

GS III

SYLLABUS: LINKAGES BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND SPREAD OF EXTREMISM.

LEFT WING EXTREMISM

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "Strong setback The IED blasts in Bijapur are the act of a flailing insurgency."

"From my childhood i have heard... Security forces here take our lands if they establish a base, and the police torture us for links with Naxals, while the Naxalites torture us too"—**Tribal Resident of Gawadi Village Chattisgarh.**

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), commonly known as **Naxalism**, the areas impacted are primarily concentrated in the so-called "**Red Corridor**," which extends across central and eastern India.

The 'Red Corridor':

- **West Bengal:** Jangalmahal area.
- **Chattisgarh:** Bastar region (includes Sukma, Dantewada, Bijapur).
- **Bihar:** Gaya and Aurangabad.
- **Jharkhand:** Latehar, Palamu, Giridih.
- **Odisha:** Malkangiri and koraput districts.
- **Maharashtra:** Gadchiroli and Chandrapur.
- **Andhra Pradesh & Telangana:** Khammam and Warangal regions.

Causes for Left Wing Extremism:

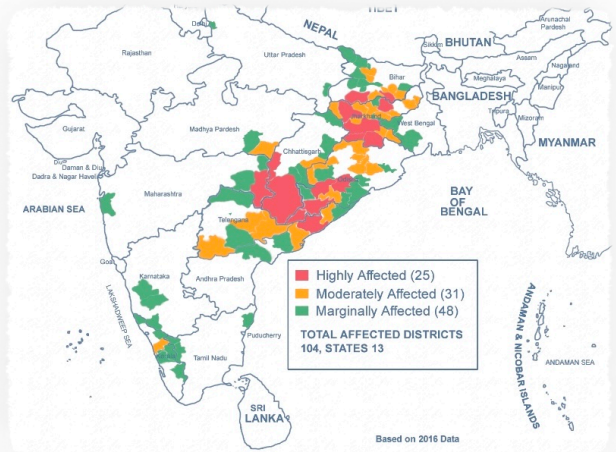
- **Poverty and Unemployment:** Both Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have higher poverty rates (~40%)—**NITI Aayog's Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2021.**
 - Significant income disparities in these areas, fostering economic injustices—**Gini coefficient.**
- **Land and Forest Right Issues:** ~2 million claims under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 were rejected, denial of forest rights leading to displacement—**Ministry of Tribal Affairs reported 2018.**
- **Displacement due to Mining, Industries, large-scale infrastructure projects:** Eg., the Polavaram Dam project in Andhra Pradesh is expected to displace over 300,000 people, many of whom are tribal.
- **Lack of basic infrastructure:** like roads, healthcare and education are lacking. In LWE-affected districts, up to 40% of villages lacked all-weather roads—**CAG report 2018.**
- **Tribal and marginalised communities often feel excluded from political processes.** Eg. In 2019, general elections saw voter turnout in Bastar district as low as 50%, compared to the national average of 67%.
- **Corruption and Inefficiency:** Mismanagement of development funds and corruption erode trust in government institutions—**Corruption Perception Index.**
- **Maoist ideology** capitalises on local grievances, promoting an agenda against perceived exploitation by the state and corporate entities.
- **Youth are susceptible to radicalisation:** due to a lack of employment and education opportunities. Eg. dropout rates in secondary education in these regions are above 30%—**UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring Report 2020.**

Initiatives:

Security measures:

- **Deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF):**
 - **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):** lead agency in anti-naxal operations. As of 2021, approximately 55,000 personnel were deployed in LWE-affected areas.

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- **Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA):** a specialised unit of CRPF trained in guerrilla warfare and jungle survival.
- **SAMADHAN Doctrine: 8 Pillars to fight LWE.**
 - Comprehensive strategy announced by Ministry of Home Affairs, focusing on key elements like **Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, Actionable Intelligence, Dashboard based KPIs, Harness technology, Action plan for each theatre, No access to financing.**
- **State-Level Forces:** Greyhounds (undivided Andhra Pradesh), Jaguar (Jharkhand), Bastar Battalion.
- **Unified command structure** established in 2010 for better coordination in LWE-affected areas.
- **National Technical Research Organisation:** for real-time intelligence using drones, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

Development & Empowerment initiatives:

- **PESA 1996:** Grants special powers to tribal communities in scheduled areas to manage their resources. This helps to reduce the alienation and discontent among tribal communities.
- **Forest Rights Act 2006:** this addresses the long standing grievances related to land and resources. Most LWE affected areas often have large tribal population.
- **Surrender and Rehabilitation Policies 2018:**
 - During period of 2014-2018, over 2,500 maoists surrendered.
 - Monetary assistance of Rs.5 lakhs for higher ranked cadres.
 - Vocational training for skill development.
 - Housing assistance under govt. housing schemes.
- **Special Central Assistance Scheme 2017:** to fund infrastructure projects in most affected districts in education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities.
- **Aspirational District Programme 2018:** by NITI Aayog, inclusive programme covers 112 backward districts, many affected by LWE. Eg. Bijapur district saw an increase in immunisation rates from 40% in 2018 to 80% in 2020.
- **Special Infrastructure Scheme:** to strengthen local police stations and improve mobility.
- **Installation of mobile towers:** to improve Communications for residents and aid security operations.

Impacts of initiatives:

- Reduction of LWE violence to 70% and 85% decline in deaths as compared to 2010—**MHA annual report.**
- Shrinking geographical influence: reduced LWE affected districts from 100 in 2010 to 50 in 2020—**MHA annual report.**

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Institutions:

- **Left Wing Extremism Division under Ministry of Home Affairs:** Nodal agency for policy formulation and implementation.
- **Multi-Agency Centre:** facilitate intelligence sharing among agencies like IB, RAW, CAPF etc.

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PYQs

GS III 2020: What are the sound determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?

INFRASTRUCTURE

PRE-CONTEXT

PORTS

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

News: "Kandla port to get ship building facility, cargo terminal at ₹57,000 cr."

Context: Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways on Tuesday announced two major investments at the Kandla port – a mega ship building and repair project at an investment of ₹30,000 crore, and a new cargo terminal outside Kandla Creek for ₹27,000 crore, which will add 135 mtpa to the port's capacity.

About Kandla Port, Gujarat:

- The port is situated in the **Kandla Creek** and is **90 km from the mouth of Gulf of Kutch**.
- **One of the India's 12 major ports**, constructed in the 1950s as the chief seaport serving western India.
 - **Enhancing key trade corridor's** like India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (**IMEC**) and International North-South Transportation Corridor (**INSTC**).
- It is the **largest port of India by volume of cargo handled**. Kandla Port was renamed as Deendayal Port in 2017 under the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

Note:

- **In August 2024, GOI has approved** the project proposal for **setting up a Major Port at Vadhavan**, Maharashtra.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT)**, is the **largest container port** in India.
- **Kamarajar Port (Ennore Port)**, it was the **first major port in India to be corporatised and registered as a company**.
- **Major ports falls under Union list** of the Constitution and administered under **Indian Ports Act of 1908** and the **Major Port Trust Act of 1963**.

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GS IV

SYLLABUS: PROBITY IN GOVERNANCE: RIGHT TO INFORMATION.

RTI

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 11.

News: "Top court slams delay in appointing Information Commissioners."

"Every year, some 6 million information applications are filed in India. This shows that RTI law has initiated the vital task of redistributing power in a democratic framework and transforming the relationship between the government and citizens. An erosion of this fundamental right is an erosion of democracy."

"Failure to fill vacancies in Information Commissions across India is leading to a situation where RTI becomes a dead letter." – **Supreme Court 2023.**

RTI Implementation challenges:

- **Vacancies:**
 - **Since 2015**, despite repeated directions by the Supreme Court, **eight out of 11 posts are vacant in the CIC**.
 - **SICs are not continued functions without chiefs**. Eg. Jharkhand has no SIC since 2020 and Tripura since 2021.
 - **Non-adequate staff:** Maharashtra (2024), with a backlog of **more than 1 lakh pending cases**, six out of 11 posts of commissioners are lying vacant.
- **Pending cases:** more than 4 lakh cases pending as of 2024 with CIC.
- **RTI Amendment Act 2019:** Discretion with govt. w.r.t tenure & service conditions etc.
- **The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 vs RTI Act 2005**
 - **Section 8(1)(j) of RTI Act of 2005:** provides for protection of the privacy of individuals and disclosure only in public interest.
 - **DPDP Act 2023:** included an explicit provision to amend the RTI law, to exempt all personal information from disclosure.
 - **i.e Blanket Ban** on disclosure of personal information in any case.
 - This **limits the RTI's power to expose corruption**, misconduct or inefficiency of public officers.
- **Public Information Officer:** Position found confounding & non cooperative Eg: serious RTI queries that requires the intervention of higher officials are attended by PIOs.
- **Nexus with Govt.:** Appointment of some SICs is biased. They are reluctant to act against **violations of transparency**.
- **Non imposition of penalties:** in almost 95% of the cases, this **destroys the basic framework of incentives and disincentives** built into the RTI Act.
- **Failure of Whistleblower protection Act 2014:** 100 people have been killed for using RTI Act and thousands have been assaulted, threatened – **Transparency international**.
- **Judicial Stays:** stay orders on CIC decisions affecting autonomy.
- **February 2019 apex court judgment highlighting** the need to appoint people from all walks of life but still limited to milieu of bureaucracy.

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PYQs

GS IV 2018: "The Right to Information Act is not all about empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss."

GS III & ESSAY

SYLLABUS: INDIGENIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGY.

INDIAAI MISSION

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

News: "Inter-ministerial committee is needed to strengthen AI governance: IndiaAI Mission."

Context: MeitY convened meetings with industry and experts to discuss setting up an AI Safety Institute under the IndiaAI Mission.

About IndiaAI Mission:

- **Funding Allocation:** The Cabinet has approved over **Rs 10,300 crore** for the IndiaAI Mission over the next five years.
- **Objective:** To bolster India's AI ecosystem, Position India as a force shaping the future of AI.
- **Focus Areas:** The funding will support initiatives like:
 - **IndiaAI Compute Capacity:** To establish a cutting-edge, scalable AI computing infrastructure by **deploying over 10,000 GPUs** through strategic public-private collaborations.
 - **IndiaAI Innovation Centre (IAIC):** will receive funding to develop and deploy foundational AI models, Eg. **Indigenous Large Multimodal Models (LMMs)** and domain-specific models.
 - **IndiaAI FutureSkills program:** will expand AI education by increasing graduate and post-graduate AI program accessibility and establishing **Data and AI Labs in major and smaller towns.**
 - **Financial Support for AI Startups:** providing **easier access to funding** for AI startups and supporting their growth from product development to commercialization.
 - **IndiaAI Datasets Platform:** aims to **enhance public sector datasets' accessibility, quality, and utility** for data-driven governance and AI-based innovation.
 - **Other areas like,** IndiaAI Application Development Initiative etc.

Regulatory Bottle Necks:

- **MeitY's AI Advisory in March 2024:** mandated govt. approvals before the public roll-out of experimental AI systems.
- **Global Digital Compact** that identifies multi-stakeholder collaboration, human-centric oversight, and inclusive participation of developing countries as essential pillars of AI governance and safety.
- **Regulatory sanctions** will hinder proactive information sharing among businesses, govts, and the wider ecosystem.
- **Shared expertise** will be essential to keep up with AI's rapid innovation trajectories.
- India should establish an **AI Safety Institute** which integrates into the Bletchley network of safety institutes.
 - **Bletchley Declaration** establishes a shared understanding of AI's opportunities and risks.

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PYQs:

Essay 2019: Rise of Artificial Intelligence: the threat of jobless future or better job opportunities through reskilling and upskilling.

BIOTECH

PRE-CONTEXT

C.ELEGANS

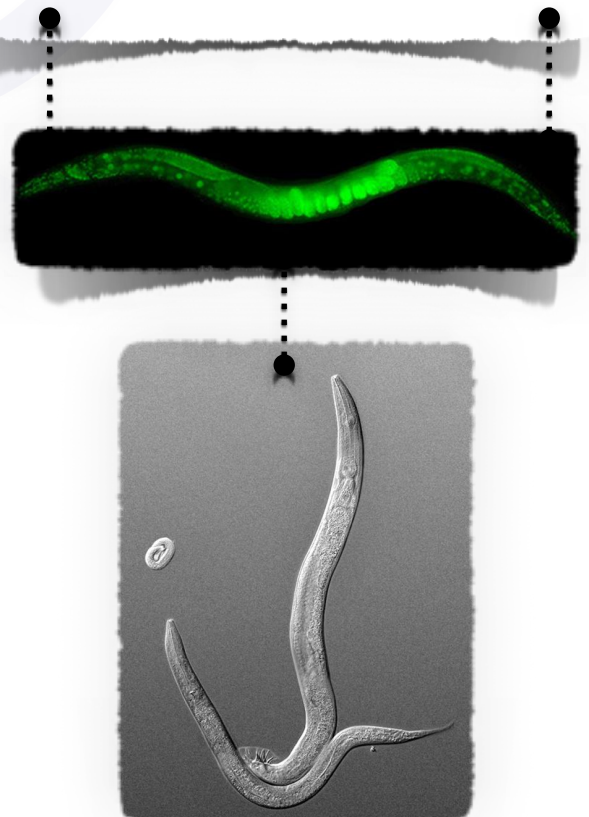
THE HINDU, PG.NO: 22.

News: "How curiosity-driven research into a worm won four Nobels."

About C. Elegans:

- C. elegans provides an **ideal setting** for biological investigations that often reveal general principles valid for other organisms, including humans.
- This is a **1-mm long, slender, and transparent nematode** has been the star of many **pathbreaking discoveries in biology**, four of which have won Nobel Prizes.
 - **2002 Nobel Prize for medicine** with H. Robert Horvitz and John Sulston "for their discoveries concerning **genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death.**
 - **2006 Nobel Prize** to A.Fire & C.Mello Discovered **Gene Silencing** using C.Elegans.
 - **2008 Nobel Prize** to Shimomura, Chalfie, and Tsien in chemistry for developing **Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP)** using C.Elegans.
 - **2024 Nobel Prize** to V.Ambros and G.Ruvkun a discovered in C.Elegans that **miRNAs** could bind corresponding cellular RNAs to reduce protein expression.
 - **miRNAs are a class of molecules that turn o gene expression at the right time and place.**
- Further, Work in C. Elegans also revealed insights into the **pathways that regulate ageing.**

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POLITY

PRE-CONTEXT

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS, TRANSFERS, REMOVAL.

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

News: "Collegium recommends Patna HC Chief Justice to SC."

Qualifications for Judge of the Supreme Court:

• According to Constitution of India:

- A person must be a **citizen of India**.
- Have been a **High Court judge** for at least five years.
- Have been a **High Court advocate** for at least 10 years.
- Be considered a **distinguished jurist** by the President.

Collegium System:

- For **appointment and transfer of judges** in the higher judiciary in India.
- For **Supreme Court (SC) appointments**: collegium consists of **CJI plus 4 senior-most Supreme Court judges**.
- For **High Court appointments**: collegium consists of CJI plus 2 senior-most Supreme Court judges.
- CJI after consultation with collegium **recommends to President** for an appointment.
- Supreme Court Judges retire upon attaining the **age of 65 years**.

Evolution of Collegium:

• The Constitution provides that:

- **Judges to the Supreme Court** are to be appointed by the **President of India in consultation with the CJI** and such other judges that he or she deems fit.
- **Judges to the High Courts** are to be appointed by the **President in consultation with the CJI, the Governor of the State and the Chief Justice of that court**.
- **In the case of transfers**, the President may move a judge from one High Court to another, but **only after consulting the CJI**.
- **1st judges case (1982)**: the word '**consultation**' only implies exchange of views.
- **2nd judges case (1993)**:
 - Word '**consultation**' = **concurrence**, advice by CJI (plus 2 judges) is binding on President.
 - If collegium reiterates, judicial appointments must be cleared (a healthy convention).
- **3rd Judges case: Collegium** (4 Judges + CJI).
- **99th CAA 2015: NJAC** (3 judicial members & 2 executive appointees): Declared Unconstitutional by SC.

Removal of Judges:

• According to Judges Inquiry Act, 1968:

- A **removal motion** signed by 100 members (in case of Lok Sabha) or 50 members (in case of Rajya Sabha) is to be given to the Speaker/Chairman.
 - If the motion is admitted, then a **three-member committee** to investigate into the charges is constituted.
 - If the committee **finds the judge to be guilty of the charges (misbehaviour or incapacity)**, the House in which the motion was introduced, can take up the consideration of the motion.
- **Special majority**: Majority of total membership of the House & majority of not less than two thirds members present and voting.

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- Once, the House in which **removal motion was introduced passes it with special majority, it goes to the second House which also has to pass it with a special majority**.
 - After the motion is passed, an address is presented to the President for removal of the judge.
 - The **President** then passes an order removing the judge.

Note:

- Till now, **only two judges so far have been found guilty** for their "misbehaviour" by the three-member committee.
- **No judge has been impeached** in India till date.

Other country Practices:

- **Canada**: power resides with the Federal Govt.
- **Germany**: Elected by Executive and Legislature.
- **USA**: Nominated by President & confirmed by Senate.
- **UK**: Selection Commission of 15 members of different backgrounds.

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GS I & III

SYLLABUS: ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND DEGRADATION.

CLIMATE CHANGE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 22.

News: "The latest science on climate change."

Recent Findings:

- **The world may already have hit 1.5 degrees C** of warming above the average pre-industrial temperature — a critical but also arbitrary threshold beyond which it is **at risk of irreversible and extreme climate change**, scientists say.
- **The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)**, which transports warm water from the tropics to the North Atlantic, has helped to keep European winters milder for centuries.
 - **AMOC weakened by about 15% since 1950**, as shown in 2018 research. However, 2024 research in Science Advances suggests it might be closer to a critical slowdown than previously thought.
- **Ocean warming is causing storms to intensify faster**, with some **leapfrogging strength categories** in just hours.
- **Global warming is drying waterways and sapping moisture from forests**, creating conditions for **bigger and hotter wildfires**.
- **Amazon experienced its widest drought since records began in 1950**, with **river levels dropping to all time lows** and wildfires ravaging the rainforest.
- **Forests globally appear to be struggling**. A July 2024 study found that **forests absorbed less carbon dioxide** from the atmosphere in 2023 than in previous years.
- **Climate change may trigger volcanic eruptions**. Iceland's volcanoes seem to be reacting to rapid glacier retreat. **Melting ice reduces pressure on the earth's crust and mantle**.

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Thank you!