

## Bastar Region, First Flag Hoisting, Naxalism, Significance

August 10, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



**Bastar Region** is a major tribal and forested area in southern Chhattisgarh, known for its dense forests, rich tribal culture and natural resources. Bastar district covers 6,596.90 sq km, with Jagdalpur as its headquarters. The wider Bastar division comprises seven districts. About 70% of Bastar district's population belongs to tribal communities, including Gond, Maria, Muria, Bhatra, Halba and Dhruva.

### Why is Bastar Region in News?

Bastar Region is in news after 92 remote villages are set to **hoist the national flag for the first time on 80th Independence Day 2026 (August 15 2026)**, following the end of armed Maoist activity in the state. These include 33 villages in Bijapur, 50 in Sukma and nine in Narayanpur. On Republic Day 2026, 41 villages had already witnessed flag hoisting for the first time.

### Bastar Region Naxal Insurgency

The security transition has changed the situation in Bastar Region after decades of Left Wing Extremism and Maoist influence across its interior areas.

- **End of insurgency:** Armed Maoist cadres were reported eliminated in Chhattisgarh on March 31, 2026. The government subsequently focused on extending constitutional governance and development services.
- **Operation Kagar:** Operation Kagar was conducted from January 2024 to March 2026 to eliminate **Left Wing Extremism**. PUDR recorded 607 killings, 487 arrests and 1,496 surrenders across Bastar division during this period.
- **Security deployment:** Anti insurgency operations involved the District Reserve Guard, Special Task Force, CoBRA, Central Reserve Police Force and Bastar Fighters. Around 476 CRPF camps were established between 2019 and 2025.
- **Development transition:** Seventy of 200 security camps are planned for conversion into Veer Shaheed Gundadhur Seva Dera centres. These centres aim to deliver benefits from 371 Central and **state government** schemes to remote communities.

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## Bastar Region Significance

Bastar Region combines distinctive tribal traditions, biodiversity, forests, mineral resources, rivers, waterfalls and historically important cultural institutions.

- **Geographical importance:** Bastar district covers 6,596.90 sq km and is surrounded by Kondagaon, Dantewada, Sukma and Bijapur. Jagdalpur serves as the headquarters of both Bastar district and division.
- **Tribal culture:** Around 70% of Bastar district's population is tribal. Major **tribal communities** include Gond, Maria, Muria, Bhatra, Halba and Dhruva, with distinctive traditions, art, festivals and lifestyles.
- **Bastar Dussehra:** Bastar Dussehra is a unique 75 day festival associated with Goddess Danteshwari and Maa Durga rather than Ravana's defeat. Its rituals include Patjatra, Kachhin Gadi, Jogi Sittai and Mavali Paragaw.
- **Drainage:** The Indravati River flows through Dantewada and Bijapur before joining the **Godavari** near Bhadrakali.
- **Waterfall:** Chitrakote Waterfall falls about 90 feet and is popularly called the Niagara of India.
- **Kanger Valley National Park:** **Kanger Valley National Park** received **National Park** status in 1982. Its landscape includes dense mixed deciduous forests, caves and waterfalls, with species such as tiger, leopard, chital, sloth bear and wild pig.
- **Cave heritage:** Kotamsar Cave was discovered in 1951 by Dr. Shankar Tiwari. Its limestone formations and blind fishes have attracted scientific research, while prehistoric human habitation has also been reported.
- **Development significance:** Government programmes including **PM JANMAN Yojana** and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan aim to improve services, roads, electricity, water supply, schools and livelihood opportunities in tribal villages.

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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bastar-region/>

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