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## MAGAZINE NOTES

# Naxal-Free Bharat: How the LWE Endgame Was Built

1 June 2026 ·

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# Naxal-Free Bharat: How the LWE Endgame Was Built

■ Yojana Chapter 1 · 2 min read ·

**Theme analysis** for Yojana June 2026 (“Naxal-Free Bharat”), built from verified MHA and PIB data.

For five decades, Left Wing Extremism was India’s most lethal internal security challenge; at its 2010 peak it touched a third of the country’s districts. The June issue’s theme marks the campaign’s declared endgame: the Home Ministry’s deadline of **31 March 2026** to finish LWE, and the model that got it there.

## THE ARC OF DECLINE

| MARKER                    | THEN         | NOW                                                                         |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LWE-affected districts    | ~126 (2014)  | Low single digits (early 2026)                                              |
| “Most affected” category  | 12 districts | 6, then fewer (reportedly only Bijapur and West Singhbhum by 31 March 2026) |
| Violent incidents         | Baseline     | Down over 53 percent                                                        |
| Security personnel deaths | Baseline     | Down 73 percent                                                             |

The last “most affected” six: Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur and Sukma in Chhattisgarh, West Singhbhum in Jharkhand, Gadchiroli in Maharashtra. Operational results reported in March 2026: **312 cadres eliminated** (including the CPI (Maoist) General Secretary and 8 Polit Bureau / Central Committee members), **836 arrested, 1,639 surrendered**.

## THE DOCTRINE: CLEAR, HOLD, DEVELOP

The campaign’s intellectual frame is the “**governance vacuum**” thesis: Maoism survives where the state is absent. The answer combined:

- **SAMADHAN**, the MHA’s 8-point doctrine (Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, Actionable intelligence, Dashboard-based KPIs, Harnessing technology, Action plan for each theatre, No access to financing)
- **Forward security camps** that converted cleared zones into held zones

- **Saturation development** behind the camps: **15,000+ km of roads** since 2014, **9,200+ mobile towers** under Digital Bharat Nidhi (formerly USOF), **6,025 post offices** and **1,800+ bank branches** opened in the most affected districts

## MAINS ANGLE

**Critical analysis:** the military decline of CPI (Maoist) is real, but the grievances it fed on (land alienation, displacement, forest rights, mining conflicts in Fifth Schedule areas) outlive the insurgency; “Naxal-free” is a security claim, not yet a justice claim. Relapse risk concentrates where rehabilitation of surrendered cadres and PESA/FRA implementation lag. **Way forward:** convert Security Related Expenditure into a sunset fund for civilian administration, fast-track community forest rights, and publish district-wise relapse indicators after the deadline.

## ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

### THE CAMPAIGN:

Deadline to end LWE: 31 March 2026 (announced by the Union Home Minister)

Districts: ~126 (2014) to low single digits (2026); most-affected list cut 12 to 6

### OPERATIONS (REPORTED MARCH 2026):

312 eliminated (incl. CPI (Maoist) General Secretary), 836 arrested, 1,639 surrendered

Incidents down 53 percent; security personnel deaths down 73 percent

### DEVELOPMENT SATURATION:

15,000+ km roads since 2014; 9,200+ mobile towers (Digital Bharat Nidhi)

6,025 post offices; 1,800+ bank branches in most-affected districts

Doctrine: SAMADHAN (8 points); strategy: clear-hold-develop

Sources: [PIB](#), [Ministry of Home Affairs](#)



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