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📍 1447 / C, 3rd Floor, 15th Main Road, H Block, Anna Nagar West, Chennai - 600040.

☎ +91 9445132221, +91 9445032221 | 044 4232 3192

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1. Naxal-Free India

Prelims:

Internal Security

Mains:

GS Paper III-Internal Security

Current relevance:

India has achieved the historic milestone of becoming **effectively free from Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)**, with no district remaining LWE-affected.



Highlights:

Background:

- Left-Wing Extremism originated from the **Naxalbari uprising in West Bengal in 1967**, inspired by Maoist ideology, and evolved into one of India's most serious internal security challenges.

2. Over time, several extremist organisations merged to form the CPI (Maoist) in **2004**, making it **India's biggest internal security challenge**.
3. The period from **2004 to 2014** witnessed the highest levels of LWE violence, with incidents peaking in **2010**, making it one of the most **violent phases in the history of Naxalism**.

Three-Pronged Strategy:

1. The transformation was achieved through an integrated strategy focusing on **security operations, infrastructure expansion, rehabilitation of surrendered cadres, tribal welfare, and improved governance**.
2. **In 2015**, the Government adopted the **National Policy and Action Plan** to address LWE, replacing the earlier fragmented approach with a coordinated strategy combining security measures and socio-economic development.

Integration of Elite Forces:

1. A specialised and integrated security architecture was established by bringing together **CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), CRPF, District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF)**, Jharkhand Jaguar, Chhattisgarh Police units, and Andhra Pradesh's Greyhounds to strengthen counter-LWE operations.
2. Joint training and coordinated operations among these elite forces enhanced **interoperability, operational efficiency**, and a unified command structure for combating Left-Wing Extremism.

Technology:

- i. After 2014, the Central Government modernised counter-Naxal operations by leveraging advanced technologies such as **UAVs, drones, satellite imagery, AI-based analytics, location tracking, and mobile data analysis, enabling real-time surveillance**, intelligence gathering, and improved operational efficiency.

Operations:

- i. A series of coordinated operations, including **Operation Black Forest, Operation Octopus, Operation Double Bull, Operation Thunderstorm, Operation Bhimbarg, and Operation Chakrabandha**, significantly weakened Maoist networks.
- ii. **Operation Black Forest** emerging as **a major breakthrough** by dismantling a key Maoist stronghold and leading to a sharp increase in arrests and surrenders.

Success under 'Nayi Disha, Nayi Pahal':

- i. Recent developments have highlighted the **success of the combined strategy** of sustained security operations and rehabilitation. Under the '**Nayi Disha, Nayi Pahal**' anti-Naxal campaign, 16 active Maoists from the Kolhan and Latehar regions surrendered in Ranchi on 28 July 2026.

Infrastructure for Inclusive Growth:

ii. Infrastructure-Led Development

The Government complemented security measures with **infrastructure development, improved connectivity, and enhanced governance outreach** to integrate remote tribal regions into the mainstream of development.

iii. Road Connectivity

Road infrastructure was strengthened under the **Road Requirement Plan (RRP) and the Road Connectivity Project for LWE Affected Areas (RCPLWEA)** to improve connectivity in affected regions.

iv. Digital & Mobile Connectivity

Expansion of **telecom infrastructure and mobile connectivity** bridged the digital divide, improved access to education, healthcare, online



services, and created new economic opportunities for tribal communities.

v. Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion was strengthened through the expansion of **banking services, ATMs, banking correspondents, and post offices**, improving access to formal financial services in LWE-affected districts.

vi. Education & Skill Development

The Government expanded **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Skill Development Centres (SDCs)** and vocational training to enhance education, employability, and livelihood opportunities for tribal youth.

vii. Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP)

The Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (TYEP) promotes **national integration, cultural awareness, and developmental exposure** by facilitating exposure visits for tribal youth from erstwhile LWE-affected areas.

viii. Civic Action Programme

The Civic Action Programme supports **medical camps, sports activities, and community welfare initiatives**, strengthening trust between security forces and local communities.

Case Study: Chhattisgarh's Journey from Naxalism to Development

- i. A coordinated strategy combining security operations, development initiatives, and tribal participation transformed Bastar from one of **India's most Naxal-affected regions into a model of peace and development.**
- ii. The formation of the **Bastariya Battalion** strengthened **local participation**, improved intelligence gathering, enhanced trust between security forces and tribal communities, and restored confidence in state institutions.
- iii. Improved **road infrastructure, mobile connectivity, rehabilitation measures**, and livelihood support accelerated socio-economic development and integrated previously isolated communities with mainstream governance.

- iv. Initiatives such as the **Shaheed Veer Gunda Dhur Seva Dera, Bastar Pandum**, and the **Bastar Olympics** promoted welfare delivery, cultural identity, community participation, and inclusive development.
- v. The decade-long transformation led to a sharp **decline in LWE-affected districts, violence, and fatalities**, demonstrating that sustained security, development, and community empowerment can establish lasting peace and prosperity.



Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=159388&NotelId=159388&ModuleId=3®=48&lang=2>

2. Raksha Shakti

Prelims:

Defence & Security

Mains:

GS Paper II: Government policies and interventions, GS Paper III: internal Security

Current relevance:

In 2026 Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi identified **‘Raksha Shakti’** as one of the **seven streams of power** considered crucial for achieving **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.



Highlights:

Vision of ‘Raksha Shakti’:

1. **Viksit Bharat 2047:** ‘Raksha Shakti’ has been identified as one of the **seven streams of power** necessary for building a developed India by 2047.
2. **Defence Self-Reliance:** India needs to strengthen its **own defence capabilities** rather than remain dependent on other countries.
3. **Global Defence Supplier:** India should move beyond being merely a market and emerge as a global **supplier of next-generation defence technologies**.
4. **Indigenous Capabilities:** Greater emphasis is required on **domestically developed defence equipment** and enhancement of military capabilities.

5. **Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** Defence self-reliance complements initiatives such as **Make in India, Swadeshi and Vocal for Local.**

Focus on Next-Generation Defence Technologies:

1. **Drones:** India needs to strengthen indigenous capabilities in the development of advanced drone technologies.
2. **Counter-Drone Systems:** Greater capabilities are required to detect and counter emerging drone-based threats.
3. **Hypersonic Defence:** India should seek **leadership in hypersonic defence technologies.**
4. **Cybersecurity:** Cyber capabilities constitute an increasingly important dimension of defence, with opportunities to utilise the capabilities of **Indian youth.**
5. **Mission Sudarshan Chakra:** Work on the mission, aimed at strengthening preparedness for evolving security challenges, is **progressing rapidly.**

Changing Nature of Warfare:

1. Modern warfare is **no longer necessarily** confined to national borders.
2. Critical economic and technological infrastructure can increasingly become targets of conflict.
3. Potential targets can include **refineries, banking systems, data centres, infrastructure and factories.**
4. Such developments require simultaneous strengthening of **military, technological and cybersecurity capabilities.**
5. India therefore needs enhanced preparedness to respond to **new and evolving forms of warfare.**

Growth of India's Defence Ecosystem:

1. **Defence Production:** India's defence production has increased nearly fourfold over the last 12 years.
2. **Defence Exports:** Defence exports have increased by almost 50 times.

3. **Global Reach:** Indian weapons are now reaching around 100 countries.
4. These developments indicate India's increasing capabilities in **domestic defence production and global defence supply.**
5. Strengthening indigenous capabilities can further reinforce India's preparedness against challenges **within and beyond its borders.**

Civil Defence & Nari Shakti:

1. **Modern Civil Defence:** Existing civil defence systems developed around the wars of the previous century need to be updated to meet contemporary challenges.
2. **Voluntary Force:** A large voluntary civil-defence force is proposed to improve preparedness against modern threats.
3. **Modern Training:** The civil-defence network is expected to be familiarised with modern systems and emerging challenges.
4. **Citizen Participation:** Building a secure India has been emphasised as the responsibility of every citizen.
5. **Women in Defence:** The increasing role of **Nari Shakti** in national security is reflected in women graduating from the **NDA and preparing to assume military leadership roles.**

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2299856®=48&lang=2>

3. Methamphetamine

Prelims:

Drug trafficking

Mains:

GS Paper III – Internal Security

Current relevance:

The **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** foiled an attempt to illegally export around 56 kg of **methamphetamine from India to Saudi Arabia** during an intelligence-led operation conducted on 16–17 August 2026. The drug was concealed by **mixing it with maize** in an export consignment at **Nava Sheva Port**.



Highlights:

About Methamphetamine:

1. Methamphetamine (Meth) is a powerful and **highly addictive synthetic stimulant** that affects the **central nervous system**. It falls within the broader category of **Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS)**.
2. It can **increase heart rate** and cause **hyperthermia, anxiety, insomnia and psychotic** symptoms such as hallucinations.
3. Government sources also associate its abuse with **aggression, paranoia, addiction and long-term neurological damage**.
4. It is treated as a **psychotropic substance regulated under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985** because of its high potential for abuse.
5. **Pseudoephedrine and ephedrine** are precursor chemicals that can be used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.

About Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI):

1. The DRI is India's **apex anti-smuggling agency** and functions under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
2. It was constituted in **1957** to deal with **smuggling-related intelligence and coordinate anti-smuggling activities** at the national level.
3. **Key Functions:**
 - **Anti-smuggling:** Detects and curbs smuggling of contraband, including **narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**, arms, wildlife products and other prohibited goods.
 - **Intelligence:** Undertakes the **collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of intelligence** relating to smuggling.
 - **Investigation & prosecution:** Conducts investigations, handles adjudication of cases and assists in the **prosecution of arrested persons**.
 - **Commercial fraud:** Combats **commercial fraud relating to international trade and evasion of Customs duty**.
 - **International coordination:** Maintains liaison with **foreign countries, Indian Missions and enforcement agencies abroad** on anti-smuggling matters.
 - **National security:** Its enforcement activities contribute to safeguarding India's **economic interests and national security**.

Source: PIB –

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2301288®=3&lang=1>

4. Operation Black Hawk

Prelims:

Internal Security

Mains:

GS Paper III: Internal Security

Current relevance:

The **Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)**, through its Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh Units, conducted '**Operation Black Hawk**' near Lucknow and seized 18.64 kg of crude heroin in two operations.



Highlights:

Operation Black Hawk:

1. Operation Black Hawk was conducted by the **Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN)** to intercept and disrupt an **inter-State heroin trafficking network operating from the North-East to Uttar Pradesh**.

2. The operation also aims to **trace upstream suppliers and dismantle connected downstream distribution channels** through follow-up financial and logistical investigations.
3. In the first operation, teams intercepted a vehicle after tracking it along the **Sultanpur–Lucknow Highway**.
4. In the second operation, a truck travelling along the **Siliguri–Lucknow corridor** was intercepted near Barabanki.

Enforcement & Legal Action:

1. The operations involved **intelligence gathering, inter-unit coordination, tracking across toll plazas and technical inspection of vehicles**.
2. All three suspects were booked under stringent provisions of the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.
3. Follow-up **financial and logistical investigations** are being conducted.
4. Investigators are seeking to identify **upstream suppliers** in the North-East and downstream distribution networks.

Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN):

1. According to the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**, the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) is the organisation headed by the **Narcotics Commissioner**.
2. Licenses farmers and supervises and controls the **licit cultivation of opium poppy** and Procures opium produced by licensed cultivators.
3. **Enforcement:** Undertakes preventive and enforcement activities against violations of narcotics laws.
4. **NDPS investigations:** Investigates offences under the **NDPS Act, 1985** and files complaints before courts.
5. **Illicit assets:** Traces and freezes **illegally acquired property** under Chapter V-A of the NDPS Act.
6. **Licensing:** Issues licences for the manufacture of **synthetic narcotic drugs**.

7. **International movement:** Issues **Export Authorisations and Import Certificates** for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
8. **Precursor chemicals:** Issues **No Objection Certificates (NOCs)** for import/export of specified precursor chemicals.

Source: PIB -

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=2302577®=48&lang=1>