

Naxalite Movement in India: Problems, Causes and Challenges



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Abstract

Naxalite threat is the biggest security problem for India's future as its effects are multi-layered. The Maoist movement highlights India's interior weaknesses, which makes India also vulnerable to external threats. As part of globalization, threats such as the Naxalite movement can no longer be viewed as simply internal as it also affects external security. This paper most vividly tries to carve out the niche and the root cause of the naxalism in present scenario. The Government of India had made certain provisions were made to stop the influx and to rehabilitate the affected population. And the problem lies on the grass root level of its implementations. Now the problem lies how these laws and provisions can be communicated to the isolated mass in an substantiated way. In Short, in this study we attempt to find out the Causes and Solutions for Naxalite Movement in India..

Keywords: Naxalite threat, Maoism, Naxalite Movement.

Introduction

History has been witness to repeated occurrence of violence against the ruling elite mostly by the peasant class motivated by leftist ideologies. The ideological basis for these violent movements was provided by the writings of Marx and Engels. This ideology is commonly called Communism/Marxism.

This was later supported by Lenin and Mao Tse-tung (Mao Zedong). Leftist ideologies believe that all existing social relations and state structures in an elitist/capitalist society are exploitative by nature and only a revolutionary change through violent means can end this exploitation. Marxism advocates removal of the capitalist bourgeois elements through a violent class struggle.

Maoism is a doctrine that teaches to capture State power through a combination of armed insurgency, mass mobilization and strategic alliances. Mao called this process, the 'Protracted Peoples War'. The Maoist ideology glorifies violence and, therefore, the 'bearing of arms is non-negotiable' as per the Mao-ist insurgency doctrine. Maoism fundamentally considers the industrial-rural divide as a major division exploited by capitalism. Maoism can also refer to the egalitarianism that was seen during Mao's era as opposed to the free-market ideology.

Maoism's political orientation emphasizes the 'revolutionary struggle of the vast majority of people against the exploiting classes and their state structures'. Its military strategies have involved guerrilla war tactics focused on surrounding the cities from the countryside, with heavy emphasis on political transformation through mass involvement of the lower classes of society.

'Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun' is the key slogan of the Maoists. They mobilize large parts of the rural population to revolt against established institutions by engaging in guerrilla warfare. Maoism is no longer an ideological movement. Maoists are now creating a fear psychosis and denying democracy and development to tribals.

Unlike the political mass movements with violent underpinnings in the border areas, naxalites do not seek to secede from the Indian Union to establish a sovereign independent state of their own but their aim is to capture political power through armed struggle to install the so called 'people's government'.

Aim of the Study

Naxalite movement political orientation emphasizes the 'revolutionary struggle of the vast majority of people against the exploiting classes and their state structures'. Its military strategies have involved guerrilla war tactics focused on surrounding the cities from the countryside,

with heavy emphasis on political transformation through mass involvement of the lower classes of society.

Phases of Naxalism

Maoists spread their ideology very systematically and in a phased manner as follows:

Preparatory Phase

Detailed survey of new areas identifying important people, important public issues on which masses can be mobilised.

Perspective Phase

Mobilisation through frontal organisations – staging demonstration against government/administration based on local public grievances.

Guerrilla Phase

Converting the public movement into violent guerrilla warfare.

Base Phase

Here the Maoists try to establish their base and change the guerrilla zone into a liberated zone.

Liberated Phase

Establishment of people's Government.

The Organizational Structure of CPI (Maoist) is As Follows

Politburo – Highest decision making body → Central committee → State committees/Special area committees → Regional committees → Divisional/District committees → Sub-district committees → Area committee

Factors Responsible for Rise of Naxalism

It is ironical that even after 66 years of Independence, many remote areas which are otherwise rich in mineral resources are yet to see any sign of development. This situation, combined with many other socio-economic problems, has contributed towards the rise of naxalism in India.

These Factors can be Broadly Categorized as follows:

Jal-Jangal-Jameen

1. Evasion of land ceiling laws,
2. Encroachment and occupation of Government and community lands,
3. Non-regularization of traditional land rights,
4. Land acquisition without appropriate compensation and rehabilitation,
5. Disruption of the age old tribal forest relationship.

Developmental Deficit

1. Unemployment,
2. Poverty,
3. Infrastructure deficit,
4. Lack of education,
5. Poor health facilities.

Social Exclusion and Alienation

1. Violation of human rights,
2. Abuse of dignity of life,
3. Disconnect with mainstream society,
4. Discontent against government.

Governance Deficit

1. Lack of routine administration,
2. Incompetent, ill-trained and poorly motivated public personnel,
3. Mismanagement and corruption in government schemes,
4. Poor implementation of special laws,

5. Perversion of electoral politics and unsatisfactory working of local government.

Root cause of Naxalite problem remains in ill treatment meted out to tribals of India in post independent India

15% of land in India was occupied by tribal people and during pre independence period British Raj did not intervene in their affairs.

Post independence neither Constitution nor successive Governments looked into the problems of their Autonomy and Governance. Except for reservations of seats for Scheduled Tribes, which too are rarely filled, nothing was done for their empowerment.

50 years after independence PESA Act 1996 is passed which too on the ground is yet to be implemented effectively.

After freedom the root cause of the naxal problem in the tribal areas are the loopholes in Forest conservation Act, Mines Act & Land acquisition Laws.

Land Acquisition Laws

Due to no provision of resettlement & rehabilitation in the land acquisition act of 1894 as many as 3 to 4 crore tribals were displaced which is in fact a forced eviction of people from their lands and natural habitat and a major factor for social unrest and upheavals.

Forest Conservation Act

Large areas which were traditionally the habitat of forest dwelling communities were declared reserve forests without any recognition. According to this act no forest land shall be diverted to non forest use without the permission of union government.

Mines Act

Illegal mining has been a major factor behind the alienation of tribals. Tribals consider the forest rich mountains to be sacred and also source of their livelihood. Permitting mining in these areas have alienated the tribals and shaken their faith in fair play.

Security Challenges

With such huge mass base and strong appeal combined with a committed cadre, naxalism poses some grave security challenges. I will list some important ones

1. In keeping with the strategy of 'annihilation line' of Charu Mazumdar, class enemies like police, teachers, bureaucrats, businessmen and of course politicians will keep getting mined, maimed and killed.
2. Politician-naxal nexus will keep robbing the country in many ways.
3. Full exploitation of the natural and human resources of the affected area will never be possible.
4. One of the disturbing trends is the emerging nexus between the religious- fundamentalists- external terror org and the naxalites. This could seriously jeopardize our internal security.
5. Then there is the ultimate goal of the Maoist, overthrow the Indian government and replace by proletariat leadership. In 1981, a little known school teacher joined the underground CP of his country. Even after the restoration of democracy, he continued to live underground and controlled

the clandestine wing of the party. Under his leadership, the party launched the Peoples' War in 1996. On 15 of this month, PushpaKamalDahal, popularly known as Prachanda, was elected as prime minister of Nepal after his party won the maximum seats in the general elections. Could a similar thing happen in India. Very much so. The threat, gentlemen is real and we need to move ahead with caution

Conclusion

To conclude, it is widely believed that ultimately democracy will prevail. The movement cannot go beyond a point. It cannot reach out to peasantry where new forms of productivity and employment exist. Its ability to spread to urban centres is also questionable. This could perhaps be the reason for the central government's hitherto almost indifferent approach. But if the GOI plays the waiting game hoping for the democracy to triumph, the cost that India pays as a nation and we pay as its citizens will be very high. In any case I am for one convinced that a waiting game is not the answer. We need to hasten the social and economic changes in an all inclusive growth, may be even sacrifice growth for equitability. I would like to end with a line from the Tupamaro Manifesto, "If the country does not belong to everyone, it will belong to no one."

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