



From Red Corridor to Naxal-Free Bharat: A Decade of Decisive Gains (2014–2025)

13 December, 2025

Key Takeaways

- Naxal-affected districts slashed from 126 (2014) to only 11 (2025), with most-affected districts down from 36 to just 3, marking the near-collapse of the Red Corridor.
- Over 12,000 km roads, 586 fortified police stations, 361 new camps, 8,500+ mobile towers operational, and ₹92 crore assets seized have ended geographical and financial dominance of Maoists in core areas.
- In 2025 alone, 317 Naxals neutralised (including top leadership), 800+ arrested, and nearly 2,000 surrendered, driving the highest-ever attrition and demonstrating irreversible momentum toward a Naxal-free India by March 2026.

Introduction

Reflecting the central government's decisive defence strategy against Left Wing Extremism, significant progress has been made in reducing Naxal-affected regions across the country. With decisive interventions, the Naxal-most-affected districts have been brought down from 36 (2014) to only 3 (2025) and total LWE-affected districts from 126 to just 11 by 2025.¹ The Government has adopted a unified, multi-dimensional and decisive strategy against Naxalism, replacing the scattered approach of previous governments. Operating on the clear principles of dialogue → security → coordination, the Government has set the firm target of making every Naxal-affected area completely **Naxal-free by March 2026.**

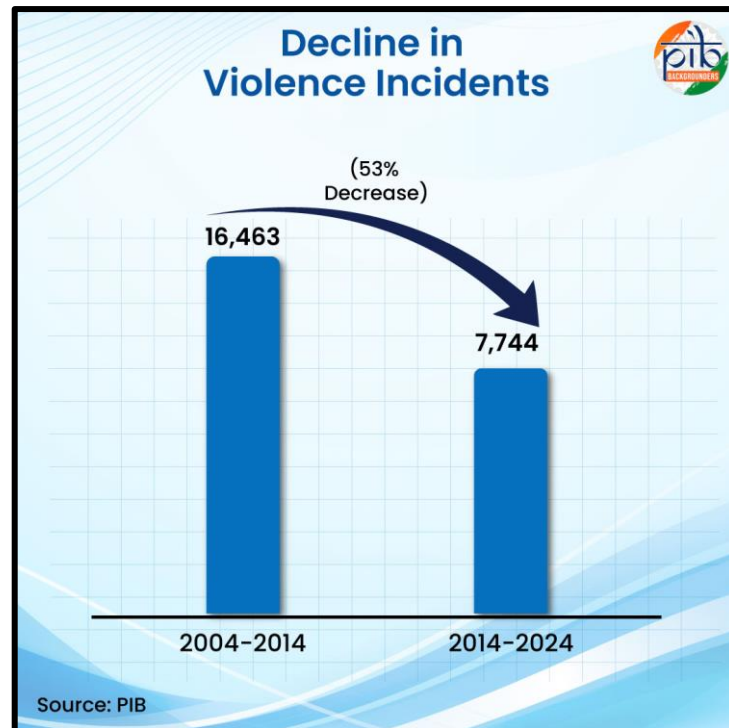
Significant Reduction in Naxal Violence in 10 Years

Naxalism in the country was spread across the “**Red Corridor**,” impacting states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. India’s multidimensional counter-LWE strategy has sharply reduced violence, weakened the movement, and reintegrated districts.

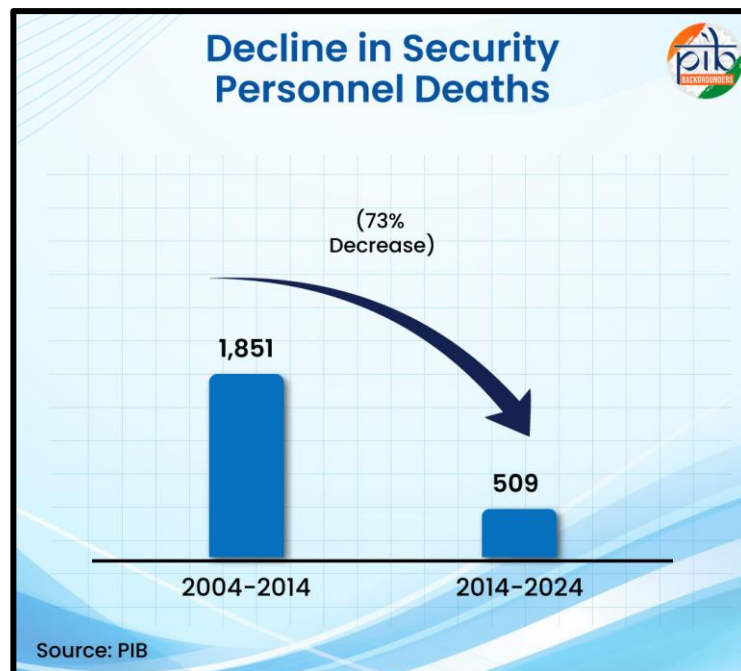
¹<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2179459®=3&lang=2>

From 2004–2014 to 2014–2024,

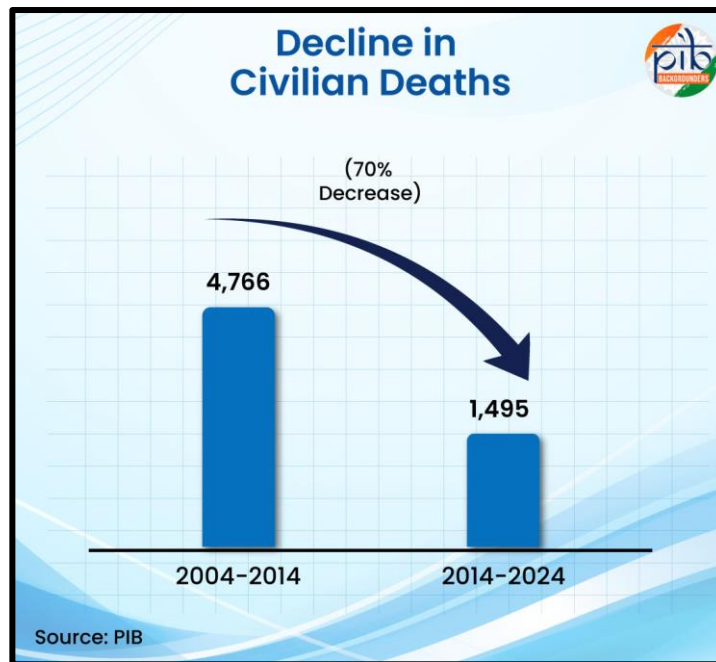
1. Violent incidents declined **53%** from 16,463 to 7,744.



2. Security force deaths fell **73%**, from 1,851 to 509



3. Civilian deaths dropped **70%**, from 4,766 to 1,495.



Operational Achievements in 2024–2025

In 2025 so far, 317 Naxals have been neutralised, 862 arrested and 1,973 surrendered. In 2024 alone, 290 were neutralised, 1,090 arrested and 881 surrendered. A total of 28 top Naxal leaders have been neutralised, including 1 Central Committee Member in 2024 and 5 in 2025. Major successes include 27 hardcore Naxals killed in **Operation Black Forest**, 24 surrendering in Bijapur on 23 May 2025, and 258 surrendering in October 2025 across Chhattisgarh (197) and Maharashtra (61), including 10 seniors Naxals in the surrenderers.

The infographic features a dark blue background with a white speech bubble containing a megaphone icon and the text "DID YOU KNOW?". Below this, the title "OPERATION BLACK FOREST" is displayed in blue. The main text describes the operation's success in neutralizing 27 Maoists, including a high-ranking leader. The PIB logo is in the top right corner, and "Source: PIB" is at the bottom left.

DID YOU KNOW?

OPERATION BLACK FOREST

In the fight against Naxalism, Operation Black Forest in Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh, led to the neutralization of 27 dreaded Maoists, including Nambala Keshav Rao (alias Basavaraju), the general secretary of CPI-Maoist and a topmost leader, and the backbone of the Naxal movement. This is the first time in three decades of Bharat's battle against Naxalism that a general secretary-ranked leader has been neutralized by Indian security forces

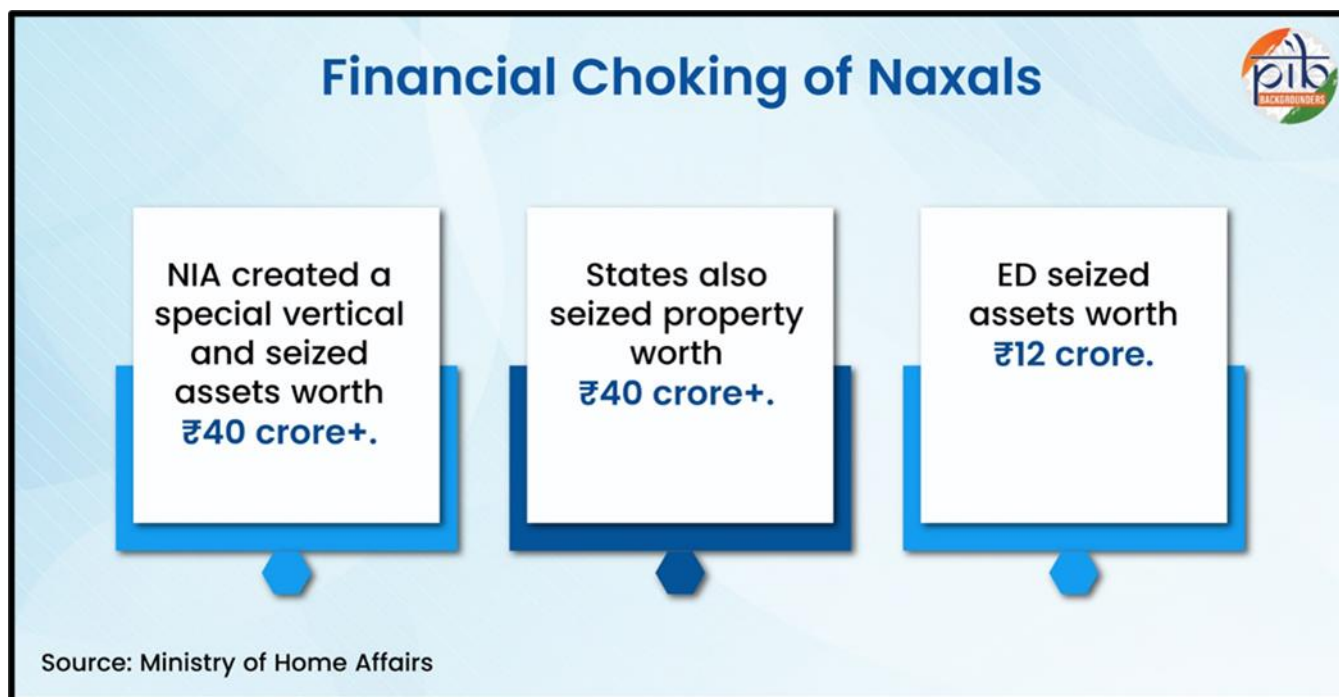
Source: PIB

Security Perimeter Achievements

Under the Central Government, only 3 districts remain which are most-affected by Naxalism in 2025 compared to 36 in 2014. Total Naxal-affected districts have been reduced from 126 in 2014 to just 11 in 2025. Fortified police stations increased from only 66 until 2014 to 586 constructed in the last 10 years. Police stations recording Naxal incidents dropped sharply from 330 across 76 districts in 2013 to merely 52 in 22 districts by June 2025. Additionally, 361 new security camps have been established in the last 6 years and 68 night-landing helipads have been built to strengthen operational reach.

Naxals' Financial Choking

The Central Government has effectively choked Naxal financing by forming a dedicated vertical in the NIA that seized assets worth over ₹40 crore, while states seized more than ₹40 crore and the Enforcement Directorate attached ₹12 crore. Simultaneous action has inflicted severe moral and psychological damage on urban Naxals and tightened control over their information warfare networks.



Capacity Building of States by Central Government

The Central Government has strengthened the capacity of Left-Wing Extremism-affected states through increased financial support and targeted assistance under key security and infrastructure schemes.

- Central Government released **₹3,331 crore** under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme to LWE-affected states in the last 11 years, marking a 155% increase in fund release over the last 10 years.
- Under the Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS), the Central Government approved **₹371 crore** for strengthening State Special Forces (SF) and Special Intelligence Branches (SIB), **₹620 crore** for 246 Fortified Police Stations in the original phase. The scheme extended till 2026 and in the extended period, ₹610 crore for further enhancement of SF, SIB and district police along with ₹140 crore for 56 additional FPS.
- In the last 8 years (2017–18 onwards), projects worth ₹1,757 crore have been approved and so far, ₹445 crore has already been released by the Central Government.
- Total **586** Fortified Police Stations constructed since 2014.
- **₹3,817.59 crore** provided under Special Central Assistance (SCA) Scheme.
- Under Assistance to Central Agencies Scheme (ACALWEMS), **₹125.53 crore** released for camp infrastructure in the last 10 years and **₹12.56 crore** for upgradation/establishment of hospitals.

Infrastructure Development

The Government of India has significantly strengthened infrastructure in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas by expanding road networks and mobile connectivity to enhance accessibility, security response, and socio-economic integration.

- **Road Connectivity in LWE Areas:**

From May 2014 to August 2025, the Central Government has constructed **12,000 km of roads** in Left Wing Extremism-affected regions, while projects for a total of **17,589 km** have been approved at a cost of **₹20,815 crore**, ensuring all-weather connectivity and mobility in previously inaccessible areas.

- **Mobile Network Expansion:**

In the first phase, 2,343 (2G) mobile towers were installed at a cost of **₹4,080 crore**. The second phase sanctioned 2,542 towers with investment of **₹2,210 crore**, of which 1,154 are already installed. Additionally, under the Aspirational Districts and 4G Saturation schemes, 8,527 (4G) towers have been approved, with **2,596 and 2,761** towers, respectively, now functional, dramatically improving communication and intelligence reach in core Naxal zones.

Financial Inclusion in Affected Districts

The Central Government has ensured deep financial inclusion in LWE-affected districts by establishing 1,804 bank branches, 1,321 ATMs and 37,850 banking correspondents. It also opened 5,899 post offices across 90 districts with coverage at every 5 km, bringing banking, postal and remittance services directly to remote communities previously under Naxal influence.

Educational Empowerment (Skill Development in 48 Districts)

The Central Government has launched skill development initiatives in 48 LWE-affected districts by sanctioning 48 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) with an investment of **₹495 crore** and approving **61** Skill Development Centres (SDCs). Of these, **46 ITIs and 49 SDCs** are already functional, providing vocational training and employment opportunities to local youth, thereby reducing Naxal recruitment and integrating remote communities into the mainstream economy.

Separate Vertical in NIA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) established a dedicated anti-Naxal vertical that investigated **108 cases** and filed charge sheets in **87 cases**, significantly weakening the Maoist organisational structure through accelerated prosecution. Simultaneously, in 2018 the Central Government raised the Bastariya Battalion comprising **1,143** recruits, including an initial **400 local** youths from the worst-affected districts of Bijapur, Sukma and Dantewada in

Chhattisgarh, turning former Naxal strongholds into sources of trained security personnel fighting the insurgency.

Areas Freed from Naxals After 3 Decades (Success Stories)

Security forces, through decisive operations such as Octopus², Double Bull and Chakbandha, have liberated long-held Naxal bastions including Budha Pahad, Parasnath, Baramasia³ and Chakrabandha (Bihar) after three decades of Maoist control, established permanent camps deep inside remote jungles, and reached the hitherto impenetrable Abujhmad (Chhattisgarh) region. These sustained offensives forced the PLGA battalion to abandon its core area in Bijapur-Sukma and caused the complete failure of the Naxalites' 2024 Tactical Counter Offensive Campaign (TCOC), marking the collapse of their strategic stronghold and operational dominance.

Surrender and Rehabilitation Scheme

The Central Government's surrender-cum-rehabilitation policy has accelerated the collapse of Naxal cadres by offering attractive incentives and assured livelihood. High-rank LWE cadres receive **₹5 lakh**, middle/lower-rank cadres **₹2.5 lakh**, and all surrenderers get a **₹10,000 monthly** stipend for professional training lasting 36 months. As a result, 521 LWE cadres surrendered this year alone, with the total rising to **1,053** after the new state government assumed power, successfully, bringing hundreds of former insurgents into the mainstream with guaranteed employment and security.

CONCLUSION

Over the past eleven years, the Central Government's coordinated, multi-pronged strategy-combining calibrated security operations, unprecedented infrastructure push, financial choking, rapid development saturation and an attractive surrender policy has shrunk Left-Wing Extremism from 126 districts in 2014 to just 11 in 2025, with only three remaining **"most-affected"**. Violence has fallen over 70%, civilian and security-force casualties have plummeted, top Maoist leadership has been systematically neutralised, and thousands of cadres have chosen mainstream life over armed struggle. While pockets of resistance remain and complete eradication demands sustained vigilance till the declared deadline of 31 March 2026, the trajectory is unmistakable: the ideological and territorial backbone of the Naxal insurgency has been broken, paving the way for lasting peace and development in regions long deprived of both.

References

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²<https://ihpolice.gov.in/news/police-reaching-out-villagers-under-operation-goodwill-8090-1351598017>

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