<u>CRPF establishes FOB at Kunder, Sukma:a step closer to restoration of commercial</u> route that went into oblivion due to Maoist threat.

Achieving a remarkable milestone in the fight against Maoists, the 165 Battalion of CRPF and Chattisgarh Police successfully established a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in the highly Maoist affected area of Kunder, Sukma District located in the South Bastar region of Chhattisgarh.

- 2. The new camp will facilitate the security Forces in conducting focused operations in the territory which Maoists used to consider their bastion. The presence of the security forces in the hinterland will not only serve as a deterrent to Maoists but will harbinger development in the region.
- 3.The establishment of FOB is extremely significant as it is situated on the Jagargunda-Silger-Basaguda axis and will help in connecting the headquarters of Bijapur and Dantewada districts. Notably it will also restore connectivity on the commercial route once famous for trade from Jagargunda; the prominent tamarind market of India till the emergence of Maoist menace in 2006. Jagargunda used to be the trading hub for tamarind and other forest produces and witnessed steady movement of traders from other neighboring states in general and Andhra Pradesh (Now Telangana) in particular.

4. With this camp, the administration would come decisively close to restoration of the trading route thus paving way for the economic growth of the region. CRPF along with the Police Forces of the Left Wing Extremism affected States has been in the process of establishing camps in the remotest areas with the aim of putting an end to Maoist violence and bringing peace, tranquility, and stability.

