

1. Indian Air Force Participates in Multi-Nation Air Exercise INIOCHOS-25**Why in News?**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will be participating in Exercise INIOCHOS-25, a prestigious multinational air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force, belonging to Greece. The exercise will take place from 31 March 2025 to 11 April 2025.

What is INIOCHOS?

INIOCHOS is a biennial multinational air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force. It serves as a platform for air forces to hone their skills, exchange tactical knowledge, and strengthen military ties. The exercise will integrate multiple air and surface assets from fifteen countries under realistic combat scenarios, designed to simulate modern-day air warfare challenges.

**History**

Exercise Iniochos, named after the ancient Greek term for "charioteer" or "rein-holder," is a multinational air exercise conducted by the Hellenic Air Force. Originating in the late 1980s as a small-scale tactical drill, it has evolved into one of Europe's most competitive and realistic air combat training platforms.

Based on the "Single Base Concept," the exercise operates entirely from the Andravida Air Base in northwestern Peloponnese, Greece.

Over the years, it has attracted participants from NATO and non-

NATO countries alike, including the United States, France, Italy, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and, more recently, India.

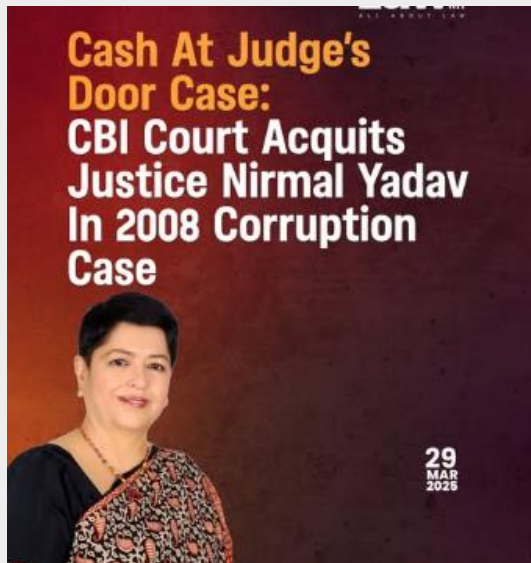
Relevance: GS Prelims; International Relations

Source: PIB

2. Recalling the 'Cash at Judge's Door' case, in which HC acquitted ex-judge Nirmal Yadav**Why in News?**

After a prolonged legal battle spanning 14 years, a special CBI Court in Chandigarh acquitted former Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge Nirmal Yadav in the 'Cash at Judge's Door' case).

With grave allegations of bribery and corruption, the case saw several legal twists and turns, multiple hearings, and changes in the judicial bench.



Who is former Judge Nirmal Yadav?

Former High Court Judge Nirmal Yadav joined the Punjab and Haryana HC in 2002. Four years later, she was elevated as Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court at Chandigarh. She was transferred to the Uttarakhand High Court, assumed office in February 2010 and retired after around one year.

What was the 'Cash at Judge's Door' case?

The case dates back to August 13, 2008, when Rs 15 lakh in cash was allegedly delivered at the residence of another Punjab and Haryana HC judge, Justice Nirmaljit Kaur. It was alleged that the money was meant to be sent to Justice Yadav but was wrongly delivered to the other judge's

residence due to confusion over their similar names.

Justice Kaur informed the then HC Chief Justice and the police, and an FIR was registered on August 16, 2008. Ten days later, the case was transferred to the CBI, which registered a fresh FIR on August 28.

According to the CBI probe, the money was delivered by a clerk of former Haryana Additional Advocate General Sanjeev Bansal, who allegedly called up Justice Kaur and said it was mistakenly delivered at her residence.

What was the CBI court's verdict?

Under Judge Alka Malik, the CBI court acquitted Justice Nirmal Yadav and the other accused persons on the grounds of lack of evidence and contradictions in witness statements.

Relevance: GS Prelims; Governance

Source: Indian Express

3. Fifty Maoists surrender in Bijapur; CM hails State policy

Why in News?

Fifty alleged Maoists — 14 of whom carried a cumulative bounty of ₹68 lakh on their heads — surrendered before the security forces in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh recently.

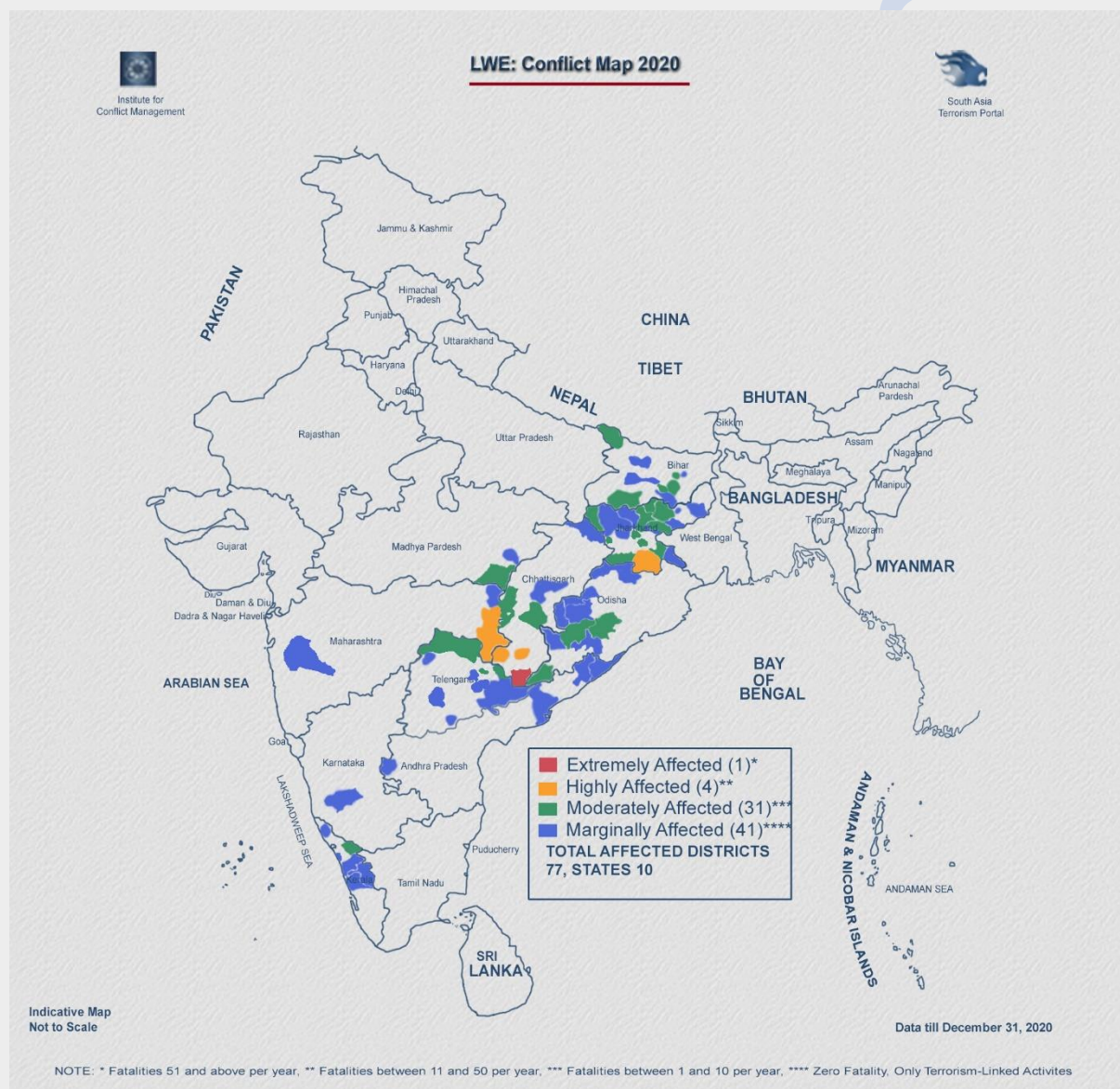
Inspector-General of Police said that this was the highest number in terms of surrenders in large numbers, adding that 26 Maoists surrendered on an occasion last month, also in Bijapur.

Surrender-cum-rehabilitation policy

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai credited the State government's recently announced surrender-cum-rehabilitation policy for the surrenders. The policy includes financial incentives in addition to provision for housing and healthcare for surrendering Maoists.

Maoists in India

The Communist Party of India (Maoist) is a banned Marxist-Leninist-Maoist communist political party and militant organization in India which aims to overthrow the Republic of India through protracted people's war. It was founded on 21 September 2004, through the merger of the CPIML People's War and the MCCI. The party has been designated as a terrorist organisation in India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act since 2009.



In 2006, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh referred to the Maoists as "the single biggest internal security challenge" for India, and said that the "deprived and alienated sections of the population" form the backbone of the Maoist movement in India. The government officials have declared that, in 2013, 76 districts in the country were affected by "left wing extremism", with another 106 districts in ideological influence. In 2020, the activities of the party began to

increase again in Telangana and other areas. Chhattisgarh is often affected by the party's militant activities.

In 2024, the party faced a major setback when the government increased their counterinsurgency operations in states affected by the insurgency.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; Governance

Source: The Hindu

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