BJYM
Magazine

STRENGTHENING INTERNAL SECURITY

Uniting Bharat, Safeguarding Tomorrow

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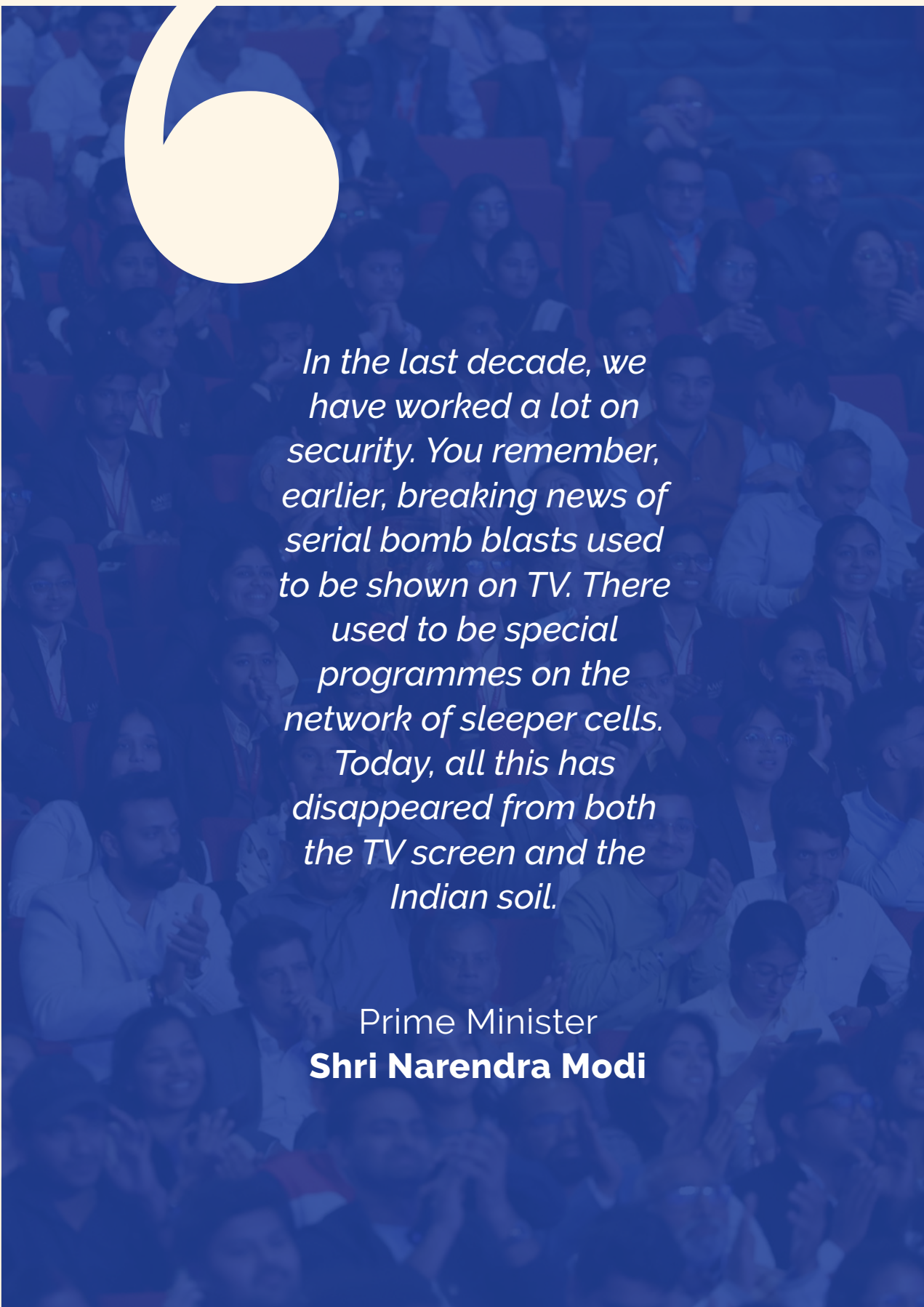Mutum Yoiremba
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हिंदी लेख

In the last decade, we have worked a lot on security. You remember, earlier, breaking news of serial bomb blasts used to be shown on TV. There used to be special programmes on the network of sleeper cells. Today, all this has disappeared from both the TV screen and the Indian soil.

Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi

Remarks of the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**

National security is a very important aspect for the development of any country. In the last decade, we have worked a lot on security. You remember, earlier, breaking news of serial bomb blasts used to be shown on TV. There used to be special programmes on the network of sleeper cells. Today, all this has disappeared from both the TV screen and the Indian soil. Otherwise, earlier when you used to travel by train or go to the airport, you used to get warnings like, if there is an unclaimed bag lying there, do not touch it; today these 18-20-year-old young people may not have heard that news.

Today, Naxalism is also counting its last breaths in the country. Earlier, more than a hundred districts were in the grip of Naxalism, but today it is limited to less than two dozen districts. This was possible only when we worked with the spirit of the nation first. We brought governance to the grassroots level in these areas. Within no time, thousands of kilometres long roads were built in these districts, schools and hospitals were built, a 4G mobile network was reached, and the country is seeing the results today.

Today, Naxalism is being cleared from the jungles due to the decisive decisions of the government, but now it is spreading its roots in the urban centres. Urban Naxals have spread their network so fast that the political parties that were opposed to urban Naxals, whose ideology was once inspired by Gandhi ji and which were connected to the roots of India, today Naxals have made inroads in such political parties. Today, the voice of Urban Naxals and their language is heard there. From this, we can understand how deep their roots are. We have to remember that Urban Naxals are staunch opponents of both India's development and our heritage.

Source: narendramodi.in;
PM Modi at Republic Plenary Summit

Remarks of the BJP President
Shri J.P Nadda

When it comes to Left-Wing Terrorism, Left-Wing Extremism, or Naxalism, the number of affected districts has reduced from 126 to just 18. All top Left-Wing Extremist leaders have been eliminated. Violence has declined by 53%, and there has been a 72% reduction in casualties among security forces. There has been a 70% decline in the mortality rate, indicating that we are moving steadily toward eliminating the threat.

There was a time when a former Defence Minister used to say that roads should not be built along the borders so as not to give enemies easier access. But today, under a new vision of national security, the construction of border roads and bridges has reached nearly 8,000 kilometres, including around 400 permanent bridges. Notable examples like the Atal Tunnel, Sela Tunnel, and Shinkun La Tunnel stand as critical infrastructure projects, playing a vital role in strengthening the country's defence preparedness.

Source: bjp.org;
Press conference on the occasion of completion of 11 years of NDA Government

Remarks by the
Home Minister
Shri Amit Shah

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From 2004 to 2014, during the uninterrupted Sonia-Manmohan regime, a total of 7,217 terrorist incidents occurred. Between 2014 and 2025, this number dropped by 70% to 2,150. From 2004 to 2014, 1,770 people were killed, whereas between 2014 and 2025, the number fell to 357. From 2014 to 2024, the number of casualties in security forces was 1,060, which was reduced to 542 under the BJP government.

There has been a 123% increase in the number of terrorists killed under the BJP regime. By abrogating Article 370, the BJP government has dismantled the terror ecosystem. The BJP formulated a Zero Terror and Area Domination Plan, implemented multi-level deployment, established security jails, ensured 98% of trials now happen via video conferencing, set up communication infrastructure, jailed 702 mobile vendors, and deactivated 2,667 illegal SIM cards.

There was a time when funerals in Kashmir drew crowds of 10,000 people, but now, terrorists are buried at the spot where they are killed. In the Modi government, no glorification of terrorists is allowed. Supporters of terrorists have been systematically removed from government jobs; their passports and government contracts have been cancelled. More than 75 terror sympathisers have been dismissed from government service with court orders. A Bar Council filled with terror sympathisers was suspended, and impartial elections were conducted.

Several organisations were banned, special UAPA courts were established, and between March 2022 and 2025, 367 UAPA cases were registered and 374 properties were attached. As a result, under Congress rule, there used to be 2,654 incidents of organised stone pelting annually, but by 2024, this number dropped to zero. During their regime, the Valley witnessed 132 days of shutdowns per year; now, the Valley remains open, and no organised strike has occurred in the last three years. Under Congress, 112 civilians died annually due to stone pelting, but for the past three years, not a single civilian has lost their life.

During the UPA regime, 6,235 people were injured each year in stone-pelting incidents; today, that number has also fallen to zero. At one time, Hurriyat leaders received VIP treatment, but the BJP government has banned every component of Hurriyat and sent its leaders behind bars. We do not engage in dialogue with Hurriyat; they are terror outfits. If we hold talks, it will be with the youth of Kashmir. Earlier, there used to be an atmosphere of fear during elections, but now, 98.3% voter turnout was recorded in the panchayat elections. The era of Congress-led shutdowns and boycotts is over.

Previously, separatists wanted to talk, but now they cannot.

Since 2019, the Modi government has banned several terrorist organisations. The central government has proscribed TRF, People's Anti-Fascist Front, Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh Hindustan, Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force, Khalistan Tiger Force, Hizb ut-Tahrir, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat, Muslim Conference, Jammu and Kashmir National Front, Jammu and Kashmir People's Freedom League, Jammu and Kashmir People's League, Jammu and Kashmir Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen, Awami Action Committee, Sikhs for Justice, and the Popular Front of India (PFI).

Source: Bjp.org; Lok Sabha Speech on "Operation Sindoor"

Since 2014, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has embarked on a transformative journey to fortify its internal security. Today, India is stronger, safer, and more resilient than ever before.

First, we acted decisively against the darkest threats to our unity. Left-Wing Extremism, once a formidable challenge in large swathes of central India, has been steadily dismantled. Through coordinated operations, unwavering political will, and a clear roadmap for development in affected areas, the once-ominous "Red Corridor" is rapidly shrinking. Our brave security forces, armed with updated equipment, modern tactics, and seamless inter-agency cooperation, have reclaimed thousands of villages and restored the rule of law.
In Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast, where separatist violence sought to fracture our nation, peace has taken root. The Government's blend of firm action and genuine dialogue has yielded peace, the rollback of extraordinary laws, and the return of normal life. Where roads, schools, and businesses once lay dormant under the shadow of conflict, vibrant markets buzz with activity, and students walk freely to their classrooms.

Our cities, too, have been made safer. Urban crime and organised gangs no longer operate with impunity, thanks to smart policing, community engagement, and data-driven crime mapping. Night patrols, neighbourhood watch groups, and digital complaint portals have empowered citizens and police alike to prevent wrongdoing before it happens.

Cyber threats, once a hidden danger, have been brought into the spotlight. A coordinated cybersecurity network now protects our financial systems, government servers, and critical infrastructure.

Rapid-response teams and streamlined digital forensics mean that hackers, fraudsters, and ideological propagandists face the full force of the law. Our citizens' data and online freedoms are guarded even as we maintain the ability to act swiftly against genuine threats.

Underpinning all these efforts has been a sweeping overhaul of our justice and policing framework. Colonial-era laws have been replaced with homegrown statutes tailored to the needs of a modern democracy. Real-time networks link our police stations; our courts are empowered to try complex cases with digital evidence; and our prisons now focus on rehabilitation as well as security.

And perhaps most importantly, we have energised our youth to become the first line of defence for our democracy. Programs like national service initiatives and civic-leadership programs have instilled in millions of young Indians a sense of duty, discipline, and pride. They stand ready not only to guard our borders but to reinforce our social fabric, ensuring that every Indian feels invested in our collective safety.

Friends, the Modi government's internal-security record is not built on rhetoric but on results. Every day, millions of Indians go about their lives without fear, sending children to school, opening shops at dawn, travelling to work, and interacting freely across languages, religions, and regions. That reality is our most powerful testament: a United and Secure Bharat than ever before.

As we look forward, let us remain vigilant and never take this security for granted. But let us also celebrate how far we have come thanks to bold leadership, determined governance, and the unwavering spirit of our people. Under Prime Minister Modi, India's internal security has been transformed, and our nation stands unbroken, unbowed, and ready to embrace a future of peace and prosperity.

Vande Mataram!
Tejasvi Surya
MP Lok Sabha,
Bengaluru South

Over the past decade, India has undergone one of the most remarkable overhauls of internal security in its independent history. What was once a patchwork of reactive measures and isolated operations has matured into a comprehensive, integrated framework that spans from the farthest reaches of the Red Corridor to the intricacies of cyber defence.

Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's stewardship, the nation has not only neutralised insurgencies and terrorism but also rewired its institutions, laws, and communities to sustain peace, uphold the rule of law, and bind every citizen into the national fabric.

When the government came to power in 2014, Left-Wing Extremism held sway over large swathes of central and eastern India. Entire districts bore the scars of ambushes, extortion, and fear. Today, those same areas once synonymous with danger see flourishing markets, schools filled with eager children, and roads echoing with the hum of opportunity. A blend of strategic security deployments targeted developmental projects, and concerted community engagement has led to an over 80% decline in extremist violence and shrunk the geographical footprint of active insurgent zones to a fraction of their former size.

In Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast, parallel stories of renewal have taken root. The abrogation of Article 370 cleared the way for uniform governance and reconstruction. At the same time, historic peace pacts with ethnic and separatist groups in the Northeast have replaced conflict with dialogue. Citizens who once lived under the shadow of curfews now freely participate in local elections; cultural festivals that were once cancelled for security reasons now draw enthusiastic crowds, celebrating the Indian identity.

Our cities, too, have grown more secure. Urban crime has been tackled with data-driven policing, intelligence sharing between local forces, swift prosecution of organised gangs, and innovative community-police partnerships. Neighbourhood Watch programs and real-time crime mapping have become indispensable tools. As a result, citizens enjoy safer commutes, thriving nightlife, and the confidence that law and order respond to their needs.

A hidden but equally significant revolution has played out in cyberspace. As India moved toward digital transformation, cybercriminals and ideological extremists saw new avenues to exploit. In response, the government established a federal cyber-coordination centre, mandated robust data-protection standards, and equipped law enforcement with state-of-the-art digital forensics labs. Phishing rings, financial fraud syndicates, and online radicalisation networks now face quicker detection, coordinated takedowns, and secure data-sharing protocols that respect privacy without compromising safety.

Legal and institutional reforms have laid the foundation for these achievements. Colonial-era statutes have been modernised to reflect contemporary challenges, while police stations and courts across the country now run on interconnected digital platforms that expedite investigation, trial, and rehabilitation. Specialised economic offences and anti-terror tribunals ensure that complex financial crimes and terror cases receive focused attention, reducing backlog and delivering justice more swiftly.

Perhaps most transformative has been the government's emphasis on people as partners in security. National youth mobilisation initiatives have instilled discipline, civic awareness, and a shared stake in safeguarding the republic. Cultural-integration campaigns encourage inter-state exchanges that dismantle regional prejudices and celebrate the unity in our diversity. Even at the village level, volunteers stand ready to report suspicious activities, ensuring that every Indian understands: security is not the prerogative of a few but the responsibility of all.

India's journey toward internal harmony is far from over. New threats will emerge, technologies will evolve, and social dynamics will shift. Yet the strategies forged since 2014, rooted in integration, innovation, and inclusion, offer a robust template. By reinforcing governance at every level, modernising our defences, and forging an enduring bond between state and citizen, we are writing a new chapter in India's story: one in which security underpins opportunity, and unity begets strength.

Ashta Lakshmi Rising:
From Insurgency to Integration
in Northeast India

Neeraj Singh
Chairman FICCI YLF (UP chapter) and Chairman
UP Boxing Association

The North-East region of India had always been on the periphery of India's imagination. Despite its rich culture and abundant natural beauty, it was often overlooked in the main development story due to a sheer lack of imagination and ignorance on the part of previous governments.

Geographical isolation and the disregard for local aspirations fostered insurgency and antagonism against the national government. For long, the resilient people of the North-East yearned not for sympathy, but for sincere engagement and opportunity.

A transformative journey with a focused approach was started by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he became the Prime Minister of India. PM Vajpayee was the first Prime Minister who truly understood the North-East as an integral part of India's national heartbeat. His commitment went beyond words. He established a dedicated Ministry for the Development of the Northeastern Region, ensuring focused attention and tailored policies for its unique challenges. His vision was clear: equitable development and national integration rooted in respect for the rich cultural heritage of the North-East.

However, the Northeast was ignored once again after 2004. In 2013, the then President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee had said, "Considering the quality of its human resources and its natural resources, the Northeast of India has tremendous potential to achieve rapid, inclusive and sustainable growth and it must be given the utmost importance and attention by our political leaders, policy makers, administrators and all other stakeholders."

It was Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who infused a new dynamism into the integration and inclusive development of North-East India. For him, the eight Northeastern states are not just another part of India, but "Ashta Lakshmi," that is, the harbinger of happiness, health, and prosperity. He has held that "the diversity of the Northeast is its greatest strength." Over the last 11 years, his emotional connection with the Northeast has translated into unprecedented development, encompassing infrastructure and connectivity, as well as education, health, and entrepreneurship.

The Northeast region's fragile security situation was the biggest challenge that led to violence,

extortion, and diverse demands by various Insurgent Groups. Over the past 11 years, incidents of separatism in the Northeast have decreased significantly, and the security situation has improved substantially. Compared to 2014, there has been a 71% reduction in insurgency incidents in 2023, security forces casualties have come down by 60% and civilian deaths by 82%.

More than 10 peace agreements have been signed, which have been instrumental in reducing violence and civilian deaths in the area, and ten thousand militants have laid down their arms and joined the mainstream. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has been lifted from most parts of the North-East, meeting the long-standing demand of the people of the Northeastern states.

The peace agreements are not mere pious declarations, but they have brought change on the ground. Take, for example, the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) peace agreement, which was signed in 2020. The opposition parties, instead of supporting it, mocked it. However, this agreement has emerged as one of the models, with 82 per cent of the conditions fulfilled. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 100% of this agreement will be implemented, and lasting peace will be established in the Bodoland Territorial Region.

Along with improved security, flagship programs such as PM-DevINE and Special Development Packages have spurred social and economic progress on an extraordinary scale. In just a decade, the budgetary allocation for the region has increased by almost three times. In the last 11 years, significant investments have been made in the Northeast.

From December 6th to 8th, 2024, the inaugural Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav was held to showcase the potential of the eight Northeast states to the nation. In May 2025, the Rising Northeast Investors Summit was held, which hosted delegations from

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Since 2014, PM Modi has acknowledged the strategic significance of India's northeast. He changed the 'Look East' to 'Act East' policy, emphasising its role as a gateway to Southeast Asia.
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over 80 countries and drew an investment of Rs. 4.3 Lakh Crore in investment interest.

The remarkable transformation in connectivity of the North-East region is also helping unlock economic potential. Connectivity is bound to be the most significant factor in realising the potential of the Northeast. For example, the operational airports continue to soar to new heights. In 2014, the area boasted nine airports, a number that has grown impressively to 19 by 2024. Today, the Northeast is witnessing record tourist arrivals. With increased connectivity, the North-East is not only bridging geographical divides but also bridging the emotional gap that existed.

The Northeast is poised to play a pivotal role in the country's edible oil production, while also emerging as a global hub for organic farming. Initiatives like the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana have empowered forest gatherers and Self-Help Groups, fostering sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, the landmark decision to classify bamboo as grass and the National Bamboo Mission have revitalised the production of bamboo-based products, unlocking new economic opportunities and reinforcing the region's significance in India's agricultural and economic landscape.

Since 2014, PM Modi has acknowledged the strategic significance of India's northeast. He

changed the 'Look East' to 'Act East' policy, emphasising its role as a gateway to Southeast Asia. The geographic advantage of the Northeast boosts India's influence in the Indo-Pacific, bolstering its position among global powers.

The Northeast is not only in the mind but also in the heart of PM Modi, who has been working to make the Northeast not only developed but also its biggest brand ambassador. In the last 11 years, Prime Minister Modi has visited the Northeast region more than 50 times, and over 700 visits have been made by the Union Ministers. This is the commitment of the government that speaks volumes regarding the concern for the North-East and its development.

Under the leadership of PM Modi, the government is working towards fulfilling the aspirations of the people of the North-East and alleviating their sense of alienation. Over the last 11 years, the North-East region has undergone a transformation in its development strategy and the government's approach. The True potential of the North-East will lead to "Purvodaya" and, consequently, "Bharat-Uday". The Northeast is no longer waiting on the sidelines — it is stepping boldly into the centre of India's development story.

Democracy Over Darkness: The Fall of Maoist Strongholds

Binay Kumar Singh
Director, Dr. Syama Prasad
Mookerjee Research
Foundation

The elimination of Maoist insurgency in India marks a historic victory for democracy, internal security, and national integration. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, a multi-pronged, determined, and coordinated strategy has dismantled a violent ideology that kept vast regions of the country in fear and underdevelopment for decades. The most recent success, Operation Black Forest, which was a 21-day-long continuous anti-Naxal campaign led jointly by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Chhattisgarh Police, is symbolic of this achievement. But this victory is not the result of one operation alone; it reflects years of resolve, planning, and action that broke the back of the Red Terror.

The Whole-of-Government Approach (WOG)
At the heart of this success is the Whole-of-Government Approach, a 360-degree strategy where all arms of the government work in unison towards a common goal: the complete elimination of Naxalism. Unlike the fragmented, half-hearted efforts of previous governments, particularly under the UPA, this approach shattered administrative silos and created a seamless

network of security, development, and outreach. The contrast is stark. While the UPA era allowed Naxalite sympathisers to find space even in institutions like the National Advisory Council (NAC) and dominate media narratives, the Modi government demonstrated zero tolerance for such subversion.

The CPI (Maoist)'s central leadership recognised this shift early. In its 2015 Eastern Regional Bureau meeting, it passed a resolution expressing alarm at the new government's unrelenting stance, a fear that escalated into a sinister plot to assassinate PM Modi in 2018.

This integrated strategy revolves around the Three D's: Defence, Dialogue, and Development. On the defence front, security forces, equipped with modern weapons and advanced surveillance, have penetrated the dense forests of Chhattisgarh-Telangana, Jharkhand and neutralised Naxal leadership. Dialogue aims at persuading young insurgents to surrender and rebuild their lives. Development ensures justice and governance in the most troubled districts, integrating them into the national growth story. In some instances, unconventional methods were adopted, such as when the CRPF acted as a road contractor to construct vital arteries in Bastar, connecting areas once thought unreachable.

The Ministry of Home Affairs: The Silent Architect
The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been the keystone of this success. Its Left-Wing Extremism Division has driven a holistic counter-insurgency campaign, combining security measures with socio-economic initiatives. The Modernisation of Police Forces scheme, reshaped in 2017, addressed critical gaps in training and infrastructure. The Special Infrastructure Scheme led to the construction of 626 fortified police stations in 10 LWE-affected states. The Civic Action Programme humanised the security forces, building trust with local communities. As a result, violent incidents have fallen dramatically, from over 16,000 cases (2004-2014) to 7,700 in the last 10 years and the security spending has tripled to ₹3,006 crore.

The MHA's coordination with other ministries has been exemplary. Road connectivity projects, implemented with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and the Ministry of Rural Development, have brought economic opportunities to isolated areas. Telecom projects have expanded mobile coverage. Financial inclusion measures have established over 1,200 bank branches, 1,200 ATMs, and 16,800 Banking Correspondents in the 30 worst-affected districts.

Skill development initiatives across 48 districts have created employment-linked training infrastructure, while 254 Eklavya Model Residential Schools now provide quality education in tribal belts, of which 165 were sanctioned after May 2019 alone.

A key area of focus has been combating IED-related casualties. The MHA has promoted counter-IED training, issued SOPs, and supported technology adoption to tackle this deadly threat.

इआरबी विस्तारित बैठक
21-24 दिसम्बर 2015 द्वारा पारित

1. कारपोरेट घरानों के हीत में ब्रह्मणवादी-हिन्दू फासीवादी मोदी सरकार के द्वारा अपनाया गया तमाम जनविरोधी नीतियां व फासीवादी आक्रमण के खिलाफ प्रस्ताव

2014 के लोकसभा चुनाव में यूपीए नीत सोनियां-मनमोहन गुट की हार और आरएसएस प्रभावाली एनडीए की जीत के साथ सरकार बनने के बाद हमारी पार्टी की केन्द्रीय कमेटी ने चिन्हित किया कि ब्रह्मणवादी-हिन्दू फासीवाद का खतरा तमाम जनवादी संगठनों, ताकतों, व्यक्तियों, व्यापक आम जनता और क्रांतिकारी शक्तियों पर बढ़ेगा। अल्पसंख्यक धार्मिक समूहों पर

Comfort with Congress and tension with Modi Govt. into power.

एनडीए की मोदी सरकार के डेढ़ साल से अधिक समय बीत गया है। इन बीते दिनों में मोदी के कार्यकाल को देखते हुए हमारी पार्टी की सीसी की वैज्ञानिक भविष्यवाणी सच साबित हुई है। आज पूरे देश में एक तरफ मोदी समर्थित ब्रह्मणवादी-हिन्दुत्ववादी फासीवादी ताकतें अपने जहरीले फन को फैला रही है, तो दूसरी तरफ सरकार देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में राष्ट्रीय मुक्ति आंदोलनों को कुचलने के लिए और हमारी पार्टी के नेतृत्व में चल रहे क्रांतिकारी

Central Committee members of CPI (Maoist) troubled within the 2nd year of the Modi Govt.

Strengthening Inter-State Coordination

Maoist violence respects no state boundaries. The forests that shelter these groups spread across Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, and beyond. Previous governments failed to ensure coordination across these regions, allowing insurgents to exploit gaps. The Modi government changed that. Under Home Minister Amit Shah, regular meetings with chief ministers, DGPs, and top security officials have strengthened operational and legal coordination. Standard Operating Procedures guide joint actions. Cases with interstate links are handed over to the NIA for efficient prosecution under UAPA.

Recent operations in Jharkhand demonstrate the fruits of this approach. This year, in 2025, security forces neutralised 19 Naxals by June itself, surpassing the figures for 2023 and 2024. A major encounter in Bokaro in April 2025 killed eight Maoists, including a Central Committee member. Subsequent operations in Latehar, Hazaribagh, and West Singhbhum cleared longstanding Naxal bastions, seized arms, and disrupted supply lines. Enhanced intelligence sharing, typified by the Know Your Enemy campaign, has also been critical.

Shattering the Myth of Maoism

For decades, Maoist groups thrived on romanticised notions of revolution, manipulating the genuine socio-economic grievances of tribal and rural communities. They blocked development, brainwashed youth, and glorified violence as a path to justice. But behind this mask lay exploitation: casteism within their ranks, sexual violence, child soldier recruitment, financial corruption and human rights abuses of the worst kind.

The government's communication strategy, combined with visible development, exposed these realities. The aura of the Maoist cause crumbled as villagers saw through the lies and rejected an ideology that offered only death, darkness and underdevelopment.

The Role of NTRO: Technology as a Force Multiplier
The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) has been vital in penetrating Maoist strongholds. High-tech drone surveillance and aerial mapping helped security forces pinpoint enemy locations deep within the forests of Chhattisgarh. This intelligence enabled forward posts in the heart of Abujhmarh's 3,900 sq km wilderness, once impenetrable to state forces. Joint operations by BSF, CRPF, state police, and local tribal SPOs, guided by NTRO's inputs, have decimated Maoist leadership and infrastructure.

Crippling Maoist Finances

One of the most decisive blows came through choking Maoist funding. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2020, tightened scrutiny of foreign-funded NGOs, ending the misuse of such funds for subversive agendas. Simultaneously, the decades-old "levy" racket, which ran through the Maoist extortion of development project funds, was systematically dismantled. This restored fiscal integrity and allowed genuine development to proceed.

A New Era

The elimination project of Maoist insurgency under the Modi government is not just a military victory. It represents the strength of democracy, development, and dignity over decades of violence, fear, and deliberate underdevelopment. From Bastar to Budha Pahad, schools replace bunkers, roads replace blockades, and opportunity replaces oppression.

This success is the outcome of strong political will, seamless coordination across government layers, intelligent use of technology, and a compassionate approach to rehabilitation. It marks the end of one of India's longest internal security challenges and the beginning of a new dawn for regions long left behind.

No longer can Maoist terror masquerade as revolution. The success over Left-Wing Extremism is, in truth, the victory of Bharat's soul, an assertion that in this land, violence has no place in the name of ideology, and that democracy alone shall light the path forward.

From Red Zones to Republic: Integrated Strategy Against Maoist Insurgency

Rudraksh Aneja
Lawyer, Public Policy Analyst and Director of The Geojuristoday

For decades, Left-Wing Extremism cast a shadow over India's heartland, where a silent struggle of ideology and identity unfolded in dense forests and remote tribal areas. Rooted in deep-seated issues like landlessness and poverty, the Naxalite movement emerged as a considerable internal security threat, causing fear in villages and extending the red corridor across state borders.

However, around 2014, a transformative shift took place with the BJP-led government embracing a new strategy that harmonised military action with developmental progress. As security forces ramped up operations, they also built roads, installed mobile towers, and rolled out welfare schemes for isolated communities. This approach didn't just combat insurgency; it aimed to rekindle trust and hope. As a result, violent incidents began to decline, previously unreachable areas opened up, and the Maoists' hold weakened, proving that a commitment to both policing and policymaking can reclaim the red corridor through empowerment and welfare.

I. Decline in Violent Incidents and Affected Districts

One of the most significant achievements in India's counterinsurgency efforts has been the drastic reduction in violence related to Left Wing Extremism (LWE). According to data released by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), incidents of violence attributed to Naxalite groups have decreased by more than 77%, dropping from 2,258 incidents in 2009 to fewer than 500 in 2023. Additionally, the number of deaths resulting from this violence, including those of security personnel and civilians, has fallen by over 85%.

Reduction in Affected Districts

A key metric to consider is the number of districts affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). In 2010, the Government of India identified 90 districts across 10 states as "LWE-affected." By 2023, this number had decreased to just 45 districts, with only 8 to 10 of them experiencing significant Maoist activity. The areas most affected include parts of Chhattisgarh (notably the Bastar division), as well as regions in Jharkhand, Odisha, and limited pockets in Maharashtra and Telangana.

This decline indicates both the territorial retreat of insurgents and the restoration of administrative control by the state. The reduction in LWE-affected districts is also attributed to a "district-focused approach," which priorities the most severely affected districts for targeted interventions related to both security and development.

II. Development-Led Counterinsurgency in Tribal Areas

The BJP-led government has revised its approach to Naxalism by combining security measures with extensive development initiatives, specifically in tribal and underdeveloped areas where the insurgency has historically thrived due to long-standing neglect.

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

Launched in 2018, the Aspirational Districts Programme, coordinated by NITI Aayog, has been one of the key development initiatives in India. Many of the districts most affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), such as Dantewada, Bijapur, and Sukma in Chhattisgarh, Gadchiroli in Maharashtra, and Malkangiri in Odisha, were included in this program. The initiative aims to improve essential indicators in areas such as health, education, infrastructure, financial inclusion, and agriculture. The injection of resources and the establishment of performance-based rankings have fostered healthy competition and enhanced service delivery, even in conflict zones. Roads, electricity, internet connectivity, and banking facilities—long absent in tribal interiors—have begun to reach remote villages.

The journey toward a Naxal-free India is not just a story of counterinsurgency; it is about reclaiming forgotten lands, restoring faith in governance, and rewriting the future for millions who have long lived on the margins of development. Under the BJP-led government, a determined and coordinated strategy has gradually dismantled the core of Left-Wing Extremism, employing force where necessary and focusing on development where it had long been overdue.

Road Connectivity (RCPLWE Scheme)

To undermine the insurgents' capacity to operate in remote jungle areas, the Centre launched the Road Connectivity Project for Left-Wing Extremism (RCPLWEA). Under this initiative, over 12,000 kilometers of roads have been approved in areas affected by left-wing extremism, with more than 80% completed by 2023. Enhanced road access not only enables the movement of security forces but also promotes economic activities, strengthens market connections, and fosters civic integration.

Mobile Connectivity and Digital Infrastructure

In the past, Maoist groups took advantage of the lack of communication infrastructure in forested areas. The Modi government responded by prioritising the installation of mobile towers in districts affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) through the Mobile Connectivity Project for LWE Areas. Under Phase I of the project, over 2,300

towers were installed, with plans for thousands more in Phase II. This initiative has not only improved communication but also facilitated the implementation of e-governance schemes and digital payment systems.

Skill Development and Welfare Schemes

The central government has intensified initiatives such as Skill India, Start-Up India, and Jan Dhan Yojana in districts prone to Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). Vocational training centres have been established, and self-help groups (SHGs) have received support. Additionally, tribal youth have been recruited into paramilitary forces and civil services. The Van Dhan Yojana, in particular, has enabled tribal communities to earn income from forest products through organised and profitable marketing support.

By promoting economic opportunities and empowering local governance, the government has effectively countered the recruitment narrative of insurgents.

III. Role of Security Forces and Policy Coordination

Security forces are central to India's counter-Naxal strategy. The BJP-led central government has restructured and modernised the operational framework, enhancing cooperation between the Centre and affected states.

Unified Command Structure

One of the most significant reforms has been the establishment of a Unified Command Structure in key states. This initiative brings together state police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and intelligence agencies under a collaborative operational framework. The coordination among agencies such as the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, and local police ensures quicker and more informed responses, providing greater operational flexibility.

CRPF and CoBRA Units

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which leads operations against Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), has intensified the deployment of its CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) units. These specialised commandos are trained in jungle warfare and guerrilla tactics. They have successfully conducted numerous ambushes and long-range patrols deep into Maoist territory, effectively disrupting their command structures.

Intelligence and Technology-Driven Policing

The Modi government has increased investment in drone surveillance, satellite mapping, and geo-fencing, which enable real-time monitoring of Maoist hideouts. The establishment of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) and the use of central databases have significantly improved intelligence sharing. Additionally, tools such as GPS tracking, CCTVs along forest borders, and mobile tracking intercepts have enhanced tactical precision.

A central coordination body called the National Policy and Action Plan to Address Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), launched in 2015, has played a crucial role in implementing sustained and multifaceted interventions. The plan emphasises

Parameter	Congress-led Government (UPA: 2004–2014)	BJP-led Government (NDA: 2014–Present)
Overall Approach	Primarily focused on a **two-pronged strategy**: security operations and tribal welfare through rights-based laws.	Adopted a **multi-pronged, aggressive doctrine**: enhanced security, infrastructure, tech, and governance.
Violent Incidents and Territorial Control	Violence peaked between 2008–2010 (e.g., 2009 had over 2,200 incidents). Naxals controlled vast areas.	Steady decline in incidents by 2023, less than 500 incidents and reduced affected districts (90 to ~45).
Legislation and Rights-Based Governance	Enacted **Forest Rights Act (2006)**, **PESA**, **MNREGA**, **Right to Education**, **Food Security Act** — aimed at addressing root grievances.	Continued implementation but shifted focus to **direct-benefit transfers (DBT)** and **digital governance** for delivery.
Development Strategy	Focused on **social justice laws** and large-scale entitlement schemes.	Shifted to **targeted development** (e.g., **Aspirational Districts Programme**, RCPLWE), **infrastructure-first**.
Security Operations	Launched **Operation Green Hunt** (2009–2010). Deployed paramilitary forces but often lacked inter-state coordination.	Expanded and modernised CRPF, CoBRA units. Increased **inter-state coordination**, use of **drone tech**, and real-time intel.
Policy Framework	Introduced the first structured national response post-2006. Coordination was often weak due to Centre–State friction.	Implemented **National Policy & Action Plan (2015)** with better Centre-State synergy and **"Unified Command"** model.
State Coordination	Coordination with states often hindered by **political differences** and a lack of central authority in the LWE strategy.	Emphasised **non-partisan cooperation**, periodic reviews by the PM/Union Home Minister with states.
Infrastructure Push	Basic focus on roads and schools; progress was slow due to poor execution.	Massive expansion of **roads, telecom, and digital connectivity**, especially under RCPLWE and the Mobile Connectivity Project.
Use of Technology	Limited use; mostly traditional intelligence gathering.	**High use of technology**: drones, GPS tracking, mobile intercepts, centralised data systems.
Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy	Had surrender policies, but implementation was patchy and lacked follow-up integration.	Improved packages, skill-building, and monitoring of surrendered cadres; more effective de-radicalisation.
Public Perception	Seen as **reactive** and **slow**, especially post major attacks (e.g., Dantewada massacre in 2010).	Seen as **proactive**, aggressive, and more successful in asserting state authority in red zones.
Electoral Impact in LWE Areas	Congress lost ground in tribal and Maoist-affected regions post-2014 due to a weak presence and delivery.	BJP has **gained an electoral foothold** in previously hostile LWE regions (e.g., Bastar, parts of Odisha, Jharkhand).
Funding and Capacity Building	Schemes existed, but **delayed fund disbursals** and bureaucratic inefficiencies hampered impact.	**Better funding**, **faster execution**, and **digitally monitored schemes** enhanced delivery.

All major anti-Naxal operations under the BJP-led government are in pursuit of a Naxal-free India by 2026

clear objectives: a zero-tolerance policy towards violence, rights-based development, and the legitimacy of the state.

Surrender and Rehabilitation Policies

The Centre has implemented a generous surrender policy that includes monetary compensation, vocational training, and amnesty for lower-level Maoist cadres who choose to lay down their arms. As a result, thousands of former insurgents have reintegrated into mainstream society through these initiatives. Additionally, the movement has been weakened from within due to a diminished ideological appeal and growing disillusionment with Maoist leadership.

IV. Comparative Gains During BJP Rule

While the issue of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) was first taken seriously in the 2000s under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime, the BJP-led government (2014–present) has institutionalised and accelerated efforts to roll back extremism.

1. Budget Allocation: The Modi government has consistently increased funding for modernising police forces in LWE-affected districts through initiatives such as the Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) and Security Related Expenditure (SRE).
2. Political Priority: Unlike previous administrations, which viewed LWE as primarily a "state issue," the BJP government has framed it as a national threat. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, and Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh have visited affected areas, conducted reviews, and encouraged cross-party cooperation among states.
3. Electoral Penetration: The BJP's successes in elections in former Maoist strongholds, such as Bastar in Chhattisgarh and tribal regions in Jharkhand, indicate a strengthening of state legitimacy and a weakening of insurgent influence.

All major anti-Naxal operations under the BJP-led government are in pursuit of a Naxal-free India by 2026:
Since 2014, the BJP-led central government has

implemented a series of coordinated counterinsurgency operations aimed at achieving a Naxal-free India by 2026. Central to this effort is Operation Prahar, launched in 2017, which targets Maoist strongholds in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha. This operation deploys elite CoBRA units and CRPF battalions to eliminate top leadership and dismantle crucial infrastructure.

Complementing this is Operation Monsoon, which takes advantage of the rainy season to conduct surprise raids and maintain pressure on Maoists throughout the year. Specific regional initiatives, like Operation Octopus in Bijapur (2022) and Operation Double Bull in Kanker (2023), have successfully disrupted insurgent operations and recovered arms.

Operation Bastariya, initiated in 2018, focuses on strengthening local intelligence by recruiting from tribal populations in the Bastar region, helping to diminish the Maoists' ideological influence. Additionally, smaller campaigns like Operation Thunderstorm target Maoist camps and logistical routes in border areas.

Supported by the National Policy and Action Plan to Combat LWE (2015) and modern surveillance tools, these operations have led to a 70% drop in violent incidents and a halving of affected districts, with thousands of Maoist cadres surrendering. With increasing momentum and returning administrative control to conflict zones, the goal of a Naxal-free India by 2026 is within reach.

Recent Developments & Latest Data (2024–2025)

1. Major Encounters & Leadership Decapitations
- In October 2024, a massive operation in the Abujhmarh forest (Narayanpur district, Chhattisgarh) killed 31 to 38 Maoists, including senior leader Niti alias Urmila with a ₹25 lakh bounty.
- In April 2024, the Kanker clash saw 29 Maoists killed in a joint operation in Bastar—one of the deadliest engagements in recent years.
- On 9 February 2025, at Indravati National Park, Bijapur, security forces neutralised over 31 Maoist cadres from a group of 50+, comprising a combined force of 650 personnel. Two officers

- were killed; many weapons recovered.
- The Abujhmarh clash of May 21, 2025, marked a turning point: Nambala Keshava Rao (Basavaraju), CPI(Maoist) General-Secretary and prime conspirator in the 2010 Dantewada massacre, was killed along with 27 others. This was the highest-ranking Maoist eliminated in three decades.
- Operation Black Forest (April–May 2025) along the Chhattisgarh–Telangana border saw coordinated forces eliminate 31 Maoists, arrest 22, and seize two tones of explosives; security personnel suffered no fatalities, though 18 injuries were later confirmed.

2. Scale of Counter-Insurgency Operations
- According to India Today, 2024–2025 has been the deadliest year for Maoist cadres in over a decade, with 344 Maoist casualties reported in 2024 alone, and an additional 48 in early 2025. Most operations were concentrated in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, and Maharashtra.
- Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai reports 425 Maoists neutralised, 1,388 surrendered, and 1,443 arrested in the past 18 months, crediting central leadership and strategic planning.
- In Bijapur (Chhattisgarh), at least 25 hardcore cadres, including a State Zonal Committee Member with a ₹25 lakh bounty, surrendered recently under the revised rehabilitation policy. 242 surrenders, 300 arrests, and 127 killed in 2025 alone.
- In Munger, Bihar, a Maoist with a ₹2 lakh bounty surrendered on July 27, 2025, following STF-led pressure—reflecting intensified crackdown across eastern regions.
- In Sukma (May 2025), one Maoist was killed while three DRG jawans were injured during an ongoing operation; so far in 2025, 225 Naxals have been killed in Chhattisgarh, 208 in Bastar alone.

3. District-Wise Rollback of Naxal Influence
- As of April 2024, Naxal-affected districts have dropped from 126 in 2014 to 38, with only 6 districts worst hit: four in Chhattisgarh (Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur, Sukma), one in Jharkhand (West Singhbhum), and one in Maharashtra (Gadchiroli).
- Amit Shah, addressing the Eastern Zonal Council in mid 2025, confirmed states like Jharkhand, Bihar, and Odisha are "largely free" of Naxalism, reiterating eradication by March 31, 2026.

4. Infra-Expansion & Civic Inclusion
- Under the Road Connectivity Project for LWE Areas (RCPLWEA), the central share for 2024–25 was increased to ₹1,000 crore—double the previous allocation, covering the 44 worst-affected districts with all weather roads.
- BSNL is set to install 4,000 new mobile towers in remote Naxal areas of Chhattisgarh to boost digital access and e-governance integration.
- Ongoing development via skill training, Eklavya schools, bank outreach, and police infrastructure (helipads, camps) continues with sustained impetus.

Conclusion
The journey toward a Naxal-free India is not just a story of counterinsurgency; it is about reclaiming forgotten lands, restoring faith in governance, and rewriting the future for millions who have long lived on the margins of development. Under the BJP-led government, a determined and coordinated strategy has gradually dismantled the core of Left-Wing Extremism, employing force where necessary and focusing on development where it had long been overdue. Roads now traverse forests that were once ruled by fear, mobile towers rise in areas that had been silent, and today, tribal youth proudly wear the uniform of the state they once distrusted. However, the mission does not conclude with the silencing of guns. True success will be achieved when every village, every family, and every child in these regions feels connected, protected, and empowered. A Naxal-free India is not merely the absence of violence; it signifies the presence of justice, opportunity, and inclusion. As we approach 2026, this vision is increasingly within reach, marking not only the defeat of an insurgency but also the triumph of democracy and development over decades of division.

From Urban Naxalism to Intellectual Swaraj: Dismantling the Urban Naxal Ecosystem

Shivesh Pratap
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Over the past decade, India has witnessed a profound shift in the ideological battles being waged across campuses, media houses, civil society, and even the courts. At the heart of this silent but dangerous conflict lies what is often termed "Urban Naxalism", an intellectual, ideological, and activist front that operates not with guns in jungles, but with tweets, petitions, films, street protests, and global award circuits. This homegrown in appearance front is deeply enmeshed with a global ecosystem of anti-India forces that weaponise ideas in the name of freedom of expression, human rights, and academic freedom to target the Indian states, delegitimise democratic institutions, and weaken national unity.

While the Modi government's tangible infrastructural revolution in roads, railways, housing, digital connectivity, and national security is visibly transforming the landscape of Bharat, there is a parallel transformation that remains less visible but equally vital, the intangible infrastructure building of intellectual swaraj. Reclaiming this space of ideas, narratives, and academic sovereignty is essential if India is to truly secure its cultural, civilizational, and democratic foundations against coordinated ideological subversion.

The term Urban Naxals describes a category of ideologically indoctrinated individuals, academics, journalists, activists, lawyers, and students who operate in urban centres but maintain deep ideological and operational links with Maoist insurgents. According to multiple investigations and charge sheets by NIA and state police agencies, these individuals act as intellectual sympathisers, urban facilitators, and even financial conduits for the banned CPI (Maoist) outfit.

Urban Naxals are not isolated actors; they are part of a well-coordinated transnational ideological-industrial complex comprising global NGOs, international award circuits, Western media, and academic platforms. This ecosystem grants legitimacy to individuals facing legal scrutiny in India by weaponising terms like "activism," "human rights," and "freedom of expression" to shield anti-national activities. A striking example of this mechanism was the 2018 Ramon Magsaysay Award conferred upon an activist later found allegedly linked with Maoist networks, mobilising tribal populations under the pretext of development. This is not an isolated case. The award circuit, along with Ivy League invitations, international fellowships, and global media recognitions, is often deployed precisely when individuals are under scrutiny in India, creating a smokescreen of moral superiority while delegitimising Indian institutions.

The case of Medha Patkar, who led the Narmada Bachao Andolan and received the Ramon Magsaysay Prize in 1992, is a textbook case. Patkar's prolonged agitation blocked critical development work in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, including dam projects central to providing water to drought-hit areas. Her activism, while globally lauded, delayed infrastructure projects, stoked tribal unrest, and actively opposed then CM Modi's development model. Today, her name frequently surfaces in legal proceedings tied to NGOs with suspect funding and links to anti-development lobbies.

In this war of narratives, vocabulary itself has become an instrument of ideological subversion. Terms like "resistance literature," "climate justice," "anti-fascism," and "academic freedom" serve as rhetorical camouflage for radical left agendas. In academia, "radical pedagogy" often glorifies Maoist violence as legitimate dissent. At the same time, "climate justice" in tribal regions like Jharkhand or Chhattisgarh becomes a pretext to mobilise protests that derail mining and infrastructure projects, many of which are critical to India's

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The strengthening of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) under Modi's tenure empowered agencies to label individuals, not just organisations, as terrorists, streamlining the process to bring ideological and financial enablers of terror under the ambit of law.

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economic growth. These mobilisations, as shown by investigations, often involve activists with ideological or operational Maoist links. Meanwhile, any affirmation of Indian civilizational identity, such as the Ram Mandir, Vedic knowledge systems, or the revival of ancient sciences, is quickly branded as "fascist" or "saffronization." Ironically, extremist rhetoric and separatist ideologies are shielded as "academic freedom." This distortion is amplified globally by Western-funded outlets like BBC, The New York Times, and Al Jazeera, all of which rely heavily on reports and commentary from ideologically aligned Indian voices to frame the country as a democracy in decline.

This institutional capture extends beyond classrooms to courtrooms and newsrooms. Legal activism, often backed by foreign-funded NGOs, shields individuals accused of sedition or terror links. The Bhima Koregaon case revealed alleged plans to assassinate PM Modi and instigate armed rebellion, yet sympathetic legal and media lobbies projected the accused as "harmless intellectuals." Petitions and international campaigns are frequently coordinated to stall investigations, generate public sympathy, and create media spectacles that feed into foreign parliamentary debates and global human rights reports. Simultaneously, digital portals like The Wire, AltNews, and Scroll act as narrative amplifiers, reframing crackdowns on extremists as "attacks on democracy." From Kashmir and CAA to FCRA and farmers' protests, this media-legal-academic triad works in synchrony to erode trust in Indian democracy, challenge national unity, and demoralise public faith in the state's legitimacy.

At the heart of this machinery lies a robust international funding and pressure network, involving entities like the Open Society Foundations (OSF), the Ford Foundation, Amnesty International, and foreign government-funded think tanks. George

Soros, founder of OSF, has openly declared his opposition to nationalist governments and has targeted India and PM Modi in his speeches. Ford Foundation has faced FCRA scrutiny for funding groups that lobbied against India's security laws. Amnesty International India, found to have illegally received foreign funds, orchestrated campaigns on Kashmir and CAA, then exited India, portraying itself as a victim of state repression. These organisations are part of a coordinated loop where NGOs in India manufacture dissent, Western think tanks validate it, global media amplifies it, and Urban Naxal voices reintroduce it domestically. As Bharat rises with an independent foreign policy, civilizational confidence, and developmental ambition, it must remain vigilant against foreign-funded Trojan Horses that exploit the language of rights to target India's sovereignty from within.

Modi Government's 5-Front Response to Breaking the Ecosystem

Confronted with the deep-rooted ideological insurgency posed by the Urban Naxal network, the Narendra Modi-led government has undertaken a comprehensive and calibrated five-front strategy to dismantle this multi-headed threat. Recognising that the danger is not limited to physical violence but extends into intellectual, legal, financial, digital, and cultural domains, the response has evolved from reactive policing to proactive ecosystem-level correction. This strategic pivot has redefined how the Indian state deals with internal subversion masked as civil society activism.

The first front has been a legal crackdown. The strengthening of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) under Modi's tenure empowered agencies to label individuals, not just organisations, as terrorists, streamlining the process to bring ideological and financial enablers of terror under the ambit of law. The Bhima Koregaon case became a watershed moment, exposing a web of Maoist sympathisers, activist intellectuals, and urban operatives. Digital forensic evidence, including encrypted documents and communications, revealed disturbing plots, including discussions about the procurement of weapons, recruitment, and even assassination

attempts on Prime Minister Modi. The investigative revelations were elaborated in the landmark book The Four Attempts on Narendra Modi's Life by Binay Kumar Singh and Prashant Pandey, highlighting the extent of ideological penetration. Despite judicial backing and concrete evidence, the global outcry from human rights groups and foreign-funded media only underscored the existence of a protective ideological-industrial complex shielding such elements.

The second front was financial regulation, particularly through the vigorous enforcement of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). Realising the disproportionate influence of foreign-funded NGOs on Indian activism, especially in conflict-prone and tribal regions, the Modi government undertook a large-scale review of these entities. In 2020 alone, NGOs managing over ₹16,456 crore came under scrutiny. Thousands of licenses were cancelled due to opaque funding trails, misappropriation, and politically subversive activities masquerading as social work. Organisations like Amnesty International India and Greenpeace faced operational hurdles due to non-compliance and were exposed for running coordinated anti-India campaigns on Kashmir, CAA, and human rights. This financial sterilisation of foreign influence cut off the lifelines of many groups that operated as ideological mercenaries rather than development agents.

The third and fourth fronts are ideological assertion and technological surveillance. The government's conscious revival of Indic knowledge systems and the New Education Policy (NEP 2020) reflects a deep effort to reclaim intellectual swaraj. By mainstreaming decolonial thought, Indian philosophy, ancient science, and civilizational studies, a new intellectual ecosystem is being nurtured to challenge the hegemonic left-liberal discourse that has dominated academia since independence. Simultaneously, India's security apparatus has adopted cyber intelligence and digital forensics to crack encrypted communication, propaganda cells, and global coordination networks. Investigations in the Elgar Parishad case recovered pen drives and laptops mapping Maoist blueprints

for campus recruitment, protest orchestration, and armed rebellion. This shift from jungle warfare to digital terrain has modernised India's counter-insurgency doctrine, where data is the new battlefield and surveillance is the new sentry.

The fifth and lesser-acknowledged front has been the government's effort to build an indigenous ecosystem of recognition and honour, aimed at empowering unsung heroes and discrediting the narrative monopoly held by Western award circuits. Initiatives like Padma Awards democratisation, where ordinary citizens, teachers, tribal reformers, sanitation workers, forest protectors, and grassroots innovators are recognised for their silent nation-building contributions, have shifted public perception. These awards are no longer limited to elite circles but reflect Bharat's real achievers. This contrasts sharply with global awards like the Magsaysay, which have often honoured individuals with questionable roles in anti-Bharat activities. One telling example is Medha Patkar, who was awarded globally for her activism in the Narmada Bachao Andolan. This movement repeatedly blocked development projects during Narendra Modi's tenure as Gujarat CM, projects that were later proven vital for millions in terms of water, irrigation, and power. By building an authentic, homegrown recognition culture, the Modi government has effectively challenged the credibility of foreign awards weaponised to delegitimise Indian policies.

The Modi government's layered, strategic response marks the first serious attempt by the Indian state to defend itself from books, blogs, and broadcasts. This is the essence of protecting Bharat, not just as a nation but as a civilisation under siege.

The War Is Not Over on the Cultural Front
While the Modi government has made significant strides in dismantling the operational and financial arms of Urban Naxalism through legal, economic, and intelligence-led actions, the most insidious front of this war remains the cultural battlefield. Their goal is to delegitimise India's resurgence by embedding shame, self-doubt, and division into its national discourse.
This cultural war is waged through deliberate moral

selectivity and intellectual dishonesty. The same activist-intellectual class that demonises the Ram Mandir movement as "majoritarianism" turns a blind eye, or even lends tacit support, to foreign-funded missionary organisations operating in tribal areas under the guise of "service," while carrying out mass religious conversions. They invoke "religious freedom" only when it suits their ideological lens, while ignoring the centuries of colonisation, iconoclasm, and forced conversions that the Ram Janmabhoomi movement seeks to symbolically correct. Even though their human rights concerns are opportunistic, they raise alarms over dissent in India, yet remain silent on the Uyghur genocide in China, the Yazidi massacre in Iraq, or the ethnic cleansing of Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh. This selective outrage is not accidental; it is strategic. It reveals that their fundamental objective is not justice, but the fragmentation of India's unity and disruption of its cultural confidence.

This battle extends deeply into India's cinema, literature, academia, and digital media, where the dominant discourse routinely paints India as a land of caste tyranny, religious violence, and cultural backwardness. Glorified as resistance, such portrayals often erase India's rich spiritual traditions, its pluralism, and its dharmic worldview. The attack is not just on a government or policy; it is on the idea of Bharat itself.

What India needs now is a renewed call for Intellectual Swaraj to youth, a decolonised, rooted, and courageous reclamation of its ideological self. This is a call to draw a clear line between dissent and disruption, between critique and sabotage. The Modi government's firm pushback has exposed the Urban Naxalism ecosystem, but victory in this battle demands more than governance; it demands eternal vigilance, narrative building, and the rise of a new generation of civilizational thinkers. Only by investing in cultural literacy, educational reform, dharmic resurgence, and narrative sovereignty can Bharat ensure that its next hundred years are not just of survival, but of civilizational leadership. Let this be the century where Bharat rediscovers its soul and speaks in its voice to the world.

Reviving Bharat, Securing India: Cultural Renaissance and Internal Stability

Adarsh Kuniyillam
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Columnist

Swami Vivekananda once said, "Culture is the ornament of a nation, and its highest expression is in the spiritual consciousness of its people".

Bharat is a land of great blessings, both in terms of geography and culture. While the native cultures of many other nations were eradicated through invasions, fierce succession wars, and forced religious conversions, Bharat remained resilient in spirit. Our civilisation emerged as a beacon of light for the world. Not only is our nation the origin of four major religions, but we also uniquely offered refuge to the Jewish people fleeing persecution, forgave the invaders who attacked us, and transformed the perspectives of those who sought to convert us. Over the years, our Bharatiya scriptures have culturally unified us into the vast land beyond the Indus, a concept referred to as 'Akhand Bharat'. Today, alongside a geographically unified 'Akhand Bharat', a culturally unified 'Brihad Bharat' is unfolding before us, as 'Greater India' is being realised through cultural integration both within and beyond our borders.

Roots of Hindu cultural renaissance

Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi advocated for Akhand Hindustan, a proposition that Mahatma Gandhi agreed with. According to the freedom fighters, Britain wanted to retain its empire by pursuing a policy of divide and rule, and Hindu–Muslim unity could not be achieved as long as the British were there. Munshi was also dedicated to the promotion of the cultural causes of the Hindus. Be it his establishment of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, or his association with the reconstruction of the Somanatha temple, or the promotion of Sanskrit and Hindi, he always advocated the cultural concerns of the Hindus. Munshi also established the Bharatiya Itihasa Samiti, the Academy of Indian history, for writing an elaborate history of India, which was titled The History and Culture of the Indian People. It can be said that K M Munshi laid the foundation of Hindu revivalism. The idea of Akhand Hindusthan as proposed by Munshi was taken forward by the icon of Hindutva, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, who proposed Akhand Bharat. At the Hindu Mahasabha's 19th Annual Session in Ahmedabad in 1937, Savarkar propounded the

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Our country is now so culturally united, which is leading to an era of peace and stability, and the government of India under Prime Minister Modi is the reason for this change.

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notion of an Akhand Bharat that must remain one and indivisible 'from Kashmir to Rameswaram, from Sindh to Assam.'

Building New Bharat, Bridging gaps.

Prime Minister Modi is a leader who recognised that cultural integration could only be achieved through the active involvement of the youth. Such youth participation will not only establish the groundwork for a Viksit Bharat. Still, it will also help to close the gap that has existed in people's minds due to socio-economic factors. The National Youth Festival 2025 witnessed 3,000 young leaders engaging in a Viksit Bharat dialogue with the Prime Minister, with over 30 lakh youth taking part in the event.

The redevelopment of temple corridors and pilgrimage sites, including the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, has enhanced pilgrimage connectivity, modern amenities, and revived India's soft power. The inclusive heritage development through the PRASHAD scheme has rejuvenated places of worship across various religions. The Swadesh Darshan and HRIDAY schemes have developed travel and heritage infrastructure with significant investments. In 2024, 9.66 million foreign tourists generated ₹2,77,842 crore in foreign exchange earnings. The majority of these foreign tourist arrivals were for visiting religious sites of interest and experiencing Bharat's culture. Throughout this cultural revival, the Modi government ensured that the youth were the torchbearers of this transformation.

Cultural Interactions: Strengthening Peace

According to research, cultural exchanges can cultivate a cooperative environment that further aids in the reduction of conflicts. The Modi administration is realising the vision of sustainable development through the consistent mobilisation of youth. Today, young individuals are assured of good health and well-being (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), and an atmosphere of Gender Equality (SDG 5), while channelising for Climate

action (SDG 13). This fosters an environment where today's youths are able to integrate into society more easily. Consequently, this societal approach eventually leads to a significant decrease in violent extremism and conflict. By collectively promote our rich cuisine, culture, and languages we can lead the way today.

For instance, there are numerous indigenous games that we can leverage to advance Bharatiya culture. Mallakambh, Kerala's Kalarippayattu, Manipur's Thang-Ta, and Tamil Nadu's Silambam are all games that we can advocate for among ourselves to encourage a substantial spiritual revival. Unlike in the West, where games are merely a form of physical activity, Bharatiya games incorporate a unique element of spirituality. It is this spirituality that has drawn the world to our nation. Similarly, music can serve as a platform for this cultural connection.

The noticeable changes in the youth of Kashmir over the past decade clearly illustrate how affirmative government policies and ongoing investment in cultural integration can yield significant dividends. The fields of violence in Bastar are now being replaced by happiness and love. A similar transformation is evident in India's Ashtalakshmi, which was once fragmented by violence, totally neglected by the government. The sounds of the Hornbill festival in Nagaland can even be heard in Leh today. Our country is now so culturally united, which is leading to an era of peace and stability, and the government of India under Prime Minister Modi is the reason for this change.

This cultural resurgence is not merely symbolic; it serves as a strategic asset for internal security. By fostering a shared sense of belonging rooted in civilisational pride, the government is addressing the alienation and fragmentation that often fuel extremism. When youth find identity and purpose in their own traditions, they become stakeholders in national unity rather than recruits for separatist or radical agendas. The revival of indigenous games, festivals, and spiritual practices builds not just cultural cohesion but also psychological resilience against divisive ideologies.

The transformation in Jammu & Kashmir, Bastar, and the Northeast is a testament to this shift. These regions, once synonymous with insurgency and unrest, are now witnessing a cultural and emotional reintegration with the rest of the nation. As temples are rebuilt, festivals celebrated, and youth empowered, the emotional distances shrink—strengthening India's internal security not through force alone, but through dignity, identity, and development. Culture, when combined with governance, becomes a force multiplier for peace. This is the quiet revolution of Brihad Bharat—one that secures the soul of the nation.

Civic Preparedness as Security: Youth Power in the Service of National Unity

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India's trajectory in the 21st century is intrinsically linked to its most dynamic asset: its youth. Boasting the world's largest youth population, the nation stands at a pivotal moment where harnessing this immense potential is not merely advantageous but fundamental to its progress and resilience. The true power of this demographic dividend, however, can only be fully realised when directed towards a unifying national purpose. The fusion of youth power and national unity forms the bedrock upon which a strong, cohesive, and prosperous India must be built. This vital synergy is actively cultivated through strategic initiatives that encompass disciplined national youth mobilisation, robust civic preparedness programs such as the NCC and NYKS, and the powerful unifying force of national festivals and cultural integration campaigns.

The Agnipath scheme represents a significant and deliberate step towards disciplined national youth mobilisation with profound implications for fostering unity. While generating considerable debate, its core objective extends beyond immediate military recruitment. By inducting young men and women (Agniveers) for a focused, four-year tenure, the scheme aims to instil values crucial for national cohesion. Paramount among these is rigorous discipline, physical fitness, and unwavering integrity. Military training provides an unparalleled environment for cultivating these traits, transforming individuals into responsible, law-abiding citizens who prioritise the collective good.

Furthermore, immersion in the armed forces exposes Agniveers to the core national ethos of duty, honour, and sacrifice. Living, training, and operating alongside peers from every corner of India – diverse in language, religion, and region – within a structured, meritocratic environment inherently breaks down parochial barriers. Agniveers learn to identify themselves, fundamentally, as Indians first, united by a common commitment to the nation's security and integrity. This shared, intense experience fosters a deep-seated patriotism rooted in tangible service rather than abstract sentiment. Beyond military skills, Agnipath is an investment in human capital.

Agniveers receive advanced training in both technical and soft skills. Upon completing their tenure, they re-enter civilian life equipped not only with marketable skills but also with leadership qualities, discipline, and a profound sense of national responsibility. This demobilised cohort becomes a potent resource for national development – potential entrepreneurs, skilled technicians, community leaders, and exemplary citizens who carry the unifying spirit of service into diverse sectors, acting as living embodiments of shared national identity across the country. Addressing concerns about long-term career paths

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The grandeur of the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, echoed in spirit across state capitals, is a potent symbol, showcasing military strength, cultural richness, and technological progress in a unified spectacle.

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remains crucial; yet, Agnipath's potential to create a large, disciplined, nationally conscious youth force, imbued with unity and service, is a powerful experiment in mass mobilisation for national character building.

Complementing targeted schemes like Agnipath are longstanding institutional frameworks dedicated to nurturing civic responsibility and grassroots unity: the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). These organisations provide structured pathways for millions of young Indians to develop leadership, engage in community service, and experience national unity firsthand. The NCC, one of the largest uniformed youth organisations globally, lives by its motto "Unity and Discipline." It offers invaluable pre-military training to school and college students, focusing intensely on character building and comradeship. Through challenging activities, camps, and exercises, cadets from vastly different backgrounds learn teamwork, self-reliance, and mutual respect. Crucially, NCC camps are deliberately designed to mix cadets from different states and regions, fostering pan-Indian friendships and dismantling regional stereotypes. This experiential learning is reinforced through extensive social service initiatives.

NCC cadets actively participate in disaster relief efforts, blood donation drives, literacy campaigns, environmental projects, and sanitation initiatives. This hands-on engagement instils a profound sense of civic duty and demonstrates the tangible impact youth can have in improving society, transcending narrow identities. The NCC serves as a vibrant laboratory of national integration, visually and experientially demonstrating India's "unity in diversity" as cadets from Kashmir to Kanyakumari wear the same uniform and salute the same flag.

Operating primarily at the grassroots level, NYKS focuses on channelling the energy of rural and semi-urban youth towards nation-building through

voluntary action. Its network of village-level Youth Clubs becomes a hub for local activity and discussion, empowering youth to identify community issues and actively participate in development programs. NYKS plays a vital role in promoting social harmony and development by organising campaigns on national integration, communal harmony, health awareness, environmental protection, and skill development. Its strength lies in mobilising youth for positive social change within their immediate communities, fostering a sense of shared destiny and collective action that directly counters divisive forces.

Furthermore, NYKS facilitates crucial cultural exchange and understanding at the most fundamental societal layer. By enabling interactions and collaborative projects between youth from different communities and regions within villages

and blocks, NYKS builds bridges of empathy and cooperation, strengthening the fabric of national unity from the ground up. Together, the NCC and NYKS create a vast ecosystem of "civic preparedness," cultivating a youth population equipped with the consciousness, skills, and lived experience necessary to contribute positively and cohesively to the nation's future.

While discipline and civic structures provide essential frameworks, the emotional and cultural bonds of nationhood are nurtured through shared experiences and celebrations. National festivals and cultural integration campaigns play an irreplaceable role in weaving the tapestry of a shared Indian identity. Republic Day and Independence Day transcend mere holidays; they are powerful national rituals. The grandeur of the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, echoed in spirit

across state capitals, is a potent symbol, showcasing military strength, cultural richness, and technological progress in a unified spectacle. The collective act of hoisting the national flag in countless locations creates a shared moment of pride and reflection, reminding every citizen of the collective struggle for freedom and the shared responsibility of safeguarding the Republic. These celebrations temporarily dissolve individual identities, reinforcing a shared national consciousness.

Recognising that unity requires active, ongoing cultivation, cultural integration campaigns are essential. Initiatives like Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat explicitly foster deeper connections by pairing states and Union Territories for sustained cultural exchange. Youth exchanges, language learning initiatives, sharing culinary traditions, performing arts collaborations, and celebrating each other's festivals foster genuine mutual appreciation and dismantle deeply ingrained prejudices. When a student from Punjab learns Kathakali in Kerala, or a youth from Manipur experiences Pongal in Tamil Nadu, the abstract ideal of "unity in diversity" becomes a tangible, cherished reality. Campaigns that highlight India's syncretic heritage – the shared traditions of Bhakti and Sufi saints, as well as the composite nature of historical monuments and art forms – reinforce the historical interconnectedness of diverse communities. Emphasising national heroes from varied backgrounds and regions showcases contributions to the nation's story that belong to every Indian.
Furthermore, leveraging media and the arts – films, music, literature, and digital platforms that celebrate India's pluralism and tell stories of shared humanity and collaborative triumph – are powerful tools for shaping young minds towards unity. Encouraging youth participation in both creating and consuming such content amplifies its impact. These festivals and campaigns cultivate a shared emotional vocabulary of nationhood, moving beyond passive tolerance to active celebration of diversity, fostering a profound sense of belonging to a larger, vibrant Indian family.

The convergence of India's formidable youth power and the imperative of national unity is not serendipitous; it demands deliberate, synergistic effort. Disciplined mobilisation through initiatives like Agnipath creates a core of youth imbued with integrity, service, and a pan-Indian identity forged in shared purpose. The extensive networks of the NCC and NYKS provide structured platforms for millions more to develop civic responsibility, leadership, and a lived experience of unity through collective action at both institutional and grassroots levels. Simultaneously, national festivals and dynamic cultural integration campaigns weave the essential emotional and cultural threads of a shared identity, transforming diversity from a potential challenge into an undeniable, celebrated strength.

These strands – discipline instilled through service, civic engagement fostered by institutions, and cultural unity nurtured through shared experiences – are deeply interdependent. Discipline without civic consciousness or cultural empathy remains incomplete. Civic engagement without the grounding of discipline or a unifying cultural identity lacks resilience and direction. A cultural celebration without a foundation in discipline and civic responsibility risks becoming superficial. It is precisely in the powerful synergy of these approaches – disciplined mobilisation, widespread civic preparedness, and heartfelt cultural integration – that the true, transformative potential of India's youth is unlocked for the vital task of forging an unbreakable national unity.

By investing strategically and holistically in these channels, India ensures its demographic dividend becomes the cornerstone of a harmonious, resilient, and truly united nation, capable of navigating the complexities of the modern world. The focused energy of its youth, channelled towards the singular goal of national unity, remains the ultimate guarantor of India's enduring greatness and its destiny as a leading global power.

Act East, Achieve Peace: Meghalaya's Journey to Peace and Progress

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Meghalaya, the North East state of the country, often called the "Abode of Clouds," is a misty highland state, frequently cloaked in soft clouds and gentle fog. Its lush landscapes are blanketed with thick forests and rich greenery, nourished by a rainy climate that gives rise to the world's wettest places like Mawsynram and Cherrapunji. The state is incredibly scenic, adorned with cascading waterfalls, deep caves, glistening rivers, and rolling hills. Much of its terrain remains pristine, showcasing untouched beauty and immaculate villages such as Mawlynnong, known as Asia's cleanest. Meghalaya is deeply cultural, with vibrant tribal traditions, soulful music, and colourful festivals.

The atmosphere is peaceful, offering a calm escape from urban chaos. As one of India's most biodiverse regions, it is home to rare orchids, butterflies, and unique wildlife. It is also spiritual, with sacred groves and indigenous belief systems that honour nature. For thrill-seekers, Meghalaya is adventurous, perfect for trekking, caving, and river exploration. Above all, it is a mythical land, echoing with ancient legends and folklore from the Khasi, Garo, and Jaintia tribes.

Being such a stunning state among the seven sisters of the country, Meghalaya has witnessed several insurgencies, demanded greater autonomy, and opposition to perceived outsider domination in recent history. The Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) was formed in 1997 by members of the Khasi and Jaintia communities, aiming to establish an independent Khasi-Jaintia homeland and resist alleged infiltration by non-tribal populations. Around the same time, the Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC) was formed in 1995 by the Garo people, demanding a separate state called Achik Land in western Meghalaya. The ANVC signed a ceasefire in 2004 and a peace accord in 2014, leading to its disbandment. In 2009, the more violent Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) emerged, engaging in extortion, kidnappings, and attacks on security forces, but was significantly weakened after its leader, Sohan D Shira, was killed in 2018.

During the tenure of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, steps were taken for the development of northeastern states, leading to the establishment of a dedicated Northeast ministry. Underlining the mantras of "Act East, Act Fast, and Act First", the Narendra Modi-led government is determined to act upon the statement, in terms of infrastructure development and conflict resolution, with the aim of uniting the north-eastern states of the country. The 10 years from 2014 could be considered confidently as a golden era for the seven sisters of the country.

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The dismantling of armed insurgent groups like HNLC, ANVC, and GNLA has been achieved not only through firm security measures but also through sustained peace dialogues, rehabilitation efforts, and inclusive governance.

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At outset, Modi led government made a stable decision to deliver unprecedented welfare benefits to every section of the society — uplifting the poor 'Garib Kalyan', empowering the women 'Nari Shakti', transforming agriculture 'Krishak Kalyan' and empowering the youth through skill-based training and employment opportunities through innovative policy action via Start Up India or Digital India campaigns.

Shillong, celebrated as a beautiful city, and Meghalaya, gifted by Mother Earth, was honoured with utmost sincerity. Sustainable development was ensured by harnessing the immense possibilities offered by the tourism sector. The tourism boom witnessed in the state is a positive sign of how Meghalaya has been transformed into a destination of choice for both domestic and international tourists visiting India. Meghalaya has been recognised as a shining example of the success achieved through schemes like Swadesh Darshan. ₹244 crore was sanctioned to boost sustainable tourism, which has created potential in iconic destinations like Umium Lake, Sohpetbneng, Krang Suri Falls, Siju Caves, and Nokrek Reserve, all of which are being developed into world-class tourist attractions. From organised waterfall trails to the established Meghalayan Age Cave Experience, the focus on sustainable and immersive tourism has revitalised local economies and generated livelihood opportunities. Spiritual and heritage sites like Nartiang and Mawphlang villages are also being promoted under niche tourism categories, thereby positioning Meghalaya as a vibrant destination within India's Northeast tourism circuit.

Speaking on the fiscal aid to Meghalaya, "Meghalaya, backed by a 105% increase in central grants-in-aid, has seen a substantial scale-up in infrastructure & social welfare. Landmark initiatives include the ₹22,864 crore Greenfield High-Speed Corridor between Mawlyngkhung & Panchgram, set to drastically improve regional connectivity &

logistics. Over 540 km of National Highways have been constructed, and urban mobility projects in New Shillong and Tura are being implemented under v."

To reinforce the spirit of cooperative federalism, the Modi government has consistently provided advance tax devolution to empower state governments in implementing social welfare programs and infrastructure projects. Meghalaya, in particular, has seen a significant rise in central transfers. Tax devolution to the state surged by approximately 565% over the past 10 years under the Modi administration (up to February 2024). Additionally, grants-in-aid have grown by more than 69% during the nine years of PM Modi's tenure compared to the previous decade. For the financial year 2023–24 alone, over ₹7,600 crore in additional grants-in-aid were allocated for release.

In conclusion, Meghalaya's transformation over the past decade reflects a powerful blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and developmental strides. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state has witnessed historic infrastructural growth, enhanced connectivity, strengthened social welfare, and a booming tourism sector. Fiscal empowerment through increased tax devolution and grants-in-aid has reinforced Meghalaya's journey toward inclusive progress. With peace-building efforts and sustainable initiatives, Meghalaya stands as a shining example of cooperative federalism and national integration. As the "Abode of Clouds" rises

to new heights, it embodies the spirit of a truly Viksit Bharat in the making. In conclusion, this is the actual evidence from insurgency to integration, which happened only because of the BJP and the Modi-led government.

The transformation of Meghalaya is not just a story of development it is a strategic victory for India's internal security. The dismantling of armed insurgent groups like HNLC, ANVC, and GNLA has been achieved not only through firm security measures but also through sustained peace dialogues, rehabilitation efforts, and inclusive governance. By integrating previously marginalised communities into the mainstream through welfare schemes, infrastructure access, and economic opportunities, the Modi government has addressed the root causes of unrest—alienation, underdevelopment, and regional neglect.

Today, the peace and prosperity seen in Meghalaya are part of a broader national strategy where integration is the most powerful form of internal security. When youth are empowered through skill training, when remote villages are connected through highways, and when tribal culture is honoured and promoted through tourism, separatism loses its appeal. Meghalaya's journey from insurgency to integration proves that democratic development is India's strongest weapon against internal instability. It is this blend of security, sensitivity, and statesmanship that marks a new chapter in India's Northeast story.

Securing the Republic: India's Twin-Front Victory Against LWE and Northeast Insurgency

Pankaj Jagannath Jayswal
Columnist, Author and Speaker

Roman statesman Marcus Tullius Cicero once warned that "a nation can withstand its fools, and even the ambitious, but it cannot withstand internal disloyalty." This resonates with India's prolonged struggle against internal threats—most prominently Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) and ethno-separatist insurgencies in the Northeast. These internal conflicts have, for decades, obstructed development, governance, and social cohesion.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has adopted a multimodal, development-centric counterinsurgency strategy that combines security operations, governance reform, economic integration, and cultural assertion. This comprehensive approach has yielded significant results across both theatres of conflict—the Red Corridor and the Northeastern frontier.

I. Left-Wing Extremism: Decline of the Red Corridor

For decades, LWE, often referred to as Naxalism, has plagued large parts of central and eastern India, stalling development in tribal and forested areas. The movement obstructed access to education, healthcare, infrastructure, and financial services.

Since 2014, the Modi government has pursued a decisive and sustained campaign against LWE based on a "Clear-Hold-Develop" model, with a sharp focus on:

1. Security and Law Enforcement

- A zero-tolerance policy towards violence has been institutionalised.
- The government approved a National Policy and Action Plan on LWE (2015) combining security, development, and rights-based measures.
- From 2019 onwards:
  - 280 new security camps have been established.
  - 15 Joint Task Forces created.
  - 6 CRPF battalions deployed.
- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has cracked down on LWE finances, and long-duration operations have disrupted Maoist networks.

2. Decline in Violence

- Violent incidents fell from 1,936 in 2010 to 374 in 2024 — an 81% decline.

- Casualties dropped by 85%, from 1,005 deaths in 2010 to 150 in 2024.
- The number of affected police stations fell from 330 in 2014 to 104 in 2024.
- Naxal-affected area shrank from 18,000 sq. km to 4,200 sq. km.

3. Developmental Integration
- Special Central Assistance of ₹30 crore per most-affected district and ₹10 crore for districts of concern has bridged infrastructure gaps.
- Over 178 Eklavya Model Residential Schools have been operationalised.
- 48 ITIs and 61 Skill Development Centres set up in LWE districts.
- The "Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan", launched in 2024, is saturating over 15,000 tribal villages with amenities.

4. Community Engagement
- 1,143 tribal youth recruited into security forces.
- Focus on 3-Cs: Connectivity (road, mobile, financial) to integrate remote areas.
- Fortified police stations increased from 66 to 612 in 10 years.

India's fight against LWE stands today at an inflection point. What was once described as the "single biggest internal security threat" is now a fast-receding challenge, thanks to the sustained political will and strategic clarity.

II. Resolving Insurgency in Northeast India: A Peace Through Dialogue Approach

While LWE is ideological and class-based, insurgency in Northeast India has primarily been ethnic and secessionist, driven by identity, autonomy, and historic grievances. The Modi government has addressed these conflicts through peace accords, cultural reintegration, and economic connectivity.

1. Peace Accords and Surrenders
- Since 2014, the government has signed 12 peace accords.
- Over 10,000 insurgents have surrendered and joined the mainstream.
- Notable agreements include:
  - Bodo Peace Accord
  - Bru-Reang Resettlement Pact
  - 2024 Peace Deal with NLFT and ATTF in Tripura, ending a 35-year conflict.

2. De-escalation of Conflict
- AFSPA has been significantly rolled back in multiple states.
- Between 2014–2024:
  - Violent incidents fell by 70%.
  - Civilian deaths declined by 89%.
  - Security force casualties fell by 70%.

3. Strategic Integration and Act East
- Shift from Look East to Act East Policy (2015) redefined the region's role as a gateway to Southeast Asia.
- Infrastructure projects:
  - Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project
  - Agartala–Akhaura rail link with Bangladesh
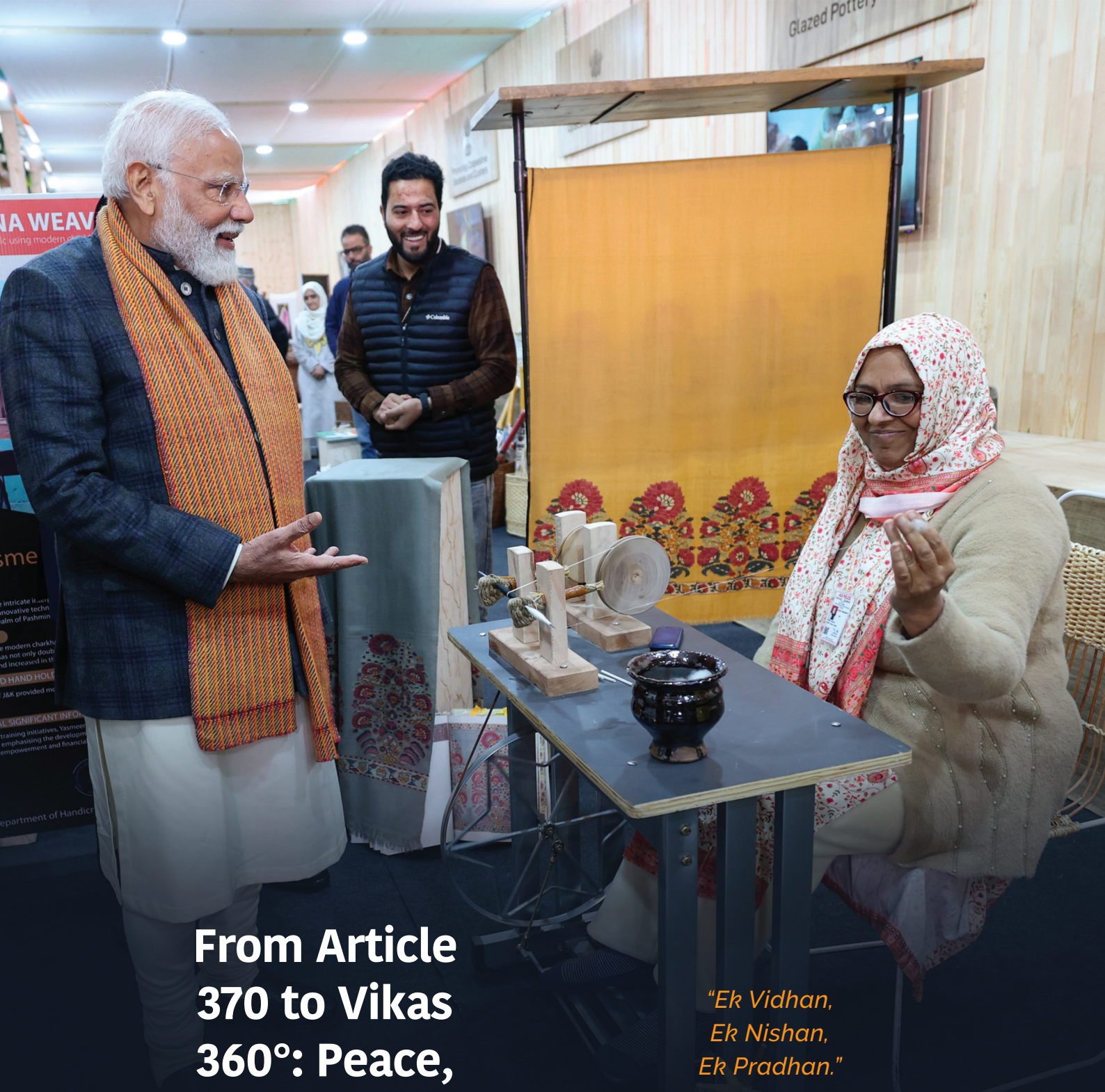
4. Cultural Recognition and Pride
- Events such as the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan celebrated in Delhi.
- Museums like the Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Manipur honour local heroes.
- Moidams of Choraideo added to UNESCO heritage list.
- Festivals like Hornbill (Nagaland) and Sangai (Manipur) promoted nationally.
- GI tagging of products like Muga silk, Tezpur Litchi, Kaji Nemu has boosted economic value.

5. Agricultural Empowerment
- Over 1.73 lakh hectares converted to organic farming under MOVCDNER.
- 205 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) now support over 15,000 farmers.
- The region recorded 1.20 crore domestic and 2.21 lakh foreign tourists in 2023, a testament to rising economic integration.

Conclusion
By maintaining a sharp distinction in approach—military pressure and developmental thrust for LWE; dialogue, cultural inclusion, and connectivity for Northeast insurgencies—the Modi government has reshaped India's internal security paradigm. The transformation from "conflict zones" to "growth corridors" is not just about statistics. It is about restoring dignity, governance, and opportunity to millions of citizens who were once on the margins of the Republic. With continued resolve and inclusive governance, the vision of a secure, integrated, and insurgency-free India is now within reach.

From Article 370 to Vikas 360°: Peace, Progress, and Participation

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Abhishek Singh
An IIT Kharagpur graduate,
engineer-turned-lawyer

*"Ek Vidhan,
Ek Nishan,
Ek Pradhan."*

The slogan once voiced by Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee has, four years after the abrogation of Article 370, turned into a living reality for Jammu & Kashmir. The constitutional change of August 5, 2019, was not just a legal manoeuvre. It was the reclaiming of an idea that an Indian in Kupwara should stand equal in rights, opportunities, and dignity with an Indian in Kanyakumari.

For decades, Article 370 was sold as statesmanship when it was an own goal, a convenient cover for the self-inflicted wound of inequality. The then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru defended it as a "temporary" provision, a compromise born in the fragile years after partition. But if I have to draw the curtains back, I will call it an act of appeasement. Congress and its past leaders used it to secure votes and play the tired game of vote bank politics. The parliamentary debates of that time reveal the unease of Shri Syama Prasad Mukherjee in his prophetic warning, "Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Nishan, do Pradhan nahi chalenge." And yet, the provision stayed. Government after government let it linger, some out of political caution, others out of expediency. The result was a suffering Valley, caught in the crossfire of promises and politics.

Today, change is visible not just in government statements but in the quiet of once-restless streets, in panchayat meetings, and in tourists bargaining in Srinagar markets. Peace no longer feels like a slogan but a process taking root.

The Original Sin: Why Was Article 370 Added?
Article 370 was conceived as a temporary provision to facilitate Jammu & Kashmir's accession after Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession in 1947 during Pakistani tribal invasions. In the Constituent Assembly debates of October 17, 1949, Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, a former Dewan of Jammu & Kashmir and a close confidant of Mr. Nehru, introduced Article 306A, later renumbered as Article 370.

"The State is not yet ripe for complete integration. Therefore, we are only making temporary arrangements," he said. Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee opposed it. "Why should this discrimination be made? Once you grant separate flags and Constitutions, you are creating another nation within a nation." These words proved prophetic decades later, when the Valley was torn by separatism and terrorism, forcing us to confront our mistakes.

Decades of Silence: Why Was It Ignored?
Despite being temporary, Article 370 survived for 70 years due to political cowardice. It was nothing less than an act of appeasement and fear. Congress and its past leaders played this tired game of vote bank politics. The Congress era is nothing more than a legacy of complacency. The then- Primetime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru admitted in Parliament in 1963, "Article 370 has eroded and will gradually erode further," but left it to bureaucratic tinkering instead of bold action.

Congress governments relied on Article 370 for alliances with the valley's political elite, such as the Sheikh Abdullah family. Smt Indira Gandhi's 1975 accord with Sheikh Abdullah legitimised the special status, compromising sovereignty. Even as militancy grew and Kashmiri Pandits were exiled in 1990, no one acted.

2019: Correcting a Historical Blunder
The bold step came in August 2019, when in a speech reminiscent of Shri. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's warnings, Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said: "Article 370 is the root of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. It has denied youth their rights and women their dignity. Today we correct a historical blunder." The Bill passed with 125 votes in the Rajya Sabha and 370 in the Lok Sabha.

The End of the Terror Ecosystem
The most telling evidence of this correction is in the security landscape. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, terror-related incidents have declined by nearly 70% since 2019. Stone-pelting incidents, once in the valley's daily reality, have almost vanished.

In 2018, there were over 1,500 stone-pelting incidents; by 2023, this number had dropped to fewer than 200, and in 2025, most districts reported zero incidents for consecutive months. Times have changed, just as promised by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The terror-financing ecosystem consisting of hawala networks and cross-border smuggling has been dismantled. The NIA and ED have attached properties of over 1,000 separatist sympathisers, drying up funds for anti-India propaganda. More than 2,000 'Over-Ground Workers' (OGWs), who are considered the logistics backbone of terror, have been arrested

since 2019. As our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi put it recently, "Those who shed the blood of innocents are today buried under the rubble of their terror networks." And for the first time in decades, the silence of the guns is not being broken every other day.

Grassroots Democracy: From Fear to Participation
The first-ever District Development Council elections of 2020 saw 51% turnout despite threats. Over 30,000 representatives now serve in panchayats and urban bodies, 33% of them women, many from Gujjar and Bakarwal communities. The 2022 delimitation gave long-excluded West Pakistani refugees and Kashmiri Pandits voting rights. Kashmiri Pandits are gradually returning under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's rehabilitation package, with housing colonies and jobs. The coming assembly elections are being awaited with hope, not fear.

Women Empowerment: From Discrimination to Dignity
For decades, Article 35A stripped women of property rights if they married outside Jammu & Kashmir. Post-370, this injustice ended. Women now own and inherit property freely. Over 10,000 women serve in panchayats and DDCs. Schemes like Tejaswini and Hausla are funding women-led start-ups, and Mission Youth is training thousands in digital and healthcare jobs.

Development: Vikas Hi Samadhan Hai
Development is no longer a promise; it is visible. The Chenab Rail Bridge, the highest in the world, and the Zojila Tunnel will ensure all-weather access by 2026. Tourism touched 1.88 crore visitors in 2023, the highest in 75 years. Investments worth ₹80,000 crore are creating IT parks in Jammu and horticulture clusters in Baramulla. Mission Youth and Himayat have trained over 60,000 youth. Two AIIMS and IIT campuses are under construction. Apple exports up 30%; Pashmina and handicrafts sold globally via e-commerce.

The emotional pulse of the Valley is changing too. The Kheer Bhawani Mela now draws Kashmiri Pandits back. Eid, Baisakhi, and Shivratri are

celebrated publicly. Cinema halls remain open after 30 years.

Impact On Citizens
Any Indian can now buy land or invest in Jammu & Kashmir. SCs, STs, and OBCs enjoy the same legal protections as the rest of India. Dalits can now get permanent domicile and government jobs. Schools follow the NCERT curriculum, aligning students with national standards. Taxpayers' money now builds schools and hospitals under CBI and CVC oversight. In simple words, for every citizen, Jammu & Kashmir is no longer a "special case". It is simply India.

The Youth: Torchbearers of Change
Shri Tejasvi Surya, BJYM's National President, calls Kashmiri youth "partners, not victims." And there is truth in that. Under Agnipath, boys and girls from Anantnag and Pulwama are joining the armed forces, not in protest but as defenders of the Tiranga. Colleges in Pulwama now host start-up incubators funding agri-tech and handicraft e-commerce ventures. Jobs instead of jihad. Hope instead of hatred. That is the real counter-insurgency.

From Fear to Faith
The transformation of Jammu & Kashmir is the success of an idea called India. The journey from "Goli se nahi, gale se lagayenge" to "Vikas hi samadhan hai" feels irreversible.

As Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee said, "Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Nishan, do Pradhan nahi chalege." Today, there is one Constitution, one flag, and one leader in Jammu & Kashmir. For the first time in decades, Kashmiris are not just surviving; they are participating, prospering, and dreaming.

Securing the Heartland: The Fall of Maoist Insurgency in New India

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Among all the internal security challenges that India has faced since the 1960s, left-wing extremism stands out as particularly significant: Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), also known as Naxalism, was rooted in socio-economic discontent, along with land alienation and a denial of a political space to tribal populations. Much of Central and Eastern India would become an entrenched hotbed of insurgency from the late 1960s on. However, the Indian state has adopted an integrated approach in the last two decades, aligning developmental strategies with robust security interventions. By 2025, empirical data suggest a substantial reduction in both the intensity and spread of Naxalite violence, probably marking a change in the state strategy with regard to counterinsurgency (COIN).

Fall of Maoist Territory and Decline in Attacks

Detailed data from the Ministry of Home Affairs' report indicates that due to the government's military and policy efforts, there has been a significant decrease in Maoist attacks, and large areas are being liberated from Maoist influence. From a peak of 1,936 incidents in 2010, the number of Maoist attacks fell to just 374 in 2024, a decline of over 80%. Correspondingly, fatalities (including civilians and security personnel) reduced from over 1,000 in 2010 to fewer than 150 in 2024 (PIB, 2024). As of mid-2025, approximately 255 fatalities have been recorded, suggesting a continuation of the downward trajectory.

Furthermore, the number of LWE-affected districts has contracted sharply. In 2018, the central government identified 126 districts as affected. This number significantly dropped to 34 in 2024 and 18 in 2025. Only six of these—Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur, Sukma (Chhattisgarh), West Singhbhum (Jharkhand), and Gadchiroli (Maharashtra)—are currently classified as "most affected" (PIB, 2025; MHA Annual Report, 2024).

This territorial contraction signals both the operational incapacitation of insurgent groups and the restoration of state control over previously "liberated zones." It also suggests the efficacy of sustained multi-agency coordination between central and state governments.

Development-Led Counterinsurgency: Bridging the Governance Deficit

While early counterinsurgency efforts primarily emphasised kinetic forces, the post-2014 paradigm reflects a strategic recalibration: development has been repositioned as a co-equal pillar of the state's LWE neutralisation strategy. Multiple schemes, most notably the Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Most Affected LWE Districts, have facilitated the aspirational transformation of LWE-hit districts.

Under the SCA framework, each "most affected" district receives ₹30 crore annually, while "districts of concern" are allocated ₹10 crore. Infrastructure development, such as roads, schools, healthcare centres, banking, telecom, and electrification, receives these funds to integrate marginalised tribal populations into mainstream development.

The Bastar and Kondagaon districts in Chhattisgarh best exemplify the symbolic and operational success of such measures. The delisting of this area from the "affected" category in 2024 followed the long-standing perception of these districts as epicentres of Naxal violence. A mix of factors has made them governance-compliant areas: improved road connectivity, greater electoral participation of more than 84% in Assembly elections of 2023, and extensive delivery of welfare measures.

Surrender and rehabilitation policies provide another major advantage. Cash grants, vocational training, and legal aid have incentivised over 1350 Maoists to surrender in Chhattisgarh alone. These policies aim not only to reduce the number of militants but also to transform the former combatants into peace agents. Security forces and the coordination of operations are paramount in this regard.

Targeted Operations and Leadership Neutralisation

A robust tactical evolution in security operations underpins the transformation in India's LWE landscape. Since 2019, forces have adopted a doctrine of deep-penetration, intelligence-driven, and technologically supported offensives. This strategy reached a decisive moment in April–May 2025 with Operation Black Forest (also known as Operation Kagar), which saw coordinated attacks by the CRPF, District Reserve Guards (DRG), and state police in the Abujhmarh region of Chhattisgarh. Over 30 Maoists were neutralised, although the number was later revised, and hundreds were captured or surrendered.

The operation's most critical success was the killing of Nambala Keshava Rao, alias Basavaraju, General Secretary of the CPI (Maoist), and the highest-ranking leader of the insurgents. His killing entails the psychological and organisational decapitation of the Maoist leadership and can be

The decline in violence, the territorial retraction of insurgents, and the neutralisation of top leaders all indicate a successful convergence of security and development policies.

compared to the killing of Osama bin Laden in terms of counterinsurgency operations.

Localised Security Structures: Case of DRG

The central feature that provides legitimacy and efficacy to operations in counterinsurgency has been the state's reliance on the District Reserve Guards (DRG), the local tribal youth trained in jungle warfare. DRG, with its knowledge of local language, culture, and terrain, has greatly enhanced intelligence-gathering and operational accuracy.

The DRG model attests to the shift from paramilitarism to community-embedded security, thereby minimising collateral damage and enhancing trust among the local population.

Inter-Governmental Coordination and National Strategy

The Central government has set for itself a time-bound target for the elimination of Naxalism by 31 March 2026. Security operations, intelligence sharing, and central-state policy harmonisation are synchronising to achieve the timeline. The Unified Command Structure, regular high-level review meetings chaired by the Home Minister, and an interstate task force have streamlined both strategic planning and on-the-ground implementation (MHA Report, 2024).

In addition, the National Policy and Action Plan to tackle LWE, launched in 2015, remains the umbrella policy implementing a model of "clear, hold, build, and develop," drawing on successful COIN strategies globally, including in Colombia and the Philippines.

Challenges and Ethical Imperatives

Despite gains so far, LWE still exists in pockets of resistance. Not only has the insurgency become more geographically concentrated, but it also appears to be increasingly desperate and violent. The IED blast in Bijapur in January 2025, which resulted in the deaths of nine DRG personnel, serves as a sobering reminder to avoid any sense of complacency.

Furthermore, the intensification of operations raises concerns about human rights. Global human rights bodies and left-leaning media groups, instead of discussing the plight of local communities due to Maoist insurgency, which had taken hostage of the affected region over the decades, forced them to remain in a dark age by inhibiting the government policies. These media groups and biased human rights organisations always criticised the state's action against the Maoist insurgency. Civil society organisations and international observers (e.g., The Guardian, 2025) have documented allegations of human rights abuse, displacement of indigenous populations, and the militarisation of civilian spaces. Nonetheless, it's true that unresolved grievances could further legitimise Maoist discourse on state oppression and may also initiate the revival of an insurgent movement.

Additionally, there is an ongoing question about whether the development gains can be sustained. Infrastructure is at risk of being symbolic but not transformative if the institutional engagement of quality education, functional health care, and local governance does not sustain it.

Conclusion

India has reached a pivotal point in its fight against left-wing extremism. The decline in violence, the territorial retraction of insurgents, and the neutralisation of top leaders all indicate a successful convergence of security and development policies. However, the sustainability of these gains rests on the ethical and inclusive implementation of policies and development that heals, not displaces; security that protects, not intimidates.

The aim of making India Naxal-free by 2026 is no longer aspirational; it is attainable. Nevertheless, it demands a vigilant state, participatory civil society, and an empathetic approach to governance in historically marginalised regions. In essence, we must end the war on Naxalism with justice, not just with guns.

One Nation, One Security Framework: Smart Policing and Internal Peace

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Now India is at a stage where it is entering into a new era, the Amrit Kaal. In the journey toward becoming a developed country, law enforcement reforms are one of the most crucial factors in ensuring national security, justice, and public trust. Under the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and our Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, India is rapidly shifting from reactive policing to a "preventive, predictive, and proactive" model, which is explored in this article. This shift helps the country to grow in technology, coordination, and citizen engagement.

Smart Policing: Technology Meets Security

The increase in technology policing has become one of the most significant aspects of India's law enforcement. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) connects over 14,000 police stations, integrating databases and enabling instant access to FIRs, criminal records, and surveillance inputs. From just 70 lakh records in 2014, the database now holds over 7 crore entries, which shows the nation's growth towards technology. The new Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) connects police with courts, forensic labs, and prisons. Innovations like the National Crime Records Check (NCRC)help the states to verify criminal records across India. Over 19,000 checks have already been processed.

Under the Smart Cities Mission, 93 cities have installed nearly 60,000 CCTV cameras. For example, in Nagpur, crimes against women have reduced by 14% after boosting surveillance. Delhi Police used facial recognition technology to make 137 arrests in a single case, proving the power of data-driven policing.

Uttar Pradesh deployed surveillance drones in Ayodhya, Prayagraj, and the Taj Mahal for 24/7 monitoring. Drones have also been deployed in Odisha to monitor crowds. These tools help police scale up rapidly during large events. The upgrades in forensic science help improve evidence-based justice. The Union Home Ministry has invested over ₹2,000 crore to improve the forensic labs. A national e-Forensics network helps link 117 labs across India. Now, the National Forensic Sciences University trains the next generation to specialise in cyber forensics and DNA analysis.

Strengthening National Security: NIA and ATS Coordination

The growth in technology is not sufficient, but coordination between central and state forces also plays an important role in the Indian national security. The 2019 NIA (Amendment) Act increased the power given to the National Investigation Agency to tackle terrorism, cybercrime, and human trafficking. States can now use the assistance of NIA to close gaps in jurisdiction.

AtzHome Minister Shri Amit Shah emphasised the importance of coordination between the NIA and Anti-Terror Squads (ATS) to protect states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh. He highlighted the need for data-sharing and analytics at the Conference.

The goal of future establishments such as the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) is to bring policing and intelligence under one roof. Meanwhile, institutions like ICJS and CCTNS already allow agencies like CBI, ED, and NIA to access criminal databases, streamlining investigations. This approach embodies the vision of "One Nation, One Police Cadre (Data)" where law enforcement agencies function seamlessly across India.

Community Policing and Citizen Trust

There must be trust in Technology, and coordination must be supported. The government is focusing on community policing, women's safety, and transparent practices. All over India, more than 14,600 Women Help Desks have been set up in police stations nationwide, which women officers mostly lead. Emergency helplines (112, 181) are now integrated for faster response. Safe City projects in cities like Lucknow, Bengaluru, and Mumbai have CCTV, patrols, and citizen outreach.

In Uttar Pradesh, "Mohalla Committees" allow the citizens to raise local issues directly with the officials. Rajasthan is deploying "Jan Sewa Vahini" vans and setting up liaison cells. Himachal Pradesh trains local people as volunteers to report crimes, while Madhya Pradesh experiments with hamlet-level policing. India's first Central Police University is set to be established in Greater Noida. This will standardise training in cybercrime,

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Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, India is shifting to smarter, more technology-driven, and people-friendly policing. From facial recognition and drones to better forensic labs and community policing, significant advancements are being made to improve law enforcement.

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forensics, and public engagement. Recruitment is also being reformed. Rajasthan has introduced 33% reservation for women in police roles. Gujarat offers coaching for SC/ST youth, making the police force more inclusive.
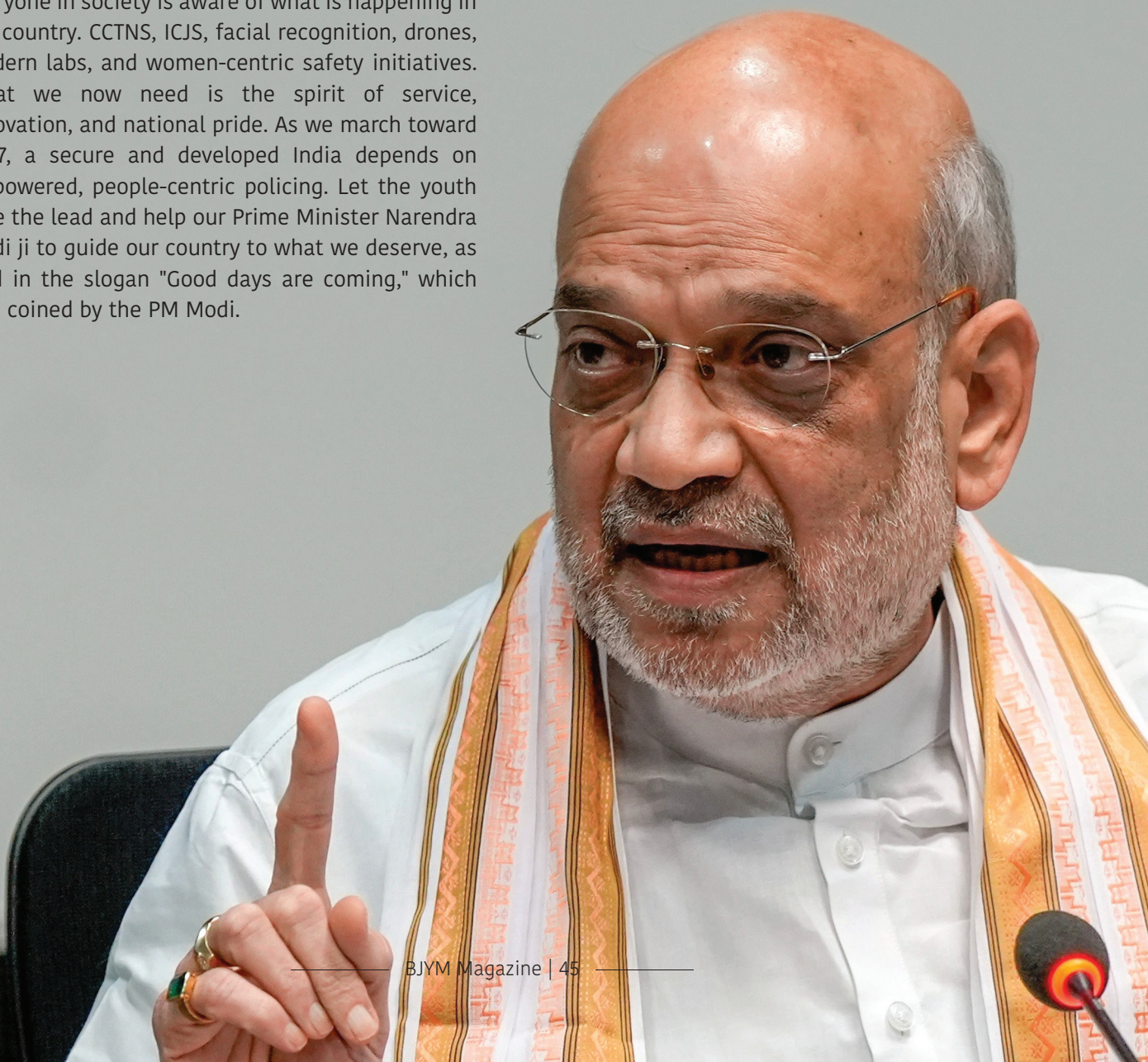
To ensure accountability, the new criminal codes mandate Police Complaint Authorities in every state. Body-worn cameras and citizen feedback apps are being introduced. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has urged the police to adopt the "SMART" model (Strategic, Meticulous, Adaptable, Reliable, Transparent).

Youth: The Backbone of Reform

The youth of India have to play a vital role in society in protecting national security. By joining the police, supporting cybercrime awareness, or volunteering in smart surveillance programs, young people can drive these reforms forward and make sure that everyone in society is aware of what is happening in the country. CCTNS, ICJS, facial recognition, drones, modern labs, and women-centric safety initiatives. What we now need is the spirit of service, innovation, and national pride. As we march toward 2047, a secure and developed India depends on empowered, people-centric policing. Let the youth take the lead and help our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji to guide our country to what we deserve, as said in the slogan "Good days are coming," which was coined by the PM Modi.

Conclusion

As India moves forward into the Amrit Kaal, strong and modern policing is key to building a secure and developed nation by 2047. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, India is shifting to smarter, more technology-driven, and people-friendly policing. From facial recognition and drones to better forensic labs and community policing, significant advancements are being made to improve law enforcement. These changes are making the police more efficient, transparent, and trusted by the public. But for real success, the youth must take the lead by joining the police, spreading awareness, and using technology to help. With their energy and spirit, India can build a future where safety, justice, and development go hand in hand.

BNS2 in Action: Counterterrorism, Cyber Law, and Constitutional Order

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A New Era for National Security

In a monumental stride towards legal reform and internal security, the Modi government has spearheaded transformative efforts culminating in the enactment of the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, 2023 (BNS2). This landmark legislation represents a paradigm shift, reshaping the foundational pillars of the Indian legal system. BNS2 replaces archaic statutes that have long governed India's criminal jurisprudence, including the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. These have been supplanted by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, respectively. As of July 1, 2025, BNS2 has come into force across all states and union territories. Over 18,000 police officers and judicial staff have been trained under the Mission Karmayogi initiative, supported by nationwide awareness campaigns through Doordarshan and MyGov. Together, these reforms strengthen the state's ability to maintain law and order, as well as internal cohesion. Notably, several provisions under BNS2 address offences against the State, including unlawful assemblies, armed insurrection, and acts threatening national integrity, replacing colonial-era sedition laws with more narrowly defined offences to preserve internal order while aligning with constitutional safeguards.

Targeting Vulnerabilities: Crimes Against Women and Children

BNS2 makes a decisive intervention by creating a dedicated chapter on crimes against women and children—an internal security imperative. It strengthens rape laws, particularly concerning minors, harmonising them with the POCSO Act. The Sanhita introduces uniform penalties, including life imprisonment and capital punishment for gang rape against minors, and criminalises sexual exploitation under false pretences. The July 2025 Supreme Court ruling upholding these provisions under Article 21 reinforces their constitutional legitimacy. It also addresses digital vulnerabilities, as Section 69 criminalises AI-generated deepfake content and tech-enabled stalking. A digital fast-track complaints portal launched in pilot states enhances the state's capacity to counter emergent cyber threats, reinforcing internal security for women and children in physical and virtual domains. Additionally, cybercrime units with AI-monitoring capabilities and regional digital forensics labs have been established in Telangana, Gujarat, and Delhi to expedite evidence analysis and cyber investigations. These efforts signify an intelligence-led approach to combat digital crimes that threaten internal harmony.

Enhancing Surveillance and Rehabilitation: Community Service and Penal Reform

To counter minor public order violations, BNS2 introduces community service as a penal innovation. This shift toward restorative justice addresses low-level infractions without overburdening the incarceration system. Since May 2025, over 400 offenders in Delhi and Maharashtra have completed mandated hours, and the NCRB is evaluating trends across five states. The judiciary-NGO feedback sessions are shaping the development of supervision protocols, making this tool an efficient alternative for managing internal threats and maintaining civic discipline. The state of Telangana has also adopted this model,

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The Modi government, through its bold political will and administrative foresight, championed one of the most comprehensive criminal justice reforms since independence.

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mandating community service for first-time public nuisance offenders in select districts, which has resulted in a notable drop in repeat offences.

Embracing Tech for Public Order: Digital Tools in Criminal Justice

The government aims to fortify internal security with BNS2, which mandates the integration of digital technologies in law enforcement and court procedures. E-FIR and Zero FIR provisions ensure rapid registration of complaints, and mandated digitisation of police records and case files curtails procedural delays. The courts must now accept audio-visual evidence and remote appearances, increasing responsiveness. As of June 2025, 19 High Courts have ordered lower courts to transition to digital evidence handling. E-FIR platforms have been integrated into more than 25 state systems, while pilot programs for facial recognition-based witness authentication and blockchain-secured FIR filing in Bhopal, Bengaluru, Telangana, and Gujarat position India at the forefront of tech-enabled internal security. These measures are further reinforced by inter-agency coordination protocols between the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Intelligence Bureau (IB), and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), aimed at ensuring the rapid triaging of high-risk cases through digital surveillance tools.

Combatting Terrorism and Secessionism: A Renewed Legal Framework

One of the most critical pillars of internal security addressed by the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, 2023 (BNS2) is the legal framework to combat terrorism and secessionist activities. In place of colonial-era sedition laws, BNS2 introduces more precise definitions of offences that threaten national unity and sovereignty. It criminalises acts of armed rebellion, incitement to separatism, and support to terrorist organisations through a graduated legal structure that differentiates between dissent and deliberate subversion.

BNS2 grants clearer operational guidelines for

investigative agencies like the National Investigation Agency (NIA), empowering them with digital surveillance tools and enhanced forensic capabilities. Section 113 and related provisions expand the evidentiary basis for prosecuting acts of terror, allowing the use of electronic communications, financial transaction trails, and encrypted data as admissible evidence. The Sanhita also criminalises participation in training camps, logistical support to proscribed groups, and glorification of terrorism on digital platforms.

Since its enactment, BNS2 has supported several successful investigations, including those in Jammu & Kashmir and border districts of Punjab and Manipur, where coordinated efforts by the NIA and state police forces have disrupted sleeper cells and intercepted radicalisation modules. In parallel, the Home Ministry has launched capacity-building workshops for prosecutors and judges to ensure effective handling of terrorism-related cases under the new framework. These provisions reflect a calibrated approach safeguarding national security while upholding civil liberties and due process.

Toward a Secure and Just Republic

The Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, 2023, is not just a legislative overhaul but a defining moment in India's pursuit of internal security and rule of law. Its emphasis on modernisation, digital integration, and victim-centric justice frameworks has positioned India on a firm path toward transparent, responsive, and future-ready governance. Some legal experts are advocating for a 2026 impact assessment by the Law Commission to guide continuous improvement, even as calls grow for refined definitions and safeguards under specific provisions. The Modi government, through its bold political will and administrative foresight, championed one of the most comprehensive criminal justice reforms since independence. Through BNS2, the government has redefined the contours of internal security by embedding technology, accountability, and citizen protection at the core of India's legal transformation.

Virasat and Vikas: How Cultural Unity is Fortifying Bharat from Within

Raj A Bijalwan
Columnist and Poet

India, that is Bharat, has been a civilizational state, one that modern-day geographical boundaries can't define. Bharat has been a land that has been outlined by nature most exquisitely. Bharat always had its civilizational wealth of Gyaan, Karma and Bhakti, but it took a political overhaul in the year 2014 to make the citizens realise the wealth that they had. If there's anything that India lacked before 2014, it was a sense of collective consciousness that had long carved the nation and its glory.

Ever since PM Modi took over the reins of this great nation, the nation has seen efforts to ensure National integration with strong determination. This, of course, has sent a message to the world that when it is about the nation, the Modi government makes no compromise. The loudest message of cultural integration is in the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had received the special status, but had pushed its people away from mainstream development. The Modi government not just removed the curse unleashed upon the country but also ensured that the people of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir get their right to development and a good standard of living.

The juggernaut of cultural integration hasn't stopped ever since. The Modi government brought forth a true sense of cultural integration by upholding nationalism as its core principle. The introduction of courses in mother tongue languages will not just encourage students to enrol on professional courses but also promote local Indian languages.

The Modi government's slogan of Vikas bhi Virasat bhi has changed the dynamics of development. The Modi government brought forth the PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) scheme for rejuvenating the sites of cultural importance. As far as cultural integration of the country is concerned, the country is a witness to an unprecedented transformation. The construction of the Mahakaal Lok project, Kashi Vishwanath corridor and the Maa Kamakhya corridor not only adds to the process of cultural integration but also strengthens the very foundation of this nation.

Looking at the very intent of the Narendra Modi government, one can easily come across the determination with which the government is working to further the path of cultural integration. By organising events like the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, the Modi government is trying to bring forth and celebrate the link between the two cultures.

For integrating a culture, the citizens must be able to identify themselves with their ancient civilizational identity, one that is eternal and sacred. The NDA government is working on these lines by bringing up schemes like the Swadesh Darshan, where thematic circuits are being identified to develop the place holistically.

As far as the northeastern region of India is concerned, the previous dispensation ignored the region's growth aspirations and even undermined its natural beauty. Under PM Modi, this region was given a special recognition by not just creating a separate ministry called 'Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region'. This was yet another significant step for cultural integration. This region saw a wide range of conflicts and disturbances that led to unwarranted chaos in the region. By holding talks with several groups, the Modi government has been ensuring that the region remains peaceful and becomes the growth engine of the country.

While the nation has been awakened to its civilizational identity, PM Modi is ensuring that the artefacts that were taken away from us— stolen or otherwise- are brought back to the country and placed in their rightful place. In 2021, when PM Modi visited the US, he brought home 157 artefacts and antiquities from the USA. This hasn't slowed down a bit. Many of our civilisation's artefacts and antiquities have been returned to our country.

Yoga is another example of PM Modi's efforts to promote cultural integration. He has presented this on the world stage. As a beacon of India's glorious heritage, PM Modi has proudly carried Bharat's ancestral legacy to the world by gifting his counterparts and their families with traditional Bharatiya handicrafts. By royally upholding the civilisation's Dharmic roots, the PM Modi-led government is leaving no stone unturned to let the cultural consciousness awaken as one.

Under PM Modi, this region was given a special recognition by not just creating a separate ministry called 'Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region'.

The NDA government, since 2014, is braving several storms that have come in the form of anti-national and political forces, who are trying to divide the nation in the name of caste, language, religion and regional pride. The NDA government has chosen to put forth its nation-first policy by focusing on policies rooted in civilizational identity.

At the core of PM Modi's action lies his efforts to connect with Bharatiyas from across the world. His diplomacy and foreign affairs gives the Indian Diaspora utmost importance. It has now become a norm for PM Modi to visit countries and speak to the Indian Diaspora of that country. He has even called the Indian Diaspora the Rashtradoots.

With significant steps being taken and Home Minister Amit Shah declaring the end of the Naxalites in the country by March 31st next year, India is on the cusp of another step towards cultural integration and becoming a stronger nation. The nation has seen so much bloodshed since its Independence, but it has sailed through the stormy seas. From 2014, the nation took a giant step in realising the cultural consciousness and with significant efforts being taken to integrate our culturally rich nation.

Cybersecure Bharat: Safeguarding the Republic in the Digital Age

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Karnataka

In today's world, it's indispensable for a country to have not only secure physical borders but also a sophisticated digital defence to safeguard its critical infrastructure from potential threats. A Government faces a delicate balance between securing its citizens from mischievous narratives and upholding the duty to protect genuine freedom of speech and expression. During times of global escalation like the present, it becomes essential to protect the citizens from all kinds of digital attacks that happen in a sophisticated and concerted manner. Technology that has advanced the lives of millions can also have harmful consequences for users if malicious individuals misuse the data. It becomes imperative to safeguard the IT Infrastructure of banks, telecom service providers, hospitals, and defence establishments simultaneously.

Our indigenous UPI system now powers transactions worth ₹1 crore every second. A significant chunk of global real-time digital transactions now happens in India. One cannot simply imagine life without the internet and the payments ecosystem. Given the extent to which technology has become integral to our lives, we cannot afford to have a lax cybersecurity policy. A safer cyberspace becomes not just a rule but a necessity.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) is a comprehensive mechanism designed to enable nationwide coordination in the fight against cybercrime. A nodal agency, designed to facilitate collaboration among law enforcement agencies, state governments, Union Territories, banking institutions and other relevant stakeholders on cybercrime-related issues. Additionally, it supports capacity building, training, research and innovation, as well as public awareness initiatives. The revamped criminal laws expanded the definition and scope of new-age cybercrimes to make electronic evidence admissible with the same legality as documents.

Immediately, when a victim calls the 1930 cyber helpline, the system registering the complaint has the power to freeze suspicious transactions due to the interconnected nature of I4C with banks across the country.

A financial amount of more than ₹4,725 crores has been returned to nearly 14.5 lakh victims. As per the latest data, the Cybercrime portal has registered over 65 lakh unique complaints and filed 1.5 lakh FIRs. Agencies are now developing an application to identify mule accounts instantly using AI. Fraudsters who used stolen phones and procured bulk SIM cards illegally have been at the receiving end, with over 7.8 lakh SIM cards and 2.08 lakh IMEI numbers being blocked and flagged as fraudulent by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). Previously, SPAM calls and messages were rampant. However, with innovative policies from DoT, pesky

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The "National Policy and Action Plan to address LWE" was approved in 2015 with an aim to advance developments in the Maoist-infested regions.

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spam calls are a thing of the past. Telecom service providers now have a financial disincentive if they fail to report trends of spam calls to the Department regularly. Telecom service providers now also offer in-built AI Spam call/message blockers, which have led to a drastic drop in spam calls. DoT also encourages citizens to report fraudulent communications to the Sanchar Saath portal. Additionally, the portal allows users to block a stolen device and check the list of connections with their name.

Inter-departmental cooperation and coordination with various Central Ministries under a common vision to protect the citizens from Scams have led to visible outcomes. Notably, a national awareness campaign has been launched to educate the public on safe practices for internet use and digital scam prevention. During Operation Sindoor, we successfully managed to thwart over 15 lakh cyber attacks originating from threat actors in Pakistan targeting the critical infrastructure websites across India. It projected to the world the mettle of a strong cyberspace of India. Heather Adkins, Global VP of Engineering, Google Security, praised the cyber safety initiatives taken up by the Government and noted that India was ahead of many countries in countering cyber threats. Social media companies and IT intermediaries erratically display laxity in removing Indian racist content, which demeans our culture and way of life. Strengthening the grievance redressal framework, along with a financial disincentive for complaints not addressed in a time-bound manner, is the need of the hour.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken a slew of measures to bring about reforms in the Indian cyberspace. Initiatives like creating a Central-level data repository of cybercrime, a suspect registry, data sharing, cooperation, and a coordination platform for law enforcement agencies across the country help solve cybercrime effectively. Along with continuous, people-friendly reforms like the Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre, e-Zero FIRs, and the Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, the government

shows the intention in the right direction. Equally crucial to filing complaints is delivering conviction to the accused in a swift manner. The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) has facilitated the delivery of justice by capitalising on technology like crime tracking networks, e-Forensics, e-Court, e-Prison, e-Prosecution, and fingerprint database systems. In a recent media interview, HM Amit Shah emphasised that cybercrime was no longer merely treated as a technical or policing issue, but as a direct threat to India's internal and economic security, rightly so.

Narratives are no longer built around traditional modes like books, newspapers, educational institutions, etc, but the whole game of narratives got upgraded with the advent of the Internet. Anybody can peddle a rogue and divisive ideology that threatens the very fabric of a country, from anywhere! All it takes is the Internet and a device. After all, War is now fought not with Guns but with digital narratives. There are cases of digital grooming and Islamic radicalisation in parts of Kerala. It becomes crucial for law enforcement agencies to monitor such anti-national activities and take action based on specific inputs. Good governance means a citizen can take public transportation to their homes without being worried about a bomb blast — a fear that was valid and common before 2014.

Reports reveal that ideological and logistical support to Maoists in the jungle is given by foot-soldiers clandestinely living in Urban centres, some unfortunately holding prestigious positions. It's reassuring to see that the Government is relentless in its pursuit of eliminating Naxalism by March 31st 2026. Naxalism, which once killed thousands of civilians and security forces. In the last 10 years, over 8,000 Naxalites have abandoned the path of violence due to a multi-pronged strategy adopted by the Government. The "National Policy and Action Plan to address LWE" was approved in 2015 with an aim to advance developments in the Maoist-infested regions.

An Urban Naxal is someone who seeks to undermine Bharatiya ethos and values under the guise of 'revolution' - a globally-failed strategy. They are usually part of a highly coordinated and sophisticated network of disinformation peddlers, whose aim is to destabilise the "Indian state". Remarks by a politician parroting Naxal ideology "fighting the Indian state" - blurted out unintentionally, perhaps, revealing the sinister playbook to further divide Bharat. The operation and network of Urban Naxals are covert in nature, with their foreign funding layered into multiple mule accounts to evade detection. They operate by creating multiple fronts to progress their anti-India agenda by often using distorted reports to target India. Fronts masquerading as the champions of "Human Rights", "Minority rights" are used to advance the propaganda by pushing a "minorities under attack", "human rights violations", "tribals oppressed by the Indian state" narrative in India. The Internet and social media have become an effective medium to call out such bluffs.

The Government periodically reviews dubious agencies, and licenses of erring NGOs are cancelled under the FCRA Act. The Centre has banned 20,000+ such NGOs from receiving foreign funds for fund misappropriation, involvement in activities against national interest, and failure to comply with FCRA rules. India over the decade has emerged as a Global leader, and countries, along with Investments, want to set up educational institutions here. The curriculum for such foreign institutions is seldom vetted by our administration, paving the way to push identity politics, gender fluidity, dismantling Hindutva and promoting a culture of "academic activism" not conducive to comprehensive learning.

New Kashmir, New Confidence: Peace, Progress, and Participation

Ridhi Goel

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Jammu and Kashmir, often called "the Heaven on Earth", is stunning with natural beauty, serene landscapes, mountainous regions, and a unique cultural heritage. But this paradise was once shadowed by devastating terrorism because it is a land of conflict between India and Pakistan. On 26th October 1947, King Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession (IOA) with India. Since Pakistan refused to recognise this IOA, India agreed to incorporate Article 370 in the Constitution, providing a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, rendering it the power to have its laws and flag. Only Articles 370 and 35(A) of the Indian Constitution applied to the state. This raised social, economic, and political injustice in Jammu and Kashmir, denying its people numerous benefits.

With the dawn of the Modi government, the mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' grabbed the front foot, resulting in a decisive step of abrogating the 69-year-old Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. August 5, 2019, turned out to be a historic milestone as J&K was liberated from Article 370, marking the beginning of a new chapter of peace, progress, and participation.

Restoration of Normalcy and Elections

The state of Jammu and Kashmir had an established electoral system prior to 2019, with elections held for the Indian Parliament, State Legislature, and local bodies like Municipalities and Panchayats. The state had 87 assembly constituencies and 6 Lok Sabha constituencies. Over the years, 11 legislative assembly elections since 1951 and 12 parliamentary elections since 1967 have been conducted. Article 370 abrogation has dramatically reshaped the political and electoral landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. Turning it from a special status state to a Union Territory has left the control under the Lieutenant Governor to take decisions over key areas.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir now exercises its democratic franchise in consonance with the Constitution of India, empowering citizens to elect representatives to various tiers of governance, including the national Parliament and the 114-seat Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. Not only has the administration been improved, but Article 370 abrogation has increased the net voters in the Union Territory, providing them a secure political environment to exercise their right to vote. Ending the house arrest of almost all political leaders further generates confidence among the public to participate in the election system. The increasing involvement of young voters in Jammu and Kashmir elections reflects their enthusiasm to play an active role in shaping the region's future and driving progress.

End of Stone-pelting and Terrorism Ecosystem

After the year 2008, stone-pelting incidents were reported on a regular basis. Not only stone-pelting, but also terrorism has always been at its peak in Jammu & Kashmir. Various incidents, such as the 1990 Exodus of Kashmiri Hindus, the 1995 Bomb Explosion in Jammu, the 2001 Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly car bombing, the 2010 attack on civilians in Srinagar, and many others, have been reported in the valley since independence. Be it the nauseating 2016 Uri attack or the cataclysmic 2019 Pulwama attack, all these have always resulted in a significant loss of life and property. It posed a persistent threat to peace and stability in the region.

These attacks of terrorism, including suicide attacks, grenade attacks, and widespread fear of assassinations, have caused damage to all – the locals, police and armed forces, or even the school or college-going students who were involved in these acts of stone-pelting. It had left a profound impact on the region's development, tourism, scenic beauty, security, and social fabric. But after Article 370 was abrogated, all these incidents underwent a sudden decline. The territory is now administered with a strong motive of targeting and curbing the entire terror ecosystem, shaping the new era of Jammu and Kashmir. The government's crackdown on militancy has been gaining momentum. By boosting security forces and choking off funding, they've made it harder for militants to move around and plan attacks. Better intelligence gathering has also helped security agencies launch targeted operations, taking the fight to the militants' doorstep. Additionally, a strong stand has been taken against stone-pelting, a tactic that's often used to incite violence. By introducing laws to curb terror financing, the government has made it tougher for terrorist groups to operate and fund their activities.

Grassroots Democracy and Infrastructure Growth

Before 2019, the democratic and infrastructural development of the region was almost nil because of weak administration and widespread terrorism. The Union Government's initiatives are now being successfully implemented across India, including Jammu and Kashmir, bringing about transformative changes to the region. The huge investment projects being started in Jammu and Kashmir are all evidence of the same.

With all villages achieving the ODF Plus Model, a promising future awaits the next generation in J&K, marked by improved health, cleanliness, and sustainability. Efforts are made to make investments and reopen cinemas to normalise the situation. New multiplexes and theatres have been opened to boost the trading activities, along with increasing entertainment sources for the civilians. Due to a significant decrease in terrorism, tourism in Jammu and Kashmir also bloomed. The huge influx of tourists is positively impacting the economy of the region. Apart from economic, entertainment, and cleanliness development, the region improved its educational infrastructure too by establishing effectively managed educational institutions comprising IIT, IIM, AIIMS, and other nursing and engineering colleges. With the removal of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir is poised to achieve unprecedented levels of development and growth, unlocking new opportunities for progress and prosperity.

Peace, Progress, And Participation: The Way Forward

The Central government keeps on taking a number of steps to reduce terror and ban anti-national organisations existing in and around Jammu and Kashmir. Efforts to address terrorism have involved security operations, dialogue initiatives, and community engagement. The goal is to restore peace, promote stability, and ensure the well-being of all residents in the region. This proportional relationship between declining terror and increasing peace allows the region to participate in international events. In 2023, the Kashmir Valley played host to prestigious international events, including the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting and the Miss Universe press conference. An inaugural Formula-4 (F4) car racing event took place in Srinagar on March 17, 2024. The T20 Legends League marked a return to international cricket after 35 years. All this gives a chance to J&K to progress and align with other states of the country.

Post-370 Kashmir: Restoring Peace, Securing the Nation

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On August 5, 2019, India made a bold and historic move when it revoked Article 370, which had granted Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) special constitutional status for over seventy years. This provision had allowed the region a unique kind of autonomy, granting it the power to maintain its laws and limiting the extent to which the Indian Parliament could intervene.

Although Article 370 was intended to be a temporary arrangement, it lasted far longer than anyone had expected. Over time, instead of bringing unity or progress, it contributed to political instability, economic stagnation, and the growth of separatist sentiments in the region.

Its removal not only altered a law but also started a new era. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is now more integrated with the rest of the country, allowing for a more uniform approach to governance and development. The results are visible in many ways, especially in terms of peace, better governance, and a sense of participation among the people.

Restoring Peace and Democracy

One of the most noticeable changes after the abrogation is the return to peace and public order. Before 2019, bandhs, hartals, and frequent curfews were part of life in Kashmir. Today, things are different and much calmer. According to data from the Ministry of Home Affairs, stone-pelting incidents dropped by over 87% by 2021 compared to 2018. Civilian deaths due to terrorism also fell sharply—by more than half. That's a reflection of lives saved, families protected, and society getting into normalcy.

The improved security situation also allowed elections to take place. In December 2020, people voted in the District Development Council (DDC) elections. Turnout exceeded 50%, which is a significant achievement in a region where many had long stayed away from the ballot box. Both

regional and national parties participated, demonstrating a broader willingness to engage in democratic processes.

Since then, the Panchayat elections have been held peacefully, with the active participation of voters, which is an outstanding achievement. Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections were held in three phases from September 18 to October 1, 2024, successfully in a tightly contested contest. Elections were held despite ongoing militant attacks, which showed that people did not want to sacrifice democracy at any cost. All of these points indicate that democracy is strengthening in Kashmir.

Curtailing Terror and Ending the Stone-Pelting Cycle

Not too long ago, certain parts of J&K were caught in a troubling cycle, like youth radicalisation, stone-pelting mobs, and foreign-funded terrorism. That network has been steadily eroded since the removal of Article 370.

Between 2018 and 2021, cross-border infiltration dropped by nearly 70%, as noted in a 2022 Rajya Sabha report. That didn't happen by chance. Agencies like the NIA (National Investigation Agency) cracked down hard on terror funding and the groups feeding unrest. Security forces could now operate more freely, without the constraints previously imposed by special constitutional provisions.

Meanwhile, efforts continue to be made to bring vulnerable youth back on track through counselling, educational reforms, and community programs. And they are becoming helpful in bringing down unrest with minimal to no stone-pelting. Schools, markets, and public spaces remain open even during politically sensitive times, something previously unthinkable.

Grassroots Governance and Fast-Track Development

The Government of India has placed a great emphasis on local governance, ensuring that local governments, such as Panchayats, are empowered with sufficient funds. Panchayats, for instance, are now directly funded. Over ₹1,100 crore has been allocated to them, which will directly benefit the repair of roads, construction of schools, and improvement of local infrastructure.

Examples:

- The Chenab Railway Bridge is the tallest in the world.
- New medical colleges and AIIMS-level hospitals in all 20 districts.
- More than 3.5 lakh rural homes now have tap water under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Roads under PMGSY have more than doubled.
- Tourism has bounced back, too. In 2022, a record 1.88 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir, the highest in twenty years. That's not just good for the economy; it shows people feel safe visiting again.

Investment is rising, thanks to smoother systems, such as the single-window clearance, and initiatives like the Global Investors Summit held in 2023.

Over 4,000 villages now have sports facilities. Programs like Mission Youth are helping young people gain training, start businesses, and find employment. The result is a shift from frustration to participation.

Some incidents, influenced by outside forces, aimed to spread terror in the valley. The recent Pahalgam attack targeted one community and sought to instill fear but ultimately brought national unity instead.

Conclusion

The removal of Article 370 marked a fundamental shift in Jammu & Kashmir's role within India, aiming to move beyond its association with conflict toward progress through governance and unity. While significant challenges remain—such as addressing distrust and ideological divides—the process is now clearer.

As Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said during the Lok Sabha session in 2019:

"The removal of Article 370 is not just a constitutional correction—it is a move to give rights, dignity, and development to the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

That vision is slowly, but steadily, becoming a reality.

India United:
A Decade of Peace, Progress, and Protection

Venugopal Vemula
State Social Media Committee Member, Telangana

Like many of you, I've seen a huge change in our country over the past decade. It wasn't that long ago that we worried about Naxal attacks in our forests, unrest in our cities, and the new danger of internet scams. Keeping India safe inside its own borders felt like a massive challenge. But today? Things feel much, much better. Our government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has really stepped up to bring peace, law and order, and a sense of togetherness across all of India. Let me tell you what many others and I have felt firsthand.

The "Red Corridor" is Fading Away
There was a time when large parts of central and eastern India were known as the "Red Corridor" because of Naxal violence. It was a scary time – ordinary people, police, and even government workers were afraid to go into those areas. But that fear has mostly disappeared now.

Today, the number of violent incidents has dropped by over 70%! Earlier, more than 100 districts were affected by Naxals, but now that number is less than half. Many areas are no longer even on the "Naxal-affected" list. This change didn't happen overnight. Our government used both strong action and smart planning. Our security forces did a great

job controlling the violence, and at the same time, the government made sure development reached those areas.

Development Matters: In the past, people living in our tribal and forest areas often felt forgotten. They didn't have good roads, electricity, schools, hospitals, or jobs. This made it easy for Maoist groups to mislead them. But the Modi government changed all that. They built roads in tough areas, put up mobile towers so people could connect, and brought government schemes directly to the people. Things like the Jan Dhan Yojana helped open bank accounts for everyone, the Ujjwala Yojana gave gas cylinders to tribal women, and Ayushman Bharat provided free healthcare. When people get development, there's no room for violence. Now, young people in tribal areas are getting jobs, going to school, and joining the rest of India. They're choosing laptops over guns, and it's wonderful to see.

Our Security Forces Working Better Together: A big reason Naxalism has gone down is the significant improvement in how our security forces are working together. The CRPF, state police, and intelligence agencies are now working hand-in-hand. They've set up new training centres, got modern weapons, and even formed special battalions like the Bastariya Battalion, made up of local youth.

There's also much better teamwork between the central and state governments. Before, there were often delays and confusion, but now everyone follows a single plan. The Home Ministry's plan from 2015 focused not just on fighting violence but also on solving the root problems. Peace in Kashmir and the Northeast: Beyond Naxalism. Kashmir was another big challenge with its separatism. But after Article 370 was removed in 2019, things have significantly improved. Stone-pelting incidents have gone down, and fewer young people are joining terror groups. Schools are open, markets are bustling, and tourists are visiting Kashmir like never before!

In the Northeast, too, we're seeing peace like never before. The Modi government signed peace deals with many groups in Nagaland, Assam, Tripura, and other states. Violence has reduced, the special law AFSPA has been removed from many areas, and development projects are moving quickly. People in the Northeast now feel more connected to the rest of India, which is fantastic.

Handling City Unrest and Cyber Threats: India is a vast country with many different opinions. Sometimes, protests and unrest can happen in our cities. But in the last few years, we've noticed that these situations are handled more peacefully and quickly. Authorities are better prepared, fake news on social media is being monitored, and efforts are made to solve issues before they escalate.

Also, with an increasing number of people using the internet, cybercrimes have become a new threat. But our government stepped in. They started the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and set up cyber labs in many states. Our police are being trained to handle online crimes, and campaigns have been launched to teach people how to protect themselves online.

Bringing All of India Closer: Beyond just handling threats, the Modi government has also worked to bring all Indians closer. Programs like Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat encourage cultural exchange between different states. The main idea is to celebrate our unity in diversity. When people understand and respect each other, peace within our country naturally grows stronger.

It's all about A Stronger & United India: As an ordinary Indian citizen, I truly feel confident that our country is safer, more peaceful, and more united than it was before. The Modi government's strong will, clear plans, and focus on both security and development have genuinely made a big difference. Of course, there's always more work to do. But the journey so far clearly shows that with strong leadership and the support of its people, even the most significant challenges can be overcome. From the deep jungles of Bastar to the beautiful valleys of Kashmir, from our tribal areas to our modern cities, India is truly rising as a peaceful and united nation.

From Bastar to Tawang: Taming the Red, Securing the East

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On August 15, 2025, India will be celebrating its 78th Independence Day. Independence Day is a festival that allows 140 crore Indians to reflect on the arduous journey our great land, India, has undertaken in the preceding years. One of such chronicles, which will make every Indian proud, is the strengthening of the internal security apparatus that has occurred in the past decade, under the decisive leadership of India's most popular PM Shri Narendra Modi.

From Northeast India to securing India's economic security, some of the steps taken by the Government of India have definitely strengthened the basics of Indian diplomacy and economy, which can power Bharatvarsh to become a Vishwaguru in the truest sense.

Northeast India

One of the primary beneficiaries of the renewed push on internal security has been Northeast India. Northeast India had been historically one of the most focal zones, where a lot of protests, ethnic conflicts, insurgency and even terrorism used to take place, in the yesteryears of the UPA era. The Modi government has had a multi-pronged approach towards this region, which has started to pay off dividends to the country today. Narendra Modi, by far, is the only Prime Minister who has visited the "Ashtalakshmi" states a record 70 times and still counting, which is a unique record. The total number of visits by all sitting prime ministers to the Northeast, before PM Modi's outreach, was 21.

This policy shift of including Northeast India in every discourse of the country is the reason that Northeast India has seen a reduction in civilian deaths by almost 89% and a decrease in violent instances by almost 70% in the past decade itself. Historic peace accords like the Bodo Peace Accord, Tripura Peace Accord, Bru Reang Agreement in Tripura, Karbi Peace Accord, UNLF ceasefire of Manipur, DNLA Peace Agreement and the Tripura Peace Accord have been signed. In the past decade, the Indian state has also led a brave crackdown on the notorious terrorist groups, which were showcased in the 2015 Operation Hot Pursuit. Furthermore, in the past few years, the inauguration of infrastructure marvels in North East India has strengthened the internal security apparatus massively, some of them being - Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, Bhupen Hazarika Setu in Assam, revivals of 7 ALGs and Nechipu Tunnel, all have improved the penetration of India's security apparatus in the North East India, while keeping the local interests in mind.

Additionally, economic growth has become a reality in this part of the country. The Northeastern states have grown at an average of 6-10% GDP annually, which is outperforming the national average by a good margin. Additionally, as per NITI Aayog, the number of aspirational districts in the SDG-NER Index has reduced from 20 to 3 in the past few years. In the past 3 years, the number of frontrunner districts in achieving SDG-3(good health) has seen a 350% increase, from 14 to 49. In fact, a whole separate ecosystem for assessing the pace of progress in the northeastern states has been put in place today, in which initiatives like the Northeastern Democratic Alliance (NEDA), DoNER and NECTAR have played a critical role in securing the internal security interests of the country. The cyclical approach of PM Narendra Modi in creating economic opportunities leading to strong internal security and vice versa has been implemented in full display, which has resulted in Northeast India now playing a supercritical role in improving Indian ties with the ASEAN+ group of countries.

Left Wing Extremism
Another significant visible change that has occurred in the past 10 years is the near eradication of Left-Wing Extremism. The LWE led by rogue terrorists was an internal security Achilles heel for many years. Today, the country aims to eradicate LWE from every district of India by March 2026, a promise given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The eradication of LWE will provide justice to many victims of brutal Naxal attacks in the past 58 years, which have affected locals and security personnel in a significant manner. The extent of the red corridor, which used to extend from South Bihar to Tirupati, has been limited heavily to a certain set of districts in Central India.

The approach towards eradicating LWE has been a mix of development initiatives coupled with political integration and harsh actions against the Naxals. Operation Black Forest and the strengthening of state police networks have been a major protagonist in India's war against Naxalism. Hundreds of Naxal leaders have either been eliminated or surrendered in the past few months. The result is that the number of districts affected by LWE has reduced from 126 in 2018 to 18 in 2025. Schemes like RRP-I, RPELWA scheme, TRIFEDs empowerment, expansion of telecom towers from 1200 in 2014 to 5000 in 2025, NRLM, Jal Jeevan Mission's success, PM Awas Yojana, expansion of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Eklavya schools in the areas along with near saturation of Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Bastar Development Plan worth Rs. 2500 crore and providing ground level political tribal leadership in the form of Vishnu Deo Sai, Mohan Charan Majhi amongst others, have ensured that the menace of LWE is in its final stages.

The twin successes of near-eradication of Left-Wing Extremism and the economic resurgence of Northeast India demonstrate the effectiveness of India's HPOM strategy (Hard Power, Political Will, Outreach Initiatives, and Modernization). This integrated approach is now securing the nation's internal frontiers, laying a strong foundation for the realisation of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Law, Tech, and Trust: Strengthening Internal Peace in Modi's Bharat

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India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has undergone a transformative journey in the realm of internal security, criminal justice, and policing. Recognising the need to adapt a colonial-era justice system to the aspirations of a new Bharat, the government has implemented wide-ranging criminal law reforms, technologically-driven policing strategies, and community-centric governance models. These reforms are not just procedural—they signify a paradigm shift towards a justice system that is speedy, fair, transparent, and aligned with the Indian ethos.

This article analyses the comprehensive criminal justice reforms undertaken in the past decade, the rise of smart policing, and their collective impact on national integration, citizen safety, and internal peace.

I. Criminal Justice Reforms: Reclaiming Bharatiya Jurisprudence

1. Repeal of Colonial Laws
In a historic legislative move, the British-era laws—the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Indian Evidence Act, 1872—have been replaced by:

- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023
- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023
- Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023
- These reforms emphasise victim-centric justice, timely trial, and rootedness in Indian values.

2. Key Provisions of BNS, BNSS & BSA
- Time-bound investigation and trial: Under BNSS, chargesheets must be filed within 90 days, and trials concluded within 2 years for heinous crimes.
- Zero FIR and e-FIRs: Digital filing of FIRs, regardless of jurisdiction, is now allowed—empowering the victims.
- Forensic investigation mandatory: For crimes with punishment of over 7 years, forensic evidence is now mandatory under BNSS—raising the bar for evidence-based convictions.
- Community service as punishment: A reformative step—non-serious offences can now result in community service, reflecting restorative justice over retributive justice.
- Use of technology in trial: Electronic records, video recordings, and online summons are now admissible under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

3. Constitutional Foundation
These reforms are firmly rooted in Part III (Fundamental Rights) and Part IV (Directive Principles) of the Constitution:

- Article 21: Right to life includes right to a fair trial and speedy justice (Hussainara Khatoon v.
- State of Bihar, AIR 1979 SC 1369).
- Article 39A: Ensures equal access to justice and legal aid.

These provisions move away from the punitive and colonial legacy, making justice a citizen-centric service.

II. Smart Policing: The Digital Backbone of Internal Security

1. Modernisation Through Technology
The Ministry of Home Affairs and state governments have initiated comprehensive modernisation:

- Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS): An integrated database across 16,000 police stations to track criminals, FIRs, and investigations in real-time.
- Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS): Seamless sharing of data between police, prosecution, judiciary, and prisons.
- National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS): Speeds up suspect identification.
- Drone surveillance, predictive policing, and AI-based facial recognition: Used in controlling urban riots, border management, and VIP security.

2. Community Policing and Citizen Participation
Smart policing is not just about technology—it's also about trust-building. The government has revived the Gandhian model of Jan Suraksha:

- MOITRI (Modernization of Internal Training and Reforms Initiative) in Assam: Focuses on people-friendly policing.
- Janamaithri Suraksha Project in Kerala: Brings police-citizen partnerships at local levels.
- Cyber Mitra and Police Mitra Schemes: Citizen volunteers assist police in cybercrime and neighbourhood monitoring.
- This reaffirms the philosophy of "Police as Seva" instead of "Police as Control".

III. The Impact: A Safer, Integrated, and Peaceful Bharat
1. Reduction in Internal Threats
According to the Ministry of Home Affairs data:

- Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence has reduced by over 77% between 2010 and 2023.

- Insurgency in the North-East is at its lowest in four decades.
- Jammu and Kashmir has seen a sharp fall in stone-pelting and militancy after the 2019 abrogation of Article 370.

Smart intelligence, local policing, and rehabilitation of surrendered militants have been key to these achievements.

2. Cybersecurity and Urban Policing
Cybercrime is a new frontier of internal threat. Initiatives like:

- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
- Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting System (Helpline 1930) have curbed online frauds and financial crimes. Urban centres like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru now have cyber police stations, mobile crime labs, and real-time surveillance units.

3. Faster Justice Delivery and Victim Protection

- Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) under the Nirbhaya Fund have expedited sexual offence trials.
- Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, upheld in Mahender Chawla v. Union of India, ensures safety and dignity of key witnesses.
- Legal Aid Clinics and Nyaya Bandhus serve the poor and marginalized—particularly in tribal and rural areas.

These steps bring substantive justice to the grassroots.

IV. Landmark Judicial Endorsements
The Supreme Court has strongly advocated smart and accountable policing:

- Prakash Singh v. Union of India, (2006) 8 SCC 1 Directed states to:
    - Separate law and order from investigation
    - Establish Police Complaints Authorities
    - Fix tenures of senior police officials

Though implementation has been patchy, Modi's reforms align with these directions.

- Lalita Kumari v. Govt. of UP, (2014) 2 SCC 1 Mandatory FIR registration was upheld to prevent police bias—reflected in Zero FIR and e-FIR initiatives.

- PUCL v. Union of India, (1997) 1 SCC 301

Laid down guidelines on police surveillance and privacy, now relevant in the age of tech-policing.

These judicial milestones emphasize accountability, transparency, and citizen protection—principles now embedded in legislative and policing practices.

V. Challenges Ahead
Despite these reforms, challenges persist:

- Police Reforms at the State Level: Many states still follow the outdated Police Acts of 1861. A uniform modern Police Act is needed.
- Overcrowded Prisons and Undertrial Population: Despite speedy trial provisions, over 75% of inmates are undertrials (NCRB 2023).
- Cybercrime Jurisdictional Conflicts: As crimes transcend borders, laws need more clarity on cross-border enforcement and digital evidence.

However, these are not insurmountable. With political will and public participation, the system can evolve continuously.

Conclusion: Towards a Just and Harmonious Bharat

The Modi government's approach to criminal justice and internal peace represents a blend of Bharatiya tradition, constitutionalism, and modern innovation. The replacement of colonial laws with Bharatiya Sanhitas marks not only a legal reform but a civilizational reset. Smart policing, with its human face and technological spine, strengthens both law enforcement and democratic values.

As Bharat aspires to become a Viksit Rashtra by 2047, the journey towards peace, justice, and security must continue with citizen-centric reforms, accountable governance, and nation-first policies.

SMART Policing, Swift Justice: The New Face of Internal Security in India

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The soul of a nation lies in its sense of justice. For far too long, India's criminal justice system had been a relic of colonial control – designed not to serve the people, but to rule over them. With the rise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to power in 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a long-awaited transformation began. The BJP-led central government has laid the foundation for a justice system that is modern, inclusive, tech-enabled and deeply rooted in Bharatiya civilisational values.

As Swami Vivekananda once said, "A nation's greatness is not measured by the size of its army or the wealth it holds, but by how it treats its weakest." This powerful idea forms the moral underpinning of the Modi government's approach to criminal justice reform, to make justice faster, more accessible, and more humane.

One of the most historic moves came in 2023, when the government introduced three landmark laws: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (replacing the Indian Penal Code), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (replacing the CrPC), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (replacing the Indian Evidence Act). These were not just legislative changes, but a cultural renaissance. The names themselves are a conscious break from colonial legacies. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita incorporates a victim-centric approach and redefines crimes to reflect present-day realities, including terrorism and organised crime. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita introduces stricter timelines for investigation and trial. Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam brings digital and electronic evidence to the centre stage of trials. Together, these reforms mark a foundational shift from colonial control to civilisational confidence.

To back these sweeping changes, the central government has launched a series of flagship schemes to strengthen institutions, support law enforcement, and empower victims. The ICJS (Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System) and CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) projects have redefined how law enforcement and judiciary interact. With over ₹3,375 crore allocated to ICJS Phase-II, the digital integration of courts, police, prosecution, forensics, and prisons is a game-changer for transparency and efficiency.

Under the National Mission for Safety of Women, supported by the Nirbhaya Fund, schemes such as One Stop Centres (OSCs), Women Helpline (181), Safe City Projects, and Emergency Response Support Systems (ERSS) have created a security

"Reform is not a one-time event. It is a continuous commitment to the betterment of society."

— Atal Bihari Vajpayee

network for women. The establishment of 708 OSCs and over 5.4 lakh women beneficiaries speak volumes about its impact. Simultaneously, the Fast Track Special Courts Scheme, started in 2019 with a ₹767 crore budget, has led to the establishment of 755 FTSCs including 410 exclusively for POCSO cases. As per the latest NCRB data, India's overall conviction rate for IPC crimes has improved significantly, rising from approximately 42,000 convictions in 2021 to over 56,000 in 2022—a 33% increase—with conviction rates reaching around 59.3% in 2023. This reflects the impact of fast-track courts, legal reforms, and better prosecution infrastructure under the BJP-led central government. In contrast, the conviction rate for crimes against women, while improving from 18.9% in 2016 to 29.8% in 2020, has hovered around 25% in recent years. Categories like rape and POCSO remain concerning, with conviction rates around 27–28% and as low as 3% respectively in some studies, highlighting the need for continued institutional strengthening and victim-centric justice delivery.

Technology has become the backbone of this transformation. Over 83% of police stations now register FIRs digitally, and more than 1.2 crore FIRs have been uploaded to the national CCTNS database. The ICJS ensures real-time case tracking and avoids duplication. The government's focus on forensic science has led to a silent revolution. The National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) holds over 1.06 crore fingerprint records. Seven Central Forensic Science Laboratories are connected via the e-Forensics platform. An additional ₹860 crore has been allocated to set up seven more CFSLs, including a centre in Jammu. Over 34,000 officers, prosecutors, and medical professionals have been trained in evidence collection.

Fast-track justice has been institutionalised. In 2022, 83% of rape and child abuse cases tried in FTSCs reached a conclusion; in 2023, that number

rose to 94%. Since 2018, over 2.1 lakh out of 4.1 lakh cases have been disposed of through these special courts.

Justice is also about care and protection. As of March 2022, OSCs have provided legal, medical, and psychological support to over 5.4 lakh women survivors of violence. The number of all-women police stations has grown to 745 from 518 in 2014, ensuring women feel safe approaching law enforcement.

Meanwhile, BJP-led states have led the way in implementing reforms. Uttar Pradesh now has the highest number of women police officers at 30,432, and 77 all-women police stations. Gujarat hosts the National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar, now with a campus in Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh has set up 52 women's police stations and embraced digital policing tools.

The Safe City Program has received over ₹3,000 crore for smart surveillance in cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad. Delhi has inducted 32 high-tech drones for monitoring sensitive zones. With AI-driven CCTV and facial recognition, urban policing is evolving fast. The BJP-led government's reforms reflect India's cultural values. Police reforms under the SMART Policing framework (Strict and Sensitive, Modern and Mobile, Alert and Accountable, Reliable and Responsive, Tech-savvy and Trained) have improved law enforcement training, with new emphasis on cybercrime, gender sensitivity, and forensics.

Beyond procedural efficiency and citizen empowerment, these reforms have laid the groundwork for a more secure and resilient nation. The integration of technology, time-bound investigation, and transparency in prosecution has not only reduced pendency but also enhanced the credibility and deterrence of the justice system. A responsive legal framework ensures that grievances are addressed before they fester into unrest, while the swift disposal of cases curbs criminal networks that thrive in delay and loopholes. This judicial strength is the bedrock of internal security, ensuring that the rule of law prevails in both urban centres and rural heartlands.

Moreover, smart policing and coordinated digital crime tracking have equipped law enforcement agencies to better tackle modern threats—ranging from cybercrime and organised criminal syndicates to urban violence and cross-border terror proxies. By marrying constitutional values with cutting-edge tools, the Modi government's approach has redefined public safety as a civilisational imperative. A justice system that protects, empowers, and integrates all citizens is the ultimate guarantor of internal peace. In this sense, justice is not just law—it is security, stability, and national strength.

As India walks into the Amrit Kaal, these reforms signal a deeper shift. Justice is no longer a colonial burden but a sacred dharma to be fulfilled. The BJP's reforms have brought us closer to the ideal of Ram Rajya – where governance is righteous, swift, and rooted in the welfare of all.

"Good governance is not about making headlines, but about making a difference."

— Narendra Modi

Data Defense: Privacy Laws as Cyberdefense

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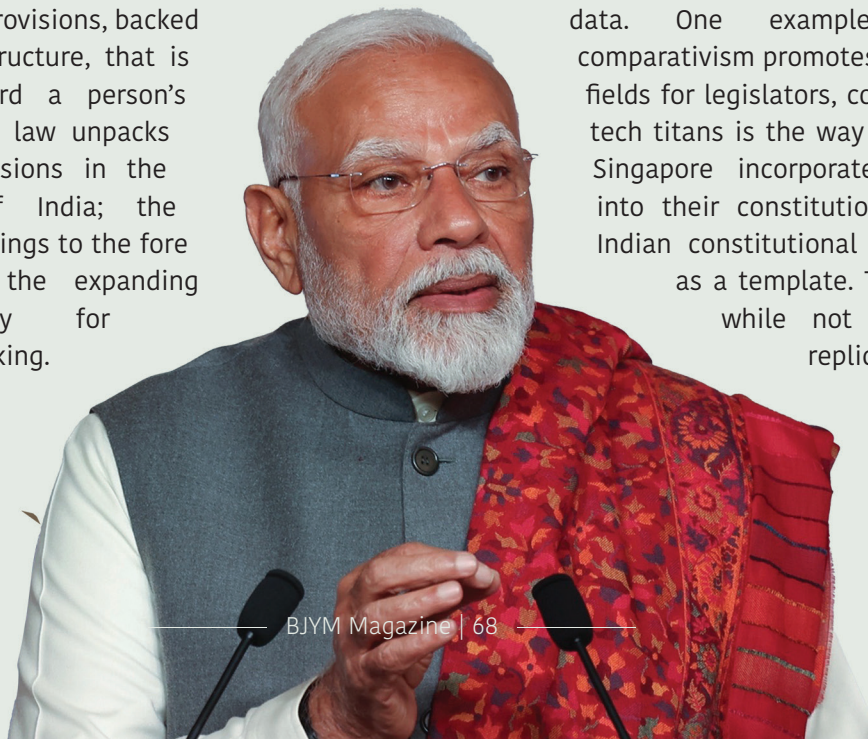
In the new millennium, the profound potential of data collection has grown by leaps and bounds. The tech companies deploy sophisticated methods to extract information. Through data collection, personal data is commodified, thus making the transferability of data in the form of tangible property a pressing issue. People have encountered how invasive social networking sites can be in violating user autonomy, as seen in the case of Facebook in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. Specifically in India, the Aadhaar procedure raised significant concerns about the invasion of critical biometric and demographic data. Perhaps it was due to these risk factors that the call for decisive leadership was raised close to the end of the UPA rule. A couple of modifications are unfolding faster than expected, as the Narendra Modi-led government aims to amend the Aadhaar Act of 2016, synchronising it alongside the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.

The DPDP Act, mirroring the Puttaswamy case (Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India) decision, was unveiled in 2023. It is a solid core of provisions, backed by a critical infrastructure, that is meant to safeguard a person's digital privacy. This law unpacks the missing dimensions in the digital regime of India; the redirection that it brings to the fore is suggestive of the expanding political capacity for ambitious lawmaking. Drawing extensively from common law jurisdictions, the law adopts a light-footprint approach, alleviating compliance norms for Data Fiduciaries. It keeps humans in a constant loop to avoid unintended consequences, making it hard to bypass the established process. While the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and the California Consumer Privacy Act are among the premier privacy laws in the Global North, the Indian equivalent opens a way for asserting data sovereignty in the Global South. The Act defines parameters for processing activities that give people sovereignty over their personally identifiable information.

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution does not explicitly address the right to data protection and privacy, albeit in a rather different way. According to the Supreme Court, the aforementioned Article would by definition posture the fundamental right to privacy against unfettered government meddling. Akin to most cases involving the evaluation of the right to privacy across the world, the Supreme Court adopted a comparativist approach when addressing oversight on personal data. One example of how comparativism promotes level playing fields for legislators, consumers, and tech titans is the way Malaysia and Singapore incorporated provisions into their constitutions using the Indian constitutional jurisprudence as a template. The DPDP Act, while not an absolute replica of existing laws, asserts India's

revolutionary progression from 'rule-taker' to 'rule-maker'.

It is, by design and default, an intervention that anchors India's arrangement for governance in a world that is turning increasingly data-intensive. A noteworthy innovation of this Act is that it stratifies organisations as 'Significant Data Fiduciary' (or 'SDF') based on the sheer amount and nature of data they collect; the Central Government may designate its agencies as SDF for national security and exceptional emergency circumstances. To prevent inconsistencies, the Act sets additional standards for processing a child's data, such as requiring parental authorisation. In a wider social setting, this serves as a remedy to protect the socioemotional features of children who are prone to disruptive behavioural tracking.

The immediate aftermath of this law's passage, however, led to a state of severe commotion, and the idea of 'freedom from surveillance' would crumble. Allegations were levelled that it was deliberately designed to limit the democratic exercise of freedom and other conjoined rights by ordinary citizens. The law will surely have a bearing on the appropriate stakeholder groups because matters regarding privacy are typically handled at the national level, just as any traditionally regulated matter would be. Anyhow, the naysayers' argument that this law blocks political critique is unfounded, as the law guards against vulnerabilities and unwanted access. It sets punitive penalties for breaches and improper utilisation of personal data.

Data is the fuel that greases the digital revolution, and that India has put in place an evolvable legislation is a major milestone. In the thick of the twenty-first century, in which diplomatic bids are being made to ease trade through digital mediums, it appears that India must also entangle itself from plausible state-backed digital attacks. More so from countries whose relations with India have plummeted. That said, the Act appears promising, despite persistent doubts about its efficacy, which are likely to be settled once the rules slated for implementation are made public. It is, no doubt, true that the DPDP Act will help bolster India's

digital prowess and bring together all emerging economies. It will also play a part in leveraging the Indian Techade's clout vis-à-vis India's institutional capacity on the digital front.

Integrating robust personal data safeguards into India's security architecture not only protects citizens' privacy but also strengthens national resilience against cyber threats. By mandating stringent consent, purpose-limitation, and security-by-design principles, the Act forces government and private entities alike to adopt state-of-the-art encryption, intrusion detection, and incident-response protocols. This reduces the risk of mass data breaches—whether carried out by foreign intelligence services aiming to map critical infrastructure personnel or by criminal syndicates seeking to extort key public-sector executives. In effect, every organisation that handles sensitive data becomes a hardened outpost in India's broader cyber-defence perimeter.

Moreover, the Act's explicit lawful-access provisions create a legally sound pathway for intelligence and law-enforcement agencies to obtain personal data in terrorism, espionage, and sabotage investigations—subject to judicial oversight. By defining precise grounds and procedures for emergency disclosures, the law strikes a vital balance: it prevents arbitrary surveillance while ensuring that rapid, targeted data access remains available when national security imperatives demand it. In this way, India's data-protection framework undergirds both the privacy rights and the security needs of a modern, digitally enabled democracy.

Training the Nation: Agnipath, NCC, and NYKS as Foundations of National Security

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The progress of a country is inherently linked to the aspirations, discipline, and civic awareness of its young people. In India, the abundance of a youth population is a gigantic chance for national progress, as long as it can be tapped. Programs such as Agnipath, the National Cadet Corps (NCC), the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), and other cultural integration programs form a comprehensive strategy to tap youth participation to strengthen national cohesion and promote social integration.

Agnipath: Disciplined Youth Mobilisation for Nation-Building

It was launched in June 2022, and the Agnipath Scheme is a revolutionary step towards creating a disciplined and capable youth force. As per this scheme, youth are employed in the armed forces for a specific duration of four years. Not only does the limited employment provide intensive training, but it also instils discipline and fosters valuable qualities like leadership, team spirit, and patriotism.

The Agnipath scheme not only strengthens the armed forces with fresh young blood but also equips participants referred to as Agniveers for valuable contributions to civilian life upon the end of their service. The scheme provides for education and vocational enhancement, facilitating easy integration into the working population. This system of national service with a structured approach ensures social cohesion, enhances national pride, and inculcates a sense of responsibility among the youth of India.

NCC and NYKS: Building Civic Readiness and Responsibility

Initiated in 1948, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) is one of the oldest youth organisations of India. With a strength of more than 1.4 million cadets, it imparts basic military training along with civic and social welfare. The NCC instils discipline, leadership, and the spirit of secularism, and instils a strong sense of responsibility in its cadets. Cadets also take part in community welfare and relief activities when natural calamities hit, and environmental work, thus proving their desire to serve society beyond the parade ground.

Similarly, the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), the world's largest rural youth organisation, is also operational through its far-reaching network in India's districts. Its focus lies in community work, national integration, and developing individual capability. Through the application of schemes like National Integration Camps, Youth Parliaments, and voluntary services for environmental protection and disaster management, NYKS facilitates rural youth to channelise collective efforts towards society development. These schemes facilitate inter-community dialogue and generate the spirit of solidarity and mutual respect.

Cultural Integration: National Festivals and Unity in Diversity

India's cultural heritage is a strong tool for national integration. National festivals and exchange of cultural programs reinforce the idea of "unity in diversity." Festivals such as the National Youth Festival, celebrated yearly on the anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's birthday, unite youth from every state and union territory to celebrate shared values and diversity in culture. Programs such as Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat assist in fostering inter-state exchanges that enable the youth to acquire the rich languages, cuisine, art forms, and traditions of the various states. The exchanges facilitate an appreciation of diversity and assist in eradicating regional barriers. Observance of local festivals, folk arts, and traditional practices under national integration programs also assists in creating a homogeneous society.

Synergistic Impact: An Integrated Framework for National Unity

All of them, collectively, form an integrated model of youth mobilisation. Agnipath offers disciplined national service, NCC develops civic consciousness and preparedness, NYKS empowers grassroots youth, and cultural integration campaigns impart pride in the composite culture of India. Collectively, this results in socially responsible, culturally aware, and nationally oriented citizens. These events act as tools of social justice because they link fragmented socio-economic communities, offer equal opportunities for participation, and encourage shared experiences that unite communities. They provide the youth with the capacity to tackle current issues while, at the same time, promoting respect for constitutional rights and democratic values.

These youth-centric initiatives are not merely tools for personal development, they are quiet instruments of national security. By channelling the energy of young citizens into structured programmes like Agnipath, NCC, NYKS, and cultural integration campaigns, India is building a social architecture that discourages alienation, radicalisation, and unrest. Youth who are physically disciplined, emotionally connected to their roots, and actively engaged in civic life form the first line of defence against internal instability.

In times when internal threats can arise from misinformation, identity-based tensions, or socio-economic grievances, these programmes cultivate a generation that is resilient, vigilant, and unified. National unity, when nurtured through youth participation and shared cultural pride, becomes the strongest guarantor of internal peace.

Thus, India's investment in youth is not just an investment in its future economy or democracy, it is a strategic pillar of its internal security.

Challenges and Recommendations

While their success is notable, these programmes need continued focus and improvement. Agnipath needs to provide strong post-service support and skill validation to provide livelihoods to ex-servicemen. NCC's outreach needs to be increased to reach underpenetrated areas and schools. NYKS needs to improve its monitoring systems and increase its capability to implement practical grassroots projects. Cultural programmes, too, need to be inclusive with representation of India's diverse society. Policy-makers must actively encourage greater cooperation between such institutions, civil society, and educational institutions in order to maximise their combined impact.

Drawing upon youth power is at the core of India's vision of a strong, inclusive, and prosperous nation. Schemes such as Agnipath, NCC, NYKS, and cultural integration initiatives are critical instruments for bringing about a disciplined, cohesive, and civic-conscious generation. By investing in such schemes and making them more streamlined consistently, India can transform its demographic dividend into a force for sustainable national integration and development.

From Hashtags to Hackers: Battling Urban Naxalism and Cybercrime in India's Digital Battlefield

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Cybersecurity Challenges, Urban Naxalism, and Technology-Driven Threats

In the global arena, predictions are being made that the 21st century belongs to India, where India is advancing through the Digital economy and becoming a global economic hub. The intersection of cybercrime, ideological warfare, and large-scale threats is critical for the overall security of India.

Since the government is rapidly targeting Naxalism in the rural areas where they survived so long, there is a rise in urban Naxalism, where the ideological war is being fought in a new battleground, where sophisticated digital media, misinformation and financial fraud are seen as new weapons for them to fight against the state and erode its legitimacy. Indian demography indicates that the youths, who are most digitally active in the new battleground, are responsible for fighting against these new emerging threats.

Digital Safeguards and Suppressing Monetized Ideological Disruptionv

India needs to understand that now Urban Naxals are no longer restricted to jungles or secret meetings, they are present around metropolitan cities, urban centres, NGOs, universities, journals and now their authenticated, encrypted social media platforms. They meticulously indulge in anti-national activities like misinformation, money laundering, crypto transfer and several other covert funding for their propaganda. According to the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), there has been a 24% rise in cybercrime cases in 2023, with a significant portion attributed to ideological warfare and financial fraud. Cybercrime has become a lifeline for their anti-national activities, and it poses a significant challenge to our national security.

India needs a proactive intelligence gathering system in place of rusting reactive policies. It needs to build a robust framework to deal with emerging threats, such as cyber coordination centres at the district, sub-district, and panchayat levels. The ideological warfare and financial frauds are at rural locations because their populations are primarily new to the digital battleground. The cyber centres at these levels can track suspicious transactions, identify radicalisation nodes and disrupt financial fraud. Similarly, AI-driven patterns can help analyse cryptocurrency transfer and dark activities that finance urban Naxal activities. The solution does

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India can transition from reactive to proactive defence by utilising AI-driven monitoring, bolstering intelligence frameworks, empowering local cyber cells, and investing in strong cyber infrastructure.

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not lie only with technology; human intelligence will be more significant. Training cyber guard troops at the district and panchayat levels can trace ideological footprints and identify recruitment patterns. Collaboration with financial intelligence can disrupt urban Naxal activities.

Countering Disinformation and Anti-National Narratives

The protest against the CAA and Farm Laws is an example of how any legislation for the betterment of the country's citizens can be manipulated and used as a disinformation threat to national security. Social media like encrypted bot-driven X (earlier Twitter), Telegram channels, WhatsApp large groups, and edited YouTube videos can build a false narrative to sow division and grow fear among users. These are not random but a well-prepared information warfare strategy against the National security of India. Urban Naxals have adopted the same misinformation warfare strategy to delegitimise the state and gain sympathy for themselves.

To counter this, we require a comprehensive multi-pronged approach. First, we need a pan-India National media literacy mission, based on critical evaluation and fact-checks of online viral content circulating. It can also be introduced in the school's syllabus because now social media is used in every home, where it lacks a counter-narrative. Second, the state must engage in counter-propaganda activities; it cannot be silent. The district-level cyber cells must counter this fake narrative. They can be provided in the local languages along with engaging local influencers, local leaders and grassroots organisations for credible voices before the propaganda takes root.

Cultivating Digital Resilience within District Frameworks

India's states and local governments are becoming more vulnerable to cyber threats that could disrupt services, expose private information, and undermine public trust due to their rapid

digitisation. Building resilience requires prioritising cybersecurity expenditures despite budgetary constraints. Key technologies such as firewalls, encryption, monitoring systems, and zero-trust models must be prioritised, and shared frameworks and regional alliances should be used to reduce costs. Training programs and simulations are essential for giving government workers the skills to identify phishing attacks, handle data securely, and react to crises effectively because human error is a key contributor to breaches.

One way to improve disaster response and minimise damage is to establish Security Operations Centres (SOCs) at the state level, hold frequent drills, and collaborate with national organisations such as CERT-IN. National preparedness is improved by cooperation between states and federal agencies via forums, cooperative task teams, and coordinated advisories. Accountability is further strengthened by standardised cybersecurity policies, frequent audits, and transparent procedures; access to cutting-edge technologies and financial security are also made possible via collaborations with private companies and the purchase of cyber insurance. Together, these steps ensure that cybersecurity becomes a crucial part of governance by maintaining essential public services and trust and preparing Indian states for an increasingly digital future.

Youth as Custodians of Digital Integrity
The youth of India are its greatest asset. The success or failure of the battle against cybercrime and urban naxalism will depend on how well the more than 600 million people under the age of 35 are mobilised. India's youth are not just passive technology users but innovators, trailblazers, and stewards of the nation's digital future.

Community organisations, student bodies, and political youth organisations must lead campaigns for internet awareness. The message must be unambiguous at all levels, from colleges to panchayats: National vigilance is cyber vigilance. Any smartphone can be a national security tool if young people are encouraged to report suspicious online activity, identify fraudulent information, and participate in digital literacy initiatives.

Conclusion
At this critical juncture, India must transform the threats of cybercrime, urban naxalism, and tech-driven conflict into an opportunity for digital strength. The conflict has moved into the digital sphere, where financial fraud, ideological manipulation, and disinformation threaten national security, rather than being limited to actual jungles or secret networks. India can transition from reactive to proactive defence by utilising AI-driven monitoring, bolstering intelligence frameworks, empowering local cyber cells, and investing in strong cyber infrastructure. A robust and watchful society will be ensured at the same time by enlisting young people as digital sentinels and incorporating media literacy into the curriculum. India can translate digital vulnerabilities into digital vigilance and turn the danger picture into a basis for national strength and security by coordinating efforts across technology, policy, intelligence, and community involvement.

आंतरिक शांति से अखंड एकता तक: मोदी सरकार के सुशासन की अमिट छाप

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एक स्थिर भारत की ओर पिछले एक दशक में भारत ने जो आंतरिक स्थिरता प्राप्त की है, वह किसी साधारण शासन का परिणाम नहीं, बल्कि दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व, नीतिगत स्पष्टता और मजबूत प्रशासनिक ढांचे का सशक्त प्रमाण है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारत ने न केवल आतंरिक खतरों को कुशलतापूर्वक नियंत्रित किया है, बल्कि देशवासियों के बीच आत्मविश्वास और राष्ट्रप्रेम की भावना को भी प्रबल किया है। अब भारत एक ऐसे युग में प्रवेश कर चुका है जहां आंतरिक शांति और अखंड राष्ट्रीय एकता केवल आदर्श नहीं, बल्कि यथार्थ बन चुकी है।

नक्सलवाद और वामपंथी उग्रवाद पर निर्णायक प्रहार

कई वर्षों तक नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों के लोग भय, हिंसा और विकास की उपेक्षा के बीच जीते रहे। लेकिन मोदी सरकार की रणनीति सिर्फ सुरक्षा तक सीमित नहीं रही, बल्कि उसने विकास को हथियार बनाकर नक्सलवाद को कमजोर किया। प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना, आदिवासी युवाओं के लिए रोजगार कार्यक्रम और सशक्त सुरक्षा बलों के तालमेल से अब इन क्षेत्रों में स्कूल, अस्पताल और उम्मीद की रोशनी दिख रही है। आज नक्सलवाद के विरुद्ध भारत ने वह किया है जो दशकों में संभव नहीं हुआ था और यह बदलाव स्थायी दिखता है।

जम्मू-कश्मीर: अनुच्छेद 370 के बाद विश्वास और विकास की नई राह

अनुच्छेद 370 की समाप्ति केवल एक संवैधानिक सुधार नहीं थी, यह भारत के प्रत्येक नागरिक को समान अधिकार और अवसर देने की दिशा में एक ऐतिहासिक कदम था। आज जम्मू-कश्मीर में न केवल पर्यटन फिर से लौट आया है, बल्कि स्थानीय चुनावों में लोगों की भागीदारी, युवाओं के लिए स्टार्टअप्स और आधुनिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर ने क्षेत्र की पूरी छवि बदल दी है। जहां पहले आतंक और पत्थरबाज़ी की तस्वीरें थीं, आज वहां तिरंगा और तरक्की की तस्वीरें हैं।

स्मार्ट और संवेदनशील पुलिसिंग: जनता की प्रहरी, डर नहीं भरोसे की पहचान

भारत में पहली बार पुलिसिंग को आधुनिक तकनीक, संवेदनशीलता और जवाबदेही के साथ जोड़ा गया है। सरकार ने फॉरेंसिक विज्ञान, डिजिटल ट्रैकिंग और कैमरा निगरानी जैसी व्यवस्थाएं लागू की हैं, जिससे अपराधों पर समय रहते कार्रवाई संभव हुई है। NIA, ATS और राज्य पुलिस के बीच बेहतर समन्वय से देशभर में आतंकी नेटवर्कों पर प्रभावी नियंत्रण हुआ है। साथ ही, 'पुलिस आपके द्वार' जैसी पहलें पुलिस और आमजन के बीच की दूरी को कम कर रही हैं। साइबर अपराध और शहरी उग्रवाद: तकनीकी मोर्चों पर सजग भारत डिजिटल इंडिया के दौर में खतरे भी डिजिटल हो गए हैं। मोदी सरकार ने साइबर सुरक्षा को प्राथमिकता देते हुए न केवल केंद्र और राज्य स्तर पर साइबर क्राइम सेल स्थापित किए हैं, बल्कि युवाओं को डिजिटल जागरूकता और साइबर आत्मरक्षा की ट्रेनिंग देकर भविष्य के खतरों से निपटने का आधार तैयार किया है। फेक न्यूज़, डिजिटल फ्रॉड और राष्ट्रविरोधी दुष्प्रचार पर रोक लगाने के लिए टेक्नोलॉजी का बेहतर इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है।

युवाशक्ति और सांस्कृतिक एकता: राष्ट्र निर्माण की नई नींव

भारत का भविष्य उसके युवाओं में बसता है, और मोदी सरकार ने युवाओं को केवल वोटर नहीं बल्कि 'नेशन बिल्डर' के रूप में देखा है। अग्निपथ योजना, NCC, NYKS और NSS के ज़रिए देशभक्ति, अनुशासन और नेतृत्व का विकास हो रहा है। राष्ट्रीय पर्वों, सांस्कृतिक अभियानों और 'एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत' जैसे कार्यक्रमों ने देश के कोने-कोने को जोड़ने का कार्य किया है।

उत्तर-पूर्व भारत: उग्रवाद से विश्वास और विकास की यात्रा

उत्तर-पूर्व भारत एक समय तक भारत की मुख्यधारा से कटा हुआ महसूस करता था। लेकिन आज वही क्षेत्र बुनियादी ढांचे, सांस्कृतिक पुनरुत्थान और रोजगार के नए अवसरों का केंद्र बन रहा है। मोदी सरकार ने ऐतिहासिक शांति समझौतों से हिंसा के चक्र को तोड़ा है और रेल, सड़क व हवाई मार्गों से क्षेत्र को जोड़ा है। आज वहां न केवल हथियार डाले जा रहे हैं, बल्कि स्थानीय युवाओं की प्रतिभा को राष्ट्रीय मंच भी मिल रहा है।

मोदी सरकार का नेतृत्व केवल कानून व्यवस्था बनाए रखने का काम नहीं कर रहा, बल्कि यह भारत को भीतर से मजबूत बनाने की एक गहरी और दूरदर्शी यात्रा है। यह शासन उस सोच का प्रतीक है जहाँ सुरक्षा सिर्फ हथियारों से नहीं, बल्कि विश्वास, विकास और समानता से आती है। आंतरिक शांति और राष्ट्रीय एकता कोई सरकारी योजना मात्र नहीं, बल्कि यह उस नवभारत की आत्मा है - जिसमें हर नागरिक खुद को जुड़ा हुआ, सुरक्षित और गौरवान्वित महसूस करता है। यह बदलाव आंकड़ों में नहीं, लोगों की आंखों की चमक और आत्मविश्वास में दिखता है। आज भारत न केवल सुरक्षित है, बल्कि भीतर से भी एकजुट और जागरूक है - यही असली राष्ट्रनिर्माण है।