

## **Tackling the Maoists**

### **Why in news?**

According to the data provided by Ministry of Home Affairs, the geographical influence of Maoists has contracted from 96 districts in 10 States to 41 districts in 2010.

### **How has the CPI (M) evolved?**

- The People's War Group and the Maoist Communist Centre of India merged into the CPI (Maoist) in 2004.
- It managed to consolidate its presence across "Red Corridor" spanning across the central and north-central India, marked by rural deprivation.
- The CPI (Maoist) has sought to project itself as a revolutionary political movement that sought to rebuild after the failures of the earlier Naxalite movement.
- Rather than focussing on socio-economic struggles, Maoists relied on waging a military battle against the state to capture power resulting in militarisation of these areas.
- It led to repression of tribal people both by state actions such as creation of Salwa Judum (disbanded by judicial order) and Maoist authoritarianism.

### **How Red Corridor region is classified?**

- The Red Corridor area is the area under the influence of Left Wing Extremists (LWE) or Maoists.
- It is spread across 10 states — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and some northern fringes of Tamil Nadu
- These Maoist-affected areas were first classified in 2006.
- The districts were assessed on parameters like -
  1. Violence profile,
  2. The kind of logistical and other support provided to maoist cadres

### **What are the governments' measures?**

- The governments of the states deployed additional resources and are trying their best to check Maoists' expansion.
- A number of awareness campaigns were organised in remote areas which are most vulnerable to Maoist influence.
- Arrangements for villagers' training were made and government employment for hundreds was facilitated.
- Financial aid of around Rs.30 crore annually is given to the districts for various developmental works.
- Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Areas has been undertaken by the government.
- After the killing of 25 CRPF personnel in Sukuma district of Chhattisgarh in 2017, "**SAMADHAN doctrine**" has been formulated to counter naxalism.
- Fortified Police Station Scheme was launched by the central government in 10 States to enhance the security of police personnels.
- Under the Special Infrastructure Scheme, around 120crores was given to strengthen the special forces.
- The Home Ministry has provided support to security forces for other facilities such as Helicopters, UAVs etc.
- The Maoist insurgency still has potency in South Bastar in Chhattisgarh, Andhra-Odisha border and in some districts in Jharkhand.

### **What are the effects of Left wing extremism (LWE)?**

- Frequent skirmishes have affected the security forces.
- It has left many tribal civilians caught in the crossfire.
- Human rights' violations were reported in naxal prone areas.
- It has added to the alienation among the poor in these areas.
- It also has its effect on the government exchequer.
- LWE widened the backwardness in terms of social and economic development.
- It affected the democratic setup by hindering the elections.

### **How can the issue be tackled?**

- Empowerment of tribal people and civil society activists to promote peace in these areas.
- Expansion of welfare and rights paradigms to limit the movement.
- Surrendered LWE cadre should be used for intelligence collection to the maximum possible.
- The trade in minor forest produce needs a closer look in Maoist-affected

areas to break the contractor-Maoist nexus.

- Hence, the country's best weapon against ultras is extending the welfare state to areas it hasn't quite reached.

**Source: The Hindu**

