



Dismantling the Roots of Left Wing Extremism

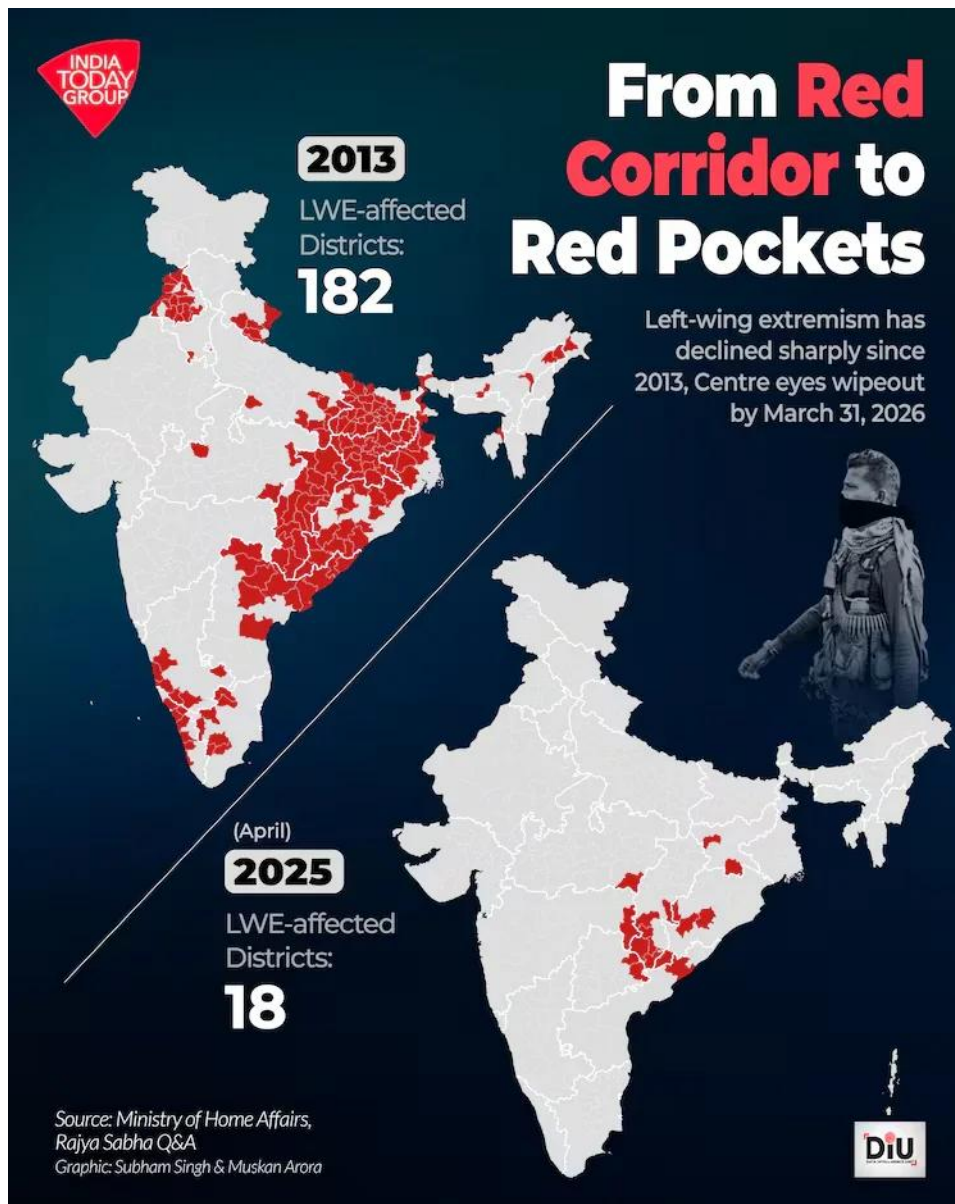
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Why in News?

The **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)**, once a major **internal security threat**, has contracted from the extensive **Red Corridor** to just **18 districts**, driven by targeted development, **sustained security operations**, leadership crises, and erosion of its grassroots support.

What are the Major Milestones in India's Fight Against Left-Wing Extremism?





- **About:** **LWE (Left-Wing Extremism)** refers to the **armed insurgency** mainly led by **Maoist groups**, aimed at **overthrowing the government** through **violent means**.
 - Originating from the **Naxalbari movement (1967, West Bengal)**, it is concentrated in parts of **central and eastern India**.
- **Key Milestones:**
 - **Sustained Reduction in LWE Incidents:** Left Wing Extremism (LWE) incidents **dropped by more than 50% between 2004-14 and 2014-23**.
 - India aims to **eliminate Naxalism by March 2026**.
 - **Key Operations:** In 2024, India's intelligence operations **neutralized 290 Maoists**, aided by the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** and strengthened **Special Intelligence Branches**.
 - The **Karreguttalu Hill operation (Operation Black Forest)** in **2025** achieved the **elimination of key Maoist operatives**, with security forces emerging unscathed.

What Additional Strategies Can Strengthen India's Response to Left-Wing Extremism?

- **Governance & Development:** Ensure **last-mile delivery**, **inclusive growth**, and **infrastructure development** in LWE-affected regions to address **socio-economic grievances** at the grassroots.

- **Enhanced Security Architecture:** Implement **technology-enabled smart policing, coordinated intelligence sharing, and area domination operations** to maintain a **sustained security presence**.
- **Community-Centric Approach:** Promote **trust-building, grievance redressal, and participatory local governance** to **win hearts and minds** of affected populations.
- **Rehabilitation & Mainstreaming:** Provide **surrender-cum-rehabilitation packages, skill development, and livelihood opportunities** for **former extremists** to aid **reintegration into society**.
- **Inter-Agency & Centre-State Coordination:** Adopt a **whole-of-government approach** with **joint task forces, unified command, and real-time decision-making** for **effective LWE management**.



LEFT WING EXTREMISM

ABOUT

- ↳ **Originated:** 1967 uprising in Naxalbari, West Bengal
- ↳ **Aim:** Societal and political change through revolutionary methods

IDEOLOGY

- ↳ Overthrow central government through armed revolution (Violence and guerilla warfare)
- ↳ Establishment of a communist state based on Maoist principles

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE

- ↳ **Massive displacement of tribal population;** Due to development projects, mining operations
- ↳ **Tribal dissatisfaction;** Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 prohibits tribes from harvesting forest resources
- ↳ **Poverty and lack of sustainable means;** Driving factors for joining Naxalite movement
- ↳ **Lack of effective governance;** Insufficient technical intelligence against Naxalism

STATES AFFECTED BY LWE

- ↳ **Red Corridor:** Experiences severe Naxalism–Maoist insurgency
- ↳ Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO CURB LWE

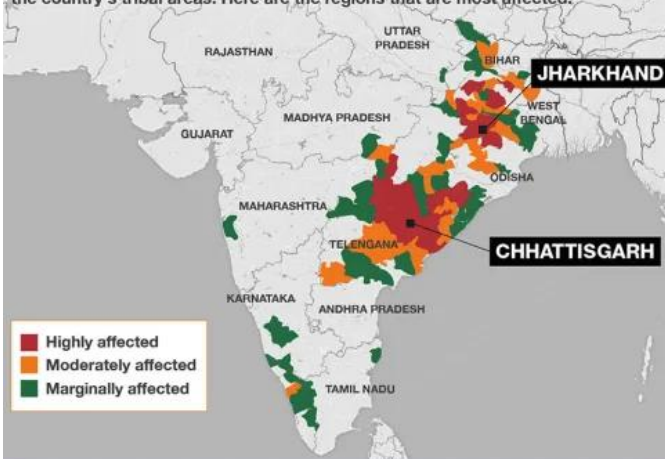
- ↳ National Policy and Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism 2015
- ↳ **SAMADHAN Doctrine**
 - ↳ **S-** Smart Leadership
 - ↳ **A-** Aggressive Strategy
 - ↳ **M-** Motivation and Training
 - ↳ **A-** Actionable Intelligence
 - ↳ **D-** Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas)
 - ↳ **H-** Harnessing Technology
 - ↳ **A-** Action plan for each Theatre
 - ↳ **N-** No access to Financing
- ↳ **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** in Public Infrastructure and Services
- ↳ **Operation Green Hunt**
- ↳ **Greyhounds** (Elite commando force in Andhra Pradesh)
- ↳ **Bastariya Battalion** (local recruits in Chhattisgarh who know the language and terrain that could generate intelligence and conduct operations)

Countering Naxalism - Bandyopadhyay Committee (2006)

- Highlighted the lack of governance, economic, socio-political and cultural discrimination against the tribals
- Recommended tribal-friendly land acquisition and rehabilitation

A map of India's Maoist conflict

A crackdown on Maoist rebels has led to a rise in the number of casualties in the country's tribal areas. Here are the regions that are most affected.



Drishti IAS

Related Keywords for Mains

- **“Development Defeats Dissent”** – Accelerated infrastructure, livelihoods, and welfare in LWE-hit areas.

- **“Security with Sensitivity”** – Balanced use of force with respect for rights and local culture.
- **“Connectivity as Counter-Insurgency”** – Roads, telecom, and digital access as enablers of integration.
- **“Education Ends Extremism”** – Schools and skill training to break recruitment cycles.

Conclusion

The sustained decline in Left Wing Extremism reflects the success of India’s multi-pronged **SAMADHAN doctrine**—**Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, Actionable intelligence, Dashboard-based key result areas, Harnessing technology, Action plan for each theatre, and No access to financing**. Going forward, consolidating these gains will require deepening last-mile governance and ensuring inclusive development.

Drishti Mains Question:

What is Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in India, and what are the key factors contributing to its decline in India?

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains:

Q. The persisting drives of the government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine that affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth. (2015)

Q. Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth schedule on the growth of Left-wing extremism. (2018)

Q. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? (2020)