



# Naxal-Free India: A Historic Achievement

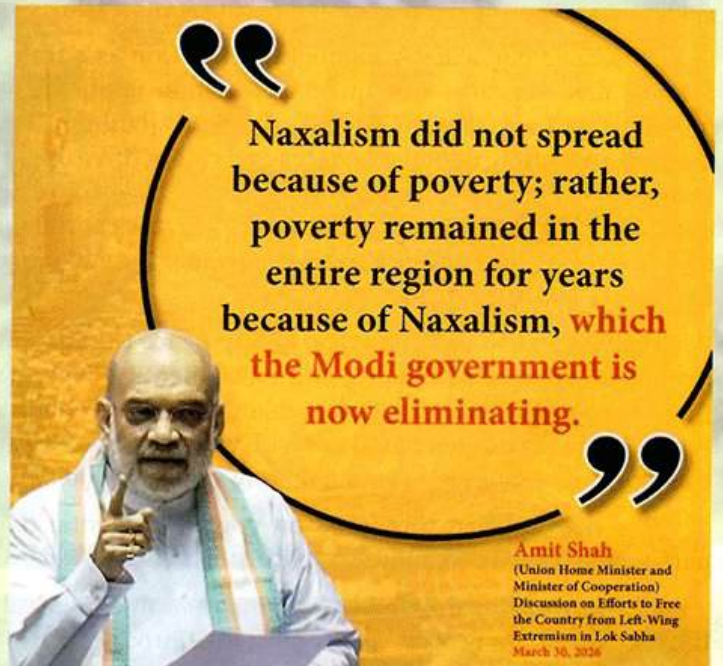
**M**aking the country free from Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) stands as one of the Modi Government's major achievements, one that future generations will remember about this era. The problem that remained the gravest challenge to the nation's internal security for over five decades has been eradicated today. This outcome did not come about on its own; behind it lie a clear policy, unwavering political will, and the extraordinary courage of our security forces.

For decades, Left-Wing Extremists and their sympathisers peddled a false narrative to innocent tribal communities, claiming that they were fighting for their rights and struggling to secure justice for them. However, this was fundamentally an ideological battle, not a demand for development. It is imperative to make this truth clear to the entire nation today.

## The Roots of Left-Wing Extremism Lie in Ideology, Not in Development

It is crucial to understand that Naxalism did not spread due to poverty or a lack of development; rather, it was Naxalism itself that perpetuated poverty in this entire region for years. In the 1960s, the literacy rate stood at 35 per cent in the Naxalbari region, 23 per cent in Bastar, 33 per cent in Saharsa, and 31 per cent in Ballia. Per capita income was also roughly comparable across all four of these regions. Yet, Naxalism flourished exclusively in those areas characterised by dense forests, rivers and streams, and limited national presence. Naxalism failed to take root in Saharsa and Ballia precisely because the geography of those regions was not conducive to its operations.

The central tenet of Maoist ideology is: "Power comes out of the barrel of a gun." Its objective was not development, but rather the perpetuation of its own ideology and the overthrow of the democratic order. Rather than drawing inspiration from figures like Tilka Manjhi, Bhagwan Birsa Munda, or Bhagat Singh, they adopted Mao as their ideal; an ideology, incidentally, imported from abroad. When left-wing extremists realised that if tribal communities became literate, they would no longer remain loyal to their cause, they set schools on fire. Fearing that opening bank accounts



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*Union Home Minister Amit Shah felicitated police officers in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh on 18 May 2026.*

would lead people to drift away from them, they burned down banks. Medical clinics, too, were torched. For years, they actively prevented development from reaching these regions. This, in essence, was their basic strategy.

### **The Red Corridor: A Big Problem**

In this region, spanning 12 states, covering 17 per cent of the landmass and home to a population of 200 million, the rule of law had been obliterated. Twenty thousand young people were killed on both sides. Many were left permanently disabled for life. More than 3,500 security personnel were martyred in the line of duty. During the attack on Jehanabad, 1,000 armed Naxals seized a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp and a prison, freeing 389 inmates. In Jharkhand, 70 trucks were set ablaze simultaneously. The annual collection of the 'Janatana Tax' amounted to Rs 240 crore. Along the Andhra-Odisha border, dozens of schools and pieces of infrastructure were subjected to their planned destruction.

### **The UPA Period: A phase of Policy Ambiguity**

To understand the policies and achievements of the current government in the proper perspective, it is essential to examine what transpired during the previous regime and why this problem escalated to such a formidable scale.

During the period spanning from 1970 to 2004, barring a four-year interlude, the country remained

under the continuous governance of the Congress party. It was precisely during this period that Maoist ideology spread, flourished and consolidated its strength. In 2004, two major militant factions merged to form the CPI (Maoist). The political scenario responsible for facilitating this entire expansion cannot be overlooked. The then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, himself publicly acknowledged before the entire nation that armed Maoists constituted the single greatest threat to the country's internal security, a threat even more grave than those posed by the situations in Kashmir or the North-East. While the acknowledgement was there, concrete action remained conspicuously absent. This was a period characterised by a failure to formulate a decisive national strategy, despite a clear recognition of the gravity of the problem.

The UPA period witnessed numerous instances that raised serious questions regarding urban networks, alleged intellectual patronage and institutional leniency; in some cases, allegations of ideological sympathy toward Naxal-sympathising elements also surfaced. Following the martyrdom of 76 security personnel in a single incident, the then Minister of Home Affairs remarked to the Naxals that the Government could not ask them to lay down their arms. Subsequently, weapons were disarmed from the tribal volunteers of the 'Salwa Judum' movement, leaving them vulnerable to being systematically targeted and killed by the Naxals.

It was the policy laxity and ideological sympathy that prevailed during the UPA period, which effectively gave this problem a new lease on life. In stark contrast, the policy of the current government has remained unequivocally clear: dialogue for those willing to talk, and a bullet-for-bullet response for those who open fire. This constitutes the fundamental difference between these two distinct periods of governance.

**Post 2014: A Policy Shift**

When Narendra Modi’s Government assumed office in 2014, a clear policy framework backed by firm political will was infused into this endeavour. While the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and State Police forces remained the same, significant improvements were made regarding coordination between the Centre and the States, the generation of actionable intelligence, and the precise delineation of responsibilities. An “All-Agency Approach” was adopted, which entailed striking not only at the armed cadres but also through agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Enforcement Directorate (ED), and various intelligence bodies, at their networks, funding channels, and support systems.

On 20 August 2019, during a pivotal meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs, a comprehensive strategy was formulated encompassing police coordination, modernisation, and the synchronisation of intelligence agencies. On 24 August 2024, it was announced that the country would be rendered completely free of Naxalism by 31 March 2026. This was not merely a political declaration; it was a solemn resolve, one that



*Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates Common Service Centre in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.*

has now been fulfilled.

**Security Operations: Results and Achievements**

In 2014, there were 126 Naxal-affected districts. Today, only two remain. In 2015, there were 35 districts classified as “most affected”; today, that number stands at zero. 350 police stations were recording Naxal-related incidents; now, there are merely seven. During Modi Ji’s 11-year tenure, 596 fortified police stations were constructed. Over the last six years, 406 new CAPF camps were established, 68 night-landing helipads were built, and 400 bulletproof and blast-proof vehicles were provided to the troops.

According to combined statistics for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026, covering the three years leading up to March 2026, 706 Naxals were killed in encounters, 2,218 were arrested, and 4,839 surrendered. Those captured were incarcerated and brought before the courts.

The latest technology was deployed in this campaign. Success was achieved through the use of drone surveillance, satellite imagery, advanced imaging technology and Artificial Intelligence-based data analysis. ‘Operation Black Forest’ was particularly noteworthy. During a 21-day operation, a permanent Maoist camp situated on the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border was dismantled. The site housed a gathering of 400–500 cadres,

**Stronger Security, Better Facilities**

Significant steps taken in the last six years to strengthen security and improve facilities:

<p><b>406</b> New CRPF Camps Established</p> 	<p><b>68</b> Night Landing Helipads</p> 	<p><b>400</b> Bulletproof and Blast-proof Vehicles</p> 	<p>Communication Systems Strengthened and Expanded</p> 	<p><b>5</b> Hospitals Built for Soldiers</p> 
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contained a five-year stockpile of food grains, and featured facilities for manufacturing IEDs. This operation, during which troops had to operate in 45-degree Celsius temperatures while subsisting on just 300 grams of water, deserves the highest possible commendation.

The central leadership of the Maoist organisation has been completely neutralised. At the beginning of 2024, the leadership comprised 21 members of the Central Committee and the Politburo. Of these, one was captured, seven surrendered, 12 were killed, and one remains at large. The 37-member State Committee for the Dandakaranya region has also been completely dismantled.

### The Development Drive: A Parallel Effort

Alongside the security campaign, development work also proceeded at a rapid pace. Since 2014, the construction of 17,589 kilometres of roads has been sanctioned across this entire region, of which 12,000 kilometres have already been completed. Approximately Rs 20,000 crore has been expended. 5,000 mobile towers were installed at a cost of Rs 6,000 crore, and directives have been issued to set up 8,000 new 4G towers. 1,804 bank branches were opened, 1,321 ATMs were established, 37,850 banking correspondents were appointed, and 6,025 post offices were opened. 259 Eklavya Model Residential Schools were sanctioned, and 47 ITIs and 49 Skill Development Centres were established.

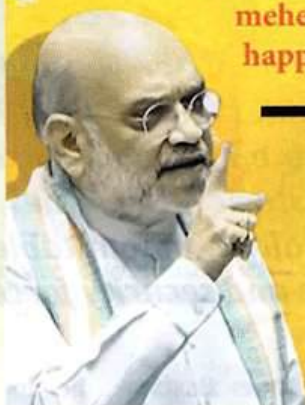
A 240-bed super-speciality hospital was constructed in Jagdalpur. A campaign was launched to ensure the presence of a school and a ration shop in every village across the Bastar region. A provision was instituted to allocate Rs 1 crore for village development immediately upon a Panchayat being declared Naxal-free.

### Rehabilitation: A Sensitive Endeavour

A highly effective rehabilitation policy has been adopted for those who choose to surrender. Incentives such as a cash reward of Rs 50,000 for surrender, a doubled amount for group surrenders, additional compensation for depositing weapons, a monthly stipend of Rs 10,000 for a period of 36 months and benefits under the *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* are being provided. In the surrender camps, voluntary organisations are actively working to facilitate their

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It is easy to sit in the Parliament and speak in favor of Naxalites, but spend even one day in a relief camp of those affected by Naxalism. There, you will witness scenes that bring tears to your eyes. Naxal-affected girls break down while applying lipstick. When they apply mehendi on their hands, their happiness knows no bounds.



Amit Shah  
(Union Home Minister and  
Minister of Cooperation)  
Discussion on Efforts to Free  
the Country from Left-Wing  
Extremism in Lok Sabha  
March 30, 2026

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reintegration into normal civilian life. Events such as the Bastar Olympics and Bastar Pandum witnessed the participation of over 1,20,000 artists and 5,50,000 tribal people.

### Final Reflections

This achievement represents not merely the success of a security operation but the triumph of a vision that places good governance, development, and faith in constitutional values at its very core. Full credit for this success goes to the personnel of the CAPF, particularly the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), CRPF, Chhattisgarh State Police, and District Reserve Guard (DRG), as well as to the local tribal inhabitants of the region, all of whom made invaluable contributions to this protracted struggle. A humble tribute to the thousands of youths who lost their lives, to the security personnel who attained martyrdom, and to all those who sacrificed their everything for the sake of this nation's internal security.

The fundamental principle of democracy is that a solution to any problem can be arrived at through dialogue, not through arms. Today, as Bastar undergoes development, with the benefits of progress reaching every single village in the region, it stands proven that the presence of the nation, combined with good governance and development, possesses the power to overcome any challenge. □