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Q10

Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE. (150 Words, 10 Marks).

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · GS III · 10 marks · Internal Security and Extremism

Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

Core demand of the question

- Note that Left Wing Extremism has declined but not vanished
- Explain the Union's security, development and surrender approach
- Include **SAMADHAN** and relevant schemes

Revision summary

Left Wing Extremism has declined in incidents and affected districts but still holds core forest pockets.

- **SAMADHAN (2017) is the Union's combined doctrine:** leadership, force, intelligence, dashboards, holistic development and cutting finance.

CRPF/CoBRA, **SRE**, fortified stations and UAPA form the security track.

Special Central Assistance, road plans, **Aspirational Districts** and Forest Rights work form the development track.

Surrender-cum-rehabilitation is the exit door; civilian harm and missing rights can reverse gains.

Introduction

Left Wing Extremism (LWE), rooted in the Naxalite movement, still affects pockets of the central Indian tribal belt, even as the number of incidents and affected districts has **fallen**. The Government of India's line is not only more battalions. It is **security plus development plus legitimacy**: dominate the forest, build the road and the school, and offer a way out of the dal. **SAMADHAN** is the 2017 label for that mix.

Body**The challenge that remains**

- LWE groups, chiefly the **Communist Party of India (Maoist)**, use forest cover, poor administration and tribal grievance over **land, mines and forest rights** to run a parallel tax and court.
- Violence has **trended down** on Ministry of Home Affairs counts, and the map of 'worst-affected' districts has shrunk, but Chhattisgarh, parts of Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra and Bihar still see ambush and IED risk.

- **The challenge is therefore** residual but sharp: fewer districts, harder core areas, and a political need not to confuse quiet with victory.

Security approach

- **SAMADHAN (2017)** is the Union mnemonic: **Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, Actionable intelligence, Dashboard-based key performance indicators, Holistic approach, Action plan for each theatre, and choking No access to financing** (extortion and illegal mining).
- Central Armed Police Forces, especially **CRPF** and specialised units such as **CoBRA**, support State police; **Greyhounds**-type State forces remain the local spear.
- **Security Related Expenditure (SRE)** reimburses States; **Special Infrastructure Scheme** and fortified police stations fill the camp-and-road gap in interiors.
- Ban under **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**, action against overground workers, and disruption of **arms and IED** supply are the legal-kinetic track.
- **Civic Action Programme** of CAPFs funds small local works so the camp is not only a gun.

Development and rehabilitation

- **Road Requirement Plan**, mobile towers, banks, hostels and **Aspirational Districts (2018)** target the same blocks the insurgency used as a vacuum.
- **Integrated Action Plan / Special Central Assistance** to LWE districts finances school, anganwadi and livelihood gaps that a normal State plan missed.
- **ROSHNI** and skill programmes, **Forest Rights Act** implementation, and mining-affected area funds try to cut the recruitment story of dispossession.
- **Surrender-cum-rehabilitation** policies of the Union and States offer stipend, skill and housing so cadres can exit.
- Intelligence fusion and **district action plans** are meant to stop a see-saw in which security clears a valley and development never arrives.

Comment

- The downward trend shows the mix can work where the State stays. It fails if roads are built without **rights and jobs**, or if operations ignore civilian harm and recreate grievance.

Flow diagram

LWE residual core -> SAMADHAN security intel finance
 LWE residual core -> Roads SCA Aspirational Districts
 LWE residual core -> Surrender rehabilitation
 SAMADHAN security intel finance -> Fewer incidents
 Roads SCA Aspirational Districts -> Fewer incidents
 Surrender rehabilitation -> Fewer incidents

Conclusion

LWE is weaker on the map but alive in core forests. India's approach is **SAMADHAN**: intelligence-led force, choke on finance, and a development-and-surrender package through **SRE**, special assistance, roads, **Aspirational Districts** and rehabilitation. Quiet districts stay quiet only if the school and the title deed follow the camp.

Facts & figures

SAMADHAN

2017 MHA framework against LWE: leadership, aggressive strategy, training, intelligence, dashboards, holistic development, theatre plans, and choking finance.

SRE

Security Related Expenditure: Union reimbursement to States for LWE-related police and security costs.

CoBRA

Commando Battalion for Resolute Action: CRPF specialist units for jungle operations in LWE areas.

Aspirational Districts

2018 **NITI Aayog** programme; many LWE-affected districts are included so health, education and basic infra are tracked.

Special Central Assistance

Additional Union funds for development in LWE districts, succeeding earlier Integrated Action Plan-type windows.

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