Measures Taken to Develop LWE Hit States

Why in news?

Government actions on Naxal hit areas has resulted in shrinkage of violence in a great geographical spread.

Who are Naxalites?

- The term Naxal derives from the name of the village Naxalbari in West Bengal, where the Naxalite peasant revolt took place in 1967.
- Naxalites are considered far-left radical communists, supportive of Mao Zedong's political ideology.
- Their origin can be traced to the split in 1967 of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) following the Naxalbari peasant uprising, leading to the formation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) two years later.
- Initially, the movement had its epicenter in West Bengal, in later years, it spread into less developed areas of rural southern and eastern India, such as Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana through the activities of underground groups like the Communist Party of India (Maoist).
- Some Naxalite groups have become legal organizations participating in parliamentary elections, such as the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation and the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Janashakti.
- As of April 2018, the areas where Naxalites are most visible are:
    - **Andhra Pradesh -**Visakhapatnam, East Godavari District
    - **Bihar -**Gaya, Jamui, Lakhisarai
    - **Chhattisgarh -** Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada, Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Rajnandgaon, Sukma
    - **Jharkhand -**Bokaro, Chatra, Garhwa, Giridih, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Khunti, Latehar, Lohardaga, Palamu, Ranchi, Simdega West, Singhbhum
    - **Maharashtra -**Gadchiroli, Gondia, Yavatmal
    - **Odisha -**Koraput, Malkangiri
    - **Telangana -**Bhadradri, Kothagudem

What are the measures taken to develop Naxal hit areas?

- The Government is committed for holistic development of LWE affected areas at par with other areas of the country.
- Apart from flagship/developmental Schemes being implemented by the line Ministries/ Departments, some specific schemes are also being implemented in LWE affected areas.

- **Action Plan 2015 -** The Government of India has a holistic, multi-pronged strategy envisaged in Action Plan-2015 to combat LWE, which include development as an important prong.
- Apart from flagship/developmental Schemes being implemented by the line Ministries/ Departments, some specific schemes are also being implemented in LWE affected areas. Details are as follows:
- **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** – This scheme aims to fill critical gaps in public infrastructure and services of emergent nature in the most LWE affected districts.
- This Scheme is for 3 years i.e. from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with an outlay of Rs.3000 crore.
- Rs.163.33 crore was released to Government of Bihar till now.
- **Security Related Expenditure Scheme -** To assist the States to combat LWE, support is being given to 90 districts under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme.
- Government of India provides funds for Police Modernization to all the States.
- Funds are also being provided under 'Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)' for strengthening the Special Forces of the States and State Intelligence Branches (SIBs) to LWE affected states.
- Construction of 250 Fortified Police Stations in LWE affected States is also envisaged under the scheme.

- **Road connectivity Plans -** Road Requirement Plan-I scheme envisages construction of 5,422 km roads for LWE affected areas, of which 4,809 km have been constructed, including 674 km in Bihar.

- Road Connectivity Project for LWE affected Areas scheme envisages for improving road connectivity in 44 LWE affected districts of 10 States.
- It aims for construction of 5,412 km roads including 1050 km for Bihar, of which 644 km have been completed as a whole in the nation.
- **Skill development and Education Initiatives -** Union government has sanctioned 7 New KendriyaVidyalayas and 6 new JawaharNavodayaVidyalayas in the most LWE affected districts, which did

not have any KVs/JNVs.

- Under RMSA, 1590 new/upgraded Schools and 349 girl's hostels have been sanctioned in most LWE affected districts.
- Skill Development in LWE affected districts is being implemented by the MoSDE in 47 LWE affected districts of 10 States.
- The Scheme envisages construction of 01 ITI in each of 47 districts and 02 Skill Development Centers (SDCs) in each of 34 districts
- **Other Infra developments -** Installation of Mobile Towers in the LWE affected districts is being implemented by the Department of Telecom.
- **Financial Inclusion -**627 new bank branches & 947 ATMs have been opened in 30 most LWE affected Districts in last 4 years between.
- In addition 1759 Branch Post Offices have been opened since 2017 in core LWE affected districts.

What are the potential outcomes?

- Steadfast implementation of the Action Plan-2015 has resulted in consistent decline in LWE related violence and considerable shrinkage in geographical spread.
- In 2018 LWE related violence was reported in 60 districts in the year 2018 with 10 districts accounting for 2/3rdviolence.

Source: PIB

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