



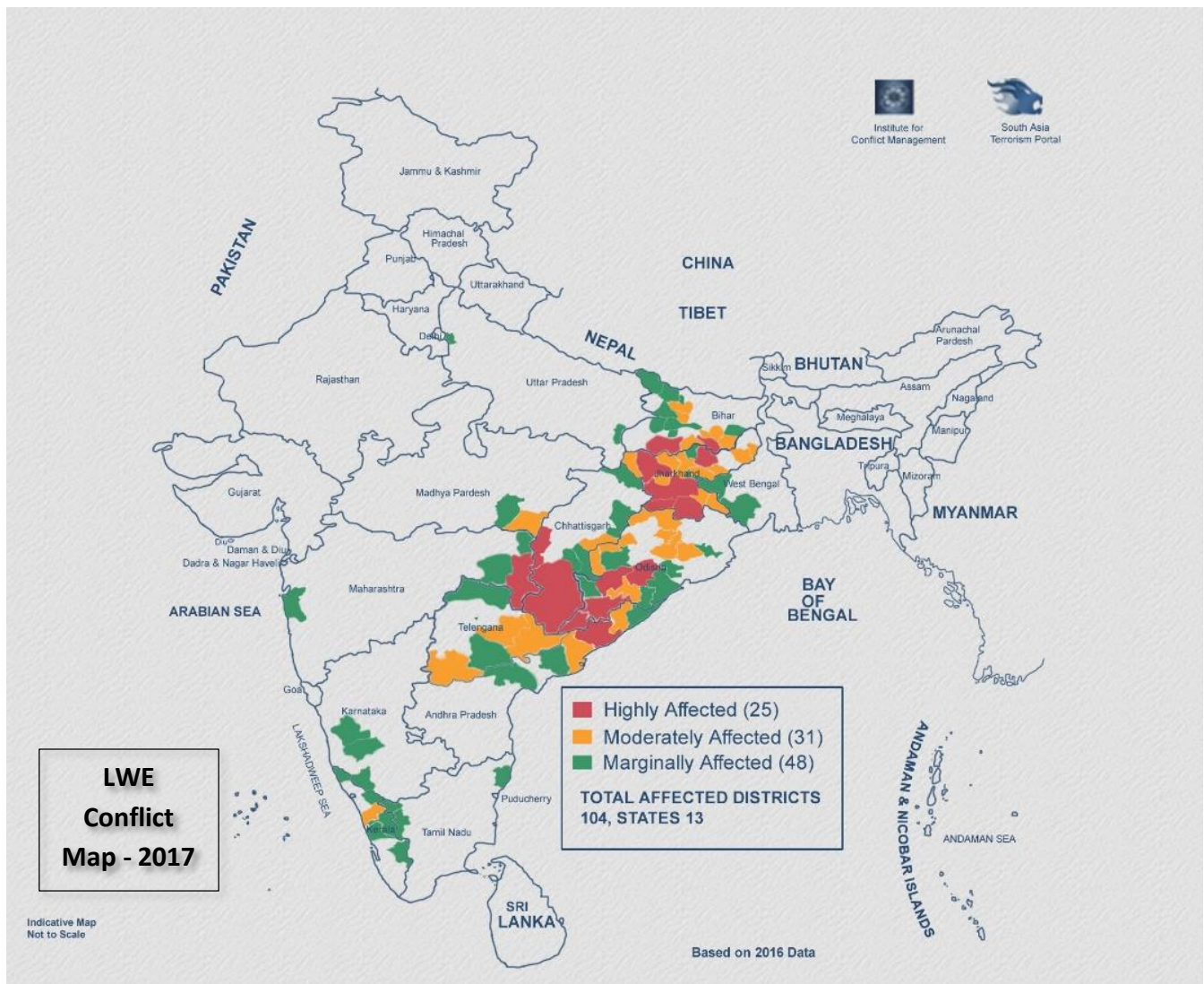
## The Big Picture - Fighting Naxalism (5 April 2019)

### Context:

- Four BSF personnel were killed and 2 injured in an encounter with Naxals in the Kanker district of Chhattisgarh recently.

### Naxalism in India.

- Naxalism have its origin from Naxalbari village in west Bengal where the movement originated in 1967 under the leadership of Charu Majumdar and Kanu Sanyal.
- It refers to the use of violence to destabilize the state through various communist guerrilla groups.
- Naxalites are far-left radical communists who derive their political ideology from the teachings of Mao Zedong, a Chinese revolutionary leader.
- In India it is prevalent in Red Corridor which spread from Andhra Pradesh to Nepal Border.
- In 2006 the then PM Dr. Manmohan Singh said “it is worst and most serious internal security threat which our country is facing.”





### **The objective of Naxalism:**

- The core objective of the Naxalism movement is the establishment of People's Revolutionary State, which is supposed to be achieved by establishing a 'Red Corridor', stretching from the Nepal border through Central India till Karnataka in the South.
- It lay emphasis on the advancement of people's social and economic life by establishing classless society through armed revolution.
- This objective is to be achieved by using armed struggle as the prime tool to garner the support of the oppressed and the exploited.
- Naxal leaders support various issues like protecting people's rights of Jal (water), Jungle (Forest) and Jamin (Land) (JJJ).

### **Causes of Naxalism:**

- **Displacement and Forced Evictions of tribal:**
  - ✓ Tribal life revolves around Jal (water), Jamin (land) and Jungle (forest) – they have been evicted from all three.
  - ✓ Large scale land acquisition for 'public purposes' without appropriate compensation or rehabilitation.
- **Lack of Economic Development:**
  - ✓ Disruption of traditional occupations and lack of alternative work opportunities.
  - ✓ Deprivation of traditional rights in common property resources and forest.
  - ✓ Unemployment- development activities cost them hugely but they didn't get fruits of development.
- **Social Exclusion**
  - ✓ High illiteracy, high MMR and IMR
  - ✓ Lack of better educational opportunities and health facilities.
  - ✓ Poor implementation of special laws on prevention of atrocities, protection of civil rights and abolition of bonded labor etc.
- **Governance Related Factors**
  - ✓ Corruption and poor provision/non-provision of essential public services.
  - ✓ Incompetent, ill-trained and poorly motivated public personnel who are mostly absent from their place of posting.
  - ✓ Misuse of powers by the police and violations of the norms of law.
  - ✓ Perversion of electoral politics and unsatisfactory working of local government institutions
- **Lack of political representation:**
  - ✓ Negligible representation of tribal in legislation, administration etc.
  - ✓ PESA is not implemented in letter and spirit.

### **Government's four pronged strategy to deal with Naxalism:**

- **Security Front related intervention:**



- ✓ Due to misuse of ceasefire strategy by Naxals government changed the strategy. Instead of offering ceasefire, it focused on (surgical) strikes based on hard intelligence. It's more effective in arresting or eliminating key leader of Naxals.
- ✓ Government's surrender schemes for Maoists is also dwindling their manpower
- ✓ Centre has deployed COBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) a specialized unit of the Central Reserve Police Force of India proficient in guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare.
- ✓ Greyhound of Andhra Pradesh to fight against Naxalism.
- ✓ Recruitment of surrendered extremists in the CRPF to fight against Naxalism.
- **Development related intervention:**
  - ✓ **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana:** launched by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for holistic development of the tribal people by targeting their education, employment, healthcare, infrastructure and connectivity.
  - ✓ **Training to state officials:** for better implementation of Forest Rights act and PESA Act.
  - ✓ **Integrated Action Plan:** for 82 Naxal affected tribal and backward districts to provide public infrastructure and services.
  - ✓ **Special infrastructure scheme** for Naxal affected region.
  - ✓ **Schemes** like UDAAN, Nai Manzil.
- **Rights and entitlements of forest dwellers:**
  - ✓ It recognized their rights for example Forest Right Act, 2006 was enacted.
  - ✓ Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas)
  - ✓ Proper compensation for land acquisition.
- **Better public perception management:**
  - ✓ **Civic action programme:** Each CAPF Company is given Rs.3 lakh for holding medical camps, sanitation drives, sports meets, distribution of study material to children, minor repairs of school building, road, and bridges to build confidence among the locals.
  - ✓ **Media management:** to showcase government effort to provide them development.

### **Declining Naxalism:**

- Decrease in deaths and attacks over the years.
- Now they are confined to only 5 states from earlier 10 states
- Decrease in mass base and recruitment.
- Increasing Maoist surrender and rehabilitation.
- Greater electoral turn out.

### **Present presence of Naxalism:**

- Few state like Chhattisgarh still have half of their state under Naxalism.
- Focused, targeted striking on security forces instilling heavy casualties (& boosting their morale).
- Managed to penetrate into NE & South East India as well as few urban areas where they were not traditionally present.
- Increased use of technology by them.



### Way forward:

- Government needs innovative solutions for locating armed groups in the thick forests of the Naxalism-affected regions.
- Local Police knows the language and topography of a region, it can fight Naxalism better than the armed forces.
- Government needs to ensure two things; security of the peace-loving people and the development of the Naxalism-affected regions.
- State governments need to understand that Naxalism is their problem also and only they can tackle it effectively. They can take help from central government if required.

### Conclusion:

- We need to hasten the social and economic changes in an all-inclusive growth, may be even sacrifice growth for equitability. A line from the Tupamaro Manifesto, "If the country does not belong to everyone, it will belong to no one", can be aptly quoted here.

### Sources:

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