

### ORIGINS AND EXPANSION OF THE MAOIST MOVEMENT IN INDIA

- The Maoist movement began with the Naxalbari uprising in 1967 in West Bengal, led by Charu Majumdar.
- Inspired by Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong's ideas, the movement emphasised armed struggle led by landless peasants, targeting feudal landlords as "class enemies."
- By 1972, most early leaders, including Majumdar, had been killed, causing a temporary decline.
- **Revival through People's War Group**
  - The movement was revived in the late 1970s by Kondapalli Seetharamaiah, who founded the People's War Group (PWG) in Telangana.
  - It gained momentum by mobilising educated youth from universities and technical institutions, expanding its organisational base.
  - The formation of CPI (Maoist) under Muppala Lakshmana Rao marked a turning point.
  - The group developed a structured insurgent force, including the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), transforming into a well-organised guerrilla movement.
  - The Maoists evolved into a highly militarised insurgency, reportedly receiving training from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.
  - At its peak, the movement was described by the then PM Manmohan Singh as India's "**biggest internal security threat.**"

### DECLINE OF INDIA'S MAOIST INSURGENCY

- Recent operations, especially **Operation Kagar** (2024), have dealt severe blows to the Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) movement.
- Security forces have recorded thousands of surrenders ( $\approx 3,840$ ), arrests ( $\approx 2,220$ ), and deaths ( $\approx 600$ ).

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

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### Current Affairs - 19 April 2026

- Several top leaders, including Central Committee and Politburo members, have been eliminated or captured, leaving the organisation structurally weakened and leaderless.
- **Collapse of Organisational Structure**
  - The Maoist leadership has sharply declined:
    - Central Committee strength reduced from ~40 members to just 2
    - Many senior leaders killed, arrested, or surrendered
    - This reflects a near breakdown of command and coordination within the organisation.
- **Shrinking Geographical Influence**
  - The Maoists' territorial control has drastically reduced:
    - From ~180 districts in 2013
    - To just two districts (Bijapur and Sukma in Chhattisgarh) today
  - Their once expansive “Red Corridor” has effectively collapsed, marking the end of large-scale insurgent dominance.
- **History of Resilience and Regrouping**
  - Despite current setbacks, Maoists have previously demonstrated remarkable resilience:
    - Reduced to minimal strength in the early 1990s
    - Re-emerged by 2000 with expanded influence
    - Formation of CPI (Maoist) in 2004 strengthened their reach
  - Their secretive and tightly controlled structure makes it difficult to fully assess their remaining capacity.
- **Current Reality: Weak but Not Eliminated**
  - While the Maoists' armed dominance has nearly ended, they cannot be completely written off.
  - Residual networks and the potential for regrouping remain, especially given their past ability to revive after setbacks.

### Decline of the Maoist Movement: Key Factors Behind the Downfall

- From its early years under Charu Majumdar, the movement was plagued by ideological conflicts.
- Disagreements over violent annihilation versus mass mobilisation led to splintering into multiple factions and frequent leadership changes, weakening organisational cohesion.
- **Shift to Militarisation and State Response** - Although militarisation brought temporary success, it also provoked a strong state response. Special forces like the **Greyhounds** in Andhra Pradesh and coordinated operations such as Operation Kagar significantly eroded Maoist strongholds.
- **Tribal vs Non-Tribal Leadership Rift** - A key internal contradiction emerged as tribals formed the core fighting force, while leadership remained largely non-tribal. This created tensions within the organisation, prompting efforts to promote tribal leaders like Madvi Hidma.
- **Declining Relevance of Ideology** - The Maoist ideology gradually lost appeal as government welfare schemes expanded into tribal areas, reducing grievances. The notion of “class enemy” became less relevant in changing socio-economic conditions.
- **Attempts at Dialogue and Strategic Reassessment** - Internal documents by leaders such as Muppala Lakshmana Rao acknowledged the need to reconnect with society and intellectuals. Some leaders, including Cherukuri Rajkumar, even explored peace talks with the government, indicating strategic uncertainty.
- **Declining Recruitment and Rise of Democratic Alternatives** - Falling recruitment levels, sustained security pressure, and the growing effectiveness of democratic protest mechanisms weakened support for armed struggle. Efforts to enter mainstream politics also reflected the movement’s diminishing influence.

Reports suggest that some cadres may have surrendered tactically to rebuild networks overground. The future trajectory depends significantly on the **effectiveness of rehabilitation measures**.

### PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA



**PMGSY**  
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana  
(Prime Minister's Rural Roads Programme)

- It is a flagship **rural development programme** of the Government of India, launched in 2000.

**Objectives:** Providing **all-weather road connectivity** to **unconnected habitations in rural areas** by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations of designated population size.

#### **Eligibility Criteria of PMGSY Scheme:**

- The eligibility criteria under the PMGSY scheme were primarily based on **population size and connectivity status**.
- In **plain areas**, habitations with a population of **500 or more** were eligible, provided they were unconnected.
- For regions in **North-Eastern states, Himalayan states, and Himalayan Union Territories**, the threshold was reduced to a **population of 250 or more**, as per the **2001 Census**.

It is implemented by the following agencies:

- State Governments / UT Administrations will **designate Executing Agencies** to implement the programme.
  - At the District level, the programme will be planned, coordinated, and implemented through **Programme Implementation Units (PIUs)**.
  - PIUs will be manned by competent technical personnel.
  - State Governments will establish suitable linkages with **District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development

### THE DELIMITATION CONTROVERSY - A BATTLE DEFERRED, NOT RESOLVED

- The **defeat** of the Constitution (**131st Amendment**) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha, along with the associated Delimitation Bill and Union Territory Bill, has reignited one of India's most politically charged constitutional debates.
- While the immediate legislative push has failed, the underlying issue — the redrawing of parliamentary constituency boundaries based on updated population data — remains very much alive.
- It will demand resolution before Census figures are published.

#### The Three Bills:

- **Objectives:**
  - **Advance** the operationalisation of the Women's Reservation Law (**106th** Constitutional Amendment, 2023), which mandates that reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies can only take effect after delimitation.
  - **Expand** the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha in an enlarged House.
- **Their defeat:** Means both women's reservation in Parliament and the seat expansion remain stalled.

#### History of the Freeze:

- **1976:** First freeze (42nd Amendment) — Incentivise states to adopt family planning.
- **2001:** Extended freeze (84th Amendment) — Protect southern states; freeze extended 25 years to 2026.
- **2026:** Freeze set to expire — Census ongoing; political battle re-ignited.

#### The North-South Divide:

- **Who gains, who loses?** This is the sharpest political fault line in the debate.
- **Gainers:** States likely to gain seats (higher population growth since 1971) are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra.
- **Losers:** States likely to lose relative representation (lower population growth) are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana.

### Key Challenges:

- **Federal trust deficit:** Southern states fear being constitutionally penalised for better governance and population control.
- **Political arithmetic:** Any delimitation that reduces the effective weight of southern votes will face fierce resistance from regional parties.
- **Women's reservation in limbo:** The 2023 law cannot be operationalised without delimitation, leaving a landmark reform effectively frozen.
- **Constitutional rigidity:** Article 81 (one person, one vote) leaves little room for a politically convenient solution without a constitutional amendment.
- **Thin parliamentary majority:** The defeat of the Amendment Bill itself signals that the ruling coalition lacks the numbers for such politically divisive legislation.

### Way Forward:

- **Another freeze:** This would require a constitutional amendment with a special majority, making political consensus essential.
- **Compensatory mechanisms:** Such as increasing total Lok Sabha seats (without reducing any state's current count) have been discussed as a middle path.
- **Coalition factor:** The ruling party's dependence on coalition partners from the South (TDP) may act as a political brake on any hasty delimitation push.
- **Act fast:** Before Census figures are officially published (likely late 2027) to prevent an automatic and politically explosive change in seat distribution.

### Conclusion:

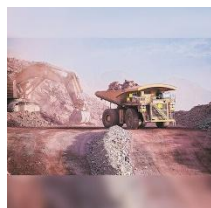
- The defeat of the 131st Amendment Bill has merely postponed a politically sensitive constitutional question.
- The delimitation debate will test India's **cooperative federalism**, constitutional adaptability, and political maturity.
- A carefully negotiated solution is essential to preserve both national unity and representative democracy.

### BHARAT MARITIME INSURANCE POOL



- It is a **new domestic maritime insurance** scheme designed to safeguard the country's **shipping and trade interests** during periods of **global instability**.
- It is a **Centre-backed mechanism** designed to ensure uninterrupted and affordable maritime insurance coverage.
- **Coverage:** The BMI Pool will provide insurance support to **Indian-flagged vessels, Indian-controlled ships**, and vessels carrying cargo to or from India, including those passing through volatile maritime routes.
- It will cover a wide range of risks, including **hull and machinery, cargo, protection and indemnity, and war risk insurance**.
- The BMI Pool will **initially run for 10 years**, with the possibility of a five-year extension.
- **Significance:** It is expected to **strengthen India's self-reliance** in marine insurance, build domestic expertise in underwriting and claims management, and ensure continuity of coverage in case of global disruptions or sanctions.

### NATIONAL MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST



- It is set up by the **Central Government** for the purposes of **regional and detailed exploration of minerals** using the funds accrued to it and in such manner as prescribed by the Central Government.
- It was established under the **Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, (MMRDA)**.
- **Structure:** It has a two-tier structure:
  - **Apex Body:** It is the Governing Body, chaired by the **Minister of Mines**. It holds the overall control of the Trust.

- **Executive Committee:** It is chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Mines, administers and manages its activities.
- **Funding:** To implement mandated activities an **NMET Fund has been established.**
  - The NMET Fund **receives money from holders of mining lease** or a prospecting license-cum-mining lease, an amount equivalent to two percent of royalty paid in terms of the Second Schedule of the MMDR Act.
- **Functions of NMET:**
  - **Funding special studies** and projects designed to identify, explore, extract, beneficiate and refine deep-seated or concealed mineral deposits;
  - **Undertaking studies for mineral development**, sustainable mining, adoption of advanced scientific and technological practices and mineral extraction metallurgy;
  - Detailed and regional exploration for strategic and critical minerals
  - Facilitating a national core repository for encouraging research in earth sciences and for evaluation of the mineral prospects.

### WHAT IS FRUCTOSE?



- It is a **member of a group of carbohydrates** known as **simple sugars**, or **monosaccharides.**
- It is one of the **three most common natural monosaccharides.** (The other two are glucose and galactose.)
- **Chemical Formula:**  $C_6H_{12}O_6$  (same as glucose but with a **different structure**).
- Fructose is the **most water-soluble monosaccharide.**
- It is commonly known as **fruit sugar.** Fructose **naturally occurs in fruits, vegetables, honey, sugar cane, and sugar beets.**
- Fructose is significantly **sweeter than glucose**, making it ideal for use in beverages, desserts, and snacks.
- **Fructose and glucose combine to form the disaccharide sucrose**, which we know as **common sugar/table sugar.**

- However, fructose needs to be converted into glucose by the liver before it can be used by the body.
- Unlike other sugars, fructose does not require insulin to be absorbed and therefore has a low impact on blood glucose levels.

### NEW SPECIES OF JUMPING SPIDERS



A team of scientists recently discovered two new species of jumping spiders named *Mogrus shushka* and *Mogrus pune*, thriving in the country's drylands and urban green spaces.

- These are two newly discovered **arachnids** belonging to the **genus Mogrus**, a group of **medium-sized jumping spiders** typically found in the **arid regions of Africa, Europe, and Asia**.

#### **Mogrus shushka:**

- It was identified in **Desert National Park, Rajasthan**, a region better known for its sand dunes and iconic desert wildlife.
- **Derived from the Sanskrit word shushka for 'dry,'** the name reflects the extreme, **arid conditions in which the spider thrives**.
- It is highly **adapted to intense heat, low humidity, and sandy terrain**, conditions that define the Thar desert.

#### **Mogrus pune:**

- It was discovered in the **Alfa Laval Biodiversity Park in Maharashtra**. It was named after the city of Pune.