



SUMMARY OF **YOJANA**

**JUNE
2026**

A close-up photograph of a group of diverse children, mostly of South Asian descent, smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing colorful traditional Indian clothing. The image has a warm, golden-brown tint.

NAXAL-FREE BHARAT

NEW DELHI | AHMEDABAD | ANAND | BHAVNAGAR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | GANDHINAGAR |
HYDERABAD | JAIPUR | KANPUR | KOLKATA | LUCKNOW | MUMBAI | PATNA | RAIPUR | RAJKOT | SURAT |
THANE | VADODARA |

TOPIC 1: NAXAL-FREE INDIA — A HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT

Eradication of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), March 2026 Declaration, Ideology vs Development, Fall of the Red Corridor, UPA Policy Ambiguity vs Post-2014 Aggressive Strategy, All-Agency Approach, and Security Camps (By Amit Shah, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation)

NAXAL-FREE INDIA VISION: “Naxalism did not spread because of poverty; rather, poverty remained in the entire region for years because of Naxalism, which the Modi government is now eliminating. This outcome came about through a clear policy, unwavering political will, and extraordinary courage.” — Amit Shah

1. Executive Summary & Historic Achievement

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed ‘Naxal-Free Bharat’, the opening feature article titled ‘Naxal-Free India: A Historic Achievement’ is authored by Amit Shah (Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Government of India). The paper examines how India successfully eradicated Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) by March 2026, marking the conclusion of a five-decade-long internal security threat.

The author emphasizes that this historic achievement was driven by a clear policy, unshakeable political will, and the extraordinary courage of security forces. Unlike the policy ambiguity of the UPA era, the post-2014 governance framework adopted a zero-tolerance approach, combining aggressive counter-insurgency operations with accelerated development and robust rehabilitation.

2. Ideology vs. Development: The Roots of Naxalism

- **The False Narrative:** Left-wing extremists peddled the false narrative that they fought for tribal rights, whereas their objective was an imported Maoist ideology aimed at overthrowing the democratic order through the barrel of a gun.
- **Perpetuating Poverty:** Naxalism did not spread due to poverty; rather, it perpetuated

poverty by blocking development. In the 1960s, literacy and income levels across Naxalbari, Bastar, Saharsa, and Ballia were comparable, but Naxalism flourished exclusively in dense, inaccessible forests where state presence was minimal.

- **Destruction of Infrastructure:** To maintain control and prevent literacy, extremists systematically burned schools, banks, and medical clinics.

3. The Red Corridor and UPA Era Policy Ambiguity

- **The Red Corridor Terror:** Spanning 12 states (17% landmass, 200 million population), the insurgency claimed 20,000 lives, 3,500+ security personnel, and collected Rs 240 crore annually in ‘Janatana Tax’.
- **UPA Period Lapses:** Despite recognizing Maoism as India’s gravest internal security threat, the UPA era lacked a decisive national strategy. Ideological sympathy, institutional leniency, and disarming the ‘Salwa Judum’ volunteers left security forces vulnerable and gave the insurgency a new lease on life.

4. Post-2014 Policy Shift and Security Triumphs

- **All-Agency Approach:** Striking not just armed cadres but targeting networks and funding channels via NIA, ED, and intelligence bodies
- **Expansion of Security Infrastructure:** Naxal-affected districts dropped from 126 to just 2. Over 400 new CAPF camps and 596 fortified police stations were constructed in 11 years
- **Decapitating Leadership:** Deployment of drones, AI-based analytics, and precision operations like ‘Operation Black Forest’ resulted in the complete neutralisation of the Maoist Central Committee and Politburo leadership.

5. Analytical Matrix: Counter-LWE Strategy, Scale & Impact

The table below synthesizes the core counter-LWE strategies, UPA vs. present governance approaches, and national impacts:

Strategic Dimension	UPA Governance (Pre-2014)	Present Governance (2014-2026)	National & Security Impact
Policy Framework	Policy ambiguity, ideological leniency, and lack of resolute directives	Zero tolerance, clear timeline, and 'bullet for bullet' doctrine	High troop morale and unshakeable political commitment
Security Infrastructure	Sparse camps, slow intelligence, and persistent security vacuums	350+ new security camps, fortified stations, and tech integration (AI/ Drones)	Restores state sovereignty and writ across remote terrains
Leadership & Networks	Consolidation and expansion of Maoist leadership and extortion networks	Systematic neutralisation of Central Committee and Politburo leadership	Completely shatters insurgent command and financial backbones
Development & Rehabilitation	Stalled development works and weak surrender incentives	12,000+ km roads, 5,000 mobile towers, EMRS, and robust surrender policies	Mainstream integration and enduring peace across Bastar

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across internal security, extremism management, and state capacity papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper III (Internal Security — Security Challenges and their Management in Border Areas, Linkages of Organized Crime with Terrorism / Left-Wing Extremism)

- **Eradication of LWE Model:** Analyzes how an all-agency approach, advanced technology, robust intelligence, and Centre-State coordination dismantled a five-decade-old insurgency.
- **Security-Development Synergy:** Highlights the integration of security operations with infrastructure expansion, digital connectivity, and rehabilitation to permanently restore democratic governance in remote regions.

MAINS NAXAL-FREE INDIA PERSPECTIVE: "Naxalism did not spread because of poverty; rather, poverty remained in the entire region for years because of Naxalism, which the Modi government is now eliminating." — Amit Shah

TOPIC 2: FROM CONFLICT TO PROGRESS — CHHATTISGARH'S TRANSFORMATION

Bastar Region Transformation, Role of District Reserve Guard (DRG), Modern Technology & Centre-State Coordination, Economic Crackdown (Tendu Leaf Policy), Humanitarian Rehabilitation (Liyor Oyna, Bastar Olympics), and Niyada Nella Nar Initiative (By Vijay Sharma, Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister, Government of Chhattisgarh)

CHHATTISGARH TRANSFORMATION VISION: "Today, Chhattisgarh, especially the Bastar region, is emerging from the long-standing environment of Naxalite violence and entering a new era of peace, development, and good governance." — Vijay Sharma

1. Executive Summary & Bastar's Revival

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed 'Naxal-Free Bharat', the second feature article titled 'From Conflict to Progress: Chhattisgarh's Transformation' is authored by Vijay Sharma (Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister, Government of Chhattisgarh). The paper examines how the state successfully dismantled armed Naxalism in Bastar, replacing decades of

terror and isolation with peace, development, and administrative reach.

The author highlights that strong political will, unmatched valour from security forces, and a multi-dimensional approach encompassing security, economic restructuring, education, and humanitarian rehabilitation have transformed Chhattisgarh into a model of post-conflict resurgence.

2. Security Strategy and the Role of DRG

- **Local Youth in DRG:** The District Reserve Guard (DRG) consists of 85-90% local Bastariya youth who understand the local dialects, culture, forests, and terrain, serving as the formidable spearhead of counter-Naxal operations.
- **Technological Superiority:** Central-state coordination brought advanced technical assistance from ITBP, NSG, NTRO, DRDO, and ISRO—providing drone surveillance, radio frequency tracking, modern weaponry (AK-47, INSAS), and snipers to achieve major tactical successes with zero casualties.

3. Economic Crackdown and Humanitarian Rehabilitation

- **Reforming Minor Forest Produce Policy:** Tendu leaf trade was removed from private contractors and brought under direct government agencies, cutting off Maoist extortion funds while channeling direct benefits to tribals.
- **Dignified Rehabilitation:** Surrendered cadres are welcomed with open arms,

provided medical surgeries, smartphones, skill training, and integrated into society through initiatives like the 'Liyor Oyna' youth tour and Pandum Cafés run by former commanders.

- **Amplifying Victim Voices:** Over 50 Naxal victims travelled to Delhi to share their harrowing accounts with the President and Union Home Minister, bringing national attention to their suffering.

4. Education, Schools Revival, and 'Niyada Nella Nar'

- **Reopening Closed Schools:** Over 120 schools in Sukma and 265 in Bijapur that remained shut for decades were restarted, enabling local youth like Ankit Sakni from Bijapur to clear the UPSC examination.
- **Niyada Nella Nar (My Good Village):** Integrating 25 individual and 18 community welfare schemes across 144 gram panchayats and 500+ villages surrounding security camps.
- **Transformation of Purvarti:** The native village of dreaded commander Madvi Hidma witnessed its first security camp, road connectivity, voting process, ration shop, and a CRPF-run Gurukul educating 100+ children.

5. Analytical Matrix: Chhattisgarh Transformation Dimensions & Impacts

The table below synthesizes core transformation dimensions, implementation strategies, and socio-economic impacts:

Transformation Dimension	Core Initiative / Strategy	Operational Scale & Metrics	Socio-Economic Impact
Security & DRG Force	Local tribal recruitment and tech integration (drones, smart weaponry)	Jungle-savvy DRG units securing remote Bastar terrain with zero casualties	Crushes insurgent strongholds and builds deep trust in security forces
Economic Chokepoints	Nationalisation of Tendu leaf trade and minor forest produce	Eliminating Maoist extortion funds and contractor monopolies	Deprives insurgents of financial lifeblood while empowering tribals
Humanitarian Rehabilitation	Comprehensive surrender policy, Liyor Oyna tours, and Pandum Cafés	Thousands rehabilitated, medically treated, and integrated into mainstream life	Replaces fear and violence with freedom, dignity, and normal livelihoods

Education & Governance	Restarting closed schools and 'Niyada Nella Nar' village saturation	120+ Sukma schools restarted; 500+ remote villages saturated with welfare	Restores the right to education and extends governance to remote frontiers
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6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across internal security, regional development, and tribal welfare papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper III (Internal Security — Role of Security Forces in Extremism Management, Security-Development Synergy in LWE Regions)

- **Chhattisgarh's Transformation & DRG Model:** Analyzes how local community recruitment into security forces (DRG) combined with high-tech central support transformed counter-insurgency efficacy.
- **Restoration of Education & Governance:** Highlights the strategic significance of reopening schools and implementing saturation welfare initiatives ('Niyada Nella Nar') to permanently dismantle extremist influence.

MAINS CHHATTISGARH TRANSFORMATION PERSPECTIVE: "The government's objective isn't simply to conquer these areas like feudal lords, but to integrate those who have been marginalised for years into the mainstream of development. Dreaming of development under the shadow of fear would be a travesty."
— Vijay Sharma

TOPIC 3: NAXAL-MUKT BHARAT — A STRATEGIC TURNAROUND

Coordinated Statecraft against LWE, MHA's Strategic Role and SAMADHAN Doctrine, Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) & CAPF Backbone, State Capacity Building (SRE & SIS), and Choking Insurgent Financial Networks (By Kuldiep Singh, IPS Retd., Former DG - CRPF & NIA, Security Advisor to Government of Manipur)

STRATEGIC TURNAROUND VISION: "The story of Naxal-Mukt Bharat is not simply one of military or policing successes. It is a story of coordinated statecraft. It reflects how political will, institutional coordination, professional security operations, and developmental commitment can together confront and reverse a long-standing insurgency." — Kuldiep Singh

1. Executive Summary & Coordinated Statecraft

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed 'Naxal-Free Bharat', the feature article titled 'Naxal-Mukt Bharat: A Strategic Turnaround' is authored by Kuldiep Singh (IPS Retd., former ADG/SDG Central Zone CRPF, DG CRPF and NIA, currently serving as Security Advisor to the Government of Manipur). The paper examines how political will, institutional coordination, professional security operations, and developmental commitment reversed a 50-year-old insurgency.

The author highlights that while state police forces led operations on the ground, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) acted as the strategic nerve centre, coordinator, and force multiplier, deploying the SAMADHAN doctrine and establishing over 350 security camps in core extremist strongholds.

2. The SAMADHAN Doctrine and Strategic Turnaround

- **SAMADHAN Framework:** A zero-tolerance, multi-pronged national approach encompassing Smart Leadership, Aggressive Strategy, Motivation & Training, Actionable Intelligence, Dashboard KPIs, Technology Harnessing, Theatre-Specific Action Plans, and Zero Access to Financing.
- **Strategic Shift:** Moving from passive containment to proactive, intelligence-led operations that dismantled the entire top leadership of the CPI (Maoist) by March 2026.

3. Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and CAPF Backbone

- **Establishing Security Camps:** Over 350 joint operating bases set up within extremist strongholds, eliminating security vacuums and enabling civil administration and welfare delivery.
- **Role of CAPFs:** CRPF (including COBRA commandos), BSF, ITBP, and SSB acting as the operational backbone, providing firepower, intelligence, and tactical support to state forces.

4. State Capacity Building and Financial Chokepoints

- **Financial Support:** Security Related Expenditure (SRE) increased by 155% (Rs

3,371 crore released over 11 years), alongside Rs 371 crore under the Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS) and Rs 620 crore for 246 Fortified Police Stations.

- **Choking Finances:** Two Multi-disciplinary Groups (MDGs) established within MHA since 2016 successfully seized approximately Rs 40 crore to choke Maoist financial resources.

5. Analytical Matrix: Strategic Turnaround Dimensions, Scale & Impacts

The table below synthesizes core strategic dimensions, operational deployments, and national security impacts:

Strategic Dimension	Core Policy / Operational Measure	Operational Scale & Metrics	National Security Impact
SAMADHAN Strategy	MHA-driven zero-tolerance doctrine targeting leadership and logistics	Systematic neutralisation of top CPI (Maoist) leadership by March 2026	Ensures strategic coherence and dismantles insurgent command
Forward Operating Bases	Establishing joint security camps inside extremist strongholds	350+ operational camps backed by specialised state and central units	Erases security vacuums and secures critical infrastructure
State Capacity Building	Enhanced funding for police modernisation, SRE, and SIS	Rs 3,371 crore in SRE and Rs 620 crore for Fortified Police Stations	Empowers state police forces with operational self-reliance
Financial Interdiction	Targeting support structures and extortion networks via MDGs	Seizure of approximately Rs 40 crore in illicit Maoist funds	Deprives insurgents of financial lifeblood and logistical support

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across internal security, police capacity, and coordinated statecraft papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper III (Internal Security — Role of Security Forces in Extremism Management, Centre-State Coordination and Coordinated Statecraft Models)

- **Coordinated Statecraft & SAMADHAN Model:** Analyzes how MHA's strategic nerve centre role, combined with CAPF operational backbones (CRPF/COBRA) and state police

execution, successfully concluded the LWE insurgency.

- **Institutional Coordination & Financial Interdiction:** Highlights the importance of multi-agency intelligence sharing (MAC) and financial choke-groups (MDGs) in dismantling extremist support structures.

MAINS STRATEGIC TURNAROUND PERSPECTIVE:

"The story of Naxal-Mukt Bharat is not simply one of military or policing successes. It is a story of coordinated statecraft. It reflects how political will, institutional coordination, professional security operations, and developmental commitment can together confront and reverse a long-standing insurgency." — Kuldiep Singh

TOPIC 4: WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH FOR LWE ERADICATION

Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) Background, 1967 Naxalbari to CPI (Maoist) Formation (2004), 2009-10 Peak Violence, National Policy & Action Plan (2015) Four Pillars (Security, Development, Rights & Public Outreach), and Road & Telecom Connectivity (By Rajeev Kumar, Joint Secretary - LWE, Ministry of Home Affairs)

WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT VISION:

"On March 30, 2026, Union Home Minister declared on the floor of the Lok Sabha in Parliament, 'I can say with full confidence that we have become free from Naxalism.' This seemingly impossible achievement was made possible through coordinated security and development responses." — Rajeev Kumar

1. Executive Summary & Historical Background of LWE

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed 'Naxal-Free Bharat', the third feature article titled 'Whole-of-Government Approach for LWE Eradication' is authored by Rajeev Kumar (Joint Secretary for Left-Wing Extremism in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India). The paper examines how India overcame the decades-old problem of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) through resolute security and developmental actions implemented over the past decade.

The author highlights that LWE originated with the 1967 Naxalbari uprising in West Bengal and peaked during 2009-10 (recording 1,936 violent incidents and 1,005 deaths). To address this deep-rooted challenge, the government formulated a comprehensive National Policy and Action Plan in 2015 anchored in a Whole-of-Government approach.

2. Modus Operandi and Peak Violence

- **Overthrowing the State:** Maoist groups aimed to seize state power through armed revolution, establishing parallel authorities ('Jantana Sarkars') in liberated zones through extortion and kangaroo courts

- **Strategic Isolation:** Extremists deliberately blocked state welfare, road connectivity, and education in remote tribal pockets, making local communities bear the brunt of isolation
- **Massive Casualties:** Peak violence during 2009-10 witnessed brutal ambushes, such as the Dantewada (Tadmetla) attack where 76 security personnel were martyred, bringing total civilian casualties to around 8,600.

3. The Four Key Pillars of the 2015 Action Plan

1. **Strengthening Security Measures:** Making state police forces primary stakeholders, eliminating security vacuums, and setting up security camps every five kilometers (totaling 833+ camps currently).
2. **Development of LWE Areas:** Expanding road connectivity, rail networks, and telecom towers (9,000+ mobile towers achieving 96% village coverage).
3. **Rights and Entitlements:** Distributing 1.8 million title deeds across 10 LWE-affected states under land and forest rights initiatives
4. **Public Outreach:** Conducting Civic Action Programmes, Tribal Youth Exchange Programmes, and cultural festivals like Bastar Olympics and Pandum.

4. Infrastructure Expansion and Capacity Building

- **Police Modernization:** Releasing thousands of crores under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) and Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS) to construct 660+ fortified police stations
- **Connectivity Breakthrough:** Highway connectivity improved by 80%, road density increased by 30%, and critical rail projects (Dalli Rajhara-Rowghat) were advanced
- **Educational Empowerment:** Sanctioning 259 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), of which 179 are operational, alongside 48 ITIs and 61 skill centres.

5. Analytical Matrix: LWE Eradication Dimensions, Measures & Impacts

The table below synthesizes the core pillars of LWE eradication, implementation scale, and historical impact:

Eradication Dimension	Core Strategy / Policy Measure	Operational Scale & Metrics	Impact (2010 vs 2025)
Security Infrastructure	Establishing forward operating camps and fortified police stations	833+ security camps and 660+ fortified police stations established	Eliminates security vacuums and restores state sovereignty
Road & Telecom Connectivity	Special road schemes and 4G/2G mobile tower installation	9,000+ mobile towers and thousands of kilometres of roads built	Integrates remote tribal hinterlands into digital and physical networks
Financial & Social Welfare	Banking access, EMRS residential schools, and skill centres	1,800+ bank branches and 179+ functional EMRS schools	Attacks root causes of poverty and brings inclusive growth
Decline in Violence	Whole-of-Government approach across all four pillars	88% decline in LWE violence and 90% decline in casualties from 2010 to 2025	Achieves a fully Naxal-free India by March 2026

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across internal security, governance, and policy coordination papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper III (Internal Security — Security-Development Synergy in LWE Regions, Implementation of Whole-of-Government Approach)

- Analyzes how the four-pillar framework (Security, Development, Rights, Outreach) successfully resolved a complex internal security threat
- Cooperative Federalism:** Highlights the vital role of Centre-State coordination, financial assistance (SRE/SIS), and district-level monitoring in sustaining long-term peace.

MAINS WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE: “The journey from Naxalbari in 1967 to the declaration of an LWE-free India in March 2026 reflects one of the most significant internal security achievements in independent India, proving that deeply entrenched insurgencies can be resolved through a balanced strategy combining security and development.” — Rajeev Kumar

TOPIC 5: BASTAR OLYMPICS — A CATALYST FOR PEACE, INCLUSION, AND TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN BASTAR

Bastar Olympics (2024-2025), Transition from Conflict to Confidence, Massive Mass Participation (3.91 Lakh+ Participants), Inclusive ‘Nuva Baat’ Team (Former Maoists and Specially-Abled Athletes), Sports Infrastructure, and Youth Empowerment (By Sundarraaj Pattilingam, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range)

BASTAR OLYMPICS VISION: “The transformation of Bastar is a story of courage, perseverance, and collective effort. The Bastar Olympics stands at the forefront of this narrative, illustrating how sports can transcend boundaries and heal divisions.” — Sundarraaj Pattilingam

1. Executive Summary & Social Resurgence

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed ‘Naxal-Free Bharat’, the fourth feature article titled ‘Bastar Olympics: A Catalyst for Peace, Inclusion, and Transformational Change in Bastar’ is authored by Sundarraaj Pattilingam (Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range). The paper examines how the Bastar Olympics has evolved from a sporting experiment into a powerful social movement that reshapes identities, empowers youth, and reinforces peace.

The author highlights that in a region historically scarred by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) and alienation, the Bastar Olympics provides youth with structured opportunities to excel, replacing the narrative of fear with confidence, teamwork, and community trust.

2. From Conflict to Confidence & Mass Participation

- **Unlocking Potential:** Generations of tribal youth lacked exposure and platforms. The Bastar Olympics bridges this gap, offering dignified pathways to express talent and ambition.
- **Exponential Growth in Participation:** Registrations surged from approximately 165,000 youth in 2024 to over 391,000 participants in 2025, marking a nearly three-fold increase with massive female participation.

3. Inclusive Approach and the 'Nuva Baat' Team

- **Universal Inclusion:** The games bring together remote villagers, tribal groups, and individuals once trapped in extremist ideologies.

- **The 'Nuva Baat' (New Path) Team:** A special contingent comprising former Maoist cadres who renounced violence, victims of Maoist violence, and specially-abled athletes, competing side by side to underscore that dignity and opportunity belong to all.

4. Professional Execution and Sports Infrastructure

- **Multi-Tier Competition:** Spanning block, district, and divisional levels across 32 development blocks with 60+ prepared playgrounds.
- **Diverse Sporting Disciplines:** Blending traditional sports with modern disciplines (athletics, football, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball) supported by national-level referees and standardized infrastructure.

5. Analytical Matrix: Bastar Olympics Dimensions, Scale & Impact

The table below synthesizes the core dimensions of the Bastar Olympics, operational metrics, and socio-cultural impacts:

Olympics Dimension	Core Initiative / Strategy	Operational Scale & Metrics	Socio-Cultural Impact
Mass Participation	Channelling youth energy into constructive sports	Surged from 165,000 (2024) to 391,000+ participants (2025)	Replaces conflict narratives with confidence, ambition, and trust
The 'Nuva Baat' Team	Integrating former Maoists, victims, and specially-abled athletes	Special contingent participating in mainstream sports events	Heals societal divisions and promotes absolute social inclusion
Infrastructure & Training	Block-level playgrounds and professional officiating	60+ prepared grounds across 32 blocks with certified referees	Builds long-term sporting capacity and institutional capability
Weakening Extremism	Providing alternative identity rooted in achievement	Community-wide support from families, elders, and local leaders	Reduces vulnerability to radicalisation and sustains lasting peace

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across internal security, social inclusion, and post-conflict peacebuilding papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper III (Internal Security — Trust Building in LWE Regions, Mainstreaming Youth and Sports as a Tool for Peace)

- **Sports as a Catalyst for Peace:** Analyzes how initiatives like the Bastar Olympics complement security operations by providing

youth with positive identities and weakening extremist recruitment ecosystems.

- **Social Integration ('Nuva Baat' Model):** Highlights the innovative inclusion of former Maoist cadres and victims together on sports fields to heal societal fractures and consolidate peace.

MAINS BASTAR OLYMPICS PERSPECTIVE:

"In redefining Bastar's identity from a conflict zone to a cradle of talent and hope, the Bastar Olympics is not just changing perceptions; it is changing realities. It is a testament to the power of sports as a unifying force and a catalyst for enduring peace and progress." — Sundarraaj Pattilingam

TOPIC 6: EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION — ROLE OF EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Role of Education in Combating LWE, Scaling Up Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in Tribal Regions (259 Sanctioned Schools, 50,000+ Enrolled Students), Modern Infrastructure & Digital Labs, Quality Pedagogy and Centres of Excellence (By Ajeet Kumar Srivastava, Former Commissioner, NESTS)

EMRS EDUCATION VISION: "By nurturing aspirations, building confidence, and integrating communities into the mainstream, Eklavya Model Residential Schools weaken the foundations on which extremism thrives. They demonstrate that education is not just a developmental tool but also a means of ensuring peace and stability." — Ajeet Kumar Srivastava

1. Executive Summary & Education as a Transformative Force

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed 'Naxal-Free Bharat', the fifth feature article titled 'Empowering through Education: Role of Eklavya Model Residential Schools' is authored by Ajeet Kumar Srivastava (Former Commissioner of the National Education Society for Tribal Students - NESTS). The paper examines how Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) have served as an effective and sustainable instrument in combating Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) by addressing its socio-economic root causes.

The author highlights that extremist groups traditionally exploited poverty, isolation, and lack of schooling in tribal regions to recruit vulnerable youth. By providing high-quality, free, and residential schooling up to class XII, EMRSs replace vulnerability with opportunity, integrating marginalized youth into the national mainstream.

2. Scaling Up EMRSs in Tribal Heartland

- **Policy Evolution:** Originating in 1999, the tribal residential schooling framework transitioned in 2018 into a Central Sector Scheme providing fully residential, free, and quality education up to class XII.
- **Strategic Expansion in LWE Zones:** A total of 259 EMRSs have been sanctioned in LWE-affected regions (with 178 operational), enrolling over 50,000 tribal students in secure residential campuses.
- **Disruption of Recruitment Supply Chains:** By keeping children engaged in academics, sports, and cultural activities in safe environments, EMRSs physically and psychologically distance youth from extremist influence.

3. Modern Infrastructure and Digital Empowerment

- **Urban-Grade Facilities:** EMRSs are equipped with smart classrooms, computer labs, science laboratories, and high-speed internet connectivity.
- **Technological Exposure:** Digital tools bridge the rural-urban divide, preparing first-generation learners for modern technological domains and higher education.

4. Quality Pedagogy and Centres of Excellence

- **CBSE Standardisation:** Affiliation with CBSE ensures that tribal students receive a standardized curriculum matching top-tier schools nationwide.
- **Centres of Excellence:** Specialised coaching initiatives for competitive examinations like IIT and NEET create direct pathways to premier higher education institutions.

5. Analytical Matrix: EMRS Education Dimensions, Scale & Impacts

The table below synthesizes the core dimensions of EMRS education, implementation scale, and developmental impacts:

Education Dimension	Core Strategy / Policy Measure	Operational Scale & Metrics	Social & Security Impact
Policy Expansion	Setting up residential schools in LWE-affected tribal hinterlands	259 sanctioned schools (178+ functional); 50,000+ tribal students enrolled	Severely weakens extremist recruitment supply chains in vulnerable districts
Modern Infrastructure	Smart classrooms, computer labs, and high-speed internet	Advanced digital tools and science laboratories across campuses	Bridges the rural-urban digital divide for first-generation learners
Quality Pedagogy	CBSE affiliation and pan-India teacher recruitment	Standardised curriculum with teacher mentoring and counselling	Equips students with critical thinking, confidence, and mainstream competitiveness
Centres of Excellence	Specialised coaching for competitive exams like IIT and NEET	Targeted academic interventions for professional career pathways	Inspires community-wide aspirations and produces successful role models

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper II & III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across social sector development, human capital, and internal security papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper II & III (Social Sector — Education & Tribal Welfare Issues; Internal Security — Human Capital Development and Conflict Resolution in Extremism-Affected Regions)

- **Education & Extremism Eradication:** Analyzes how Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) provide quality residential education to tribal children, insulating them from extremist influences and fostering national integration.
- **Human Capital & Inclusive Growth:** Highlights the strategic expansion of modern educational infrastructure in remote hinterlands to bridge regional disparities and secure long-term peace.

MAINS EMRS EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE:

"By nurturing aspirations, building confidence, and integrating communities into the mainstream, Eklavya Model Residential Schools weaken the foundations on which extremism thrives. They demonstrate that education is not just a developmental tool but also a means of ensuring peace and stability."
— Ajeet Kumar Srivastava

TOPIC 7: THE TELECOM TRAJECTORY OF A NAXAL-FREE INDIA

Telecom & Digital Connectivity in LWE Regions, Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), LWE Phase-I & Phase-II Projects, 4G Saturation Project, Solar Power & Environmental Safeguards, and the Journey from Isolation to Integration (By Ritesh Kavdia, Deputy Director General - Digital Bharat Nidhi, Department of Telecommunications)

TELECOM TRAJECTORY VISION: "The trajectory of these regions reflects a deeper shift, from coercion to connection, from exclusion to inclusion, and from insurgency to integration, countering the Maoist doctrine of 'power flows from the barrel of a gun' to a reality where 'development now flows through networks of connectivity.'" — Ritesh Kavdia

1. Executive Summary & The Power of Connectivity

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed 'Naxal-Free Bharat', the sixth feature article titled 'The Telecom Trajectory of a Naxal-Free India' is authored by Ritesh Kavdia (Deputy Director General for Digital Bharat Nidhi in the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India). The paper examines how expanding telecom infrastructure in remote Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected regions has served as the tangible manifestation of state presence, public trust, and welfare delivery.

The author highlights that for decades, LWE-affected regions remained physically isolated and digitally disconnected—a vacuum exploited by extremists. Today, telecom towers do more than transmit signals; they carry governance, financial inclusion (PM-KISAN, Jan Dhan, UPI, Ayushman Bharat), and educational opportunities, replacing isolation with integration.

2. Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) and Targeted Interventions

- **Digital Bharat Nidhi (Formerly USOF):** Mandated to ensure affordable and equitable telecommunication and broadband access in remote and underserved areas where commercial viability is limited.
- **LWE Phase-I Project (2014):** Approved to provide 2G mobile services across 106 LWE districts spanning 10 states, installing 2,340 mobile towers that were subsequently upgraded to 4G.
- **LWE Phase-II Project (2018):** Deployed 1,216 additional mobile towers using a viability gap funding model to cover 1,275 LWE-affected locations.

3. 4G Saturation Project and Environmental Safeguards

- **Expanding Coverage:** Beyond dedicated LWE schemes, DBN's 4G Saturation Project and Aspirational Districts initiatives

commissioned an additional 5,863 mobile towers, serving over 30 million users.

- **Green Energy & Compliance:** Mandating dual power sources with solar power alternatives for remote towers, while strictly adhering to statutory norms such as the Forest Rights Act (FRA), Forest Conservation Act (FCA), and CAMPA afforestation measures.

4. Overcoming Challenges & On-Ground Impact

- **Overcoming Terrain & Security Risks:** Despite difficult terrain, lack of roads, and extremist attacks (tower burning), timely project execution was achieved through multi-stakeholder coordination, Cabinet Secretary reviews, and PMIS dashboards.
- **Transforming Sukma and Malkangiri:** Districts like Sukma (Chhattisgarh) and Malkangiri (Odisha), previously devoid of mobile signals, are now connected, boosting security coordination and socio-economic integration.

5. Analytical Matrix: Telecom Trajectory Dimensions, Scale & Impacts

The table below synthesizes core telecom dimensions, policy initiatives, operational metrics, and integration impacts:

Telecom Dimension	Core Initiative / Policy Scheme	Operational Scale & Metrics	Socio-Economic & Security Impact
LWE Phase-I & II Projects	Dedicated mobile connectivity for 106 LWE districts	3,500+ mobile towers commissioned (2,290 in Phase-I; 1,216 in Phase-II)	Establishes foundational digital backbone in previously dark zones
4G Saturation Project	Extending universal mobile coverage using indigenous 4G stack	5,863 additional towers commissioned under broader DBN initiatives	Accelerates Atmanirbhar Bharat and deepens digital inclusion
Green Energy & Eco-Norms	Solar power backup and Forest Rights Act compliance	Eco-friendly tower installations with CAMPA afforestation measures	Balances rapid infrastructure expansion with environmental safeguards
Governance & Security	Data-driven PMIS monitoring and high-level administrative oversight	Serving over 3 million users, including 1+ million in LWE zones	Enhances security force operational efficiency and citizen welfare delivery

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across digital infrastructure, e-governance, and internal security papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper III (Internal Security — Digital Inclusion in Extremism-Affected Regions, State Presence via E-Governance and Infrastructure Development)

- **Digital Connectivity & Internal Security:** Analyzes how rolling out mobile towers and fibre networks in LWE zones strengthens security force communications while extending Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) and e-governance.
- **Journey from Isolation to Integration:** Highlights the strategic transformation where digital infrastructure effectively erodes the social foundations of extremism and integrates remote populations into the national mainstream.

MAINS TELECOM TRAJECTORY PERSPECTIVE: “The trajectory of these regions reflects a deeper shift, from coercion to connection, from exclusion to inclusion, and from insurgency to integration, countering the Maoist doctrine of ‘power flows from the barrel of a gun’ to a reality where ‘development now flows through networks of connectivity.’” — Ritesh Kavdia

TOPIC 8: THE APPROACH THAT ENDED A FIVE-DECADE INSURGENCY

Eradication of LWE, March 31 2026 Declaration, MHA Strategic Nerve Centre, SAMADHAN Doctrine, Intelligence Revolution (HUMINT & Tech Surveillance), and Penetration of Bastar & Abujhmad Strongholds (By Kanchan Lakshman, National Security Analyst)

NATIONAL RESOLVE VISION: “The March 31, 2026, declaration was no accident. It marked the result of a sustained, system-driven transformation, where intelligence took the lead, security forces worked in sync, and political will stayed firm, along with institutional coordination.” — Kanchan Lakshman

1. Executive Summary & Systematic Transformation

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed ‘Naxal-Free Bharat’, the seventh feature article titled ‘The Approach that Ended a Five-Decade Insurgency’ is authored by Kanchan Lakshman (Delhi-based national security analyst). The paper examines how the March 31, 2026 declaration of a Naxal-free India was achieved through a sustained, system-driven transformation driven by intelligence-led operations, coordinated statecraft, and firm political resolve.

The author highlights the monumental shift from the tragedy of the 2010 Dantewada ambush (where 76 CRPF personnel were martyred) to complete territorial control. What changed was not merely equipment or troop strength, but the strategic architecture—translating political will into operational doctrine and intelligence into precision.

2. MHA as Strategic Nerve Centre and SAMADHAN Doctrine

- **Centralised Strategic Direction:** The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) led the campaign through the 2015 National Policy and Action Plan, streamlining funding, setting district-level monitoring systems, and enforcing unified command structures.
- **The SAMADHAN Doctrine:** Provided operational coherence through Smart Leadership, Aggressive Strategy, Motivation & Training, Actionable Intelligence, Dashboard KPIs, Technology Harnessing, Theatre-Specific Plans, and Zero Access to Financing.

3. The Intelligence Revolution: From Reactive to Predictive

- **HUMINT Networks:** Systematic expansion of human intelligence networks utilizing surrendered cadres turned into assets, providing deep knowledge of PLGA movements.
- **Technological Layering:** Integrating drones, mobile signal interception, and satellite imagery to transition counter-insurgency from reactive pursuit to pre-emptive neutralisation.

4. Cracking Strongholds: Bastar and Abujhmaad

- **Bastar Forward Operating Bases (FOBs):** Embedding permanent security presence deep inside forested corridors to deny Maoist sanctuary and cut supply lines.
- **Penetrating Abujhmaad:** Overcoming the de facto 'no-go zone' of the unknown

hills through helicopter logistics, drone reconnaissance, and sustained operations that crippled the insurgency's ability to regenerate.

5. Analytical Matrix: Insurgency Termination Dimensions & Impacts

The table below synthesizes the core strategic dimensions, operational shifts, and national security impacts:

Strategic Dimension	Previous Reactive Counter-Insurgency	Transformed Approach (2014-2026)	National Security Impact
Strategic Architecture	Fragmented responses and absence of time-bound targets	SAMADHAN doctrine and MHA centralized command with clear deadlines	Achieves unprecedented synergy across military and administrative tiers
Intelligence Architecture	Reactive pursuit following insurgent attacks	Expanded HUMINT asset networks and multi-layered technical surveillance	Enables pre-emptive strikes and systematic decapitation of leadership
Stronghold Penetration	Limited access into deep forested bastions like Abujhmaad	Helicopter logistics, FOB expansion, and aggressive road building	Eliminates permanent Maoist sanctuaries and secures territory
Conflict Resolution	Over-reliance on kinetic military force alone	Three-dimensional model combining security, development, and civic outreach	Restores constitutional order and enduring peace

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across internal security, strategic doctrine, and constitutional restoration papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper III (Internal Security — Strategic Architecture in Extremism-Affected Regions, Intelligence Reforms and Restoration of Constitutional Order)

- **Strategic Architecture of Insurgency Termination:** Analyzes how MHA's centralized leadership, the SAMADHAN doctrine, and intelligence-led precision operations successfully concluded a five-decade-old insurgency.
- **Constitutional Restoration:** Highlights the declaration of a Naxal-free India not merely as a security victory, but as the full restoration

of the rule of law and citizens' rights across every inch of Indian territory.

MAINS NATIONAL RESOLVE PERSPECTIVE: "Naxal-Mukt Bharat is not merely a security achievement. It is a constitutional restoration, the return of the Indian state to every inch of its own territory, and the return of its citizens in those territories to the rights and dignity they were always owed." — Kanchan Lakshman

TOPIC 9: INDIA POST IN LWE-AFFECTED REGIONS — FROM ISOLATION TO INTEGRATION

Expansion of Postal Network in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) Regions, Establishment of Branch Offices (BOs) Across Phases, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), and the Role of Gramin Dak Sevaks (By Dushyant Mudgal, Deputy Director General - Establishment and Planning, Indian Postal Department)

INDIA POST VISION: “The postal network, with its deep local roots and human interface through Gramin Dak Sevaks, has built trust and reliability in communities that were once difficult to reach. India Post is not merely delivering letters and parcels; it is delivering stability, opportunity, and integration.” — Dushyant Mudgal

1. Executive Summary & Postal Network Outreach

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed ‘Naxal-Free Bharat’, the feature article titled ‘India Post in LWE-Affected Regions: From Isolation to Integration’ is authored by Dushyant Mudgal (Deputy Director General for Establishment and Planning at the Indian Postal Department in the Ministry of Communications, Government of India). The paper examines how India Post quietly transformed governance delivery in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.

The author highlights that by expanding grassroots postal infrastructure, India Post integrated remote and underserved regions into formal communication and financial systems, reducing the isolation that previously fostered extremism.

2. Systematic Expansion of Branch Offices (BOs)

- **Phase I (2016-17):** Establishment of 1,789 Branch Offices to lay the foundational bedrock for last-mile connectivity in vulnerable regions.
- **Phase II (2021-22):** A major scaling up with the opening of 3,114 additional Branch Offices to deepen access.
- **Consolidation (2024-25):** Opening of 294 Branch Offices, reflecting the steady stabilization and positive impacts of sustained developmental progress.

3. Financial Inclusion and Citizen-Centric Services

- **Diverse Utility:** Branch Offices function as vital access points for postal delivery, savings, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) banking, Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), insurance, and Aadhaar-enabled services.
- **Bridging the Gap:** Overcoming the absence of traditional banking and administrative infrastructure to serve as a trusted interface between government and citizens.

4. Analytical Matrix: India Post Dimensions, Scale & Impacts

The table below synthesizes core postal expansion dimensions, implementation metrics, and socio-economic impacts:

Postal Dimension	Core Initiative / Policy Focus	Operational Scale & Metrics	Socio-Admin Impact
Branch Office Expansion	Establishing grassroots postal branches in LWE hinterlands	1,789 (2016-17) and 3,114 (2021-22) new Branch Offices established	Brings formal communication networks to remote, vulnerable regions
Financial Inclusion	IPPB banking, postal savings, and DBT welfare delivery	Provision of banking, insurance, and Aadhaar services	Fills the void left by traditional banking and ensures financial security
Community Trust	Human interface through local Gramin Dak Sevaks	Trusted grassroots delivery and citizen interaction	Builds enduring trust and reliability between government and locals
National Integration	Bridging isolation through administrative footprint	Expanding postal presence in tandem with Naxal-free progress	Delivers stability, opportunity, and total societal integration

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper II & III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across public service delivery, financial inclusion, and internal security papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper II & III (Governance—Implementation of Government Policies and Public Service Delivery; Internal Security — Administrative Reach and Trust Building in LWE Regions)

- **Postal Network & Governance:** Analyzes how India Post utilised its extensive branch network and Gramin Dak Sevaks to extend financial inclusion and Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) into remote LWE hinterlands
- **From Isolation to Integration:** Highlights the strategic value of basic administrative and financial connectivity in reducing alienation and anchoring national integration in tribal regions.

MAINS INDIA POST PERSPECTIVE: “The postal network, with its deep local roots and human interface through Gramin Dak Sevaks, has built trust and reliability in communities that were once difficult to reach. India Post is not merely delivering letters and parcels; it is delivering stability, opportunity, and integration.” — Dushyant Mudgal

TOPIC 10: SECURING DEMOCRACY IN FORMERLY LWE REGIONS — TERRITORY, TRUST, TRANSITION

Dismantling Maoist ‘Janatana Sarkar’, Supremacy of the Indian Constitution, Spatial and Territorial Victory, Trust Building, and Deepening Grassroots Democracy (By Abhiram Ghadyalpatil, Senior Journalist and Executive Director, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini)

SECURING DEMOCRACY VISION: “The Naxal lands also had what the Naxals called the ‘janatana sarkar’, a defiantly anti-democratic and unconstitutional vigilante structure. The dismantling of this lawless structure and the establishment of India’s Constitution as the only law of the land is a clear and much-needed first victory against the Naxal insurgency.” — Abhiram Ghadyalpatil

1. Executive Summary & Normalcy in Bastar

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed ‘Naxal-Free Bharat’, the eighth feature article titled ‘Securing Democracy in Formerly LWE Regions: Territory, Trust, Transition’ is authored by Abhiram Ghadyalpatil (senior journalist and Executive Director of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini). The paper examines how the territorial defeat of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) has created secure, visible, and aspirational spaces for grassroots democracy to deepen in formerly conflict-ridden zones.

The author highlights attending a digital democracy conclave in Jagdalpur (Bastar) where content creators rafted on the Indravati river and interacted with former Naxals who joined the democratic mainstream—a normalcy unthinkable just a few years ago. This transition illustrates the ultimate triumph of India’s Constitution over anti-democratic vigilante structures.

2. Dismantling ‘Janatana Sarkar’ and Constitutional Supremacy

- **Eradicating Lawless Structures:** Maoists had established ‘janatana sarkar’, a defiantly anti-democratic and unconstitutional parallel governance system. Dismantling this vigilante structure and establishing the Indian Constitution as the sole law of the land is a monumental victory.
- **Total Territorial Control:** Under the decisive leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who invested unprecedented political capital and credibility, security forces achieved total territorial control of formerly Naxal zones—a feat comparable to the constitutional normalisation of Jammu & Kashmir.

3. Breaking the Vicious Cycle of Development and Trust

- **Disruption of Insurgent Pretexts:** Insurgents previously cited lack of development to justify violence while simultaneously blocking all developmental outreach. The government broke this vicious cycle by establishing security camps first, allowing development to follow.
- **Tangible Progress Metrics:** Post-2024, total road length in LWE areas increased by

25%, over 96% of villages received mobile connectivity, bank branches surged from 3,320 (2014) to 5,124, and nearly 6,000 new post offices were opened.

4. Grassroots Inclusion and Cultural Integration

- **Trust-Building Initiatives:** Recruiting local tribals into security forces, organising events like the Bastar Olympics and Bastar Pandum,

and expanding Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) over fourfold since 2014 have successfully addressed the historic trust deficit.

5. Analytical Matrix: Democratic Transition Dimensions, Scale & Impacts

The table below synthesizes the core dimensions of democratic transition, trust building, and governance impacts:

Transition Dimension	Previous Conflict & Isolation	Current Democratic Transition (2014-2026)	Democratic & Social Impact
Constitution vs 'Janatana Sarkar'	Maoist unconstitutional parallel vigilante governance structures	Complete dismantling of lawless structures and rule of law restoration	Secures absolute supremacy of the Indian Constitution and rule of law
Territorial Control & Camps	Absence of state writ in remote forested strongholds	800+ security camps established (400+ built after 2019)	Establishes permanent territorial dominance and civilian safety
Development & Infrastructure	Extremist obstruction of roads, banking, and communications	25% increase in road length, 96% mobile coverage, and 5,124 bank branches	Ends physical and digital isolation, bringing mainstream governance
Trust & Aspirations	Deep-seated alienation, fear, and institutional mistrust	Bastar Olympics, local recruitment, and 4x expansion of EMRS schools	Fosters community pride, democratic participation, and future aspirations

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper II & III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across governance, grassroots democracy, and internal security papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper II & III (Governance — Deepening Democracy & Institutional Expansion; Internal Security — Restoration of Constitutional Order and Trust Building in LWE Regions)

- **Dismantling 'Janatana Sarkar' & Constitutional Rule:** Analyzes how eradicating Maoist parallel vigilante structures and asserting absolute territorial control restores the rule of law.
- **Territory, Trust, and Transition:** Highlights how combining security dominance with developmental saturation (roads, banking, mobile connectivity) successfully deepens grassroots democracy in formerly conflicted zones.

MAINS SECURING DEMOCRACY PERSPECTIVE:

"The dismantling of this lawless structure and the establishment of India's Constitution as the only law of the land is a clear and much-needed first victory against the Naxal insurgency. This spatial and territorial victory has created a secure, visible, and even aspirational space for democracy." — Abhiram Ghadyalpatil

TOPIC 11: BASTAR PANDUM — CULTURAL ASSERTION AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF A NAXAL-FREE TRAJECTORY

Bastar Pandum 2026 Festival, Tribal Art and Culture, Massive Participation of 54,000+ Artists across 1,885 Gram Panchayats, Development & Governance Interventions, and Presidential & Ministerial Patronage

BASTAR PANDUM VISION: “When farmers sow seeds, it is Pandum; when mangoes ripen, it is Pandum... The participation of over 55,000 tribal individuals is not merely a statistic. It is a reflection of the region’s transition away from fear and towards collective confidence.” — President Droupadi Murmu & Home Minister Amit Shah

1. Executive Summary & Cultural Renaissance

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed ‘Naxal-Free Bharat’, the ninth feature article titled ‘Bastar Pandum: Cultural Assertion and the Consolidation of a Naxal-Free Trajectory’ examines how cultural resurgence and participatory governance have consolidated the victory over Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) in Chhattisgarh’s Bastar region.

The article highlights that achieving a Naxal-free trajectory required more than security operations; it demanded the celebration and revitalization of tribal heritage. ‘Bastar Pandum’ has emerged as a powerful cultural counter-narrative, bringing together over 54,000 tribal artists across 1,885 Gram Panchayats in a festival of shared identity and collective confidence.

2. A Festival Rooted in Life and Identity

- **Deep Cultural Roots:** As noted by President Droupadi Murmu during the inauguration in Jagdalpur on February 7, 2026, ‘Pandum’ is woven into everyday agricultural and seasonal rhythms of tribal life.
- **Grassroots Scale:** Spanning January 5 to February 9, 2026, the festival witnessed 54,745 participants across all seven districts

of the Bastar division, covering 32 block headquarters and every Gram Panchayat.

3. Expanding Disciplines and National Leadership

- **12 Diverse Disciplines:** Expanding from earlier editions, Bastar Pandum 2026 featured competitions across 12 categories, including tribal dance, music, traditional costumes, jewelry, handicrafts, paintings, local literature, and medicinal knowledge.
- **High-Level Patronage:** President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the festival, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended the closing ceremony on February 9, 2026, emphasizing that Bastar’s identity must forever shed the legacy of ‘barud’ (gunpowder) and be anchored in its vibrant cultural heritage.

4. Convergence with Development and Welfare

- **Reopening Schools and Infrastructure:** Reopening schools shut for nearly 40 years, expanding road and mobile connectivity, and establishing post offices and banking facilities.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Ensuring 5 kg free monthly rice, paddy procurement at Rs 3,100 per quintal, household tap water, and developing a 118-acre industrial area and auto gig hub for tribal youth employment.

5. Analytical Matrix: Bastar Pandum Dimensions, Scale & Impacts

The table below synthesizes the core dimensions of Bastar Pandum, operational scale, and socio-cultural impacts:

Pandum Dimension	Core Initiative / Focus	Operational Scale & Metrics	Socio-Cultural Impact
Cultural Assertion	Showcasing traditional folk arts, music, and cuisines	54,000+ artists and 1,885 Gram Panchayats participating	Replaces fear and alienation with collective cultural confidence
Expanded Scope	Scaling up from 7 to 12 distinct cultural disciplines	Covering dance, drama, handicrafts, and medicinal knowledge	Comprehensive documentation and preservation of tribal heritage
Developmental Convergence	Extending education, roads, and welfare saturation	Reopened schools, mobile towers, and Rs 3,100 MSP for paddy	Saturates remote tribal hinterlands with essential state governance

National Recognition	Patronage from President Droupadi Murmu and Home Minister Amit Shah	Redefining Bastar's identity from 'barud' to cultural richness	Elevates tribal pride onto national and global platforms
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6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper I & III)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across Indian culture, internal security, and tribal empowerment papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper I & III (Indian Culture — Tribal Art, Folk Traditions & Festivals; Internal Security — Cultural Renaissance and Trust Building in Post-Conflict LWE Regions)

- **Cultural Renaissance & Peacebuilding:** Analyzes how festivals like Bastar Pandum complement security dominance by healing historical alienation and fostering national integration.
- **Bottom-Up Development Model:** Highlights the grassroot engagement across 1,885 Gram Panchayats in integrating tribal communities into mainstream governance and economic development.

MAINS BASTAR PANDUM PERSPECTIVE:

"Bastar Pandum encapsulates the transformation of a region once defined by conflict into one characterised by cultural vibrancy and developmental momentum. By integrating tradition with modern governance, it offers a replicable model for addressing complex socio-political challenges." — PIB / Yojana Feature

TOPIC 12: A PEACEFUL MIND FOR A PEACEFUL SOCIETY — MINDFUL LIVING THROUGH THE YOGIC WAY OF LIFE

Mental Health and Wellness, Modern Lifestyle Stress, Bhagavad Gita's 'Samatvam', Patanjali's Yoga Sutra ('Chitta Vritti Nirodhah'), Pranayama & Mindfulness, and Emotional Education (By Dr. Hansaji Yogendra, Director, The Yoga Institute, Mumbai)

PEACEFUL MIND VISION: "A peaceful society cannot be built only through laws, institutions, or economic progress. It must also be built through emotionally healthy people... Mental wellness is not merely personal. It is deeply connected to social harmony and national well-being." — Dr. Hansaji Yogendra

1. Executive Summary & The Mental Health Crisis

In the June 2026 special edition of Yojana themed 'Naxal-Free Bharat', the tenth and final feature article titled 'A Peaceful Mind for a Peaceful Society: Mindful Living Through the Yogic Way of Life' is authored by Dr. Hansaji Yogendra (Director of The Yoga Institute, Mumbai, renowned yoga therapist and author). The paper examines how India's remarkable technological and economic progress must be matched by inner emotional balance to address the rising global crisis of mental unrest and stress.

The author emphasizes that mental wellness is not merely personal; it is deeply connected to social harmony and national well-being. When frustration, anger, and emotional fatigue remain unresolved within individuals, they manifest as collective conflict. Cultivating a peaceful mind through the yogic way of life is therefore foundational to a harmonious society.

2. The Cost of a Restless Lifestyle and Yogic Definition

- **Modern Paradox:** While modern life offers unprecedented convenience and connectivity, it intensifies comparison, overstimulation, and exhaustion. Humans have learned to manage machines efficiently but forgotten how to manage their own minds.
- **Samatvam (Bhagavad Gita 2.48):** 'Samatvam yoga uchyate'—Yoga is the state of emotional balance and equanimity amidst life's ups and downs.
- **Chitta Vritti Nirodhah (Yoga Sutra 1.2):** 'Yogash chitta vritti nirodhah'—Yoga is the calming of the restless fluctuations of the mind.

3. Internal Balance and Scientific Validation

- **Pranayama & Regulation:** Breath and mind are deeply connected; conscious breathing and pranayama regulate emotional turbulence and calm the nervous system.
- **Scientific Insights:** Research from Harvard Medical School and NIH validates that yogic breathing and meditation lower stress hormones, improve sleep, and enhance mental well-being.

4. Emotional Education for Future Generations

- **Bridging the Educational Gap:** Modern education develops the intellect while

neglecting emotional well-being, resulting in individuals who are professionally capable but internally fragile.

- **Preventive Mental Healthcare:** Introducing yoga-based emotional wellness programmes in schools, colleges, and workplaces fosters resilience, concentration, and long-term social harmony.

5. Analytical Matrix: Peaceful Mind Dimensions, Scale & Impacts

The table below synthesizes core yogic dimensions, mental practices, and socio-emotional impacts:

Wellness Dimension	Core Yogic Philosophy / Practice	Physiological & Mental Process	Socio-Emotional Impact
Emotional Equilibrium	Bhagavad Gita's 'Samatvam' and Patanjali's 'Chitta Vritti Nirodhah'	Calming mental fluctuations and maintaining steadiness under pressure	Fosters stress-free living and mature emotional responses
Pranayama & Breath	Conscious breath awareness and meditation practices	Calms the nervous system and regulates stress hormones	Improves sleep quality, mental clarity, and emotional stability
Emotional Education	Integrating yoga and mindfulness into schools and workplaces	Equipping youth with self-awareness and coping mechanisms	Produces mentally resilient and socially responsible citizens
Social Harmony	Yogic lifestyle rooted in moderation, simplicity, and balance	Translating individual inner peace into collective well-being	Reduces societal conflict and strengthens national harmony

6. Civil Services Examination Focus (GS Paper II & IV)

For candidates preparing for UPSC Civil Services and State Public Service examinations, this analysis delivers critical high-yield substance across mental health, preventive healthcare, and ethics papers:

Relevance for General Studies Paper II & IV (Health — Mental Healthcare and Preventive Medicine; Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude — Emotional Intelligence, Stress Management and Inner Peace)

- **Mental Wellness & Social Harmony:** Analyzes how individual mental health is inextricably linked to societal peace, demonstrating that emotional imbalance at

the individual level can manifest as collective conflict

- **Yogic Emotional Education:** Highlights the imperative of integrating emotional intelligence, mindfulness, and yoga into modern educational systems to cultivate resilient, balanced, and ethically grounded citizens.

MAINS PEACEFUL MIND PERSPECTIVE:

“A peaceful society cannot be built only through laws, institutions, or economic progress. It must also be built through emotionally healthy people... Mental wellness is not merely personal. It is deeply connected to social harmony and national well-being.” — Dr. Hansaji Yogendra