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# **TODAY'S ANALYSIS**

## **(03 April 2025)**

### **TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

- **NAXAL MUKT BHARAT**
- **NITI AAYOG DEVELOPS PORTAL ON FINANCES OF STATES**
- **EXERCISE TIGER TRIUMPH**
- **MCQs**



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# NAXAL MUKT BHARAT

## Background:

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** recently announced a significant reduction in the number of districts affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), or **Naxalism**, in India.



- On March **30, 2025**, He also marked a major achievement in the government's effort to eradicate Naxalism, with a target set for the complete elimination of this insurgency by

**March 31, 2026.**

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## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT

- **Reduction in Affected Districts:**

- The number of **districts severely affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)** has dropped from **12** to just **6**.
- This represents a **50% reduction** in the most affected regions.
- **Six districts** still considered most impacted by Naxalism are:
  - **Chhattisgarh:** Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur, Sukma
  - **Jharkhand:** West Singhbhum
  - **Maharashtra:** Gadchiroli

- **Districts of Concern:**

- The number of **Districts of Concern**, which require additional resources but are not as severely affected as the top six, has decreased from **9** to **6**. These districts include:
  - **Andhra Pradesh:** Alluri Sitarama Raju
  - **Madhya Pradesh:** Balaghat
  - **Odisha:** Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Malkangiri

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- **Telangana:** Bhadrachalam-Kothagudem

- **Financial Assistance:**

- The government has allocated special funding for these districts under a financial scheme:

- **₹30 crore** for the most affected districts.
- **₹10 crore** for the districts of concern.

## GOAL OF NAXAL MUKT BHARAT

- Amit Shah reiterated the government's goal to make India "**Naxal-free**" by **March 31, 2026**.
- Shah highlighted that this target is achievable through the **relentless efforts of the Modi government**, combining a **strong security approach** with **developmental initiatives**.
- **Two significant encounters** in **Chhattisgarh** (March 19, 2025), which led to the death of **30 Maoists** and the loss of one Indian soldier, were cited as important steps in this campaign. Shah praised these encounters as a major success in the journey towards a **Naxal-Mukt Bharat**.

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## IMPACT OF MODI GOVT'S EFFORTS

- **Decline in Violent Incidents:**

- From 2004 to 2014, there were **16,463 incidents** of Naxal violence. Under **PM Modi's leadership (2014-2024)**, this number dropped by **53%**, falling to **7,744 incidents**.
- **Casualties** have also significantly reduced, with **security forces' casualties** falling by **73%** (from 1851 to 509) and **civilian casualties** decreasing by **70%** (from 4766 to 1,495).

## LEFT WING EXTREMISM (LWE) IN INDIA

- **Origins and Ideology:**

- Naxalism traces its roots to the **1967 Naxalbari Uprising** in **West Bengal**. It is based on the ideology of **violence and armed insurrection** to overthrow the state and establish a Communist government.
- The Naxal insurgency, which aims to mobilize the tribal population, is primarily concentrated in what is known as **India's Red Corridor**, covering parts of

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**Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra.**

- **Declining Impact:**

- In **2013**, there were **126 districts** affected by Naxalism, but this number has since decreased to **38** in 2024, signaling a significant improvement.
- There has also been a **sharp increase** in the number of Naxalites **arrested (17%)**, **surrendered (1.5 times)**, and **killed (5 times)**, showcasing the government's aggressive stance against extremism.

## **MEASURES TO TACKLE LEFT WING EXTREMISM**

- **Policy Measures:**

- In **2015**, the Indian government approved a **National Policy and Action Plan** to address LWE, focusing on both **security** and **developmental strategies**.
- In **2017**, the **SAMADHAN doctrine** was introduced, a framework outlining the approach to counter LWE, which includes **Strategy**, **Actionable intelligence**, **Mobilization of forces**, **Awareness campaigns**, and **Development** in affected areas.

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- **Security Measures:**

- **Fortification of police stations** in vulnerable areas under the **Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS)**.
- **Increased funding** for security operations in LWE-affected states, nearly **tripling** the budget to around **₹3,000 crore**.
- High-profile **counter-insurgency operations** like **Operation Green Hunt**, **Operation Octopus**, **Operation Double Bull**, and **Operation Chakrabandha** have been launched to target Naxal hotspots.

- **Developmental Measures:**

- **Infrastructure Development:** Over the last decade, the government has constructed over **14,000 km of roads** in LWE-affected areas to improve connectivity and facilitate security and development efforts.
- **Education:** The establishment of **216 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** in tribal areas to promote education and reduce Naxalite influence over the younger population.

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- **Aspirational Districts Program:** The **Ministry of Home Affairs** monitors 35 LWE-affected districts under this program, aiming to uplift socio-economic conditions in these regions.
- **Rehabilitation for Surrendered Extremists:** Naxals who surrender can receive **legal aid, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities**, fostering their reintegration into society.

## CONCLUSION

The reduction in the number of LWE-affected districts and the decreasing number of violent incidents in Naxal-impacted areas are clear indicators of the Indian government's success in combating Naxalism. By adopting a combination of **security, development, and rehabilitation measures**, the government aims to create a "**Naxal-Mukt Bharat**" by **2026**. While challenges remain, particularly in the **six most affected districts**, the progress made thus far offers hope for a future free from Left-Wing Extremism.

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# NITI AAYOG DEVELOPS PORTAL ON FINANCES OF STATES

## Introduction:

- In response to complaints from opposition-ruled states regarding perceived discrimination in resource sharing, the **Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman**, is set to launch a new portal on April 1, 2025.
- Developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the portal aims to provide comprehensive insights into the financial health and economic performance of Indian states.

## KEY FEATURES OF THE PORTAL

### 1. Overview of the Portal:

- The portal, named '**NITI NCAER States Economic Forum**', will serve as a "**comprehensive repository**" of data on social, economic, and fiscal parameters.
- It will provide access to research reports, papers, expert commentary, and datasets on the finances of states spanning **30 years**, from **1990-91 to 2022-23**.

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## FOUR MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE PORTAL

- **State Reports:** These will summarize the macro and fiscal landscape of **28 Indian states**, focusing on key indicators such as demography, economic structure, socio-economic trends, and fiscal health.
- **Data Repository:** The portal will offer **direct access to an extensive database** categorized across five verticals:
  - **Demography**
  - **Economic Structure**
  - **Fiscal**
  - **Health**
  - **Education**
- **State Fiscal and Economic Dashboard:** This feature will present **graphical representations** of key economic variables, allowing users to view and analyze state-level data in an easily interpretable format.
- **Research and Commentary:** The portal will host **extensive research and analysis** on state finances, fiscal policy, and financial management at both state and national levels.

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## OBJECTIVES & BENEFITS OF THE PORTAL

### 1. Understanding Macro and Fiscal Trends:

- The portal will help users understand the broader **macroeconomic, fiscal, demographic, and socio-economic trends** affecting each state.
- It will make **sectoral data** easily accessible, addressing the ongoing need for consolidated data in one place.

### 2. Benchmarking State Performance:

- Users will be able to **benchmark** the data of each state against national figures and other states, promoting comparative analysis.

### 3. Empowering Policymakers and Researchers:

- The portal will provide a platform for **policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders** to engage in **informed debates** and discussions about state finances.
- It will facilitate the development of data-driven fiscal policies and financial management strategies.

## EXPECTED IMPACT OF THE PORTAL

- **Informed Decision-Making:** By making state-specific fiscal data accessible in a user-friendly format, the portal will aid policy makers in making informed decisions about resource allocation and fiscal management.

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- **Transparency and Accountability:** The public availability of this data will help ensure greater **transparency** in how resources are allocated and managed at the state level.
- **Support for Disadvantaged States:** States that feel marginalized in terms of resource distribution will benefit from the detailed fiscal insights, allowing them to advocate for a more equitable allocation of resources.

## CONCLUSION

The launch of the '**NITI NCAER States Economic Forum**' portal represents a significant step toward transparency and data-driven policymaking in India. By offering detailed reports and datasets on the finances of Indian states, the portal aims to facilitate better understanding, comparative analysis, and informed discussions on fiscal matters, benefiting policymakers, researchers, and citizens alike.

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## EXERCISE TIGER TRIUMPH



### Introduction:

India and the United States are set to begin their major tri-service exercise, **'Tiger Triumph'**, in the **Bay of Bengal** on **April 1, 2025**. The exercise, which will focus on **enhancing military interoperability** for **humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR)** as well as **crisis situations**, will involve various branches of the armed forces from both countries and is scheduled to last for two weeks.

### KEY DETAILS OF THE EXERCISE

#### Exercise Phases:

- The exercise will have two main phases:

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- **Harbour Phase:** Conducted at **Visakhapatnam**, focusing on preparations and coordination between the forces.
- **Maritime and Amphibious Operations:** Taking place off **Kakinada**, involving large-scale naval and amphibious drills.

### Focus Areas:

- **Military Interoperability:** The exercise aims to improve cooperation and coordination between Indian and U.S. forces, focusing on disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, and managing crises.
- **Combined Coordination Centre:** The two sides will establish **standard operating procedures** (SOPs) for a **joint coordination centre** to facilitate smooth communication and rapid responses during exercises and future contingencies.

## PARTICIPATING FORCES & ASSETS

### Indian Forces:

- **Warships:** The Indian Navy will deploy **INS Jalashwa**, **INS Gharial**, **INS Mumbai**, and **INS Shakti** with **integral helicopters** and **landing crafts**.

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- **Aircraft:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) will contribute **C-130J 'Super Hercules' aircraft**, **Mi-17 helicopters**, and a **Rapid Action Medical Team (RAMT)**.
- **Army:** The Indian Army will send troops from the **91 Infantry Brigade** and the **12 Mechanised Infantry Battalion**.

#### U.S. Forces:

- **Warships:** The U.S. Navy will send the **amphibious warship USS Comstock** and the **guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson**.
- **Marines:** U.S. Marines will participate in the exercise alongside naval forces.
- **Medical Teams:** The U.S. Navy will also provide a **medical team** to support the joint medical camp setup for the exercise.

### JOINT OPERATIONS & COORDINATIONS

- During the exercise, a **joint command and control centre** will be set up at the **Kakinada Naval Enclave** for better coordination between the Indian Army and U.S. Marines.
- A **joint medical camp** will be established by both nations, where the **Indian Air Force**, **RAMT**, and the **U.S. Navy medical team** will provide aid, strengthening medical cooperation during emergencies.

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## STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

### Strengthening Bilateral Ties:

- The exercise is part of the ongoing effort between India and the U.S. to enhance their **strategic partnership** and **military convergence**.
- This collaboration is seen as a step towards deepening ties in the face of regional security challenges.

### Expanded Scope of Military Cooperation:

- This is the fourth edition of **'Tiger Triumph'**, and it reflects the increasing complexity, scope, and frequency of joint military exercises between the two countries.
- India and the U.S. also engage in other major military exercises like **'Vajra Prahar'** and **'Yudh Abhyas'** (between their armies), as well as the **Malabar naval wargames**, which include Australia and Japan.

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## MCQs

1. Which of these states are currently moderately affected by Naxalism?

1. Tamil Nadu

2. Kerala

3. Telangana

(A) Only 1 & 3

(B) Only 3

(C) Only 2 & 3

(D) All of the above

**Ans. (C)**

2. Which of these initiatives are taken for the development of Naxal affected areas?

1. National Policy & Action Plan

2. SAMADHAN Strategy

3. Aspirational Districts Program

(A) Only 1 & 2

(B) Only 1

(C) Only 2 & 3

(D) All of the above

**Ans. (D)**

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3. Consider the following statements wrt NITI NCAER States Economic Forum and mark the correct one:

1. It will provide access to research reports and datasets on the finances of states spanning 30 years, from 1990-91 to 2022-23.
2. The portal will provide a platform for policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders to engage in informed debates and discussions about state finances.

- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (C)**

4. In which of these exercises India & USA are common participants?

1. Vajra Prahar
2. Yudh Abhyas
3. Tiger Triumph

- (A) Only 3  
(B) Only 2 & 3  
(C) Only 1 & 3  
(D) All of the above

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**Ans. (D)**

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