

## **Gamechanger: Another FOB by CRPF in Sukma restores old trade route**

The strategic establishment of Forward Operating bases (FOBs) by CRPF and State Police in LWE affected states have augmented effectiveness in not only curtailing Maoist activities but also in boosting the confidence of local residents. This has harbingered the much desired development activities in the region.

2.The 165 Bn of CRPF and Chhattisgarh Police added another milestone in the journey to obliterate Maoist presence by establishing Bedre Forward Operating Base in the inaccessible region of Sukma, Chhattisgarh. While this FOB will effectively help in reopening the old trade route connecting Tamarind market at Jagargunda with Distt HQ Bijapur & Dantewada, it will also choke the transit corridor that Maoists used for movement between West Bastar and South Bastar.

3.Notably, the Kunder FOB was recently established by 165 Bn CRPF and Chhattisgarh Police in mid December last year. Bedre FOB stands at a distance of about 5 km from Silger, and Kunder FOBs and about 10 Km from Jagargunda FOB.

4.The establishment of the above FOB can be termed as historic as, after 17 years, it reclaims, from the clutches of Maoists, the old route which once facilitated the trade of tamarind and forest produce from Jagargunda-the prominent tamarind market of India till the emergence of Maoist menace in 2006. In addition, the FOB will pave the way for developmental activities by allaying the fear of Maoist menace.