

Security and Development replaces Extremism

Vigilant India

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Government Tightens Noose on Left Wing Extremism

Every form of Naxalism, be it the one with guns or the one with pens, they have to be uprooted

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From the Editor's Desk



Sh. Balaji Srivastava
Director General, BPR&D

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While the LWE related incidents have recorded a continuous decline, it is important to maintain a steady momentum to completely eradicate this malaise, in accordance with the vision of the Union Home and Cooperation Minister.

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Left Wing Extremism has been one of the major internal security threats and a big challenge for India, over the last few decades. It does not believe in the tenets of democracy and targets the least developed areas to misguide innocents for grabbing power. The security forces and local police have been fighting it consistently and significant changes have manifested in the last few years on this front. Left-Wing Extremism has no place in the New India envisioned by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as developmental activities have been beneficial in weeding out in the insurgency affected areas.

The Northeast region has also witnessed similar changes. Disturbances and militancy are now history with a new era of peace and development being heralded in the north-eastern states. Nearly 80 percent decline in extremist activities and violence related incidents along with the surrender of over 6000 militants since the year 2014 have spelt a transformative change for New India. Significantly, Jammu and Kashmir has also recorded a decline of 168 % in terrorism related incidents. In fact, terror financing cases have achieved a remarkable conviction rate of up to 94 percent, thereby ensuring that the Left Wing Extremism has no access to funds.

In fact, the impact of the stern measures initiated by the government on the internal security front is quite visible. Terror incidents in Jammu & Kashmir have declined substantially due to surgical strikes and other concrete measures undertaken since the year 2014.

While the LWE related incidents have recorded a continuous decline, it is important to maintain a steady momentum to completely eradicate this malaise, in accordance with the vision of the Union Home and Cooperation Minister. An integrated approach has ensured that all security forces are yielding impactful results. A national policy and action plan was formulated in the year 2015 to deal with Left Wing Extremism which includes measures related to security and development, ensuring the rights and entitlements of local communities and more. Under the national policy of 2015, Protection of the rights of local citizens is the priority of the government. The modernisation of Police forces has been accorded equal importance. Besides the flagship schemes, the government has undertaken specific measures for insurgency affected areas to boost road and telecom facilities, financial inclusion, skill development and education.

The local police along with CAPFs comprising Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and Central Industrial Security Force are fighting a decisive battle to eliminate Left Wing Extremism. Reabsorption of the innocents trapped in the Left Wing Extremism is also a top priority for the government and extremists are being encouraged to surrender to live a life of normalcy. These efforts have picked up pace over the last few years. Our collective determination and a collaborative approach are the crucial factors to ensure that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of New India becomes a reality, soon.

This third issue of Vigilant India is in your hands. Your feedback received so far is our guide. Along with the hope, I have complete faith that we will continue to be together like this. Our email is dg@bprd.nic.in.



‘हम अपनी सीमावर्ती सुरक्षा को बढ़ायेंगे और बीएसएफ के वीर कर्मियों के लिये जीवन-गुणवत्ता में भी सुधार लायेंगे’।

-- श्री नरेंद्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



सीआरपीएफ ने वामपंथी उग्रवाद के खिलाफ मजबूती से लड़ाई लड़ी और सभी मोर्चों पर सफलता हासिल की। बल ने स्थानीय पुलिस के साथ समन्वय स्थापित कर संगठनात्मक कौशल का भी उदाहरण पेश किया है।

-श्री अमित शाह,
केंद्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री



मन की बात में माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी दूर-सुदूर इलाकों में रचनात्मक काम करते हुए भी साधारण जीवन जी रहे असाधारण लोगों का खुलकर जिक्र करते हैं। इसलिए माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी जन-मन में बसे संवादप्रिय सर्वमान्य जननेता हैं।

- श्री नित्यानंद राय
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री, भारत सरकार



It was a privilege to be part of the 4th National conclave of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) as Chief Guest. Since its inception, this organisation has played a significant role in promoting use of technology & easing the professional hardships faced by police

- Sh. Nisith Pramanik, Minister of State (Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports)



#AatmaNirbharBharat की दिशा में अपने इनोवेशन से जुड़ी कहानी प्रधानमंत्री श्री @narendramodi जी के साथ आगामी #MannKiBaat एपिसोड हेतु साझा कर अन्य देशवासियों को प्रेरित करें।

-श्री अजय मिश्रा
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री, भारत सरकार



केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री एवं सहकारिता मंत्री श्री अमित शाह की उपस्थिति में भारत सरकार, असम सरकार और दिमासा नेशनल लिबरेशन आर्मी/दिमासा पीपल्स सुप्रीम काउंसिल (डीएनएलए/डीपीएससी) के प्रतिनिधियों के बीच नई दिल्ली में एक त्रिपक्षीय समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय



Government Tightens Noose on Left Wing Extremism

In a meeting with the officials of extremist affected states in the Capital, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah emphasised on the total elimination of Left Wing Extremism and referred to the important decisions of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in this regard, since the year 2014. He also highlighted the critical need to bring those trapped in the Left Wing Extremism fray to the mainstream. While lauding everyone's collaborative efforts to successfully rout this malaise, the HM reiterated that unity on this was critical to fulfil Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of New India.

Every form of Naxalism, be it the one with guns or the one with pens, they have to be uprooted

Bureau



Decline in incidents related to Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the Country is a true example of efficient leadership, strong will and integrated action plan. Incidents of Naxal violence in the country have come down by 77% between 2009 and 2021.

Similarly, consequential deaths (civilian + security forces) have declined by 85% from an all-time high of 1005 in 2010 to 147 in

2021. In the year 2021, 90% (45 out of 50) of the total deaths of security personnel in the country were in Chhattisgarh. Jharkhand is the only state which recorded death (5) of security personnel in the year 2021 apart from Chhattisgarh.

There has also been a decline in the geographical spread of violence, as only 46 districts reported LWE-related violence in 2021, compared to 96 districts in 2010. Due to this, the number of districts covered under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme has come down from 126 to 90 in the year 2018 and to

70 in the year 2021. Besides, the number of districts that account for nearly 90% of LWE violence, classified as 'most LWE-affected districts', declined from 35 to 30 in 2018 and to 25 in 2021.

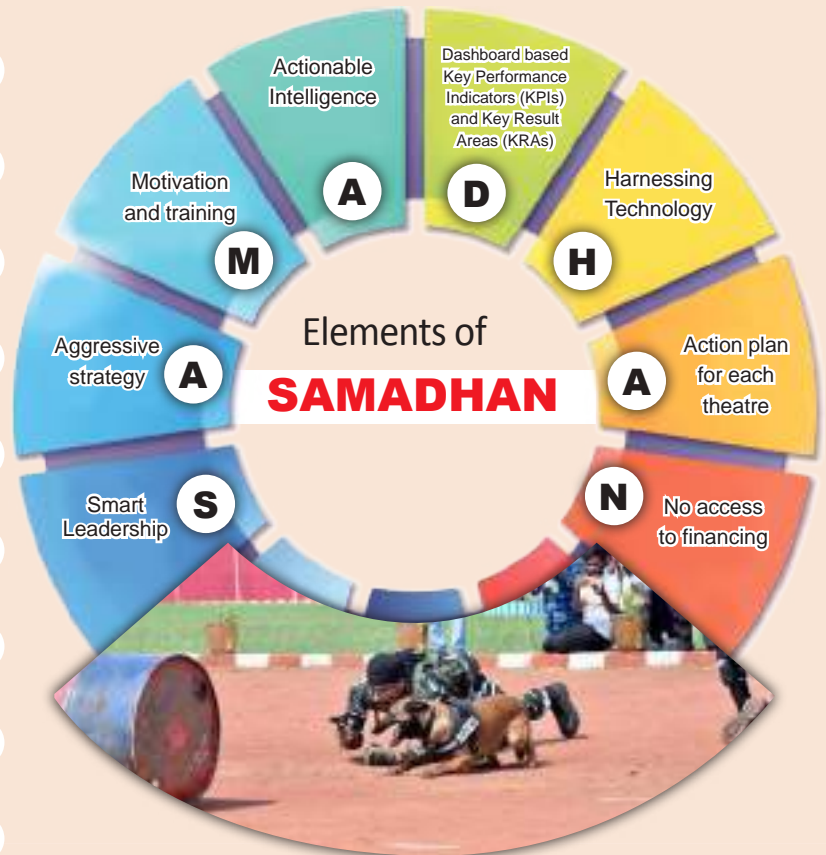
In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Left Wing Extremism free India' and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah's policy of zero tolerance against extremism, the Ministry of Home Affairs has entered the final phase of the battle against Left Wing Extremism across the country. The security forces have recorded a decisive victory in the ongoing fight against Left Wing Extremism. As a result of Prime Minister's policy of zero tolerance against Left Wing Extremism, for the first time, permanent camps of security forces have been established and Maoists have been successfully evicted from Budha Pahar border of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and from extremely difficult areas of Chakarbandha and Bhimbandh in Bihar. All these areas were strongholds of top Maoists and a huge cache of arms, ammunition, grenades, aero bombs and IEDs were recovered by the security forces from these places.

It is noteworthy that from the year 2019, a special strategy has been adopted against Left Wing Extremism. Coordinated efforts and campaigns launched by Central and State security forces and related agencies have resulted in unprecedented success in the fight against Left Wing Extremism. Congratulating the CRPF and State Security Forces on this decisive success, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said that under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs will continue the policy of zero tolerance against Left Wing Extremism and terrorism.

In the year 2022, in the fight against Left Wing Extremists, security forces achieved unprecedented success in Operation Octopus, Operation Double Bull, and Operation Chakarbandha. Seven Maoists have been killed and 436 have been arrested/surrendered in Chhattisgarh. Four Maoists have been killed and 120 arrested/surrendered in Jharkhand. Similarly, 36 Maoists were arrested/surrendered in Bihar and three were neutralised in Madhya Pradesh by security forces. Significantly, many of the neutralised Maoists had rewards worth lakhs and crores on their heads. Mithlesh Mahato carrying a reward of one crore is just an example.

Impact of SAMADHAN

The National Strategy was formulated in the year 2015 as a multi-pronged approach to combat Left Wing Extremism. Its main objective was, inter alia, to protect the rights of local tribes and ensure their participation. Operational strategy 'SAMADHAN' to fight Left Wing Extremism includes the entire strategy of the government from short term to long term policy prepared at various levels.





Significantly, the security related gaps (security vacuum) has been removed from Bihar due to the efforts of the Union Home Ministry to accelerate these operations. Moreover, the 'security vacuum' has also been successfully decreased to a greater extent from Jharkhand and Odisha and it will be removed completely by eliminating the Left Wing Extremist strongholds in these states. Besides, there is also an action plan to fill the 'security vacuum' in other states adopting the similar strategy. Incidents of LWE related violence and its geographical spread have also declined steadily. As compared with the year 2018, there has been 39% decline in Left Wing Extremism related violence incidents in 2022, 26% reduction in the number of security forces casualties, 44 % reduction in civilian casualties and 24% reduction in the number of districts reporting violence which have now come down to just 39 in the year 2022 which indicates that the operation against LWE has successfully reached its final phase.

Compared to the year prior to 2014, there has been a decrease of 77 % in the incidents of Left Wing Extremism violence. The incidents of violence have come down from a peak of 2258 in 2009 to 509 in the year 2021. The death rate due to LWE

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There is no place for violence and Left Wing Extremism ideas in the “self-reliant New India” under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Government of India has adopted a policy of zero tolerance in this direction. Shri Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister

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related violence has also come down by 85 %. It was at the highest level of 1005 in the year 2010 and it reduced to 147 in the year 2021. Along with this, the area of influence of the Maoists has also decreased significantly and from 96 districts in the year 2010 it is now limited to only 39 districts in

the year 2022.

In fact, the National Policy and Action Plan formulated in 2015 includes a multi-pronged approach comprising of safeguards, development initiatives and ensuring the rights of local communities. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is providing comprehensive support to the State Governments through deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) battalions, helicopters and UAVs and sanction of Indian Reserve Battalions (IRBs)/Special India Reserve Battalions (SIRBs). For the modernization and training of the state police, funds are made available under the Modernization of Police Force, Security Related Expenditure and Special Infrastructure Schemes. Most of the Left Wing Extremism affected (LWE) districts are also provided funds for development under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme. Several development initiatives have been implemented for construction of roads, installation of mobile towers, skill development and for improvement in the network of banks, post offices, and health and education facilities.

The scheme which was launched in 2011 in 34 LWE affected districts has been expanded to 47 LWE districts in 2016 and under which 47 Industrial Training Institutes

The Modi government has taken huge strides towards a permanent solution on the issues of terrorism in Kashmir, Left Wing Extremism, drugs and armed groups in the Northeast. Many armed groups have laid down their arms and joined the mainstream. After the abrogation of Article 370, a new era of enthusiasm and development has begun in Kashmir. It has become possible as plans have been executed under proper strategy after analysing and understanding the issues and discussing its solutions in depth.



(ITIs) and 68 skill development centres have been approved. Out of these, the construction work of 30 ITIs and 61 skill development centres have been completed.

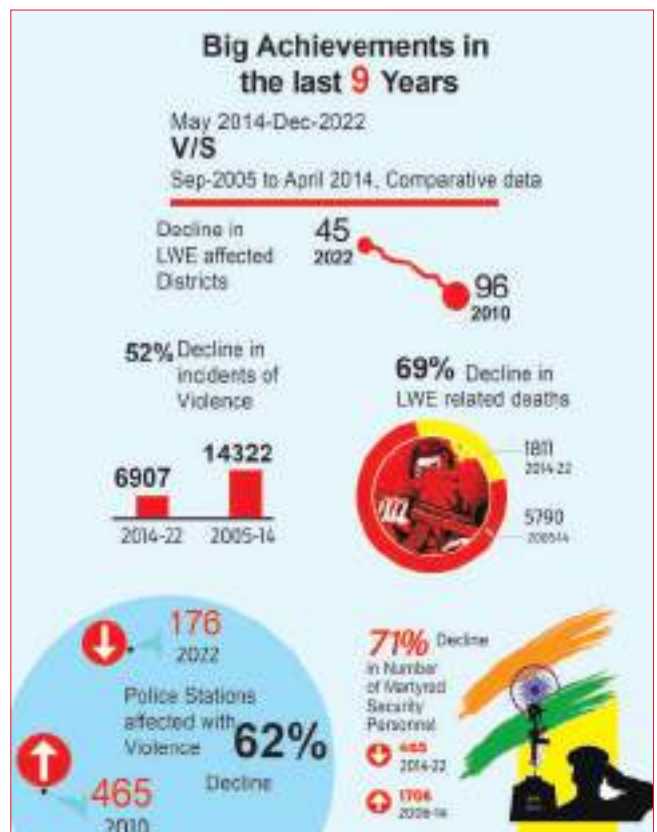
On August 26, 2019, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah held a meeting on Left Wing Extremism with several Central Government Ministers, Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries and top officials of the Centre and States and said that Left Wing Extremism has been a major problem in the country for the last few decades. There is a big challenge ahead. He had said that Left Wing Extremism does not believe in democratic systems and to grab power, Left Wing Extremists mislead innocent people in least developed areas. While highlighting that the new self-reliant India will not tolerate extremism and violence in any form, he said that Left Wing Extremism will never succeed in subverting development and democracy with the help of guns. In fact, the incidents of Left Wing Extremism have scaled down, to a large extent.

Shri Amit Shah said that a national policy and action plan was formulated in the year 2015 to deal with Left Wing Extremism. This includes security related measures as well as development works, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities etc. He added that the protection of the rights of local citizens is priority under the 2015 National Policy. While highlighting the crucial role of the local police in weeding out Left Wing Extremism, he added that modernisation of the police was also underway.

Referring to the decline in Left Wing Extremism, he added there were 2258 incidents of Left Wing Extremism in 2009, which has been reduced to 833 in 2018. He informed that the incidence of Left Wing Extremism has been witnessed in only 60 districts in the last year and it has been achieved with the joint efforts of the State Government, State Security Forces and Central Forces. He said that we have to work in coordination and only then Left Wing Extremism can be eradicated.

Recently, while addressing the 54th Raising Day celebrations of CISF at National Industrial and Security Academy in Hakimpet, Hyderabad, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that the Government is committed towards zero

tolerance on terrorism, infiltration and Left Wing Extremism. The policy will continue further, and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will have a crucial role, here. He expressed confidence that CISF would be able to meet the security challenges of large industrial and economic establishments. He also said that CISF has an important role in the economic progress of the country, and it will continue to contribute towards achieving the goal of a five trillion dollars economy. ■





No place for Violence and Leftist Extremism in “Self-reliant and New India”

The internal security situation in India has been continuously improving after the formation of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the year 2014. Notably, the government has achieved remarkable success in controlling LWE related violence in the country. Left Wing Extremism has no place in the New India envisioned by the Prime Minister and the Union Home Ministry is working relentlessly to achieve this goal.

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For the first time in the last four decades, the number of deaths of civilians and security forces in the year 2022 has remained less than 100. This is the picture of New India. This is just a reflection of the courage and dedication of security forces and policemen who are performing their duties 24x7. The Union Home Ministry believes that violence and Left Wing Extremism have no place in the “Self-reliant and New India” under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Recently, on February 7, 2023, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs’ policy to deal with Left Wing Extremism has three main pillars, which are, strategy to curb extremists’ violence with ruthless approach, better coordination between Centre and States, and, eliminating support for Left Wing Extremists through Public participation in development. He had said this while presiding over the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs on Left Wing Extremism in New Delhi. Shri Shah said that this three-pronged strategy has given historic success in curbing Left Wing Extremism in the last eight years with violent incidents related to Left Wing Extremism coming down by 76% in the year 2022 from the year 2010.

The number of civilian and security personnel who lost their lives

in Left Wing Extremism related incidents has decreased by 90% from the highest level of 1005 in 2010 to 98 in 2022 and the number of Left Wing Extremism affected districts has decreased from 90 to 45.

Left Wing Extremism was a major issue for India in the past. Its control and eradication was a big challenge for the country. LWE organizations are against democratic institutions and use violence to subvert the democratic process at ground level. They actively seek to prevent development in the least developed regions of the country and their strategy is to misguide people and keep them ignorant. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah had observed this while talking about Left Wing Extremism. On August 26, 2019, in a meeting with several ministers of the central government, chief ministers of the affected states, chief secretaries and top officials of the Centre and states, the Union Home Minister had said, Left Wing Extremism has no place in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s Vision of ‘New India’. Shri Shah noted that the basis of the PM’s vision of ‘New India’ is the strength of holistic, last-mile development, and it is therefore essential to get rid of the menace of LWE violence. He asserted that India’s fight against those who try to subvert democracy with violence would continue relentlessly.

The government came out with a National Policy and Action Plan in the year 2015 to deal with Left Wing Extremism. The protection of the rights of local citizens is the priority under the 2015 National Policy. Modernization of police forces is also being done. Left Wing



“ Development has picked up pace in the region after the restoration of peace along with resolution of militancy. Along with a nearly 75 % decline in violent activities over the past few years. Government is taking multiple steps for those youths who have given up violence and surrendered arms and ammunition. Former militants are now staying with their families in peace and prosperity. The era of violence in the region has ended to a large extent.

- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister ”

Extremism cannot be eliminated without the vigilance and efficiency of the local police in the militancy affected states. The BSF Air wing has been strengthened with the induction of new pilots and engineers in the last one year to aid operations in Left Wing Extremism affected areas and to save lives of soldiers. Shri Shah also called upon the states to rationalise their surrender policy to mainstream innocent individuals caught in the trap of LWE violence.

There is a general opinion that regions lacking developments witness more incidents related to extremism. Several concerted efforts have been made by the government in this direction. Security as well as speedy development in Left Wing Extremism affected areas is the main goal of the Modi government's policy and the government has been taking several steps for the all-round development of these areas. Along with the flagship schemes of the Government of India, many specific schemes are being implemented for the development of these areas. To improve road connectivity, approval has been given for 17,462 km of roads, out of which construction of 11,811 km has been completed. Opening of Eklavya schools in Left Wing Extremism affected tribal dominated blocks have been placed in priority areas since August-2019. While



142 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) were sanctioned in 21 years prior to 2019, in the past 3 years, 103 EMRS have been sanctioned. He said that so far, 245 Eklavya Schools have been sanctioned in 90 Left Wing Extremism affected districts and out of these 121 are functional.

The issue surrounding extremism has also been raised before International forums and our Prime Minister has alerted the world on this. At the 2021 Annual SCO Summit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that growing radicalization is the "root cause" of the problems facing the region and reflects the development challenge

in Afghanistan. SCO should develop a blueprint to fight radicalization and extremism. The SCO should work to develop a strong network of liberal, tolerant and inclusive institutions and traditions linked to Islam. The fight against radicalization is not only essential for regional security and confidence, but also to ensure a bright future for the youth of the region. The Prime Minister also said that India is committed to increase its connectivity with Central Asia. At the same time, he also said that no connectivity initiative can be a "one-way street" and connectivity projects should be consultative, transparent and participatory. ■





Security and Development replaces Extremism

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Over the years, the situation surrounding Left Wing Extremism had worsened in the Country. While many regions in the Country were in the grip of LWE, it had also become a hurdle in the proper implementation of many developmental schemes in those regions. PM Shri Narendra Modi took various concrete initiatives in this direction and the result is evident. These initiatives have resulted in breaking the backbone of LWE and the affected areas have witnessed all-round developmental activities.

Shri Amit Shah has said that security as well as accelerated development in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas is the main focus of the Government's policy under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the government is taking several steps for the all-round development of these areas. He said that along with the flagship schemes of the Government of India, several special

schemes are being implemented for the development of these areas.

It is worth noting that in July 2022, some figures were presented by the Union Home Ministry in the Lok Sabha, showing that the current central government has taken several effective steps to crack down on Left Wing Extremism. According to this, between the years 2009 and 2021, there has been a decrease of 77% in the incidents of Naxal violence in the country. Similarly, consequential deaths (civilian + security forces) have declined by 85% from an all-time high of 1005 in 2010 to 147 in 2021.

Geographical spread of Left Wing Extremism has also recorded a decline in the last few years. Number of districts under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme reduced from 126 to 90 in April-2018 and further reduced to 70 in July-2021. Similarly, the number of districts most affected by LWE has reduced from 35 to 30 in April-2018 and further reduced to 25 since July-2021.

Multiple steps have been taken by the Centre for the development of

LWE affected areas. Such regions have witnessed remarkable development in terms of connectivity, education, employment, construction of roads, strengthening of security forces and the government has achieved substantial success in taking the fight against LWE to a decisive stage in the last nine years. During August, 2022, the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah said the government led by Shri Narendra Modi has adopted a zero tolerance policy against crimes related to Left Wing Extremism, counterfeit currency, narcotics and terrorism and that is why the government has left no stone unturned to strengthen the NIA. He said to further strengthen the zero tolerance policy, the government led by Shri Narendra Modi is working beyond politics to share all information related to terrorism with the States and to make anti-terrorism laws strong and strict.

In September, 2022 the Union Home Minister praised the courage and valour of the brave soldiers of Sashastra Seema Bal. Shri Amit Shah said that when Left Wing



Extremism was at its peak in Bihar and Jharkhand, the SSB Jawans made a huge contribution in the fight against Left Wing Extremism, which the country can never forget. SSB Jawans fought a tough battle against Naxalism and rooted it out in the Eastern region of the country by making supreme sacrifices and as a result of this, today Naxalism in Bihar and Jharkhand is almost on the verge of ending. He said that when the border is open, the use of technology becomes very important. Be it CCTVs or drones, the security of borders should be ensured by adopting a variety of technologies. He said that all the forces should adopt technology by adopting each other's good practices as technology can become a great medium to secure borders.

Talking about the concept of Team India, in August, 2022, Shri Amit Shah said that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always worked to strengthen the spirit of cooperative federalism. In the last eight years after becoming the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has kept the concept of 'Team India' before the Nation and made it possible. Frequency of meetings of the Zonal Council has increased. He said that the increase in the number of meetings despite the Covid-19 emphasizes the concept of Team India of the Prime Minister. Shri

There has been a 76% reduction in Left Wing Extremism across the country in the last 9 years. The dream of Naxal-free India will soon come true under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Amit Shah also said that there has been a 27% rise in resolving issues in the Zonal Council meetings since 2019, which is a great achievement. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah had chaired the 23rd meeting of the Central Zonal Council in Bhopal. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami attended the meeting, while Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath and Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Bhupesh Baghel attended the meeting virtually.

In fact, the Government of India's approach is to tackle the menace of Left Wing Extremism in a holistic manner in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities, improving governance and public perception. It was felt after high-level deliberations with the concerned states that an integrated

approach is needed to hit the affected areas while dealing with this decades old malaise. Keeping this in view, a detailed analysis of extent and trends in relation to Left Wing Extremist violence has been carried out and recommendations have been made for further planning. Accordingly, 70 affected districts in ten states have been taken up for special focus and for implementation and monitoring of the measures. Since 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects, the maintenance of law and order is primarily the domain of the State Governments. Centre keeps a close watch over the situation and also aids and coordinates their efforts in various ways. These include providing a Central Armed Police Force; approval of India Reserve Battalions; setting up of counter insurgency and counter terrorism schools; modernization and upgradation of State Police and their intelligence system; Security Reimbursement of security related expenditure under related expenditure scheme; providing helicopters for anti-Naxal operations; assisting in the training of State Police through the Ministry of Defence; Central Police Organizations and the Bureau of Police Research and Development; exchange of intelligence; facilitating inter-state coordination; Community policing and assisting in civic action programs



Important Initiatives for Left Wing Extremism Affected States

In order to effectively address the problem of Left Wing Extremism in a holistic manner, the Government has formulated a National Policy and Action Plan adopting a multi-pronged strategy in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities.

Scheme of Security Related Expenditure (SRE): The scheme is being implemented as a sub-scheme of the Umbrella Scheme for Modernization of Police Forces. Under the scheme Central government assists in Security related expenditure of 70 districts of 10 LWE affected states relating to training and operational requirements of security forces, payment of ex-gratia to the families of civilians/security force personnel killed in Left Wing Extremism violence, dedication of the concerned State Government and compensation to surrendered Left Wing Extremist cadres as per rehabilitation policy, community policing, security infrastructure for Village Defense Committees and reimbursement of expenditure on publicity material. The annual outlay has been substantially increased and new items such as compensation for security personnel of the force disabled during anti-left wing extremism operations and compensation for damage to property have been included in the scheme. The objective of the scheme of security related expenditure is to enhance the capacity of the Left Wing Extremism affected States to deal with the problem of extremism. Over Rs 1890 crore has been released under this scheme since 2017-18.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Districts Most Affected by Left Wing Extremism: This scheme, approved in 2017, is being implemented as a sub-scheme of the umbrella scheme of 'Modernization of Police Forces'. The main objective of this scheme is to fill the critical gaps in public services and facilities. Over Rs 3130 crore has been released to the states since the year 2017-18.

Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS): This is implemented as a sub-scheme of the umbrella scheme of 'Modernization of Police Forces' by the Government on regular demand from Left Wing Extremism affected states. Under the scheme, funds are made available to states for strengthening security-related infrastructure. Projects/works worth Rs 971 crore have been sanctioned under this scheme. These sanctioned works include 250 Fortified Police Stations, out of which 146 have been constructed.

Scheme of Fortified Police Stations: Under this scheme, 400 fortified police stations have been constructed in 10 LWE affected states. Altogether, 546 fortified police stations have been constructed in Left Wing Extremism affected areas.

Assistance to Central Agencies for Combating Left Wing Extremism Scheme: The scheme is being implemented as a sub-scheme of the Umbrella Scheme for 'Modernization of Police Forces'. Under this scheme, assistance is provided to central agencies for strengthening of infrastructure and hiring or purchase of helicopters (Central Armed Police Forces/Indian Air Force etc.).

Civic Action Programme: This is also being implemented as a sub-scheme of the Umbrella Scheme for 'Modernization of Police Forces'. This is meant to bridge the gap between the security forces and the local people through personal contact and to show the human face of the security forces to the local people. The scheme has been very successful in achieving its objectives. Under this scheme, funds are released to the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in Left Wing Extremism affected areas for undertaking various civic activities for the welfare of the local people. Over Rs 94.59 crore has been released to the Central Armed Police Forces since the year 2017-18.

Media Plan: This plan is being implemented as a sub-plan of the



Umbrella Scheme for 'Modernization of Police Forces'. Maoists have been misguiding and luring the innocent tribals/locals in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas through their so-called pro-poor revolution through flimsy incentives or by adopting their coercive tactics. They also indulge in propaganda related activities against security forces and democratic processes. With a view to tackle this, the government is implementing this scheme in the areas affected by Left Wing Extremism. Under this scheme, N.Y.K.S. conducts activities like Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, radio jingles, documentaries; distributing pamphlets etc. Under this scheme, Rs 34.50 crore has been released since the year 2017-18.

Road Requirement Plan for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RRP-I): This scheme is being conducted by the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways to improve road connectivity in the 34 affected districts of eight states including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh. In this scheme, 5362 km of roads were planned out of which 5082 km. roads have been constructed.

Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWE): The government approved this scheme on 28.12.2016 with an estimated expenditure of Rs 11,725 crore to further improve road connectivity in Left Wing Extremism affected states. Works related to 12,100 kilometers of roads and 701 bridges have been approved under the scheme. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal ministry for this project. The roads covered under the scheme have been identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with state governments and security agencies. So far, 6761 km of roads and 246 bridges have been completed under this scheme.

Mobile Tower Project in Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas: In order to improve mobile connectivity in Left Wing Extremism affected areas, the Government on 20.08.2014 had approved installation of mobile towers in these areas. Total 2343 mobile towers were installed in the first phase of the project and 2543 mobile towers are being installed in the second phase.

Aspirational District: The Ministry of Home Affairs has been entrusted with the task of monitoring the Aspirational District program in 35 Left Wing Extremism affected districts.

etc. The idea is to enhance the capacity of the state governments to deal with the Maoist menace in a concerted manner.

The Government believes that the problem of Left Wing Extremism can be successfully tackled with an integrated approach focusing on development and security related measures. However, it has been observed that Left Wing extremists do not want a solution to the root cause of underdevelopment in

a meaningful manner as they resort to mass targeting of school buildings, roads, rail routes, bridges, health infrastructure, communication facilities, etc. To maintain their old ideology, they usually keep the people deprived of development. As a result, the influence of Left Wing Extremism has pushed back the process of development by decades in many parts of the country. This needs to be understood by the civil society and

the media, so as to force the Left Wing extremists to give up violence, join the mainstream and accept the fact that the socio-economic and political thought and aspirations of 21st century India cannot be met from Maoist point of view. Apart from this, any ideology based on violence and destruction cannot be successful in such a democratic system which has a system of legal forums for redressal of grievances. ■

Budha Pahad and Chakarbanda become Naxal-Free after 3 Decades

Bureau

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here was a time when Budha Pahad, a densely forested area at the tri-junction of Latehar and Garhwa Districts in Jharkhand and Balrampur used to be a hotbed of Naxal activities, in Chhattisgarh. However, with the combined efforts of all security forces, the area is free from Left Wing Extremism now and development activities are underway.

This success is credited to Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah who worked tirelessly under the leadership of the Prime Minister. Budha Pahad is located in the Garu block of Latehar, about 150 kms away from Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. Notably, Budha Pahad, a densely forested area spread over 55 square kms was infested by Naxalites for over the last 32 years. This area, which is surrounded by dense forests of Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh had become an impregnable fort of Naxalites. Due to its tough and remote geographical location, the area was very difficult to access for the security forces making it the safest hideout of the Naxalites. Top Naxalite extremists from many states including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand were taking shelter on Budha Pahar thereby making it a huge challenge for the Indian security forces and the local police.

However, the special campaign led by the Prime Minister dealt a severe blow to Left Wing Extremism, particularly in this area. Once termed as a hotbed of Naxal activities, the area has now become free from Left Wing Extremism. Though some extremist elements might still exist there in the form of small gangs, but they have been rendered ineffective. The significant part of the campaign against LWE is that now there is no such Naxal affected area in Bihar and Jharkhand, is impregnable.

The strategy deployed by the security forces during operation 'Doublebull' and operation 'Octopus' was crucial in freeing Budha Pahad from Naxal stranglehold. The biggest campaign to free the area from

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For the first time in India, permanent camps of security forces have been established by successfully evicting Maoists from the difficult areas of Budha Pahad, Chakarbandha and Bhimbandh. This new benchmark has been achieved under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi in their decisive battle against Left Wing Extremism.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister

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Naxalites was launched in the year 2018. The Naxalites had attacked six soldiers of the security forces with landmines while they were moving towards the mountain. IED bombs were planted on every road leading to the mountain.

The strategy of forcing the Naxalites

to surrender and becoming a part of the mainstream has also manifested positive results. In the last three years, more than three dozen noted Naxalites have surrendered before the police and security forces along with their weapons. A dozen other Naxalite commanders have also laid down their arms.

On September 21, 2022, Shri Kuldip Singh, who was the Director General of CRPF at that time, had mentioned in the media that these operations were undertaken as a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's zero tolerance policy against left wing extremism. Army personnel were airlifted along with logistics in this area situated on the border of three states and have set up a permanent camp at Budha Pahad. After entering the extremely difficult areas of Bihar's Chakarbandha and Bhimbandh, the security forces have established permanent camps there while driving out the Maoists from their stronghold and have recovered arms, ammunition, foreign grenades and IEDs in huge quantities from this area.

The area has started witnessing accelerated developmental activities in terms of better roads, health, education and other facilities. Budha Pahad Development Project has also been launched. While the CRPF and the state police have jointly eliminated Left Wing Extremism from Budha Pahad area, security forces continue to keep a close watch here to deter any naxal activities. ■





Heroic Story of CRPF

Noted Maoist eliminated with Indomitable Courage

Bureau

Be it terrorist incidents, or left wing extremism, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have never deviated from their target and their on-ground action is apparent the way naxalism has been routed from various parts of India. There are many instances in which CRPF has proved their mettle in turning the toughest situation around. One such incident is of July 2021 in which a well-planned operation against armed Maoists was carried out near Kadaldag Mountain in Jharkhand.

Intelligence inputs were received about on the movement of dreaded armed Maoists led by Buddheshwar Oraon (Bihar Regional Committee Member), carrying a reward of 15 lakhs, near Kadaldag Pahar. An operation was planned accordingly by 203, 209 CoBRA, and 218 CRPF in consultation with Jharkhand Police.

A joint operation was launched in the general forest area of Keragani, Kochagani, Kadaldag, Marwa, Kurumgarh, by the troops of 203, 209 CoBRA, 218 CRPF, Jharkhand Jaguar and State Police on July 12, 2021. Topographically, the area comprised dense forest with heavy undergrowth/vegetation, steep slopes with boulders and fortified with IEDs. As the troops were moving tactically, Ct/GD Biswajit Kumbhakar (Dog handler) with his Dog Drone was manoeuvring the core area to secure the way for the troops towards the target. On 13th July 21, Dog Drone sniffed some suspicious substance while approaching the target and consequently, Ct/GD Biswajit Kumbhakar sensed the danger of an IED and commanded his Dog to revert. Unmindful of his safety, Ct/GD



Sh. Vicky Kumar Pandey



Sh. Vijay Oraon

Biswajit Kumbhakar rushed to secure the Dog Drone, thereby unfortunately, detonating a pressure IED. This resulted in the martyrdom of the Dog Drone on the spot and grievous injuries to the Dog handler Ct/GD Biswajit Kumbhakar. After evacuation of the martyred Dog and the critically injured Dog handler, troops searched the assigned area and took LUP.

But, it did not deter the CRPF troops from moving forward. Subsequently, on 14 July 21, an operation No 21 was planned and launched afresh to nab the dreaded Maoist group led by Buddheshwar Oraon (RCM), under overall supervision of Shri Surender Kumar, Commandant, 209, CoBRA. Accordingly, four SAT (Small Action Teams) were constituted for further action. The troops tactically moved towards the target area by successfully negotiating undulating terrain, IED threats, thick vegetation and steep gradients with determination to strike the target against all odds.

Jharkhand Police component along with SAT-C jawans under the command of Shri Jitendra Singh, AC and SAT-D under the command of Shri Vicky Kumar Pandey, DC left for the target area on 15 July 2021. Strategy was devised to prevent Maoists escaping from both the west and east directions. At around 9 am, on approaching the

suspected target area, SAT-C Commander Shri Vicky Kumar Pandey, DC and SI/GD Sanjay Singh noticed some suspicious movement and alerted the troops. Despite this, all the three teams of jawans came under the heavy shelling of Naxalites. The advancing troops quickly took up position and bravely retaliated to the indiscriminate firing by the Maoists.

At this critical juncture, Shri Pintu Yadav, along with another team consisting of Shri Vicky Kumar Pandey, DC and Shri Jaspreet Singh, AC decided to retaliate and fired towards the Maoists. Shri Pandey along with Deputy Commissioner and SI Sanjay Singh and GD Vijay Oraon took vanguard action and crawled towards the Maoists hideouts. These bravehearts, without caring for their life and safety, fired effectively with mutual support and managed to inflict heavy casualties on the Maoists.

Shri Pandey, along with his friend SI Sanjay Singh and GD Vijay Oraon, chased the fleeing Maoists for about 3.5 kms in a dense and IED-prone jungle area. The chasing team faced an ambush. During this fierce encounter the troops succeeded in neutralizing and recovering the body of a hardcore Maoist leader along with his AK 47 weapon. The slain Maoist was later identified as Budheshwar Oraon, whose elimination led to irreparable losses and debilitating effect on the Maoist organization. During the entire operation, troops detected and destroyed 33 IEDs. In recognition of their most conspicuous act of bravery and unwavering courage in the face of imminent danger, in the highest traditions of the force, Shri Vicky Kumar Pandey, DC and CT/GD Vijay Oraon of 209 Cobra have been awarded the "Shaurya Chakra." ■



Development coupled with Security is Government's Priority

The contribution of the Border Security Force (BSF) in the freedom struggle of Bangladesh is a significant part of history and underlines the continued cordial and warm relations between India and Bangladesh. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah mentioned this recently while inaugurating the various development works of Land Ports Authority of India and Border Security Force in West Bengal on May 9, 2023.

From the snowy peaks to the desert and from the land border to the Bay of Bengal- the Border Security Force (BSF) has left no stone unturned in securing the country's borders. It is hard to imagine the security of India's borders without the presence of BSF.

These encouraging words were said by the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah as he laid the foundation stone for various development projects of Land Port Authority of India and BSF in North 24 Parganas area of West Bengal. He also inaugurated Maitridwar at ICP Petrapole, newly constructed Border Outposts (BOPs) of Seema Suraksha Bal and other buildings, virtually. Several dignitaries including Union Minister

of State for Home Affairs Shri Nishith Pramanik, Union Minister for Ports Shri Shantanu Thakur, Chairman Land Ports Authority of India and Director General Border Security Force were present on the occasion. The government's border security policy is very precision oriented, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The central government is building strong infrastructure in border areas and efforts are underway to provide benefits of welfare schemes in border villages like other villages of the country, while also improving connectivity in these villages. He said that by promoting land trade, the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is making efforts to spread business,

industry and the message of 'vocal for local' in the border villages.

The Land Ports Authority of India is a statutory body, (created through the Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010) functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. It looks after the creation, upgradation, maintenance and management of border infrastructure in India as well as manages a number of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) across India's borders.

He said that as an organization, the Land Ports Authority of India not only helps accelerate India's economy but is also an ambassador of India's message of friendship. Shri Shah added that the Land Ports Authority of India is a huge institution which takes forward our



cultural and trade relations encompassing over 15 thousand kilometre long land border of India with all South Asian countries and PM Narendra Modi has provided a new momentum, direction and dimension to the organisation since 2016. Between the years 2016-2022, there has been a significant increase in the number of land port cargo and passengers. While in 2016-17, the trade amount was Rs. 18,000 crores, it has now crossed Rs 30,000 crore, which showcases the excellent performance of the Land Ports Authority of India. Shri Shah said that in 2022-23, over 20 lakh passengers have moved through the land ports. Additionally, after the construction of the passenger terminal building in Petrapole in 2021, movement of 5 lakh passengers annually, that is, about 11,000 passengers daily, has been facilitated.

Shri Amit Shah said that the development of land ports is not only important for fulfilling Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of India



The development work being done for BSF will strengthen our border security and also improve the standard of living of the brave soldiers of BSF.

- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

(PM's tweet on the tweet by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on the occasion of inauguration of various development works of Border Security Force)

becoming a \$5 trillion economy, but also for ensuring good relations with the neighbouring countries. He said that the Land Ports Authority of India is moving forward by working like an ambassador with India's neighboring countries. Shri Shah said that several initiatives have been taken for the Land Ports Authority of India in the last five years. These include Port Automation System, Land Port Management System, Land Port Digital Security and Monitoring System, Digital

Port Asset Management System, Suvidha Portal, an Integrated Check Post at Attari and providing passenger amenities at the Agartala Land Port. He said that the Land Ports Authority of India has taken several initiatives and achieved all the objectives of its establishment.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that India-Bangladesh relations are based on the values of shared culture, language, art and life traditions. He said that no one can disrupt the relations between India and Bangladesh. Shri Shah said that the two nations have followed the same culture for thousands of years, and from the birth of Bangladesh till today India has always played a friendly role in the history of Bangladesh. He said that the contribution of the Border Security Force (BSF) in the freedom struggle of Bangladesh is a significant part of history, and underlines the continued cordial and warm relations between India and Bangladesh. ■





Naxalism needs to be Uprooted

For the first time in independent India, the CRPF held its Raising Day Parade at Bastar in Chhattisgarh, which is also the epicenter of Left Wing Extremism. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah participated for the two day event and lauded courage and bravery of the CRPF jawans for maintaining the internal security and peace in India.

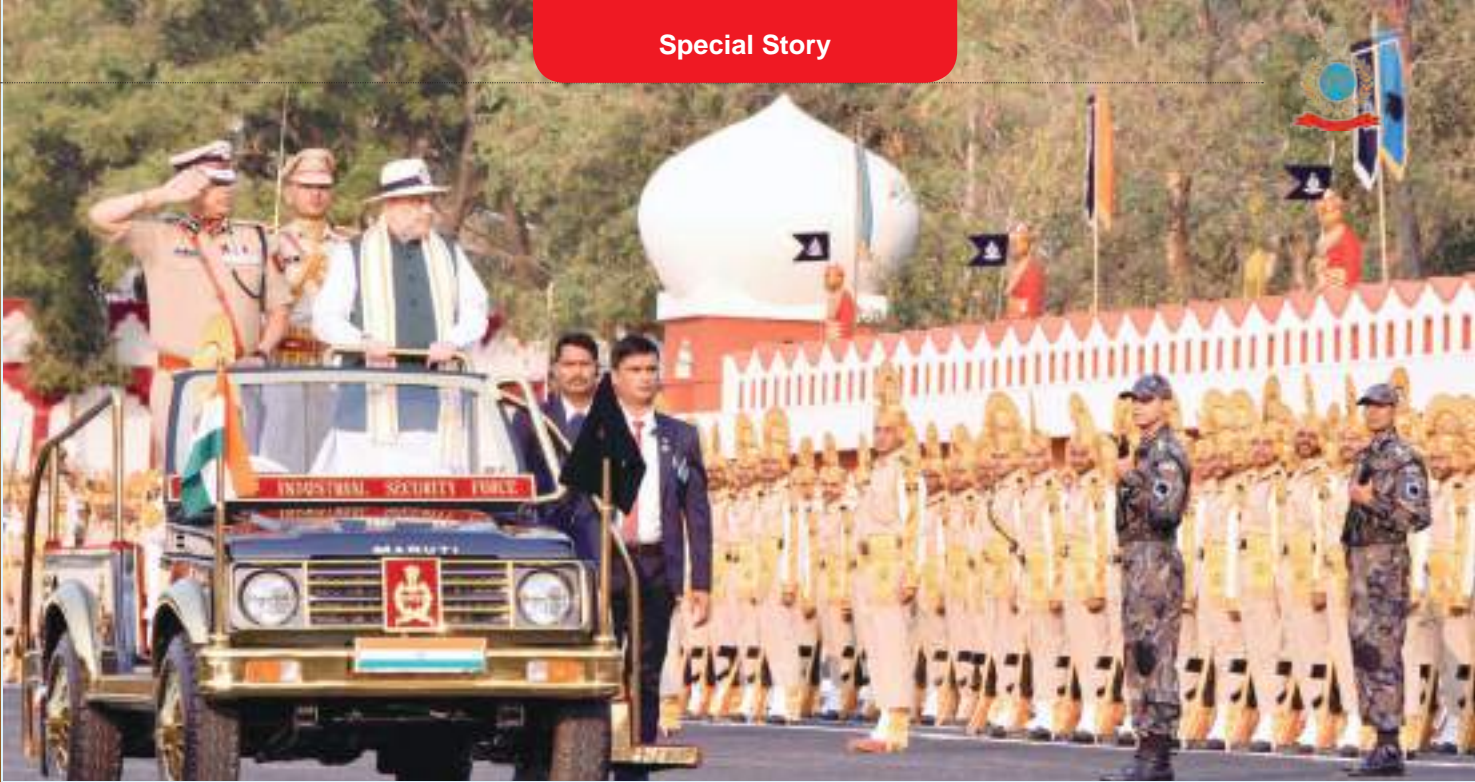


While addressing the CRPF officers at Bastar, in Chhattisgarh, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah lauded the force for their on-ground action and its impact. He said that under the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Indian security forces have successfully fought a decisive battle against Left Wing Extremism in the last nine years. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has uprooted left wing extremism which had been obstructing development in

the tribal areas. In fact the CRPF has showcased its organizational ability by creating an impregnable security in collaboration with local police in the troubled areas. He was addressing the gathering as the chief guest at the 84th Raising Day celebrations of the Central Reserve Police Force at Jagdalpur, on March 25, 2023. In his address, Shri Amit Shah said that it was a matter of pride to hold these celebrations in Chhattisgarh for the first time after the establishment of CRPF and since the beginning of the problem of Left Wing Extremism. He

also acknowledged the heroic sacrifices of 763 CRPF personnel to end Left Wing Extremism in Chhattisgarh. He said, "Today our fight against Left Wing Extremism is at a decisive stage, for which the martyred Jawans have made an immense contribution."

The Union Home Minister said that CRPF was established on 27 July, 1939, but the force was given its modern form by Iron Man and the country's first Home Minister Sardar Patel. He said that on December 28, 1949, Sardar Patel renamed it as the Central Reserve



Police Force and on March 19, 1950, he gave the insignia to this force. Shri Shah said that the force, which started with a single battalion is the biggest CAPF in the country today, with 246 battalions, 4 Zonal Headquarters, 21 Sector Headquarters, 2 Operational Sector Headquarters, 17 Operational Ranges, 42 Administrative Ranges and over 3.25 lakh personnel.

On October 21, 1959, while fighting the Chinese army at the Hot Spring in Ladakh, the CRPF Jawans showed indomitable courage and spirit of sacrifice and achieved martyrdom. To make their martyrdom immortal, the Nation decided to observe 21st October as Police Commemoration Day. He said that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has built the National Police Memorial at Chanakyapuri in New Delhi, where every year on 21st October, tribute is paid to the martyred police personnel. He said that on April 9, 1965, the CRPF bravely gave a befitting reply to the Pakistan Army at Sardar Post in the desert of Kutch and to mark the day, 09th April is observed as the Shaurya Diwas by the whole country.

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah left for Potkapally, also known as 'Naxalgarh' in Sukma district from the CRPF headquarter. He also visited the forward operating base of the CRPF camp and met the local people there and inaugurated the Public Distribution System shop. Since it was a

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The government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is standing with you in providing every facility and addressing problems. While further strengthening the glorious history of 84 years of CRPF, the force will continue to serve Maa Bharati with dedication till the complete elimination of Left Wing Extremism is achieved. Shri Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister

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Naxal affected area, no ration shop was available in the Potkapalli village for a long time and now with this being set up, things have eased up for the locals there with the availability of free ration from the central government right at their doorstep. Significantly, Home Minister Amit Shah visited a CRPF camp in a Naxal affected area of Sukma district for the first time.

During this tour, Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Director General of CRPF Shri SL Thansen, Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh Shri

Ashok Juneja and other police officials were present with him. Addressing the jawans at Potkapalli camp, the Union Home Minister instructed them to intensify the anti-Naxal campaign and lauded the joint operation of the CRPF and the local police which has put the extremists on a backfoot in the area. Related incidents have also come down significantly as compared to the last few years as a consequent of the martyrdom of the jawans. Central Home Ministry assured all possible help to the CRPF and paramilitary forces to make Bastar division Naxal-free.

He further pointed out that the incidents of Left Wing Extremism related violence have come down by 76%, from the peak of 2010 and the loss of lives has also come down by about 78%. Besides this, the CRPF has also formed a joint task force with the police of different states to stop the Left Wing Extremists from taking advantage of the interstate borders. He said that today the tri-junction of Budha Pahad, Chakarbanda and Parasnath has been brought into the mainstream of the country and development works are underway there, at present. Shri Shah said that the security vacuum in Bihar and Jharkhand is about to end and this has been possible only because of the combined strength of the brave CRPF Jawans and the police forces. He said that to curb the source of funding of Left Wing Extremists, the Government

Home Minister reaches the Naxal Stronghold



When the Union Home Minister reached this school

The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah sprung a surprise when he arrived at a government school in a village during his tour to Chhattisgarh and began teaching the children. He introduced himself and also got to know the children. After noticing a hanging chart of animals he invited children to identify them in English language and he also interacted with the children. Toffees were also distributed while the Home Minister was leaving. Earlier, the Home Minister also inaugurated the first tribal language news service in Jagdalpur, as an endeavor to boost the local languages and also to make people aware of the developments taking place in India and overseas. The purpose is to convey the news of the country and the world to the tribal in their own dialect.



is taking strict action by registering cases by NIA and ED.

Shri Amit Shah said that the development works of the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi are now reaching the last person in the Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, as well.

He said that out of 70,000 km roads sanctioned for development, 11,000 km road has been completed, 2343 mobile towers have been installed, Eklavya School are being opened in priority areas, 1258 bank branches have been opened in just 5 years, 1348 ATMs have been opened, the work of opening 47

ITIs and 68 skill development centers under the skill development scheme has also been completed. He said that the pace of development is increasing in this area due to the joint efforts of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, CRPF and local police. ■



Concern for All

Bureau

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emphasised on the changes in job conditions and recruitment rules in every ministry of the Government of India. Availability of employment leads to automatic development of society. Before 2014, there was no government policy for urban development. However, after 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took responsibility for development across all the fields and formulated a comprehensive, result-oriented and integrated urban development policy.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah distributed appointment letters on regularization of 4,400 employees of New Delhi Municipal Council in New Delhi. Shri Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has eased the lives of the people by removing uncertainties



These facilities and beautification efforts are going to bring new colors of happiness in the lives of the people of Delhi.

- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

(PM's tweet on the tweet by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on the occasion of handing over appointment letters on regularization of New Delhi Municipal Council employees and inauguration of various projects)

from many areas, Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Modi himself has given a lot of thrust on timely changes in job conditions and recruitment rules in every ministry of the Government of India.

NDMC is considered as one of the top performing organisations in India and NDMC is also financially self-sufficient with AA+ credit rating. Several plans have been made to develop it with minimum ecological impact. He

said that 4,400 people have officially joined this team of 13,000 Karmayogis of NDMC, now. He added that these 4,400 Karmayogis are known more by their work than their names. Whether it is cleanliness, making places rich with greenery and ensuring uninterrupted power supply, the efforts of these 4,400 Karmayogis and their dedication and hard work towards NDMC is worth applause. He said that these people had been getting recognition for their hard work, but now the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has also provided them with respect and security along with recognition.

The Union Home Minister said that officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the DoPT have played a major role in making necessary changes in the recruitment rules and removing administrative hurdles in regularizing these employees. He said that about 900 additional posts were created after which 4,400 people

Padma Awards-2024: Nominations can be done till September 15



Online nominations and recommendations for the Padma Awards 2024 to be announced on the occasion of Republic Day, 2024 have opened on 1st May 2023. The last date for nominations for Padma Awards is 15th September, 2023. The nominations/recommendations for Padma Awards will be received online on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal (<https://awards.gov.in>).

The Government is committed to transform Padma Awards into "People's Padma". All citizens are, therefore, requested to make nominations/recommendations, including self nomination. Concerted efforts may be made to identify talented persons whose excellence and achievements really deserve to be recognized from amongst women, weaker sections of the society, SCs & STs, divyang persons and those who are rendering selfless service to the society.

The Padma Awards, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country. Instituted in 1954, these Awards are announced on the occasion of the Republic Day every year. The award seeks to recognize 'work of distinction' and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines, such

as, Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc. All persons without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex are eligible for these Awards. Government servants including those working with PSUs, except Doctors and Scientists, are not eligible for Padma Awards.

The Government is determined to make the Padma Awards "People's Padma". The nominations/recommendations should contain all relevant details specified in the format available on the above said Portal, including a citation in narrative form (maximum 800 words), clearly bringing out the distinguished and exceptional achievements/service of the person recommended in her/his respective field/discipline.

Further details in this regard are available on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs (<https://mha.gov.in>) under the heading 'Awards and Medals' and on the Padma Awards Portal (<https://padmaawards.gov.in>). The Statutes and Rules relating to these Awards are available on the website at the link <https://padmaawards.gov.in/AboutAwards.aspx>.

could be regularized. He said that after regularization, an average salary of Rs. 32,000 will be assured, while some people will also get a higher level. Additionally, cashless health schemes of NDMC, LTC, promotion opportunities and the right to apply

The Modi government has concern for every person. This was again evident when the Union Home Minister recently distributed appointment letters on regularization of 4400 employees of New Delhi Municipal Council.

for NDMC government houses will be assured. He said that while all these facilities should have been provided to these employees long ago, it is due to the decision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that these rights have now been provided to them. ■



Bureau

As a part of the Government's commitment to enhance FM connectivity in the country, Low Power FM Transmitters of capacity of 100 Watt have been commissioned at 91 locations. These transmitters have been installed in 84 districts of 20 states and the Left Wing Extremism hit areas, Aspirational Districts and border areas of the country have been given priority for their installation. The States and UTs which are covered include Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Ladakh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. With this expansion of AIR's FM service, 35,000 sq km area and additional 2 crore people will be covered.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 91 new 100W FM Transmitters through video conferencing thereby boosting India's radio connectivity. This inauguration was formally done on April 28.

The Prime Minister said that the government is working for the democratization of technology, on a cautious note. "It is important that no Indian should feel left out, if India has to rise up to its full potential", the Prime Minister said. Making modern technology accessible and affordable is key to this. He explained this by mentioning the spread of optical fiber to all the villages and the cheapest data cost that has eased access to information and added that this has given a new push to digital entrepreneurship in villages. Similarly, UPI has helped small businesses and street vendors to access banking services.

91FM transmitters to revolutionize the Radio Industry in India



Connectivity be it in any form, its purpose is to connect the country and its 140 crore citizens. All communication channels including All India Radio should have the same vision. I am sure that all stakeholders will continue to move forward with this vision resulting in the strengthening of the country through continuous dialogue.

**—Shri Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**



The Prime Minister noted the presence of numerous Padma Awardees in the programme and welcomed them. Lauding the expansion of FM services by All India Radio, the latter has now become All India FM by providing a glimpse of India's diversity, remarked the PM. He also added that the districts covered under the new 91 FM transmitters are aspirational districts and blocks, and congratulated All India Radio for the momentous achievement and congratulated the citizens of the

Northeast, who will also greatly benefit from this.

The Prime Minister emphasized that India's tech revolution over the last few years has given radio and especially FM a new form. "Digital India has not only given new listeners to the radio but a new thought process as well," he said, while highlighting that the same revolution can be witnessed in every broadcasting medium. He further added that besides education and entertainment, the services of DD free dish, the largest DTH platform in the country, are being provided to 4 crore 30 lakh homes where real-time information about the world is reaching the doorstep of crores of rural households and areas near the border and the marginalized sections to ensure accessibility for all and reduced disparity.

Varied education courses are available on DTH channels where the knowledge of more than one university is directly reaching the learners and has greatly benefitted crores of Indian students, especially during the pandemic. "Be it DTH or FM radio, this power gives us a window to peep into future India. We have to prepare ourselves for this future", PM Modi said.

The Prime Minister referring to the linguistic diversity, the PM added that the FM transmission will happen in all the languages and especially in the regions with 27 dialects. "This connectivity does not link just the tools of communications but it connects the people too. This is reflective of the work culture of this government," he said. ■



Shree Anna to Boost CAPFs food

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has appreciated the efforts being made across the country to popularise Shree Anna. While responding to the tweet of the Chief Minister of Assam regarding the inauguration of Millet Cafe in the Assam Secretariat, the PM tweeted, "Glad to see such various efforts being made across the country to popularise Shree Anna."

Due to lack of awareness on the environment-friendly and nutritional benefits of millets, this coarse grain had taken a backseat in the country over the last few years. Therefore, Millets (Shree Anna) were undervalued compared to the other grains and owing to the PM's efforts; it has now become popular with the citizens and with the farmers as well.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken a momentous decision to introduce Millets (Shree Anna) in the meals of personnel of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in the International Year of Millets-2023. The decision to introduce 30% Millets in the meals has been taken on the clarion call of the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, after detailed discussion with all the Forces.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had asked all the forces to take action for the introduction of Millets based menu. The forces have shown overwhelming response and are eager to introduce Millets in meals on a regular basis. Millets will also be extensively used in various functions and events of CAPFs and NDRF.

While Shree Anna is nutritious and healthy, it is also beneficial for the farmers being environment friendly. Shree Anna is energy-rich, drought-resistant, and can be easily cultivated even in dry soils and hilly areas requiring less water. It is also comparatively safe from the outbreak of insects etc.

Considering the easy availability of Shree Anna, Millets will also be made available in Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar, Grocery Shops of the campuses and Ration Store by setting up the dedicated counters. The forces will organize training of cooks in preparing millets based dishes through reputed institutes in this field.

The government will be engaging dieticians and expert agencies to generate awareness among the troops and their family members for using millets. Beside

'Shree' has been defined as prosperity and radiance. Shree Anna is also becoming a part of overall prosperity and development in India. Villages as well as the underprivileged are a critical part of this initiative.

this, various events, exhibitions, seminars, webinars, workshops and symposiums will be conducted on 'Know Your Millets'.

Millets (Shree Anna), is gluten free and a good source of protein. It has low Glycemic Index (GI) and it is rich in micronutrients and phyto-chemicals including dietary fibre, calcium, iron, phosphorus etc. Because of its nutritional value, 30% millet (Shree Anna) has been included in the diet of the Central Armed Police Forces.

Recently, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference at IARI Campus, PUSA New Delhi. The PM also launched a compendium of Indian Millet (Shree Anna) startups and a book of millet (Shree Anna) standards. Informing that about 2.5 crore small farmers are directly involved in the production of millets in India, the Prime Minister noted that they faced the challenges of climate change even though they own very little land. "India's Millet Mission - The campaign for Shree Anna will prove to be a boon for 2.5 crore farmers of the country", the Prime Minister said. ■



Growing with Security

UHS held several VC meetings with Chief Secretary of Manipur and security officials on daily basis to assess and review the situation in Manipur.



Various meetings on the issues related to security, policing and other developmental activities were held from 26th April to 10th May 2023 under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary Shri Ajay Bhalla.

The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy Board Meeting was held on 29.04.2023 under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary. The meeting reviewed the training activities and the Academy was advised to focus upon development of skill sets among the probationers, capacity building to handle Cyber crime/ cyber security, smart policing, use of social media, in collaboration with

eminent institutions and other central training institutes and gender sensitization and right attitude towards weaker sections of society.

Similarly, UHS held a meeting with the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries to the Governors of all the States. He discussed some of the follow up action on issues that were addressed by the President/ the Prime Minister in the Conference of Governors, 2021. UHS desired that Raj Bhawans in States and LG Houses in UTs should commemorate the Foundation Day of other States and Union Territories with great fervor showcasing the rich and vibrant culture of the State whose

Foundation Day is being celebrated.

Operationalization of Project CAPFIMS is priority for the CAPFs. During the 8th Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting of CAPFIMS Society held under UHS it was decided to operationalize the Project with the assistance of AIIMS.

Thereafter, UHS on 2.5.2023 reviewed the significant projects /programs being implemented in MHA and discussed in detail the strategy to implement the Prime Minister's Mission Life style for Awareness (LiFE) Campaign the World Environment Day (WED) on 5th June, 2023. All CAPFs/ CPOs under MHA including Delhi Police would be utilizing their network of institutions at various levels for creating awareness about the Mission and inculcating the sustainable consumption behaviour.

Sub Committee of the National Executive Committee under UHS on disaster management met to consider the report of Inter Ministerial Central Team which had visited State of Maharashtra in the aftermath of floods during the last South West Monsoon.

During the meeting with Department of Justice held on 26.04.2023, UHS directed to take up with various states, including the north eastern states, to expedite ITSSO (Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences) compliance. The national compliance rate has improved from 44.4% in 2018 to 61.6% in 2022 and the disposal rate is 85.10% in 2022 and the same needs to be improved further. Department of Justice would also develop a dashboard to monitor the completion of trials in 60 days as per the Criminal Law Amendment Act 2018.

UHS also held several VC meetings with Chief Secretary of Manipur and security officials on daily basis to assess and review the situation in Manipur. Total 52 companies of CAPFs were deployed and other assistance as requested by the State Governments was provided in coordination with various Union Ministries. ■



Kuldeep Singh

Crackdown on Extremism is Need of Hour



There was a time when Left Wing Extremism (LWE) was at its peak in many parts of India thereby posing a huge challenge to India's internal security. In that duration, I was serving in the Central Reserve Police Force and experienced it from close quarters. But over the years, there has been a remarkable shift in this situation and stating that Left Wing Extremism is now almost fading, is not exaggeration. In this context, the valorous action of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in turning the Buddha Pahar area on the Bihar-Jharkhand border into a peaceful region is a commendable example of impactful action.

It is a fact that such huge challenges are resolved with the government's foresight and with the powers granted to the Forces handling India's internal security. Multiple initiatives taken in this regard under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi are already delivering the desired results. This was evident at the 84th Foundation Day of the CRPF organized recently in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. Bastar was the epicentre of Naxal activities and it's an entirely different picture today. The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah graced the occasion as the chief guest.

The country has recorded remarkable success in the last nine years in fighting a decisive battle against Left Wing Extremism. It was at its peak during the years around 2010, however, LWE related violence has registered a significant decline of 76 % and more importantly loss of lives has come down by nearly 78 %. Few years back, I visited the place in Jharkhand's Chaibasa where one of the deadliest Maoist attacks had taken place. The coordination between the State Police and the Central Police in the West Singhbhum district is really commendable. Eliminating Naxalism from the largest district of Jharkhand—which is known for dense forest of Saranda, Podahat and Kolhan—

has been a big challenge for the forces.

The Union Home Ministry has worked under a detailed integrated action plan in accordance with the PM's vision to eliminate Naxalism. Consequently, this area is almost insurgency free, with the destruction of the bastions of Left Wing Extremism. This has led to developmental activities in the region. The militants have surrendered and have begun returning to the mainstream. Thus, this region has emerged as a true example of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas and sabka vishwas'.

Today, the tri-junction of Budha Pahar, Chakarbanda and Parasnath has been freed from leftist extremism and mainstreamed, therefore sparking off developmental projects. These places were the hotbeds of top Maoist leaders and military formations. Remarkably, the security forces have achieved big success in operations like 'Operation Octopus', 'Operation Double Bull' and 'Operation Chakarbandha' during the year 2022. It is for the first time in the last four decades that the number of deaths of civilians and security forces in the year 2022 has remained less than 100. The Ministry of Home Affairs, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has three main pillars of the policy to deal with Left Wing Extremism – crackdown on extremist violence, better coordination between the Centre & State and quelling support to LWE through development and people's participation. And, the results are there for everybody to see.

The government's development schemes and works under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi are now reaching every individual in the Left Wing Extremism affected areas. In my view, we need to work more towards bolstering infrastructure, health and education along with the security related initiatives in the dense forest areas. While it will help in completely eliminating Left Wing Extremism, it will also lead to a comprehensive development along with peace in the region.

There has been a paradigm shift in the central government's perception of the Northeast. Significantly, the area has witnessed a decline in extremism related activities and the local youth are now participating in education and development related programmes. In fact, Home Ministry statistics show that there has been an 89 % reduction in militancy-related incidents in the Northeast and it has become possible only due to the current government's policies in this direction. A 90 percent decline in attacks on security forces and 89 percent reduction in civilian deaths is definitely a testimony to Northeast's potential to make India a more developed nation. Nearly 8,000 youths belonging to different militant groups have surrendered and have joined the mainstream, welcoming a better future for themselves and their families. ■

(Former Director General, CRPF has worked as an advisor to the Prime Minister's Office on internal security matters)



Union Minister of State for Home Shri Nityanand Rai met the officers and jawans of the Border Security Force at the BOP post on the Indo-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya on May 3, 2023. He also had lunch with them.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nisith Pramanik visited the violence affected area of West Bengal. While consoling the victims, he assured security to the local people.



Union Minister of State for Home Shri Ajay Mishra Teni interacted with the local residents and assured a quick redressal of their grievances, during a meeting at his parliamentary office on May 02, 2023.



Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaoson, Director General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) paid rich tributes to all the martyred Bravehearts at the National Police Memorial, on the occasion of Bravery Day.



Human face of CRPF: A fatal collision between two vehicles took place near 144 Bn CRPF HQ Dalgate, the first aid team of 144 Bn immediately reached the spot and provided first aid. They also helped in sending the victims to the hospital.



On April 28, 2023, the Director General of CRPF visited the site of the incident after the IED blast in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. He also interacted with the State Police and CRPF officials on the operational challenges and preparedness following the incident.





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