

# **India's Foreign Policy, Internal Security and Climate Change** *Challenges and the Way Forward*

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**Naxalism: Internal Security Concern for India**

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**Introduction**

The armed movement started by the communist ideologues Charu Mujumdar, Kanu Sanyal and Jungle Santhal at Naxalbari in West Bengal in 1967 for the rights of the locals began to take on a destructive form for the country. This incident gave birth to class struggle between landlords and landless peasants. As a result, landless farmers, agricultural laborers, and unemployed youth started their agitation against the landlord. There is no such thing as a Naxal organization. The word Naxalism has no such meaning. This movement started in Naxalbari area and got the name Naxalism. Supporters of this

movement were influenced by Mao's violent revolution. The equation that the armed way to fight against the established system was the Naxal way became stronger. In the course of time, these organizations came to be known as Naxalite organizations. In the early days, the Naxalite movement had three main objectives: A) The cultivator should get the right of farms B) The power of foreign capital should be abolished C) There should be struggle against class and caste. The fight of Naxals is for the downtrodden and exploited people like tribals, agricultural laborers. The aim of the Naxalites was to establish social, political, and economic equality by ending class divisions. According to the rebels in the movement, they are fighting for the rights of the local tribals and for the rights of the people whom the government has ignored. The movement, which is currently rooted in important forest areas of the country, has repeatedly posed a major challenge to the country's security forces. Today, the Naxalite conflict is seen as one of the biggest problems in front of the country's internal security. The extreme Maoism in India are known as Naxalism. Naxalism in India is based on the ideology of Maoism and Naxalism is a form of fanatical communism. These movements are based on the Mao's ideology that power comes from the barrel of a gun. There were several attempts by the police to suppress the movement. In the last few years, several groups of Maoists have formed. They have established their presence in many parts of Central India. This area is called the Red Corridor.

According to the administration, the movement has spread to 90 districts in 11 states of the country. More than 6,000 people have been killed so far in clashes between the Naxals and the administration.

### Annual Deaths due to Maoist Insurgency (Naxalism)

Data since March 6, 2000, \*\* Data till, June 01, 2021

Year	Incidents of Killing	Civilians	Security Forces	Terrorists/ Insurgents/ Extremists	Not Specified	Total
2000*	116	94	40	135	9	278
2001	199	130	116	169	44	459
2002	182	123	115	163	30	431
2003	319	193	114	246	30	583
2004	127	89	82	87	22	280
2005	343	259	147	282	24	712

Year	Incidents of Killing	Civilians	Security Forces	Terrorists/ Insurgents/ Extremists	Not Specified	Total
2006	248	249	128	343	14	734
2007	274	218	234	195	25	672
2008	246	184	215	228	19	646
2009	407	368	319	314	12	1013
2010	480	630	267	264	18	1179
2011	302	259	137	210	0	606
2012	235	156	96	125	1	378
2013	186	164	103	151	0	418
2014	185	127	98	121	4	350
2015	171	90	56	110	0	256
2016	263	122	62	250	0	434
2017	200	109	76	150	0	335
2018	217	108	73	231	0	412
2019	176	99	49	154	0	302
2020	138	61	44	134	0	239
2021	62	25	44	52	0	121
Total**	5076	3857	2615	4114	252	10838

Source: <https://www.satp.org/datasheet-terrorist-attack/fatalities/india-maoisinsurgency>

### Objectives of the Study

Naxal violence in India poses a threat to the country's internal security. Therefore, the main objective of this dissertation is to understand the current ideological background of the Naxalite movement and to propose measures to prevent violence in this movement.

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## Reasons Behind the Rise of Naxals

### A) Social Causes

1) **Corruption:** Due to increasing corruption in government work, many important government schemes do not reach to the needy. Moreover, it is seen that big officials, political office bearers are taking advantage of it for their own benefit.

2) **Culture:** Tribals have a different culture. They are very close to nature, forests, rivers, land and other natural resources, their own art of recreation, social behavior, matriarchal society, this is one of its different lifestyles. Against the above background, tribals feel that outsiders are a threat to their culture and can make changes in their lifestyle.

### B) Political Reasons

1) **Politics:** The level of politics in India is declining and politicians are seen going to any level to save the vote bank. The Naxals now influence elections through assassinations. Therefore, in the Naxal-affected state, whenever the elections are approaching, the political rhetoric in support of Naxalism begins. Due to this behavior of the politicians, the morale of the Naxalites increased while the morale of the security forces decreased.

### C) Economic Reasons

1) **Poverty and Unemployment:** Poverty and unemployment are big problems in India. Both these problems are leading the educated unemployed youth in the society towards crime. The Naxalite areas in northeastern India are home to extremely poor and unemployed people. This is the reason why the Naxalite group is recruiting in large numbers.

**Naxal and Terror Alliance:** From the beginning, the Maoists had no difficulty in obtaining foreign aid and cooperation. This is proved by the fact that foreign weapons have been seized from the Naxalites in China, Philippines, Ireland had arrived in the country to train the Naxalites in guerrilla warfare. The Naxals are also trying to join hands with various international communist insurgent groups, including the Nepali Maoists, the FARC, the Irish Republican Army, and others. The Naxalites have been linked to Kashmiri separatist and northeastern insurgent groups.

### Suggestions

1) **Dialogue:** Discussion can solve many things. The government should have honest dialogue with the Naxalites. The government needs to take positive steps in this regard without further neglecting the socio-economic situation in the Naxal-affected areas.

2) **Socio-Economic Development:** Unemployment is a major problem in this area. And the employment that is provided is not paid properly, which leads to exploitation of the working class here. If you want to walk the path of eradication of Naxalism, we must first help the people of the region to raise their living standards by providing them with decent employment opportunities and decent wages.

3) **Use of military force:** The use of military force against Naxalism is a solution. But in all of this, citizens can also be overwhelmed. Because the bullet does not distinguish between good and bad. Therefore, dissatisfaction about the government can be created in the minds of the people there.

4) **Opportunities for education:** If Naxalites can create a grip on the minds of the youth through propaganda, then through education the mindset of the same youth can be changed. If education opportunities are made available in the Naxal-affected areas, the new generation will be able to discern the good and the bad.

**Conclusion:** When we observe the Naxalite or Maoist movement, it was a picture of ongoing struggle against landlords and moneylenders, or of farm laborers and poor tribals who have been exploited for years. But the movement against caste discrimination seems to have gone astray. The Naxal movement did not have the same ideological commitment as before. The use of violence in the name of revolution cannot be the path to development. The handshake of Naxalite groups with anti-national forces and their links with terrorist groups is a big issue for internal security.

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