

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NAXALISM IN INDIA



@ Sanket 14th Apr 2021 Current Affairs

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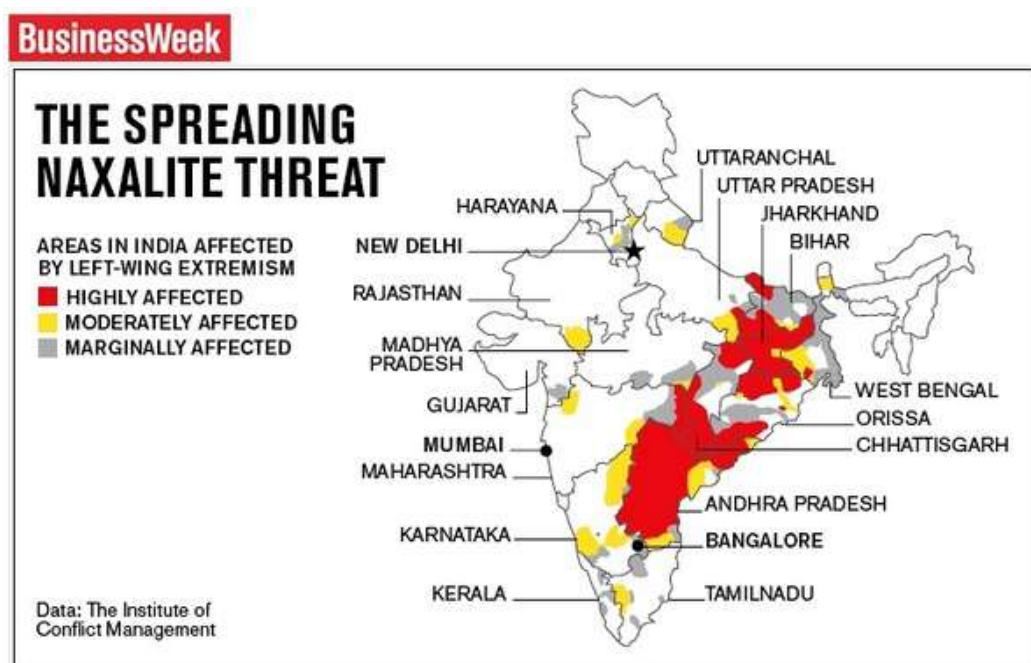


A total of 22 security personals were killed and 31 suffered some serious injuries in the recent exchange of fire between forces and Naxals in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh. Naxalism has become a major threat to the army.

Over the years there has been a consistency in the Naxal attacks in Central and Northern India. Whether it is the UPA government or the NDA government, this problem is universal.

This article mainly discusses the history of Naxalism, operations and the reason why people choose to be Naxals.

Naxal, derived from the name of the village Naxalbari in West Bengal. They are the people, far-left in political ideology and supporters of [Maoism](#).



Started in Bengal, the Naxalite movement soon got its roots in the state of Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



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Naxalite movement is mainly divided into three phases:

1st Phase of Naxalism

It was a faction of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) led by Charu Majumdar, Kanu Sanyal, Jangal Santhal initiated an armed uprising in 1967.

Charu Majumdar was not only a political leader but a great writer also. His **“Historic Eight Documents”** formed the basis of Naxalite ideology in India. This was a big reason that not only Rural or Tribal but Urban elites were also attracted towards this ideology.

The All India Coordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries (AICCCR), founded by Kanu Sanyal in 1967 as a splinter group of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)).

On 22 April 1969 (Birthdate of Vladimir Lenin), AICCCR gave birth to the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) aka CPI(ML). This group CPI(ML) is the origin of every Naxalite group that later came into the picture.



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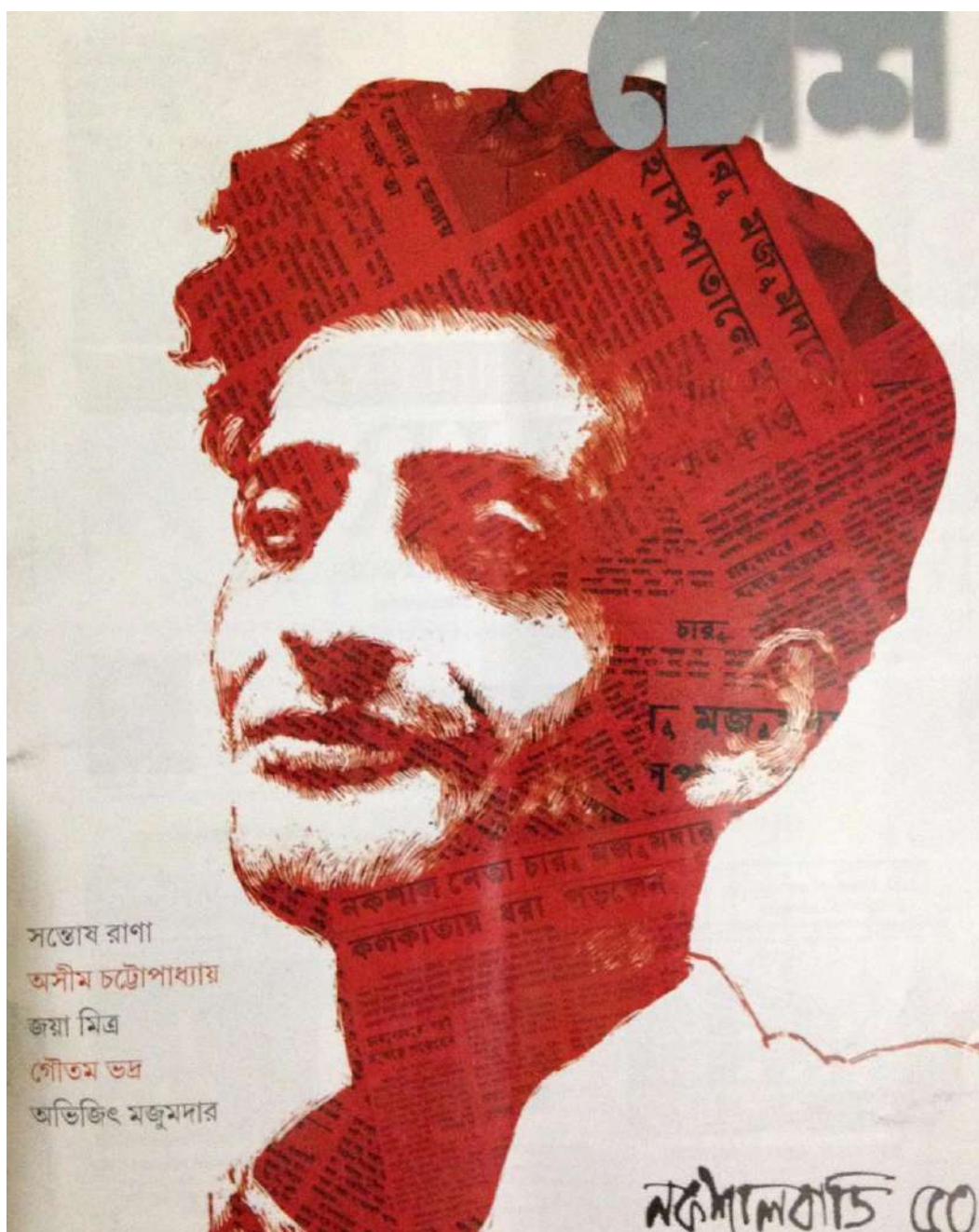
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Charu Majumdar

On 11 May 1969, the first CPI(ML) Congress was held in Calcutta under strict underground conditions. **Comrade Charu Majumdar** was elected the party general secretary.



Charu Majumdar wanted to recruit more and more students to the organization so that the organization could get bigger and the movement could be furious. This method proved to be effective. The Naxalite Movement gradually became very popular.

As soon as the movement received such strong support, Charu Mujumdar declared an “**Annihilation line**”, a proclamation that Naxalites should assassinate their individual “*class enemies*” which includes Landlords, Businessmen, University teachers, Police officers, Politicians etc.

It didn’t matter whether the politician belongs to the left-wing or right-wing, they started killing everybody who they think as their enemy.

Bengal was ruled by Congress at that time, CM was Siddhartha Shankar Ray. He took very tough measures to get this movement over. The movement began to weaken after the efforts of the government and the police. Charu Majumdar was arrested where he died in Alipore Jail. His death further weakened the movement. There was a lack of leadership in the organization.

2nd Phase of Naxalism

To expand their scope, the CPI and partner organizations used to participate everywhere where the struggle was ongoing. After the 1984 Anti-Sikh riots, they tried to woo Sikhs towards joining their movement. This phase was mainly non-violent, except for minor skirmishes.

The terrible form of Naxalism had not yet appeared. It started in 2004 and is still operational.

3rd Phase of Naxalism



Liberation Army Parade

In 2004, a significant incident occurred. With the formation of CPI-Maoist consisting of the PWG(People’s War Group) and MCC(Maoist Communist Centre), the movement get boomed and the insurgency get started. This newly form alliance have their own army known as [Liberation Army](#). It consists of some **10k to 15k** armed rebels.

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Though, the insurgency was started back in 2002 only and that was the sign of changing phase. Between 2002 and 2006, over three thousand people had been killed in Naxalite-Government conflicts. By 2009 around 350,000 members of tribal groups were displaced from their native lands.

It was their growing influence that prompted Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to declare them to be the **most serious internal threat to India's national security**.

Some Major Deadly Naxal Attacks

1. 28 February 2006 -> A Maoist attack killed 25 people. The attack was mainly carried out by using landmines.
2. 29 June 2008 -> The Naxals attacked a boat in Balimela reservoir, Odisha. The boat sunk, killing 38 troops.
3. 12 July 2009 -> A total of 29 members of "Indian Police" were killed in an ambush attack by Maoist rebels in Maharashtra.
4. 6 April 2010 -> The Naxalite rebels killed 75 Indian paramilitary personnel and a state police constable in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh.
5. 25 May 2013 -> A Naxal attack in Darbha Valley, Chhattisgarh, resulted in the death of around 25 Indian National Congress leaders including the former state minister, Mahendra Karma and the Chhattisgarh Congress chief Nand Kumar Patel.
6. 11 March 2017 -> Atleast 25 CRPF jawans lost their lives in a deadly attack in the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh.
7. 21 March 2020 -> A total of 17 security personnel of Chhattisgarh police were killed in a Maoist attack in Sukma, Chattisgarh.

It's not that the government is doing nothing to stop them. The Government of India as well as the state governments have taken several important steps from time to time to prevent Naxalism. Let's look at some of them.

Some Major Anti-Naxal Operations

1. Operation Steeplechase:



Indira Gandhi with army general Sam Manekshaw

It was launched in the early 1970s during the first phase of the Naxal Movement. The then PM Indira Gandhi took advantage of the emergency (due to the Indo- Pak war). She mobilized the Indian Army against the Naxalites in West Bengal.

The operation ended up with the **death of hundreds of Naxalites** and the imprisonment of many.

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2. Operation Green Hunt:

It's an unofficial name. Since 2009, the 10 Battalions of [COBRA](#) are indulged in a Guerilla warfare in the Naxalite affected areas.

3. Integrated Action Plan:

Started by the UPA government in 2009, this initiative aims to provide public infrastructure and services. 78 tribal and backward districts were selected for accelerated development.

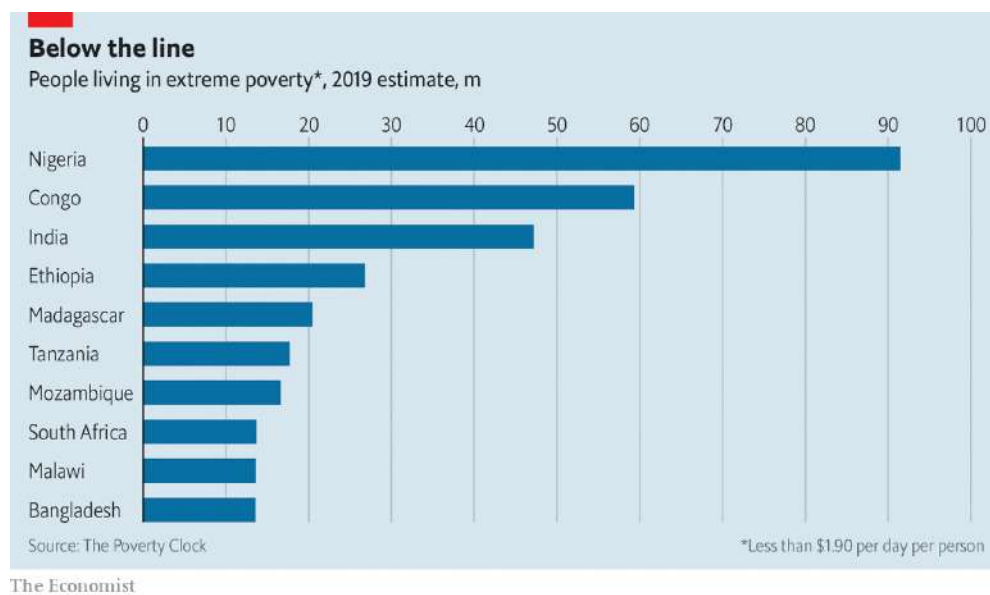
Naxal affected states generally offers [surrender policies](#) whereby they offer assistance, land and other benefits to the Naxals who surrender.

So far we have seen a lot of things about Naxalism, now let's think why people choose to be Naxals?

Why did People choose to be Naxals?

There are mainly two types of people who tends to become Naxals:

1. Intellectuals who believe in Maoism.
2. Poor/ Illiterate people who get brainwashed by such intellectuals.



The main reason for the 2nd type is Poverty, discrimination and lack of autonomy. It is the failure of the 5th and 6th **schedules** of the constitution of India passed in 1949.

These two schedules provide an alternative or special governance mechanisms for certain “**scheduled areas**” in mainland and certain tribal areas in north-eastern India.

Conclusion:

The left-wing extremism in the form of Naxal and Maoist insurgencies has been a constant threat to India's Internal Security. The government is also putting a lot of effort to tackle this problem. Former Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced [SAMADHAN](#) in 2017.

There are also a lot more things going on parallelly to establish peace in the affected regions. But it seems tougher day by day and the government of India must ensure the safety and security of citizens of this Nation.

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