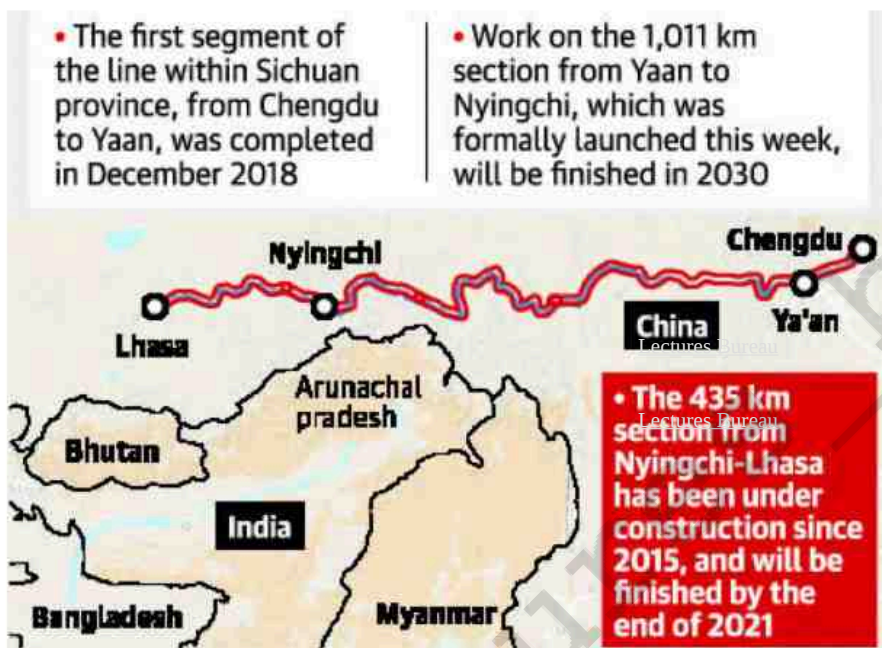


* China begins work on rail line up to Arunachal border.

- From Lhasa in Tibet to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province.
- Connecting both to Nyingchi, a city near AP border.



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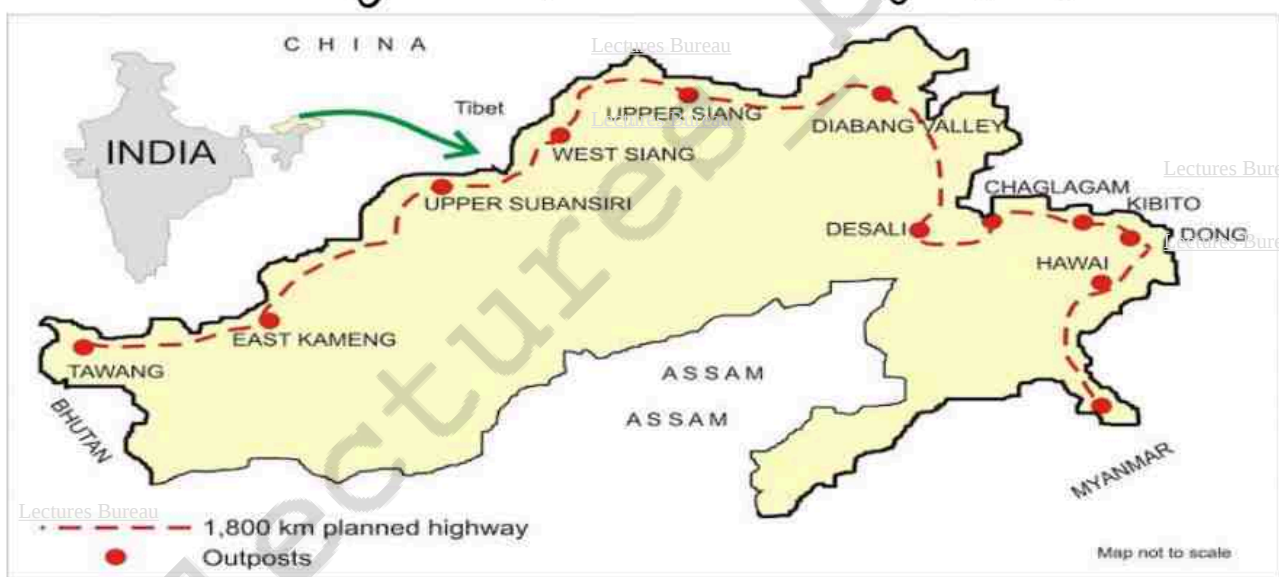
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- 2 fold advantage for China
 - 2nd route linking Tibet to hinterland
 - Runs right up to Nyingchi, near AP
- Purpose
 - Safeguarding national unity
 - Promoting economic & social development of Western region.

* AP CM pushes for highway along Tibet border

- Arunachal Pradesh pushing for the ambitious **Frontier Highway project** since Ladakh stand off.
- Purpose: Faster movement of troops
- Earlier projects got struck due to involvement of multiple agencies.
 - ↳ But now a coordinated approach b/w Army, ITBP, BRO & State Agencies for speedy execution.
 - ↳ Detailed Project Report is being prepared.



- Indian Govt officially recognises Chinese annexation of Tibet
 - ↳ still AP CM calls the border Tibetan border.

- AP → not happy with China's interference
 - ↳ State is unable to get "cheaper" foreign funds due to China's claim on AP.
 - ↳ ADB loans denied → blocked by China
- Central fund is there
 - ↳ 1600 Km Trans-Arunachal Highway Project
 - ↳ East-West Industrial Corridor

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- Purpose of Industrial Corridor
 - ↳ Accessibility for the remotest corners

- Other prospects for AP -

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(1) Tourism → strength

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→ A special desk to be created for AP under 'Invest in India'

(2) Agri & horticulture based industry

(3) Central Electricity Authority

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↳ AP has potential to produce 50,000 MW of hydropower.

↳ But Tribal society coexists with nature.

↳ Thus many projects terminated as they were not right or not progressing.

* Security forces unfurl tricolor

- BSF + Odisha Police

Joint Company Operating Base at
'Gurathu', Swabhiman Anchal

↳ the ideological H Qs of the
outlawed CPI (Maoist)

↳ @ Odisha-Andhra border

- was once the heartland of the Maoist

↳ place was not easily accessible

↳ cut off from Malkangiri district
until the Gurupriya river
bridge was constructed in 2018

- Malkangiri → worst affected district

↳ 332 Maoist incidents b/w 2008-2020

- After bridge construction, forces
moved in and have now unfurled
the tricolor in front of the
CPI (Maoist)'s "Martyr Pillar".

Maoist influence down from 96 to 41 districts: Home Ministry

According to data provided by the (MHA), the geographical influence of Maoists has contracted to only 41 districts in the country.

- Earlier, in 2010, 96 such districts in 10 States accounted for Left Wing Extremism .
- The LWE-affected districts in the State can avail ₹33 crore under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) and Security Related Expenditure (SRA) scheme for infrastructure-related projects.
- SRA is under implementation since 1996. The objective of the scheme is to supplement the efforts of the States to deal with the Naxalite problem effectively.
- As per norms, State governments have to reimburse the amount incurred on the deployment of (CAPF) in a State.

Tackling the Maoists

The home minister noted that the geographical influence of the Maoists had reduced from 96 districts in 10 States in 2010 to 41 at present.

- Naxalites are active in select pockets untouched by development or linkages with the welfare state.
- The Communist Party of India (Maoist) is limited to the remote and densely forested terrains of central and east-central India.

Issues:

- The Maoist strategy has led to some of India's poorest people, particularly the tribals in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, being caught up in endless violence.

- This has also caused severe losses to the Maoists as well as anti-insurgent security forces.
- Frequent attacks have not only affected the security forces but also left many tribal civilians caught in the crossfire.
- A purely security-driven approach fraught with human rights violations has only added to the alienation among the poor in these areas.
- This has followed the predictable path of most Maoist revolts that retained armed struggle to achieve their aims rather than enabling genuine uplift of the poor.
- The Maoists fail to accept their flawed understanding of the nature of the Indian state and democracy.
- They are unwilling to accept that the poor people, whom they claim to represent, seek

greater engagement with the electoral and welfare system.

Way Forward:

- The Maoist insurgency still has potency in South Bastar in Chhattisgarh, the Andhra-Odisha border and in some districts in Jharkhand.
- These States must focus on expansive welfare and infrastructure building even as security forces try to weaken the Maoists.
- The Maoists must be compelled to give up their armed struggle and this can only happen if the tribal people and civil society activists promoting peace are also empowered.
- The Indian government should not be satisfied with the mere weakening of the Maoist insurgency and reduce commitments

made for the developmental needs of some districts of concern.

- The Union government and the States must continue to build on the successes such as the expansion of welfare and rights paradigms in limiting the movement and also learn from failures that have led to the continuing violence in some districts.

A lost cause

26 Maoists were killed in a fierce encounter with security forces in a dense forest in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra

Gadchiroli



- Gadchiroli has dense forests, rivers and sparse population, and has long been a difficult terrain for security personnel to control and operate
- It is difficult to operate in this region due to Gadchiroli's location at the trijunction of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Telanagana.

- The Maoists would be able to shift bases easily.
- It is among Maharashtra's poorest and the Maoists have sought to expand their presence extending from neighbouring Chhattisgarh.

Concerns

• Despite suffering significant losses to its leadership the Maoists have refused to withdraw from their pursuit of armed struggle.