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Q10

The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · GS III · 10 marks · Internal Security and Extremism

Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

Core demand of the question

- Define LWE as Maoist armed insurgency in the central Indian tribal-forest belt
- **Show how people are hit:** death, extortion, lost school, fear
- State the 2026 goal and the **SAMADHAN**-plus security-and-development mix, with falling district counts

Revision summary

Left Wing Extremism in India means the Maoist insurgency centred on central Indian forest-tribal belts.

Villagers suffer killings, extortion, closed schools and the crossfire of operations.

Official figures show fewer severely affected districts and fewer deaths than at the peak.

SAMADHAN combines intelligence, camps, surrenders and connectivity.

A 2026 'end' is credible as a **shrinking map**, not as the death of every idea; development and forest rights decide whether the map stays quiet.

Introduction

Left Wing Extremism in official Indian language is the **CPI (Maoist) insurgency and its fragments: an armed project to smash the state from forest and tribal hinterlands**. The Home Ministry has said the problem will be **ended by 2026**. That is a political deadline. On the ground, LWE is already **smaller in map** than a decade ago, and still **lethal** where it holds a path.

Body**What LWE is, and who suffers**

Maoist groups mix a **revolutionary ideology** with **control of a corridor** from parts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala's tri-junctions, and remnants elsewhere. They **tax** contractors, **kill** security forces and alleged informers, and **ban** roads or schools that look like the state. Ordinary Adivasi villagers are squeezed **between the guerrilla and the camp**. Children lose school. Roads that would take a pregnant woman to a hospital are delayed. **IEDs** turn a weekly market into a risk.

People are affected as **victims of the insurgent**, as **victims of a hard security sweep**, and as **people whose land is also a mine or a park**. All three must be in the answer.

Measures and the 2026 claim

SAMADHAN (smart leadership, intelligence, action plans, and so on) is the MHA's acronym. In practice: **more camps** in south Bastar, **better IED doctrine**, **surrender and rehabilitation**, **road and mobile** connectivity, and **financial choking**. The number of **districts** labelled most affected has **fallen** over the 2010s and 2020s; fatalities are down from the peak years, though a single attack can still shock. Development schemes (roads, hostels, banks) are the other arm. **Forest rights and mining consent**, if ignored, refill the Maoist argument.

2026 as **elimination** is a stretch if elimination means zero ideology. It is **plausible as a map** if it means no district where the insurgent sets the law. The measure that lasts is a **state that is present as a school, not only as a rifle**.

Flow diagram

CPI Maoist -> People: fear tax IED
 SAMADHAN camps roads -> CPI Maoist
 School FRA jobs -> People: fear tax IED

Conclusion

LWE is the Maoist armed insurgency of the central tribal forests. It kills, taxes and blocks ordinary life. The government's mix of force, roads and surrenders has shrunk the map. A 2026 end is a security goal; a lasting end is a state the villager can use.

Facts & figures

SAMADHAN

The Union Home Ministry's listed strategy against LWE, mixing security and development headings.

Shrinking map

MHA reports over the last decade have cut the number of most-affected districts as compared with the early 2010s peak.

Bastar theatre

South Chhattisgarh remains the hardest core, which is why new camps and roads there are the test of the 2026 claim.