

## Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. **persistent** (adjective) – continuous, constant, unending, unrelenting, unceasing.
2. **mindlessness** (noun) – inattentiveness, unmindfulness, carelessness, thoughtlessness.
3. **encounter** (noun) – fight, clash, conflict, confrontation.
4. **Maoist** (noun) – a follower of Maoism (it originated in China as a form of communist theory derived from the teachings of Chinese political leader Mao Zedong).
5. **paramilitary** (adjective) – (of semi-militarized force) organized like a military force.
6. **personnel** (noun) – force, staff, employees, workforce.
7. the **spotlight** (noun) – the public attention, the focus of public/media; the public eye.
8. **put the spotlight on** (phrase) – to focus on someone or something; bring attention to someone or something.
9. **long-running** (adjective) – lasting, continuing, persisting, unending.
10. **remote** (adjective) – faraway, distant, far off.
11. **ambush** (noun) – surprise attack.
12. **Special Task Force** (noun) – a Special Task Force (STF) can be constituted in every state of India to deal with certain problems. They are primarily formed due to lack of adequate police forces for a task, like a major criminal, or criminal network or as a counter insurgency or anti-terrorism measure.
13. **District Reserve Guard (DRG)** (noun) – It is one of the special operational teams. It comprises local Adivasi men to counter the Maoists/Naxals.
14. **besides** (preposition/linking adverb) – in addition to, as well, apart from.
15. **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** (noun) – The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is the premier central police force of the Union of India for internal security. Originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939, it is one of the oldest Central para military forces (now termed as Central Armed Police Force). After Independence, the force was renamed as Central Reserve Police Force by an Act of Parliament on December 28, 1949. This Act constituted CRPF as an armed force of the Union.
16. **elite** (noun) – high society people; the group of most powerful people in a society.
17. **COBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) unit** (noun) – The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) was raised under the CRPF in 2009 for guerrilla/jungle warfare type operations for dealing with extremists and insurgents, etc.
18. **proceed** (verb) – move forward, carry on, go on.
19. **stronghold** (noun) – bastion, hotbed; fortress, fort.
20. **embark upon** (phrasal verb) – start, begin, initiate.
21. **comb** (verb) – search, look around in, probe, hunt through, look through.
22. **lack of** (noun) – absence, deficiency, scarcity, dearth.

23. **infrastructure** (noun) – the basic physical or organisational structure for something (to function properly).
24. **terrain** (noun) – area, land, ground, territory.
25. **to one's advantage** (phrase) – to one's benefit/gain.
26. **anticipate** (verb) – expect, foresee, predict.
27. **insurgent** (noun) – mutineer, agitator, subversive, guerrilla, rebel.
28. **reportedly** (adverb) – supposedly, seemingly, apparently, allegedly.
29. **belong to** (verb) – be affiliated to, be associated with, be connected to, be linked to.
30. **battalion** (noun) – unit, squad, section; a large, organized group of people or a large body of troops.
31. **cadre** (noun) – members of a group.
32. **hem** (verb) – surround, border, encircle, enclose; restrict, confine.
33. **formidable** (adjective) – strong, powerful, mighty.
34. **insurrection** (noun) – coup, uprising, rebellion, putsch; civil unrest/disorder.
35. **Naxalite movement** (noun) – a social movement in India in the post-independence years. It is basically a revolutionary movement of peasants and labour-class people.
36. **insurgent** (adjective) – rebellious, dissident, rioting, seditious, subversive.
37. **mindless** (adjective) – senseless, careless, unmindful, heedless, insensible.
38. **guerrilla** (noun) – a small group of irregular fighters fighting against a large, traditional military.
39. **guerrilla-driven** (adjective) – determined by guerrilla.
40. **militant** (noun) – fanatic, extremist, radical, sectarian/partisan; aggressive, violent, belligerent, forceful.
41. **adherent** (noun) – follower, supporter, advocate.
42. **untouched** (adjective) – unaffected, unchanged, uninfluenced.
43. **welfare** (noun) – a government program that provides (financial) assistance to individuals and families in need; social security, public assistance.
44. **discontent** (noun) – dissatisfaction, disaffection, disgruntlement, grievances, unhappiness, displeasure.
45. **repression** (noun) – suppression, oppression, quelling, restraining/stifling.
46. **considerably** (adverb) – greatly, very much, a lot.
47. **decade** (noun) – a period of ten years.
48. **incarcerate** (verb) – jail, take into custody, detain/confine, put in prison.
49. **intact** (adjective) – unbroken, undamaged, unharmed, uninjured, unimpaired.
50. **recourse to** (noun) – resort to, use, utilization, employment.
51. **ploy** (noun) – (cunning) plan, scheme, tactic/trick.
52. **further** (verb) – promote, advance; accelerate, step up; push, encourage.
53. **inability** (noun) – incapability, incapacity, helplessness, uselessness.
54. **reach out** (phrasal verb) – contact someone to obtain/offer help/assistance/cooperation.
55. **hurdle** (noun) – obstacle, difficulty, problem, barrier, impediment, obstruction, hindrance.
56. **result in** (phrasal verb) – cause, bring on, bring about, call forth, give rise to.
57. **protracted** (adjective) – very long, long-lasting, prolonged/extensive.

58. **stalemate** (noun) – deadlock, impasse, standstill/stand-off.
59. **in the wake of** (phrase) – as a result of, in the aftermath of, as a consequence of.
60. **civil society** (noun) – *Civil society* refers to the space for collective action around shared interests, purposes and values, generally distinct from government and commercial for-profit actors.
61. **activist** (noun) – a person who supports a political or societal change/cause.
62. **urge** (verb) – advise, recommend, advocate, suggest.
63. **dialogue** (noun) – discussion, discourse, exchange of views (to solve a problem).
64. **claim** (verb) – cause in the loss of, result in the loss of; take.
65. **South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP)** (noun) – SATP is the largest website on terrorism and low-intensity warfare in South Asia, and creates the database and analytic context for research and analysis of all extremist movements in the region. SATP has been set up to counter the progressive distortions regarding, and the international community's neglect of, the wide range of terrorist movements within South Asia, and particularly in India.
66. **recrimination** (noun) – a situation in which people are accusing each other; an act of accusing someone who has accused you; mutual accusation(s), counter-accusation(s), countercharge, counterattack, retaliation.
67. **inevitably** (adverb) – unavoidably, certainly, definitely.
68. **plea** (noun) – request, appeal.
69. **long-lasting** (adjective) – enduring, lasting, lifelong, permanent.

Persistent mindlessness: On Chhattisgarh's Sukma district  
encounter

APRIL 06, 2021 00:02 IST

### **Tarrem attacks indicate that the weakened Maoists remain a strong military threat**

The **deaths of over 20 paramilitary personnel in an encounter with the Maoists** in the Tarrem area near Chhattisgarh's Sukma district once again puts the spotlight on the long-running conflict in this remote tribal region. Reports indicate a Maoist ambush of the **paramilitary personnel** from different units – the Special Task Force, the District Reserve Guard of the Chhattisgarh police besides the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)'s elite COBRA unit**— who had proceeded to perform combing operations in Maoist strongholds. The units had embarked upon their combing exercise at a time when Maoists were trying to disrupt the construction of a road near Silger-Jagargunda. The lack of road and telecommunications infrastructure in these remote

areas has been one of the reasons for the Maoists being able to use the terrain to their advantage. Questions will be asked as to how such a large force failed to anticipate the ambush and were attacked by insurgents reportedly belonging to the Maoists' "1st Battalion" led by a tribal, Hidma. The encounter has raised the number of security forces killed in Bastar to more than 175 since the killing of 76 CRPF personnel in the Chintalnar attack in April 2010. It is now quite clear that despite facing losses to its cadre and leadership across central and east India and being hemmed into possibly its only remaining stronghold of south Chhattisgarh, the Maoists are still a formidable military threat.

The Maoist insurrection which began first as the Naxalite movement in the 1970s and then intensified since 2004, following the merger of two prominent insurgent groups, remains a mindless guerrilla-driven militant movement that has failed to gain adherents beyond those living in remote tribal areas either untouched by welfare or are discontents due to state repression. The Maoists are now considerably weaker than a decade ago, with several senior leaders either dead or incarcerated, but their core insurgent force in south Bastar remains intact. The recourse to violence is now little more than a ploy to invite state repression which furthers their aim of gaining new adherents. While the Indian state has long since realised that there cannot only be a military end to the conflict, the Chhattisgarh government's inability to reach out to those living in the Maoist strongholds remains a major hurdle, which has resulted in a protracted but violent stalemate in the area. The Tarrem attacks came in the wake of a recent peace march held by civil society activists who had urged a dialogue between the Maoists and the Chhattisgarh government to end the violence that has claimed more than 10,000 lives since 2000 alone, according to the South Asia Terrorism Portal. While a military response and recriminations will inevitably follow the ambush, the civil society plea must not be ignored if a long-lasting solution to the conflict is to be achieved.

GUPTA CLASSES