

Mindless violence: On the threat Maoists still pose

The **Maoist attack** in south Bastar **is reflective** of the group's **potency**

Less than two years ago, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah had told leaders and **representatives** of various States that the **influence** of the Maoists had reduced from 96 districts in 10 States in 2010 to just 41 **by late** 2021. Close observers of the Maoist **insurgency** had warned that despite the Maoists' decline, they were still active in South Bastar, the Andhra-Odisha border or in some districts in Jharkhand. The **killing** on Wednesday of a District Reserve Guard team of the Chhattisgarh police in a powerful IED blast **followed** by gunfire **is reflective** of the threat still posed by Maoists in the south Bastar region. **The fact** that these 10 personnel were returning from a **counter-insurgency** operation that they had conducted after a **tip-off indicates** that the Maoist attacks could have been a trap and **points to** a possible intelligence failure. With the Maoists known to **ramp up** attacks on security forces before the **onset** of the monsoon season, the killings suggest a failure in **anticipating** such an attack. It is **incumbent** upon the government to investigate the incident, **plug** security **loopholes**, find out the Maoist **cadre** responsible for the attack and to **bring them to justice**. But it is a task that is **easier said than done** as this is tough **terrain** in a region which could be the last **stronghold** of the Maoists.

The **inability** of the Maoists to **graduate** beyond a violent **guerrilla-based** movement that utilises the **remote** and **inaccessible** forested terrain of central India, and home to tribal communities, **is** largely because of their **incoherent** and **outdated ideology** that has found few **takers** even among the most **marginalised** of communities. **Diligent** security actions have **certainly curbed** their presence outside their stronghold even as **the responsiveness and penetration** of the Indian state into areas where governmental **sway** was **hitherto** absent, **has** had a **mitigatory effect**. Yet, it is not just the terrain and **topography** that have acted as the **obstacles** in **defeating** the Maoists in south Bastar. The **alienation** of a section of tribals caught in the crossfire between security forces and the Maoists **has** allowed the Maoists to **tap** into **discontent** and to retain a presence in the area. In the years of counter-insurgency, **hard-edged strategies** of creating **wedges** among the tribal population to defeat the Maoists **have** been **counter-productive**. The government must continue to try to win the support and confidence of the tribal people of south Bastar as that is the surest way of defeating the Maoist movement. **Any military action** that is **hastily** put together for **retribution** and which could target innocent tribals **will** only **exacerbate** the problem. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Mindless** (adjective) – Senseless, irrational, thoughtless, heedless, बेतुका
2. **Pose** (verb) – Present, create, cause, constitute, खड़ा करना
3. **Maoist** (noun) – Insurgent, rebel, revolutionary, guerilla, माओवादी
4. **Reflective** (adjective) – Indicative, demonstrative, revealing, suggestive, चिंताशील, दिखाने वाला
5. **Potency** (noun) – Strength, power, force, effectiveness, शक्ति
6. **Representative** (noun) – Delegate, agent, spokesperson, envoy, प्रतिनिधि
7. **Influence** (noun) – Impact, sway, control, effect, प्रभाव
8. **Insurgency** (noun) – Rebellion, revolt, uprising, insurrection, विद्रोह
9. **Follow** (verb) – Ensue, come after, succeed, pursue, के बाद होना
10. **Counter-insurgency** (adjective) – Anti-rebellion, counter-revolutionary, anti-guerrilla, उग्रवाद विरोधी
11. **Tip-off** (noun) – Information, lead, clue, hint, सूचना
12. **Point to** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, suggest, signal, imply, संकेत करना
13. **Ramp up** (phrasal verb) – Increase, escalate, intensify, boost, बढ़ाना
14. **Onset** (noun) – Beginning, start, commencement, initiation, शुरुआत
15. **Anticipate** (verb) – Expect, foresee, predict, envisage, पहले से अनुमान लगाना
16. **Incumbent** (on/upon) (adjective) – Obligatory, required, necessary, essential; necessary for (someone) as a duty or responsibility. आवश्यक
17. **Plug loopholes** (phrase) – Close gaps, fix vulnerabilities, mend weaknesses, कमियां को ठीक करना
18. **Cadre** (noun) – Group, unit, corps, team, दल
19. **Bring someone to justice** (phrase) – to capture , prosecute , and usually punish (a criminal , an outlaw , etc) सज़ा देना
20. **Easier said than done** (phrase) – Difficult, not simple, more challenging, कहना आसान है करना मुश्किल
21. **Terrain** (noun) – Landscape, topography, geography, land, भूभाग
22. **Stronghold** (noun) – Bastion, fortress, bulwark, base, गढ़
23. **Graduate** (verb) – Advance, progress, move forward, evolve, बढ़ोतरी होना

24. **Guerrilla-based** (adjective) – Irregular, unconventional, non-traditional, subversive, गेरिला-आधारित
25. **Remote** (adjective) – Isolated, far-off, distant, secluded, दूरस्थ
26. **Inaccessible** (adjective) – Unreachable, unattainable, impervious, अगम्य
27. **Incoherent** (adjective) – Disjointed, unconnected, confused, असंगत
28. **Outdated** (adjective) – Old-fashioned, obsolete, antiquated, पुराने
29. **Ideology** (noun) – Belief system, doctrine, philosophy, विचारधारा
30. **Taker** (noun) – someone who accepts something
31. **The Marginalised** (noun) – Disadvantaged, underprivileged, neglected, वंचित लोग
32. **Diligent** (adjective) – Hardworking, assiduous, industrious, परिश्रमी
33. **Certainly** (adverb) – Definitely, undoubtedly, unquestionably, निश्चित रूप से
34. **Curb** (verb) – Restrain, control, check, नियंत्रित करना
35. **Penetration** (noun) – Infiltration, permeation, spread, प्रवेश
36. **Sway** (noun) – Influence, control, power, प्रभाव
37. **Hitherto** (adverb) – Until now, so far, thus far, अब तक
38. **Mitigatory effect** (noun) – Alleviating effect, reducing impact, moderating influence, कम करने वाला प्रभाव
39. **Topography** (noun) – Terrain, landscape, geography, भू-आकृति
40. **Obstacle** (noun) – Barrier, impediment, hindrance, बाधा
41. **Defeat** (verb) – Overcome, conquer, vanquish, पराजित करना
42. **Alienation** (noun) – Estrangement, isolation, disaffection, अलगाव
43. **Tap** (into) (verb) – Utilize, exploit, draw on, उपयोग करना
44. **Discontent** (noun) – Dissatisfaction, unhappiness, displeasure, असंतोष
45. **Hard-edged** (adjective) – Rigid, inflexible, uncompromising, कठोर
46. **Wedge** (noun) – Split, divide, rift, differences फूट
47. **Counter-productive** (adjective) – Harmful, damaging, detrimental, हानिकर
48. **Hastily** (adverb) – Quickly, hurriedly, rapidly, जल्दबाजी में

49. **Retribution** (noun) – Punishment, penalty, reprisal, प्रतिशोध

50. **Exacerbate** (verb) – Worsen, aggravate, intensify, बढ़ाना, बिगाड़ देना

Summary of the Editorial

1. Recent Maoist attack in south Bastar highlights the group's ongoing potency.
2. In 2021, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reported a reduction in Maoist influence from 96 districts in 2010 to 41.
3. Observers warned of continued Maoist activity in South Bastar, Andhra-Odisha border, and some Jharkhand districts.
4. The IED blast and gunfire attack on the Chhattisgarh police District Reserve Guard team signals the persistent threat in south Bastar.
5. The attack may indicate an intelligence failure and a possible trap set by Maoists.
6. The timing of the attacks suggests a failure in anticipating them before the monsoon season.
7. The government must investigate the incident, address security loopholes, and bring responsible Maoists to justice.
8. Maoists have not moved beyond a violent, guerrilla-based movement due to outdated ideology and limited support.
9. Security actions and increased government presence have reduced Maoist influence outside of strongholds.
10. Terrain and topography are not the only obstacles to defeating Maoists in south Bastar.
11. Alienation of tribals caught in the conflict allows Maoists to tap into discontent and maintain a presence.
12. Past strategies to create wedges among tribal populations have been counter-productive.
13. The government must work to win the support and confidence of the tribal people in south Bastar.
14. Hastily planned military action targeting innocent tribals may worsen the situation.
15. The most effective way to defeat the Maoist movement is through the support of tribal communities.

Banking Based:- Practice Exercise

1. **According to the passage, which of the following factors contributed to the Maoist attack in South Bastar?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. An increase in Maoist influence across the country.
 - B. A lack of counter-insurgency operations by the security forces.
 - C. A possible intelligence failure and failure to anticipate the attack.
 - D. The ease of capturing and bringing the Maoist cadre to justice.
 - E. The monsoon season causing increased attacks by Maoists.
2. **What is the primary reason for the Maoists' inability to expand beyond their violent guerrilla-based movement in central India?**
 - A. The difficult terrain and topography of the region
 - B. Incoherent and outdated ideology
 - C. A lack of support from the tribal communities
 - D. Effective security actions by the Indian government
 - E. Alienation of tribal communities due to the conflict between security forces and Maoists
3. **Which of the following statements is **INCORRECT** about the Maoist insurgency in India?**
 - A. The influence of the Maoists had reduced significantly by late 2021.
 - B. The Maoists are still active in South Bastar, the Andhra-Odisha border, and some districts in Jharkhand.
 - C. The government's strategy of creating wedges among the tribal population has been successful in defeating the Maoists.
 - D. Winning the support and confidence of the tribal people of South Bastar is crucial in defeating the Maoist movement.
4. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Sympathetic
 - B. Optimistic
 - C. Analytical
 - D. Nostalgic
 - E. None of the above
5. **Which idiom best describes the difficulty of the task mentioned in the editorial?**
 - A. A walk in the park
 - B. Easier said than done
 - C. A piece of cake
 - D. As easy as pie
 - E. None of the above
6. **Which of the following words is a synonym for 'incoherent' as used in the passage?**
 - A. Clear
 - B. Logical
 - C. Confused
 - D. Articulate
7. **Which of the following words is an antonym for 'alienation' as used in the passage?**

- A. Estrangement
- B. Inclusion
- C. Isolation
- D. Separation

8. Which of the following words is an antonym for 'exacerbate' as used in the passage?

- A. Worsen
- B. Intensify
- C. Improve
- D. Magnify

Direction: Five statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow. Only the sixth statement (U), which has been emboldened, is in its correct place.

- P. To explain Chitrahaar to the current generation — it was a fixed playlist of six film songs, played for 20 minutes.
- Q. India has only one, black-and-white, government-controlled TV channel, which telecasts government schemes, agricultural programmes and obscure folk music.
- R. Rewind to the 1980s.
- S. There are only two entertainment programmes per week.
- T. One of them is Chitrahaar.

U. The second is a movie on Sunday evening.

9. Which among the following will be the **Second** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. P
- B. Q
- C. R
- D. S
- E. T

Direction (Q10- Q13): Given below is a passage with five blanks (A-D). A phrase written in brackets is given against each blank. Choose the right word from the options which can replace the phrase most appropriately. If none of the options are fit for replacement, according to you, then select 'None of these' as your answer

For the state, there can be no rest; _____(A)(alertness) should be constant, and the _____ (B)(Effort) should be to address issues relating to the public's welfare continually. A classic _____(C)(Explanation) of this principle is the Centre's announcement providing full exemption from basic customs duty for all drugs and food imported for treatment of rare diseases listed under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (and anti-cancer drug Pembrolizumab). This adds benefits, beyond those already _____(D)(include) in the policy (originally formulated in 2017) finalised just under a year ago.

10. Which of the following fits the blank labelled (A)?

- A. Requisite
- B. Ringfence
- C. Vigil
- D. Debilitating

E. None of the above

11. Which of the following fits the blank labelled (B)?

A. Censuring

B. Rigour

C. Endeavour

D. Hype

E. None of the above

12. Which of the following fits the blank labelled (C)?

A. Introspection

B. Explicit

C. Enumeration

D. Exposition

E. None of the above

13. Which of the following fits the blank labelled (D)?

A. Negotiated

B. Contemplated

C. Incorporated

D. Imitated

E. None of the above

Direction: (Q14 – Q16) In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (E) as your answer.

14. The release of the NPRD was accompanied by an **unequivocal(A)** emphasis on the **precious(B)** magnitude of the situation, while simultaneously **stipulating(C)** that any and all demands made therein could only be feasibly entertained within the narrow confines of the severely limited and **colossal (D)** resources that must be utilized with the utmost prudence and discernment.

A. A – D

B. B – A

C. B – D

D. A – C

E. No arrangement

15. In the **absence(A)/** of **appropriately(B)/** established arrangements for the provision of superior-grade infrastructure and faculty, the act of establishing them would constitute a **futile(C)/** exercise **devoid(D)/** of practical significance.

A. A – D

B. B – A

C. D – B

D. A – C

E. No arrangement

16. In a **dissentient(A)** twist of fate, she **proffered(B)** this proposition at a symposium dedicated to the **purification(C)** of India's waterways, proffering to a cohort of environmental activists that the religious dignitaries are vociferously **curious(D)** to the idea of deploying electric crematoria.
- A. A – D
 - B. B – A
 - C. D – B
 - D. A – C
 - E. No arrangement

17. In the sentence given below, an idiom is emboldened. From the options, select a word/phrase that gives a meaning opposite to that of the idiom in bold.

Despite being under tremendous pressure, Sally managed to **keep her head above water**.

- A. sink or swim
- B. drowning in debt
- C. breathe easy
- D. swim with the sharks

Direction: In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.

18. **Statement 1:** Sarah enjoys playing soccer.

Statement 2: Sarah is an excellent goalkeeper.

- A. Although
- B. Because
- C. But
- D. And
- E. Therefore

Direction: (Q19): Given below is a word, followed by three sentences that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option E 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentences

19. **PANACEA**

- (i) Technology is not a **panacea** for all our problems
 - (ii) The years pass in parade like **panacea** in a dream.
 - (iii) However, social anthropology can offer no general **panacea** for our present ills and discontents.
- A. Only (i)
 - B. Only (ii)
 - C. Only (iii)
 - D. (i), (ii)
 - E. (i), (iii)

Direction: In the following questions, each sentence has three blanks. Choose the appropriate set of words for the blanks that best fits in the context of the sentence.

20. The scientist's groundbreaking research on the effects of climate change has the potential to _____ our understanding of the phenomenon, but only if we take the time to _____ the implications of the findings and _____ appropriate action.
- A. diminish, overlook, impede
 - B. confuse, ignore, delay
 - C. revolutionize, ponder, implement
 - D. regress, neglect, abstain
 - E. None of the above

Answers

1. C 2. B 3. C 4. C 5. B 6. C 7. B 8. C 9. B 10. C 11. C 12. D
13. C 14. C 15. E 16. A 17. B 18. D 19. E 20. C

[Practice Exercise]

Explanation

1. **Correct Answer: C. A possible intelligence failure and failure to anticipate the attack.**

Explanation: The passage highlights that the Maoist attack in South Bastar may have been a trap, as the District Reserve Guard team was returning from a counter-insurgency operation. This points to a possible intelligence failure. Additionally, the passage states that the Maoists are known to ramp up attacks before the onset of the monsoon season, suggesting that there was a failure in anticipating such an attack.

2. **Answer: B) Incoherent and outdated ideology**

Explanation: The passage states that the primary reason for the Maoists' inability to graduate beyond their violent guerrilla-based movement is their "incoherent and outdated ideology that has found few takers even among the most marginalized of communities." While other factors, such as terrain, topography, security actions, and alienation of tribal communities, have also played a role in the conflict, the passage suggests that it is the Maoists' ideology that is the primary obstacle to their expansion.

3. **Explanation: The correct answer is (c).** In the passage, it is mentioned that the "hard-edged strategies of creating wedges among the tribal population to defeat the Maoists have been counter-productive." This implies that such strategies have not been successful in defeating the Maoists. The other statements are in line with the information provided in the passage.

4. Explanation: The tone of the passage is analytical as it discusses the current situation of the Maoist insurgency, the causes behind their ongoing presence, and the steps that should be taken by the government to address the issue.

5. **Answer: B) Easier said than done (phrase)** – more difficult to do than to talk about कहना आसान है, करना कठिन

Explanation: The idiom "easier said than done" is used in the editorial to emphasize the difficulty and complexity of the task to investigate the incident, plug security loopholes, and bring the Maoist cadre responsible for the attack to justice. This implies that while it is easy to talk about what needs to be done, it is much more challenging to actually accomplish the task, especially given the tough terrain and the complex socio-political situation in the region.

6. **Answer: C. Confused**

Incoherent (adjective) – not clear or easy to understand; not saying something clearly

बेतुका/बेमेल/अस्पष्ट

Explanation: In the passage, the word 'incoherent' is used to describe the Maoists' ideology. It implies that their ideas are not clear, logical, or well-organized. 'Confused' is a synonym of 'incoherent' as it carries a similar meaning of being unclear or disordered

7. Answer: B. Inclusion

Alienation (noun) – Estrangement, disaffection, unfriendliness, hostility, isolation, separation
अलगाव

Explanation: In the passage, 'alienation' refers to the feeling of being separated or isolated experienced by a section of tribals caught in the crossfire between security forces and Maoists. An antonym for 'alienation' is 'inclusion,' which means the act of involving or including someone or something in a group, process, or system.

8. Answer: C. Improve

Exacerbate (verb) – aggravate, worsen, inflame, intensify, exasperate बढ़ाना/ बिगाड़ देना

Explanation: In the passage, the word 'exacerbate' is used to suggest that hastily put together military actions could make the problem worse. The antonym for 'exacerbate' is 'improve,' which means to make something better or to enhance its quality, value, or extent.

9. **RQSTPU**

Rewind to the 1980s. India has only one, black-and-white, government-controlled TV channel, which telecasts government schemes, agricultural programmes and obscure folk music. There are only two entertainment programmes per week. One of them is Chitrahaar. To explain Chitrahaar to the current generation — it was a fixed playlist of six film songs, played for 20 minutes. The second is a movie on Sunday evening.

10. **Vigil** (noun) – Watchfulness, alertness, attentiveness, surveillance, lookout जागरूकता

- **Requisite** (adjective) – Required, necessary, essential, indispensable, needed आवश्यक
- **Ringfence** (verb) – Protect, safeguard, shield, secure सुरक्षित करना
- **Debilitating** (adjective) – Weakening, enfeebling, disabling, impairing. कमजोर करनेवाला

11. **Endeavour** (noun) – Effort, attempt, try, initiative, enterprise प्रयास

- **Rigour** (noun) – strictness, severity, stringency, meticulousness, precision कठोरता
- **Censuring** (adjective) – critical, disapproving, condemnatory, reproachful आलोचनात्मक
- **Hype** (noun) – Exaggeration, overstatement, promotion, publicity प्रचार

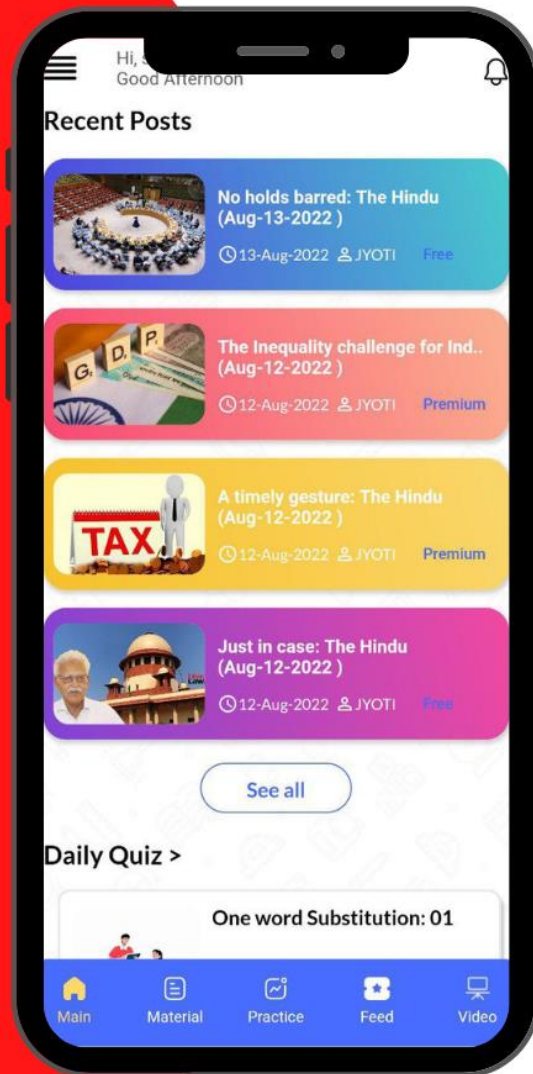
12. **Exposition** (noun) – Explanation, interpretation, clarification, illustration, presentation व्याख्या

- **Introspection** (noun) – Self-examination, self-analysis, self-scrutiny, self-observation आत्मनिरीक्षण
- **Explicit** (adjective) – clear, specific, unambiguous, unequivocal स्पष्ट
- **Enumeration** (noun) – counting, tallying, listing, cataloguing गणना

13. **Incorporate** (verb) – Include, integrate, combine, merge, blend सम्मिलित करना

- **Negotiate** (verb) – Discuss, bargain, compromise, parley बातचीत
- **Contemplate** (verb) – Consider, ponder, think about, deliberate, mull over विचार करना
- **Imitate** (verb) – Mimic, copy, emulate, replicate अनुकरण करना

14. The release of the NPRD was accompanied by an **unequivocal** emphasis on the **colossal** magnitude of the situation, while simultaneously **stipulating** that any and all demands made therein could only be feasibly entertained within the narrow confines of the severely limited and **precious** resources that must be utilized with the utmost prudence and discernment.
15. In the **absence** of **appropriately** established arrangements for the provision of superior-grade infrastructure and faculty, the act of establishing them would constitute a **futile** exercise **devoid** of practical significance.
16. In a **curious** twist of fate, she **proffered** this proposition at a symposium dedicated to the **purification** of India's waterways, proffering to a cohort of environmental activists that the religious dignitaries are vociferously **dissentient** to the idea of deploying electric crematoria.
17. Answer: B. **Drowning in debt (phrase)** – means being overwhelmed by financial problems and unable to manage
Explanation: **keep her head above water (phrase)** – which means to manage to survive or to cope with a difficult situation. The opposite of this idiom would be something that indicates failure to cope or manage under difficult circumstances.
- 18. Answer: D) And**
Explanation: The connector '**And**' can be used to combine the two statements without changing their meaning, as both statements are simply providing additional information about Sarah. The other connectors imply contrasting or causal relationships that are not present in the original statements.
19. **Panacea** (noun) – Solution, answer, remedy, cure-all, cure, magic bullet राम-बाण
According to the given options only (i) AND (iii) are contextually correct.
Because the (ii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like
The years pass in parade like **pageants** in a dream.
20. In this sentence, the context suggests that the scientist's research can greatly impact our understanding of climate change, but it depends on how we react to the findings.
A.) **diminish**: reduce घटाना | **overlook**: ignore देखी अनदेखी करना | **impede**: hinder बाधा डालना
B.) **confuse**: perplex भ्रमित करना | **delay**: postpone, defer देरी करना
C.) **revolutionize**: transform, innovate, overhaul क्रांतिकारी परिवर्तन | **ponder**: contemplate, consider, reflect, mull सोच-विचार करना
D.) **regress**: revert प्रतिगमन | **abstain**: refrain बचना



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