



BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY



**19th OCTOBER
2025**

**LEFT WING EXTREMISM
CHALLENGE**

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES MAINS 2025

**GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-3
ANALYSIS**

Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain.

Model Framework (Improved)

Introduction:

Terrorism poses a serious threat to national security and public safety globally, including in India.

Body:

In India, it manifests as cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, Left-Wing Extremism, and insurgency in the Northeast. Recent examples include the 2025 Pahalgam attack. The government counters it through legal measures (UAPA), agencies like NIA, development schemes, and international cooperation.

Conclusion:

A multi-pronged approach is essential for lasting peace.

Introduction

Terrorism — the use of violence by non-state actors to instil fear and achieve political, ideological or religious goals — is indeed a worldwide concern. In the Indian context, the menace has taken multiple shapes: Islamist militancy (especially in Jammu & Kashmir), left-wing extremism (LWE) or Naxalism, ethnic insurgencies in the Northeast and separatist movements.

Manifestations of Terrorism in India

1. Islamist/separatist militancy (Jammu & Kashmir and cross-border support)

- The region of Jammu & Kashmir has long witnessed militant violence. For example, between 2014 and July 2024, terror-related incidents dropped from 7,217 (2004-14) to 2,263 (2014-July 2024) — a decline of ~69 %. Civilian killings fell ~80 % in the same period.
- A recent example: the April 2025 attack near Pahalgam where at least 26 tourists were killed by militants.
- India ranks ~14th on the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) (2024) and continues to face Islamist, Sikh separatist and other terror groups.

2. Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) / Naxalism

- Violence linked to LWE has reduced, but still persists.
- The 2024 assessment reports civilian + SF fatalities in such violence were at historically low levels for civilians (61 in 2023) though incidents remain.

3. Ethnic separatism / insurgency in the Northeast

- Various insurgent groups in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, etc., have used terror-methods for political demands. For instance, the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) remains active. (See mention in model answer resource)

4. Other modes: urban terrorism, proxy-war tactics, lone-wolf/self-radicalised modules

- India's terror landscape also includes attacks in urban areas (e.g., Mumbai blasts), proxy-supported cross-border operations, and emerging self-radicalised modules.

Counter-Measures Adopted by the State

A. Legal & institutional frameworks

- Enactment of laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to designate terror organisations and provide for preventive detention.
- Establishment of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as a central counter-terrorism agency. In 2024 it achieved a 100 % conviction rate in 25 special NIA court cases — 68 convictions, 210 arrests, assets worth ₹19.57 crore attached.

B. Operational measures & intelligence enhancement

- Improved coordination among central/state intelligence agencies, tighter border fencing, vigil on terror financing.
- In Jammu & Kashmir, measures like attachment/freezing of properties, blocking benefits to persons linked to terror, have helped reduce incidents.
- Example: Reduction in jihadist attacks by 87 % in 2023 per NCRB data.

C. Development & governance initiatives

- Recognising that alienation and deprivation fuel extremism, the State has pursued development of affected regions (e.g., LWE areas, border districts) and improved connectivity, livelihood programmes.

D. International & diplomatic posture

- India has stepped up diplomacy to isolate state-sponsors of terrorism, engaged in multilateral forums, pursued cross-border strikes/operations when required (e.g., responses to attacks). (Example: Operation Sindoor, April 2025)

Conclusion

- Terrorism in India manifests in multiple forms — Islamist militancy, left-wing extremism, ethnic insurgencies, urban attacks — exploiting different fault-lines of society and geography. The State's response has become multi-pronged: legal, operational, developmental and diplomatic.
- While significant progress is evident in the decline of incidents and fatalities, the challenge is far from over. Emerging threats like self-radicalisation, cyber-terrorism and hybrid tactics demand continuous adaptation.

The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE?

Model Framework (Improved)

Introduction:

Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is an armed insurgency driven by Maoist ideology, aiming to overthrow the democratic state.

Body:

It affects tribal communities through violence, displacement, and disrupted development. The government's response includes security operations, infrastructure development, surrender policies, and welfare schemes.

Conclusion:

A balanced approach combining force and inclusive development is key to eliminating LWE by 2026.

Introduction

Left-wing extremism (LWE), commonly referred to as Naxalism in India, is a violent insurgency rooted in Marxist-Maoist ideology, targeting the Indian state from its hinterlands. While it emerged as a socio-economic protest movement, over decades it has grown into a serious internal security threat by exploiting governance vacuums and social deprivation.

Body

1. What is Left Wing Extremism (LWE)?

- **Definition & Ideology:** LWE is the armed insurgency primarily led by Communist Party of India (Maoist) and other associated groups, drawing from Maoist ideology advocating “protracted people’s war” against the State.
- **Geographical Spread & “Red Corridor”:** It primarily affects tribal and forested areas with weak governance — states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra (Gadchiroli), Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana among others.
- **Characteristics:** Activities include armed attacks on security forces, ambushes, use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), extortion (“taxation” of contractors and companies), disruption of state services and infrastructure, and recruitment of marginalized youth.

2. How are people affected by LWE?

Security & human cost:

- Violence results in loss of civilian and security-force lives (for example deaths in LWE areas dropped significantly over years).
- Fear and displacement of tribal/remote communities owing to cross-fire, coercion by extremists, and militarised operations.

Developmental impediments:

- Disruption of basic infrastructure — roads, telecom, education and health services get delayed or blocked. For instance, many schools in worst-affected districts remained non-functional.
- Economic deprivation: Industrial and mining projects often get stalled or forced to divert resources to security rather than growth; local livelihoods suffer.

Parallel governance & exploitation:

- Extremist groups establish shadow administrations, levy illegal taxes, obstruct democratic institutions and local governance (Panchayats).

3. What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE?

The government's approach is multi-pronged: security, development and governance.

A. Security & operational measures

- **A “zero-tolerance” policy:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) states that LWE violence has declined due to a ruthless approach and coordinated operations.
- **Reduction of affected districts:** From 12 most-affected districts to 6 (as of 2025) and overall drop from 126 districts in 2013 to much fewer in 2024.

B. Development & governance measures

- **Infrastructure and connectivity:** Special Central Assistance (SCA), Security-Related Expenditure (SRE), Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS) target LWE-affected districts — e.g., roads built (13,000+ km in LWE areas) and mobile towers installed (2,300+ in phase-I).
- **Welfare and inclusion:** Schemes to integrate tribal youth, enhance financial inclusion, skilling, and livelihood alternatives — reducing support bases for extremists.

C. Surrender, rehabilitation & public participation

- **Offer of surrender & rehabilitation:** Underground cadres given incentives to surrender and re-join mainstream society; 801 surrenders and 742 laid down arms in one period (as of 2024) in Chhattisgarh.
- **Community engagement and intelligence:** Encouraging public cooperation, toll-free numbers for intelligence in Odisha, reward schemes for informers.

Conclusion

Left-wing extremism in India represents both a security threat and a development challenge, deeply rooted in socio-economic deprivation and governance gaps.

The substantial decline in violence and affected districts shows that the combined strategy of security operations, development intervention and governance reform is yielding results.

However, the ambition to fully eliminate LWE by March 2026 will hinge on sustaining momentum in the remaining core areas, ensuring last-mile delivery of development, and reinforcing trust with local communities.

In isolation, security action is insufficient — success lies in integrating the marginalized, strengthening institutions and weaving the State's presence in previously neglected zones.

Explain how the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) can be used as a tool for assessing the fiscal performance of states in India. In what way would it encourage the states to adopt prudent and sustainable fiscal policies?

Model Framework (Improved)

Introduction:

The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) is a composite tool to evaluate the fiscal performance of Indian states.

Body:

It assesses key indicators like revenue generation, debt levels, and expenditure quality. By enabling comparison and highlighting weak areas, it promotes accountability.

Conclusion:

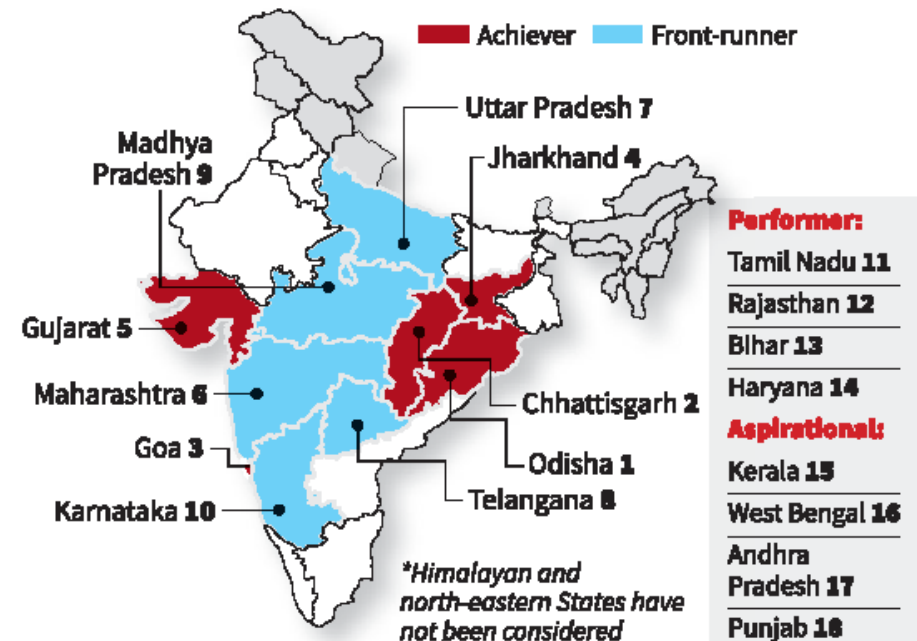
FHI encourages states to adopt prudent, transparent, and sustainable fiscal policies through data-driven governance.

Introduction

- ❑ The **Fiscal Health Index (FHI)** is a composite indicator designed to assess the fiscal performance and sustainability of Indian states.
- ❑ It evaluates the fiscal strength of states across key parameters such as revenue generation, expenditure quality, debt sustainability, and fiscal prudence. FHI thus serves as a diagnostic tool to encourage data-driven policymaking and financial discipline at the sub-national level.

Fine balance

Analysis in the Niti Aayog's report on the fiscal health index for FY23 highlights that strong revenue mobilisation, effective expenditure management, and prudent fiscal practices are critical determinants of success



Body

1. How FHI Assesses Fiscal Performance

a. Multi-dimensional Indicators

- FHI typically considers parameters like own tax revenue, revenue deficit, capital outlay, debt-to-GSDP ratio, and interest payments.
- *Example:* RBI's State Finances Report and studies by the Fifteenth Finance Commission have used such metrics to evaluate states' fiscal positions.

b. Comparative Analysis

- It enables inter-state comparison, highlighting best performers and laggards.
- *Example:* Southern states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka often score better on fiscal prudence compared to fiscally-stressed states like Punjab or Bihar.

c. Time-Series Monitoring

- Helps track improvement or deterioration in fiscal indicators over time.

2. Incentivising Prudent Fiscal Policies

a. Promotes Competitive Federalism

- States strive to improve rankings to attract investment and central assistance.

b. Informs Policy Correction

- Identifies weak areas like high committed expenditure or low capital outlay.
- *Example:* States with high debt (e.g., Punjab's ~48% debt-to-GSDP) can use FHI to guide debt-reduction strategies.

c. Links to Incentives

- Can be tied to conditional borrowing limits or performance-based grants.

Conclusion

The FHI fosters transparency, accountability, and fiscal discipline among Indian states. By encouraging evidence-based governance, it promotes sustainable and responsible fiscal management — essential for long-term economic stability and cooperative federalism.

Discuss the rationale of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. What are its achievements? In what way can the functioning and outcomes of the scheme be improved?

Model Framework (Improved)

Introduction:

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and exports by incentivizing incremental production.

Body:

It has attracted major investments, enhanced electronics and pharma output, and reduced import dependency. However, delays in fund disbursement and limited MSME participation remain challenges.

Conclusion:

Improving transparency, faster approvals, and broader inclusion can enhance the scheme's effectiveness.

Introduction

The **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**, launched in 2020, aims to boost domestic manufacturing, reduce import dependence, and enhance exports by offering financial incentives based on incremental production. It is a cornerstone of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative, targeting strategic sectors to make India a global manufacturing hub.

Body

1. Rationale Behind the PLI Scheme

a. Boost Manufacturing & Exports

- To increase the manufacturing sector's share in GDP from ~17% to 25%.
- *Example:* PLI for mobile manufacturing attracted global players like Apple and Samsung.

b. Reduce Import Dependency

- Especially in sectors like electronics, pharma, and semiconductors.
- *Example:* PLI for APIs reduced reliance on Chinese pharmaceutical imports.

c. Job Creation and Economic Growth

- Expected to create 60 lakh jobs and \$500 billion in output.
- *Data:* As per DPIIT, ₹3.5 lakh crore in investments committed (2024).

2. Achievements of the Scheme

a. Sectoral Successes

- Electronics sector saw ₹1.5 lakh crore in production, ₹40,000 crore in exports.
- Solar modules and pharma have also seen significant growth.

b. Investment Boost

- 746 applications approved across 14 sectors (as of 2024).

3. Areas for Improvement

a. Faster Approvals and Disbursals

- Delays in incentive payouts reduce investor confidence.

b. Broaden MSME Inclusion

- Current scheme favours large firms; MSMEs need tailored thresholds.

Conclusion

The PLI scheme has laid the foundation for a manufacturing-led economic transformation. With better implementation, faster disbursals, and broader inclusion, it can become a robust pillar for India's economic resilience and global competitiveness.



Thank you

Address

**B-47, Main Road Shivalik Enclave, Block-
B, Shivalik Colony, Malviya Nagar, New
Delhi-110017**

Phone Number +91 8178833167