



Reduction in Left Wing Extremism Related Violence

Why in News

According to data provided by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, there has been a steady decline in **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)** related violence and geographical spread of LWE influence in the country.

- The **geographical influence of Maoists** has contracted to only 41 districts in the country, which is a sharp reduction from 96 such districts in 10 States in 2010.
- **LWE incidents have also reduced** from 2,258 in 2009 to 349 incidents till August 2021.

Key Points

▪ Left Wing Extremism in India:

- Left-wing extremists, popularly known as **Maoists** worldwide and as **Naxalites** in India.
- The **term Naxalism** derives its name from the **village Naxalbari of West Bengal**. It **originated as a rebellion against local landlords** who bashed a peasant over a land dispute.
 - The rebellion was initiated **in 1967**, with an objective of rightful redistribution of the land to working peasants under the leadership of **Kanu Sanyal and Jagan Santhal**.
- The movement has **spread across the Eastern India in less developed areas** of states such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- It is considered that **Naxals support Maoist political sentiments and ideology**.
 - Maoism is a **form of communism developed by Mao Tse Tung**. It is a doctrine to capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances.
 - **The region, affected by LWE**, is referred to as the **Red corridor**.

▪ Reasons for the LWE:

◦ Tribal Discontent:

- The **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** has been used to target tribals, who depend on forest produce for their living.
- Massive **displacement of tribal population** in the naxalism-affected states due to development projects, mining operations and other reasons.

◦ Easy Target for Maoists:

- Such people who do not have any source of living are taken into naxalism by Maoists.
- Maoists provide arms and ammunition and money to such people.

◦ Gaps in the Socio-Economic System of the Country:

- Government measures its success on the basis of the number of violent attacks

rather than the development done in the naxal-affected areas.

- **Absence of strong technical intelligence to fight with naxalites.**
- **Infrastructural problems**, for instance, some villages are not yet connected properly with any communication network.
- **No Follow-Up from Administration:**
 - It is seen that **even after police take hold of a region**, administration fails to provide essential services to the people of that region.
 - Confusion over tackling naxalism as a social issue or as a security threat.
- **Governments Initiatives to Check Naxal Activities:**
 - **Aspirational Districts Programme:** Launched in 2018, it [aims to rapidly transform the districts](#) that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.
 - **SAMADHAN (2017):**
 - It stands for
 - **S-** Smart Leadership,
 - **A-** Aggressive Strategy,
 - **M-** Motivation and Training,
 - **A-** Actionable Intelligence,
 - **D-** Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas),
 - **H-** Harnessing Technology,
 - **A-** Action plan for each Theatre, and
 - **N-** No access to Financing.
 - This doctrine is the **one-stop solution for the LWE problem**. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels.
 - **National Policy and Action Plan in 2015:** It consists of a **multi-pronged approach** comprising security measures, development initiatives and ensuring rights & entitlements of local communities.
 - **The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is supporting the State Governments** extensively by way of deployment of [Central Armed Police Force \(CAPF\)](#) Battalions, provision of helicopters and UAVs and sanction of India Reserve Battalions (IRBs)/ Special India Reserve Battalions (SIRBs) etc.
 - Funds are provided under **Modernization of Police Force (MPF), Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme and Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)** for modernization and training of State Police.
 - **Several development initiatives have been implemented** for construction of roads, installation of mobile towers, skill development, improving network of banks and post offices, health and education facilities.
 - Funds for development are also provided to most **LWE affected districts** under the **Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme**.
 - **Greyhounds:** It was raised in 1989 as an elite anti-naxal force.
 - **Operation Green Hunt:** It was started in 2009-10 and massive deployment of security forces was done in the naxal-affected areas.

Way Forward

- Though the **number of incidents of LWE violence has come down** in the recent past, continued efforts and focus are needed in eliminating such groups.
- **Innovative measures are required** to be employed in **preventing IED (Improvised Explosive Device) related incidents** which have caused significant casualties in recent years.
- States should **rationalize their surrender policy** in order to bring innocent individuals caught in the trap of LWE into the mainstream.

[Source: TH](#)

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