

- In order to assist the functioning of the DPC, the new mechanism provides for four sub-committees,
 - Policy and Strategy
 - Plans and Capability Development
 - Defence Diplomacy
 - Defence Manufacturing Eco-System.

The reports of the DPC are to be submitted to the Defence Minister and further approvals are to be taken as required. **The existing planning process had many problematic areas with respect to defence preparedness, such as:**

- Less than adequate resources to meet numerous security challenges
- Prioritizing goals
- Lack of integrated approach to defence matters
- Less focus on new technological advancements while pursuing manpower driven military indigenization
- Little focus on indigenization and self-reliance in defence procurement matters
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) which was envisaged to be the arbitrator of all requirements of the armed forces and defence planning mechanism, was not created due to political dispensations

DPC an improvement over the existing system:

- It would leverage inter-departmental coordination to enhance India's ability to strategize long-term defence needs.
- It has 4 sub-committees for exclusive focus in their respective domains.

The DPC would clearly articulate the key national security, defence and military goals as well as prioritize defence and security requirements as per the available resources. At the same time it will provide adequate focus on emerging security challenges, technological advancements, and establishing a strong indigenous defence manufacturing base. Hence, it can be argued that the DPC is a timely step for streamlining India's defense preparedness.

10. Recent reports of Maoist leaders having amassed huge assets in property and cash underlines the significance of probing the funding network as part of counter-terrorism efforts. Discuss.

Approach:

- Briefly contextualize the issue in focus i.e. financial aspects of insurgency.
- Bring out some recent actions and initiatives taken to address this issue.
- Suggest measures to restrict such sources.

Answer:

Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has been defined as the gravest national security challenge for the country. In this context, finance is an important aspect in both sustaining as well as credibly uprooting the menace. Recently, the Enforcement Directorate attached properties worth crores of rupees of top Naxal (Maoist) leaders in Bihar.

The principal sources of income for the Maoists are:

- Mining industry, PWD works and collection of tendu leaves.
- Besides, the Maoists have been able to put in place a well-organized mechanism to extort money on a regular basis and devised ingenious ways to store money and ensure its safety.
- It is estimated that the Maoists have been collecting not less than Rs 140 crore annually.

The seriousness of probing funding network is also attested by constitution of a multi-disciplinary group (comprising representatives from the Intelligence Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence etc.) to initiate action to choke funding sources of Maoists and succeed in counter-terrorism efforts.