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India's post-LWE future, from red sun to new dawn

Governance in Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected regions must evolve into inclusive transformation built on state legitimacy and trust

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Source: The Hindu

Left Wing Extremism (LWE), also known as the Maoist insurgency, was once one of India's most serious internal security challenges, especially in tribal and forest regions. Over the years, a combination of security operations and development initiatives has significantly reduced its influence.

→ On **31 March 2026**, India declared itself free from Maoist insurgency, marking a major shift from conflict to stability and development.

1. India's transition from Left Wing Extremism (LWE) to peace marks a major internal security achievement.

→ Earlier, LWE was considered one of the biggest threats (2009–10), but now its decline shows effective coordination between security forces and development policies.

2. The focus is shifting from counter-insurgency to governance and development.

→ This reflects a move from **"security-centric" to "people-centric"** administration.

What is LWE?

- **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)** = A Maoist movement using violence to challenge the state, mainly active in tribal belts.
- **Janatana Sarkar** = Parallel governance system run by Maoists.
- **Jan Adalat** = Informal courts delivering Maoist-style justice.

Why is this Transition Important?

- **Restoration of State Authority**
→ Government control is now fully re-established in affected regions.
- **Better Security Management**
→ Forces like CAPFs can shift focus to borders and other threats.
- **Economic Opportunities**
→ Mineral-rich areas can now attract investment and infrastructure.
- **Improved Life for Tribals**
→ Reduced violence ensures safety, rights, and better livelihoods.

Key Government Initiatives

- **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)**
→ Improves development indicators in backward districts.
- **Roshni Scheme**
→ Skill development for tribal youth.
- **PM-JANMAN**
→ Focus on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- **Adi Karmayogi**
→ Capacity building of officials in tribal areas.

Note: As of April 2026, India has effectively become Naxal-free, with **zero officially LWE-affected districts**, down from about **126 in 2010** and **11 in 2025**. Violence has reduced by nearly **80–90%**, with only **around 42 incidents and 6 deaths** reported till early 2026. Security operations have eliminated **700+ Maoists (2024–26)**, while **over 2,000**

cadres surrendered in 2025 alone. Leadership structures have nearly collapsed, with minimal top-level presence remaining. Only small residual pockets persist in parts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, but they are no longer officially classified as insurgency zones.

Important Laws & Provisions

Fifth Schedule

- Deals with administration of tribal areas in mainland India.
- The Governor has special powers to regulate laws, and **Tribes Advisory Councils (TACs)** are set up to protect tribal interests.
- Aims to prevent exploitation and ensure welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

Sixth Schedule

- Provides autonomy to tribal areas in Northeast India (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram).
- Establishes **Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)** with powers to make laws on land, forests, customs, and local governance.
- Ensures preservation of tribal culture and self-governance.

PESA Act, 1996 (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act)

- Extends Panchayati Raj system to Scheduled Areas.
- Gives **Gram Sabha** powers over natural resources, minor forest produce, and local dispute resolution.
- Ensures tribal participation in decision-making and protects them from exploitation.

Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006

- Recognizes **individual and community rights** over forest land and resources.
- Includes rights for habitation, cultivation, and use of forest produce.
- Aims to correct historical injustice faced by forest-dwelling communities.

UAPA, 1967 (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act)

- Main law to deal with terrorism and unlawful activities in India.
- Allows the government to **ban organizations and designate individuals as terrorists**.
- Provides strong legal powers for investigation and detention in national security cases.

Successful post-LWE transformation requires a multi-dimensional approach combining governance, rights, development, and security. Governance reforms through the **AIEEEE framework** focusing on accountability, innovation, evidence, equity, empathy, and efficiency ensure outcome-based and people-centric implementation, while convergence of central and state schemes avoids duplication. Strengthening tribal rights via effective implementation of **PESA and FRA empowers Gram Sabhas** and ensures ownership of minor forest produce, boosting local incomes. Simultaneously, integrating development with security through infrastructure, connectivity, and targeted initiatives like the Aspirational Districts Programme helps stabilize regions. Finally, **SMART policing**, based on community participation, speedy justice delivery, and citizen-friendly police stations, builds trust and long-term peace.

DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE BOARD FOR DE-NOTIFIED, NOMADIC AND SEMI NOMADIC COMMUNITIES (DWBDNC),

Unprecedented Strides in 2025–26 under the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

Source: PIB

Recently, the **Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities (DWBDNC)** reported significant progress under the **SEED Scheme during FY 2025–26**, highlighting enhanced outreach and impact.

About SEED Scheme

- **About:** It is a **central sector scheme launched in February 2022** by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** for **economic empowerment of DNT, NT and SNT communities**.
 - The scheme has an **outlay of ₹200 crore over five years (from 2021–22)** and is implemented by **DWBDNC** through an **online portal for registration and monitoring**.
- **Components:** It focuses on **four major components**:
 - **Free coaching** for competitive exams and professional courses
 - **Health insurance coverage** through PMJAY
 - **Livelihood support** for income generation
 - **Housing assistance** through schemes like PMAY

About DNT, NT and SNT Communities

- **About:** The term **De-notified Tribes** refers to communities that were once classified under the **Criminal Tribes Acts, 1871** which were implemented by the British Government.
 - The Acts were abolished by the **Government of India in 1952**, leading to the **De-Notification** of these communities.
 - A few of these communities which were listed as **de-notified were also nomadic**.
 - **Nomadic and semi-nomadic** communities are defined as those who **move from one place to another** rather than living in one place all the time.
 - While most DNTs are spread across the **SC, ST and OBC** categories, some DNTs are not covered in any of the SC, ST or OBC categories.
- **Distribution:** India has around **150 Denotified Tribes and ~500 Nomadic communities**, accounting for **nearly 10% of the population**.
- **Challenges:** Various committees (e.g., **Kaka Kalelkar Commission, Mandal Commission, NCRWC**) have highlighted their **historical marginalisation, stigma and need for targeted welfare measures**.

ETPrime

RBI allows NDF contracts to clients, rebooking of related party trades

Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** eased some earlier restrictions on rupee-linked **Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) transactions** due to improved market conditions and lower arbitrage pressures.

- **Partial Relaxation:** Banks are now allowed to carry out limited related-party transactions such as cancellation and rollover of existing contracts, while broader restrictions on forex derivatives continue. However, this move is unlikely to significantly influence the spot rupee, as global factors like crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions, and dollar strength remain key drivers of currency movements.
- **Regulatory Position:** The \$100 million cap on net open positions in the domestic market remains unchanged, highlighting RBI's cautious approach amid global uncertainties.
- **Reason for Earlier Curbs:** The restrictions were imposed due to increased forex market volatility caused by geopolitical tensions in West Asia and rising arbitrage opportunities between onshore and offshore markets.

About Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF)

A Non-Deliverable Forward is a cash-settled derivative contract used for hedging or speculating on currencies where physical delivery is restricted. It is widely used in offshore markets for currencies like the Indian rupee, particularly by foreign investors. NDF markets can create arbitrage opportunities between domestic (onshore) and international (offshore) foreign exchange markets.

India, Egypt advance their defence cooperation at Cairo meet

Both sides agreed on a bilateral defence cooperation plan for 2026–27, focusing on expanding structured military engagements, intensifying joint training exchanges and boosting maritime security cooperation

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India and Egypt held the **11th Joint Defence Committee meeting in Cairo** to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation and outline a roadmap for future engagement.

- **Defence Cooperation Roadmap (2026–27):** Both sides agreed on a forward-looking plan focusing on **expanding structured military interactions, intensifying joint training, enhancing maritime security cooperation**, and increasing the scope and complexity of military exercises.
- **Defence Industry Collaboration:** India highlighted its defence manufacturing growth, with production exceeding \$20 billion and exports of around \$4 billion to over 100 countries. Both sides explored opportunities for co-development and co-production.



- **Maritime and Air Force Cooperation:** First-ever Navy-to-Navy staff talks held; India highlighted the role of its Navy in ensuring freedom of navigation in the **Indian Ocean Region** and the contribution of the **Information Fusion Centre**.
 - The Indian delegation also engaged with the Egyptian Air Force leadership to strengthen **air force cooperation**.
- **Historical and Strategic Context:** **India–Egypt defence ties** are anchored in the **2022 MoU on defence cooperation** and were further strengthened by elevating relations to a **Strategic Partnership in 2023**, reflecting deepening strategic alignment.
 - The Indian delegation's tribute at the **Heliopolis War Memorial** highlights shared historical connections and longstanding goodwill between the two countries.