent shortfall and whether its due inefficiency, mismanagement, or something more sinister is hard to understand. Government allocations for ST development have increased over the years, reaching ₹1852.97 Crores in 2022. This increase signifies a growing recognition of the need for substantial investment in ST welfare. However, the expenditure data shows significant gaps between allocated funds and actual spending. For instance, the allocation in 2022 was the highest, but the expenditure was also substantial at ₹1454.47 Crores. These discrepancies suggest inefficiencies in fund utilization and potential issues in program implementation. The variability in expenditure and allocation further raises questions about the accuracy and reliability of the financial data reported.

SL NO.	YEAR	ALLOCATION OF BUDGET BY GOVT. OF CHHATISHGARG FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STs (In Crores)	EXPENDITURE OF THE ALLOCATED BUDGET BY GOVT. OF CHHATISHGARG FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STs (In Crores)
1	2016	1247.68	421.84
2	2017	1417.78	1023.74
3	2018	1630.76	900.51
4	2019	1713.55	1113.94
5	2020	1612.06	966.76
6	2021	1595.22	1027.84
7	2022	1852.97	1454.47

iii. **Land Protection Cases**

The governor's report highlighting the identical figures for cases registered and solved under the Chhattisgarh Land Revenue Code between 2016 and 2019 raises serious concerns about data integrity. With 44,464 cases lodged and 44,093 resolved over four years, the improbability of such uniformity suggests potential discrepancies in the data. This consistency not only undermines the credibility of the report but could also point to more systemic issues, such as negligence or deliberate data manipulation. Given the sensitive nature of land rights, particularly concerning the protection of tribal communities, this issue is especially alarming. If the data were intentionally manipulated, it could be a concerted effort to project a favorable yet inaccurate image of the government's actions in safeguarding tribal rights. Such actions would obscure the true challenges faced by Scheduled Tribes (ST) and potentially hinder the

advocacy for their rights.

The passage of this report in the legislative assembly, signed by the then governor of Chhattisgarh, without scrutiny, further indicates a breakdown in the processes meant to ensure data accuracy and accountability. Whether this was a case of oversight or something more concerning, it demands a thorough investigation. A comprehensive audit could expose whether this is a result of negligence or intentional deceit. At its core, this issue is about more than just data errors—it touches on the potential misrepresentation of the government's commitment to tribal land rights and justice. The integrity of governance depends on transparent, accurate reporting. Such anomalies suggest that the true scale of land protection issues may be underreported, masking the challenges faced by ST communities. Therefore, an independent inquiry must be conducted to ensure that this type of discrepancy does not persist and that the rights of the tribal population are genuinely safeguarded.

SL NO.	YEAR	CASES LODGED AS PER CHATTISHGARH LAND REVENUE CODE TO PROTECT THE LANDS OWNED BY ST COMMUNITY	NO. OF CASES SOLVED
1	2016	44464	44464
2	2017	44464	44464
3	2018	44464	44464
4	2019	44464	44464
5	2020	N/A	N/A
6	2021	N/A	N/A
7	2022	N/A	N/A

#### iv. *Maoist Violence and Police Casualties*

The fluctuation in police casualties due to Left Wing Extremism, particularly the sharp spike in 2020, points to the unpredictable and dangerous nature of the conflict. The number of police personnel killed surged to 55 in 2020, only to decrease in the following years, highlighting a period of heightened violence and instability. This surge suggests that law enforcement faced an especially challenging year, likely straining their resources and morale. However, these fluctuations also raise suspicion about the accuracy of the reported figures. What adds further complexity to this situation is the apparent contradiction between the official narrative and the allocation of resources. While the central government has often claimed that the situation is under control, the significant increase in funds allocated to counter Naxalism—from ₹479.8 crores in 2016-2017 to ₹1,666.4 crores between 2018 and 2022—tells a different story. This dramatic rise in financial resources points to a reality on the ground that may be far more

serious than what is being projected. The increased funding signals a recognition of escalating challenges and suggests that, despite official reassurances, the situation remains far from stable.

SL NO	YEAR	CENTRE'S ALLOCATION TO COMBAT NAXALISM (In Crores)	UNIFORM POLICE KILLED ON DUTY BY LEFT WING EXTREMISTS
1	2016	479.8	N/A
2	2017		16
3	2018	1666.4	24
4	2019		5
5	2020		55
6	2021		40
7	2022		5

This contradiction between the government's assurances and the rising allocation of funds creates a sense of distrust. It implies that while the state may be trying to present a narrative of control, the true intensity of the conflict is significant enough to require greater resources. This raises concerns about transparency, as the increasing budget allocation suggests that the situation on the ground is more alarming than acknowledged. The disparity between the official stance and the growing investment in anti-Naxal operations should prompt a more critical examination of the actual conditions and the challenges law enforcement faces. Given these discrepancies, there is a need for greater transparency in reporting and a thorough investigation into the actual state of affairs. Only then can we address both the immediate safety concerns for law enforcement and the long-term strategies needed to address Left Wing Extremism effectively.

### (C) Analyzing the Findings

The combined analysis of crime trends, government spending, land protection, and anti-extremism measures reveals several crucial insights: -

- **ST Victimization and Maoist Activities:** The parallel rise in crimes against STs and Maoist activities suggests a correlation that is both troubling and telling. The increase in victimization appears to coincide with intensified Maoist insurgency, suggesting a cycle of violence and retribution where socio-economic disenfranchisement fuels both victimization and rebellion. This pattern points to the need for comprehensive strategies addressing both socio-economic issues and extremist violence.
- **Budgetary Failures:** The consistent under-expenditure of allocated funds for ST

development reveals systemic inefficiencies that undermine the potential benefits of these funds. These failures contribute to the conditions that foster discontent and extremism. The discrepancies between allocated and spent amounts highlight issues with financial management and data accuracy.

- **Data Integrity Concerns:** The identical figures for land protection cases from 2016 to 2020 raise significant questions about data reliability. Such anomalies suggest that the true scale of land protection issues may be underreported, masking the challenges faced by ST communities. This underscores the need for improved data accuracy and transparency.

#### **(D) Interpreting the Data: Insights into Chhattisgarh's Struggles**

- **Does Increased Crime Against STs Fuel Maoist Activities?** The data suggests a chilling possibility: that the rising tide of crimes against STs is not just a symptom but a driver of Maoist insurgency. The data reveals a concerning correlation between the rising number of crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Chhattisgarh and the increase in Maoist insurgency. From 2016 to 2022, the incidence of crimes against STs has grown significantly, climbing from 402 cases to 516 cases. This upward trend appears to align with a corresponding rise in Maoist activities.
- The systemic failures within law enforcement, combined with the socio-economic marginalization of ST communities, may be creating an environment where extremist ideologies can take root. These systemic issues include inadequate legal protection, ineffective policing, and a lack of resources dedicated to addressing the grievances of ST communities. As crimes against STs increase, the insurgent groups may exploit these grievances to recruit and radicalize individuals, further fueling the insurgency. This cycle of rising crime and increased insurgency underscores the need for a dual approach: enhancing security and legal measures to better protect ST communities and investing in socio-economic development to address underlying issues of marginalization and poverty. Only by tackling both security concerns and socio-economic disparities can the cycle of violence and extremism be effectively addressed.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

#### **(A) Summary of the Journey**

During the course of our investigation into the topic "Crimes against Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Chhattisgarh Leading to Maoism," we encountered significant challenges in gathering comprehensive and reliable data. The analysis of data from

Chhattisgarh reveals a troubling trend: increasing crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) and significant budgetary inefficiencies in their development programs. The rising victimization of STs highlights their growing vulnerability, while discrepancies in data reporting raise concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the figures. The combination of these issues paints a dire picture of ST communities under strain, exacerbated by ineffective resource utilization. Additionally, the correlation between rising crimes against STs and intensified Maoist insurgency underscores a critical link between socio-economic marginalization and extremist activities. Addressing these challenges demands a comprehensive approach, including better data accuracy, efficient governance, and targeted interventions to improve security and socio-economic conditions for STs.

### **(B) Key Findings**

The following are the key findings which we were able to gather from different sources: -

- ***Rising Crime Rates and Budgetary Inefficiencies:*** The data indicates a troubling increase in crimes against Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Chhattisgarh, with reported cases rising from 402 in 2016 to 516 in 2022. This escalation highlights a growing vulnerability among ST communities, suggesting that their safety and security are increasingly at risk. Compounding this issue are significant inefficiencies in budget allocation and expenditure. Despite a notable increase in funds allocated for ST development, the disparity between allocated amounts and actual spending reveals critical failures in governance. These budgetary inefficiencies undermine the effectiveness of development programs and fail to address the urgent needs of these communities.
- ***Data Discrepancies:*** The data also uncovers discrepancies, particularly in the reporting of FIR cases and their resolutions. The repetition of figures across multiple years suggests issues with data integrity, raising concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the reported statistics. These discrepancies may obscure the true scale of challenges faced by ST communities and complicate efforts to assess and address their needs effectively.
- ***Implications for ST Welfare and Security:*** The combined impact of rising crime rates, budgetary inefficiencies, and data discrepancies paints a stark picture of ST communities under severe strain. The increasing victimization of STs, coupled with ineffective use of allocated resources, exacerbates their challenges and highlights a critical need for targeted, strategic interventions. Urgent measures are required to enhance security, improve governance, and ensure that development funds are utilized effectively to protect and uplift these communities.

- **The Nexus Between Victimization and Insurgency:** The correlation between rising ST victimization and intensified Maoist activities underscores a significant and troubling nexus. As crimes against STs increase, it appears to fuel Maoist insurgency by exacerbating grievances and socio-economic marginalization. Addressing the root causes of disenfranchisement is not merely a moral obligation but a strategic necessity in combating extremism. Effective interventions must focus on both alleviating socio-economic disadvantages and strengthening security measures to break the cycle of violence and insurgency.

### (C) Contemporary Analysis

#### *Maoist Encounter in Chhattisgarh*

Recently, an encounter with Maoists along the Sukma-Bijapur border in Chhattisgarh resulted in the deaths of three security personnel and injuries to fourteen others. The clash occurred near Tekalgudem village during a search operation by a joint team of security forces.

The incident happened as security personnel from the Special Task Force, District Reserve Guard, and the **CoBRA** (a **jungle warfare** unit of the **CRPF**), newly stationed at Tekalgudem—a known Maoist stronghold—were conducting searches in nearby villages. The Maoists ambushed the team during their operation.

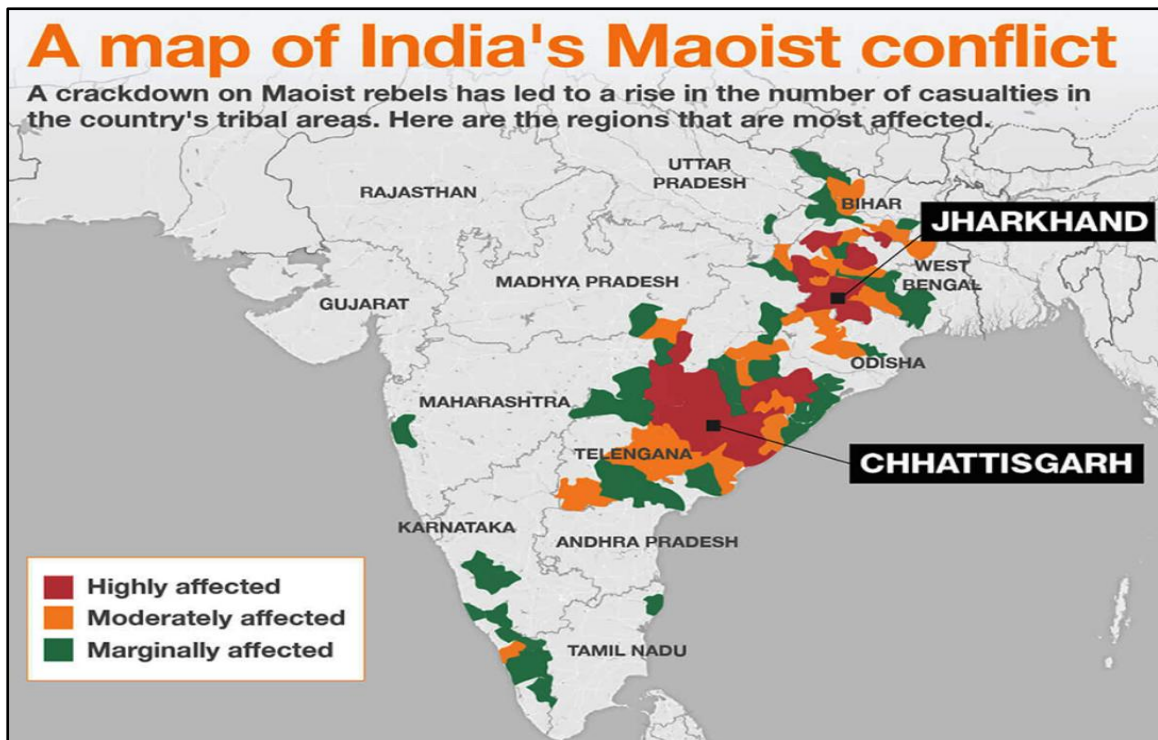
Located in the southern part of Chhattisgarh, Sukma District was formed from Dantewada in 2012. This semi-tropical region, predominantly inhabited by the Gond tribal community and traversed by the Sabari River, has become a significant hub for Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) due to its challenging terrain and strategic geographic location.

**Left-Wing Extremists**, also known as Maoists or Naxalites, originated from a 1967 rebellion in Naxalbari, West Bengal. The movement, led by Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal, aimed at redistributing land to peasants and has since spread to less developed areas in Eastern India, including Chhattisgarh. Maoism, inspired by Mao Tse Tung, advocates for state power through armed insurgency and mass mobilization.

**Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):** The CRPF, established in 1939 as the Crown Representative Police and renamed in 1949, is a premier Central Armed Police Force under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its mission is to maintain public order, internal security, and national integrity while promoting social harmony and constitutional supremacy.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Drishti IAS, 'Maoists Encounter in Chhattisgarh' (Drishti IAS, 5 June 2023) <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/maoists-encounter-in-chhattisgarh> accessed 10 August 2024.



In conclusion, the data reveals critical insights into the systemic issues affecting ST communities and their vulnerability to extremism. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that includes improved data accuracy, efficient governance, and targeted socio-economic and security interventions.

#### (D) Recommendations

##### a. Policy Suggestions for ST Protection and Development B

##### i. Improve Data Accuracy and Reporting

- **Regular Audits:** Conduct regular audits of data collection and reporting processes to identify and rectify discrepancies. Ensure that data on crimes, budget allocations, and expenditures are accurate and up-to-date.
- **Integrated Data Systems:** Develop integrated data systems that consolidate information from various sources, including FIRs, land protection cases, and budget reports, to provide a comprehensive and reliable view of ST welfare and security.

##### ii. Optimize Budget Allocation and Utilization

- **Efficient Fund Management:** Implement mechanisms to ensure that allocated funds are effectively utilized for their intended purposes. This includes setting up monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track the implementation of development programs.
- **Targeted Investments:** Prioritize investments in areas that directly impact ST welfare,



such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Address gaps between budget allocations and actual expenditures to ensure resources are used effectively.

*b. Strategies to Combat Left – Wing Extremist C*

*i. Strengthen Anti-Extremism Strategies*

- **Proactive Measures:** Develop proactive strategies to address extremism, including community outreach programs and counter-radicalization efforts. Focus on addressing the root causes of disenfranchisement and socio-economic marginalization.
- **Integrated Security Framework:** Create an integrated security framework that combines effective policing with socio-economic development to address both immediate and long-term challenges related to extremism.

*ii. Strengthen Law Enforcement and Legal Protections*

- **Enhanced Training and Resources:** Equip law enforcement agencies with specialized training and resources to effectively address crimes against STs. This includes cultural sensitivity training and improved investigative tools.
- **Increased Accountability:** Establish mechanisms for greater accountability and transparency in handling cases involving STs. This may involve independent oversight bodies to ensure fair treatment and address grievances.

*c. Areas for Further Research*

*i. Economic and Social Drivers of Maoist Insurgency*

- **Conduct Detailed Surveys:** Implement comprehensive surveys in Maoist-affected regions to assess the impact of economic inequality, unemployment, and lack of basic services on insurgency support.
- **Evaluate Development Programs:** Research the effectiveness of current socio-economic development programs in mitigating insurgency drivers and suggest improvements.

*ii. Long-Term Impacts of Insurgency*

- **Impact Assessment:** Analyze the long-term social and economic impacts of Maoist insurgency on affected regions, focusing on recovery and resilience.
- **Rehabilitation Strategies:** Study effective rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies to support communities recovering from insurgency-related disruptions.

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**IV. REFERENCES**

- Department of Tribal and Scheduled Caste: Government of Chattishgarh, Governor's report on the administration of scheduled areas of Chattisgarh (2016-2017)
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