



Eliminating Maoist Insurgency

For Prelims: [Central Reserve Police Force](#), [Commando Battalion for Resolute Action](#), [Operation SAMADHAN](#), [Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana](#), [Aspirational Districts Programme](#), Civic Action Program, [Forest Rights Act, 2006](#), [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Act, 1967](#), [Forest Conservation Act, 1980](#), [Fifth](#) and [Ninth Schedules](#), [Tribal Advisory Councils](#).

For Mains: Issues and Challenges Associated with Left Wing Extremism in India.

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the **Union Home Minister** paid tributes to the martyrs who have laid down their lives fighting [Maoist Insurgency](#) (Naxalism) at **Amar Shaheed Smarak, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh**.

- He also said that by **March 2026**, India will be **completely free from maoist insurgency** (Naxalism) using the **three-pronged strategy**.
 - The **three-pronged carrot-and-stick strategy** involves **Security measures, development, and empowerment** to deal with Maoist Insurgency.

What is the Three-Pronged Strategy to Eliminate Maoist Insurgency?

- **Security Measures (Force):**
 - **Deployment of Security Forces:** Strengthening the presence of **Central and State police forces** in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected areas.
 - **Joint Operations:** Coordinated actions between **state police** and central armed forces like the [CRPF \(Central Reserve Police Force\)](#) and [COBRA \(Commando Battalion for Resolute Action\)](#).
 - **Capacity Building:** Upgrading weapons, communication systems, and infrastructure for forces. E.g., **use of Mini UAV** for CAPF battalions, **solar lights, mobile towers** etc.
 - **Operation SAMADHAN:** A focused approach addressing intelligence gathering, operational strategy, and development.
- **Development Initiatives:**
 - **Focused Development Schemes:** Implementation of flagship programs such as:
 - [PMGSY \(Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana\)](#): For rural road connectivity.
 - [Aspirational Districts Programme](#): The government has approved the construction of 15,000 houses in Naxal-affected regions.
 - Efforts are underway to achieve **100% saturation** of government welfare schemes in every village
 - **Skill Development in 47 LWE Affected Districts Scheme:** Specifically tailored for LWE-affected areas.
 - **Civic Action Program (CAP):** Providing financial grants for CAPFs to undertake various welfare activities in the LWE affected areas
 - **Special Infrastructure Scheme:** Creation of basic infrastructure like **roads, bridges,**

and schools in remote areas.

- **Better Governance:** Enhancing administrative efficiency in these regions through recruitment of local personnel.

▪ **Empowerment (Winning Hearts and Minds Approach):**

- **Public Engagement:** Fostering **trust and communication** between the government and tribal communities, reducing alienation.
- **Rehabilitation Policies:** Surrender and rehabilitation schemes for Maoist cadres, offering incentives like **education, vocational training, and financial aid.**
- **Addressing Grievances:** Ensuring **fair land acquisition** policies, implementation of [Forest Rights Act, 2006](#), and protection of tribal rights to reduce the socio-economic gap.

Note: SAMADHAN 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.

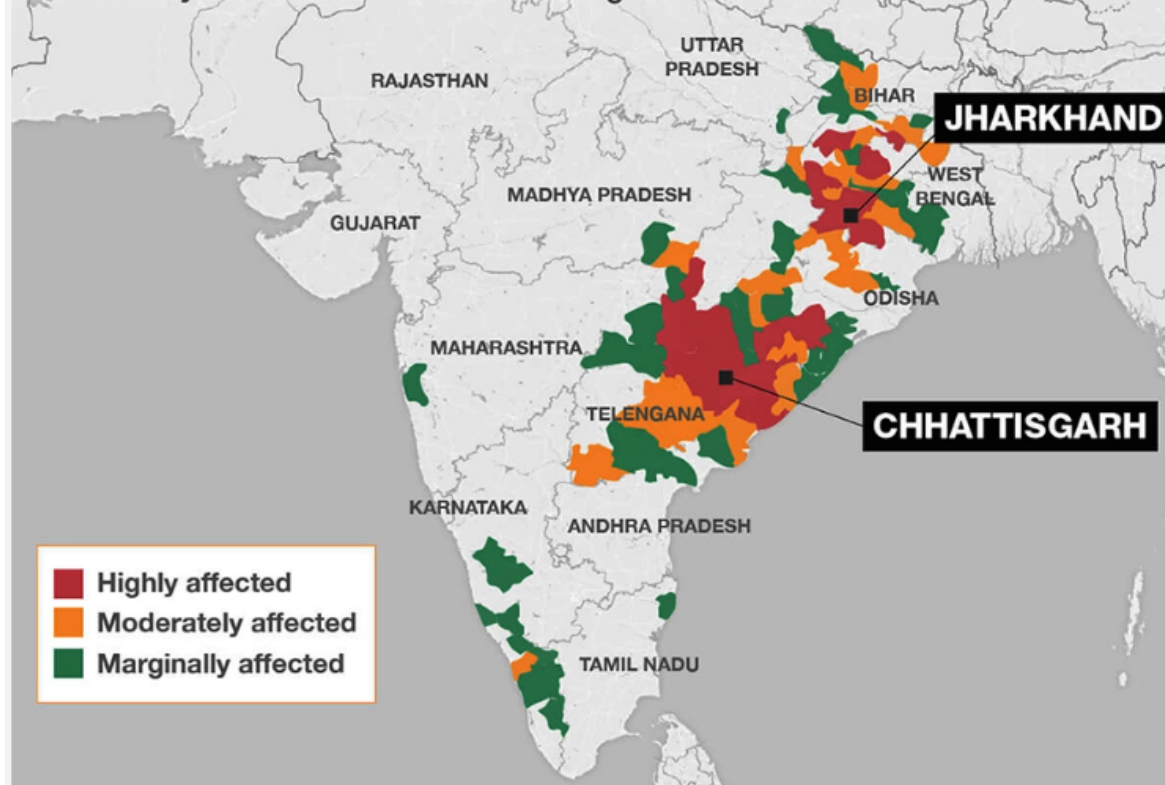
What is Maoism?

- **About:** 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.**
 - Mao called this process, the **'Protracted People's War'**, where the emphasis is on **'military line'** to capture power.
- **Maoist Ideology:** The central theme of Maoist ideology is the use of **violence and armed insurrection** as a means to capture State power.
 - **'Bearing of arms is non-negotiable'** as per the Maoist insurgency doctrine.
- **Indian Maoists:** The largest and the most violent Maoist formation in India is the [Communist Party of India \(Maoist\)](#) formed in 2004.
 - The **CPI (Maoist) and its front organizations** were banned under the [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Act, 1967](#).
 - Front Organizations are the **off-shoots** of the parent Maoist party, which professes a separate existence **to escape legal liability.**

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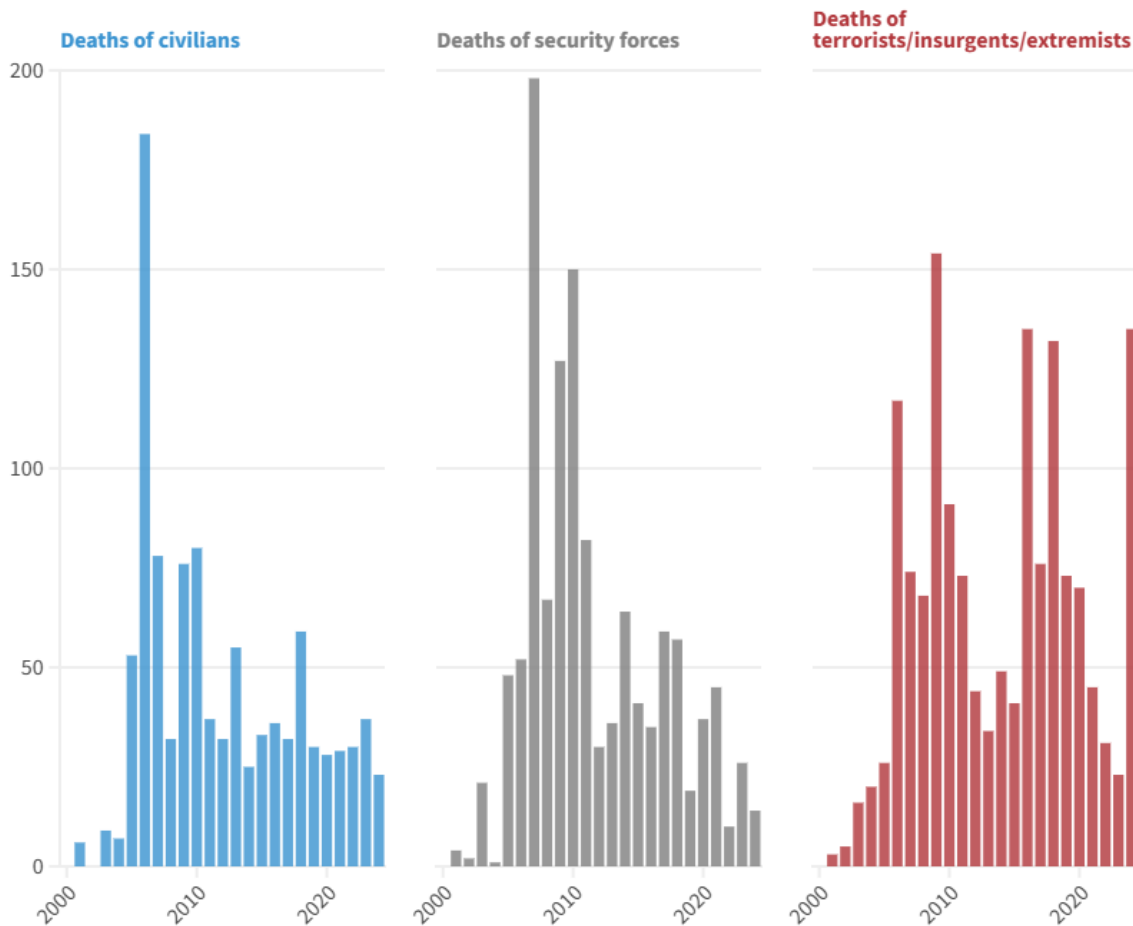
A map of India's Maoist conflict

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.



What are the Recent Achievements in Eliminating Maoist Insurgency?

- **'Maoist-Free' Villages:** In 2023, **287** Naxalites were **neutralized**, approximately **1,000** were **arrested**, and **837** **surrendered** in Chhattisgarh.
 - **Villages in Dantewada** have been progressively declared **'Maoist-free'**, with over **15** **villages achieving this status by 2021**.
 - Never before has such a vast area been freed from Naxal influence in a year, with record numbers of Naxalites neutralized, arrested, or surrendered.



- **Low Security Forces' Casualties:** In 2024, **14 security personnel deaths** were reported, a dramatic decline compared to **198 deaths in 2007** (the highest recorded).
- **Winning Hearts and Minds:** The Maoists' setbacks are due to **waning support** from tribal communities, who, after years of harm, now **show fatigue and alienation**.
- **Enhanced Security Measures:** Deployment of **12 helicopters**, up from just 2 earlier, for troop support and operational efficiency has **drastically reduced** the number of **casualties** among government troops.
- **Infrastructure and Logistics:** Between 2014 and 2024, **544 fortified police stations** were built, compared to only **66 between 2004 and 2014**.
 - Filling of **45 police stations** to eliminate security vacuums.
- **Special Central Assistance:** A total of **Rs 14,367 crore** has been approved so far, out of which **Rs 12,000 crore** has been spent on improving basic infrastructure in affected regions.

What are the Challenges in Eliminating Maoist Insurgency?

- **Exploitation and Oppression:** Maoists' core base **tribals and dalits** faced historic **marginalization**, with Adivasis further alienated by the **feudal system, caste hierarchy**, and laws like the **Forest Conservation Act, 1980**.
- **Lack of Development:** Interior areas lack **basic infrastructure**, with development stalled by governance and implementation failures despite significant allocations.
- **Centralized Maoist Command:** The CPI (Maoists) have **centralized command**, while the government's **fragmented response** allows areas like **Abhujmadh** to serve as logistical bases.
- **Access to Rich Resources:** **80% of coal reserves** and nearly **19% of other rich mineral resources** are located in naxal affected tribal areas which has given them an **additional weapon and impetus** to extract maximum benefits.
- **Trust Deficit:** Local alienation is worsened by **ineffective governance**, non-implementation of constitutional provisions (e.g., **Fifth and Ninth Schedules**), and displacement without proper rehabilitation.

Way Forward

- **Governance Reforms:** Constitute **Tribal Advisory Councils** as mandated by the **Fifth Schedule** to empower tribals in managing their resources.
 - Enforce **Land Ceiling Acts** under the **Ninth Schedule** to redistribute land to the landless.
- **Economic Development:** Focus on **aggressive and inclusive developmental initiatives** to address basic human needs.
 - Provide alternative livelihoods to **replace** dependency on illegal activities like **opium cultivation**.
- **Security Measures:** Deploy **specialised unit of paramilitary forces** to secure tribal areas while empowering local governance structures.
- **Resource Management:** Ensure **sustainable and equitable** exploitation of **natural resources** with tribals as stakeholders in the process.

Drishti Mains Question:

Q. Analyze the three-pronged strategy used by the government of India to eliminate Maoist insurgency.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains

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)

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)

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