



**BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY**

# THE HINDU ANALYSIS

**16 AUGUST 2025**

**INDIGENOUS DEFENCE  
SYSTEM BY 2035**







# The Decline of Naxalism

## The politics of insurgency, the decline of Naxalism

**A**cross history, making predictions has been a hazardous task. Nevertheless, leaders of all types continue to make predictions, only a few of which turn out to be true. In today's world, where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is leading to more uncertainty, making predictions has become still more hazardous. For most of history, the safest prediction has been that things will continue to be much as they are. Political leaders should heed this.

### A case of contrasts

A concern across the world is that a quarter of century after the September 11, 2001 attack on the Twin Towers in New York, the threat of terrorism, far from receding or abating, still remains alive. Many instances of 'copycat killings' continue to take place. There has also been a spurt in Islamic State (IS)-inspired vehicle ramming of late, the most publicised case being the one which took place in New Orleans, U.S. on January 1 this year. Well before the New Orleans attack, the IS had orchestrated and inspired several other attacks of a similar nature across Europe. Counter-terrorism experts believe that jihadist groups were only beginning to intensify their terror attacks in several countries. Online campaigns were, meanwhile, inciting more 'lone wolf' attacks. Alongside this, anti-Israel protests in many parts of the world, seemed to provide more grist to IS and al-Qaeda-sponsored terror campaigns.

Doomsday predictions that tomorrow's terrorists will be even involved in more sanguinary campaigns than earlier ones are emerging. This is thanks to the advent of AI. The warnings are that AI-enabled terrorists, together with terrorists, are gaining access to 'bio weapons', which could lead to the killing of thousands. Another given prediction is that misaligned AI could break free of all human control to unleash unthinkable harm on society and the world at large.

The scenario above is, however, very different from what is being seen in India of late, which features a declining curve in militancy, at least of ideologically-oriented terrorism. The accepted wisdom is that the current declining curve of Naxalite or Maoist violence heralds an end to ideological terrorism in the country. A normally taciturn Union Home Minister himself indicated that the end of Naxalism is near, and that mid-2026 would mark the final demise of Naxalite violence. If so, it would spell the end of what was once perceived to be a vibrant, ideologically-driven, militant movement which, in its heyday, had captured the imagination of youth and intellectuals, and also energised what philosopher Frantz Fanon had referred to as the 'wretched of the earth', i.e., tribals in the deepest forests and the 'urban poor' in the cities. Till now, however, what had been witnessed were several 'false dawns' (as for instance towards the end of 1970s and at least twice thereafter prior to the



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end of 20th century). The elimination of Naxalite violence had, however, never been officially pronounced till date.

The revolutionary fervour seemed to evaporate all too soon. Even while revolutionary leaders such as Charu Mazumdar, Kanu Sanyal, Satyanarayan Singh, and Kondapalli Seetharamaiah were being extolled, the movement had slowly started losing much of its sheen, degenerating into mindless violence – initially in the urban areas, but soon thereafter even in the interior jungles of the country. A once integrated revolutionary movement soon split into separate regional entities, though the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) remained for quite some time, the leading light of the movement. An all-India fervour was markedly absent, and the movement became centered around the hilly and forested regions of central India, especially in States such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

The promise of a 'Spring Thunder Over India' in the early 1960s, had, no doubt, attracted some of the best and the brightest of the generation at the time, who were fired by a revolutionary zeal following the successful revolutions in China and other parts of the world, including South America). The heroes of the time were revolutionaries such as China's Chairman Mao, Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh, and South America's Che Guevara and the like. Even as Charu Mazumdar of Bengal was being hailed as 'the new Messiah', the resounding slogan was 'China's Chairman is our Chairman'. Yet, the early promise has begun to be dispelled.

### The campaign against Naxalism

Beginning in 2024, and under directions from the Union Home Minister, a sustained offensive was launched against militant Naxalite groups in different States. The data on Naxalites killed in encounters vary, but it is generally accepted that a few thousands were eliminated. Police chiefs in the worst Naxalite-affected areas have provided their own counts of the numbers of Naxalites eliminated or killed. But perhaps, the most authentic figure on the numbers could be found in a booklet released by the once banned CPI (Maoist), which admitted that during the past year alone, 357 Naxalites had been killed in encounters with security forces across the country. Among the killed, according to this report, more than a third belonged to the women's cadre.

The epicentre of violence was the Dandakaranya region which spans parts of Bastar district in Chhattisgarh, Gadchiroli in Maharashtra and several areas of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The shrinkage of territory was compounded by internal bickerings and a series of leadership crises since the removal of M. Lakshman Rao alias Ganapathi in 2018.

On the surface, the war on Naxalism might seem to parallel United States President Donald Trump's 'war on terror', launched soon after he

took over as President for a second term. Yet, there are marked differences. The U.S. President's offensive was launched not so much against ideologically inspired militants or terrorists, but against those elements who did not believe in any ideology other than that of attacking the 'great Satan'. The offensive launched by the U.S. was, hence, markedly different from that employed in India, where Naxalites lived and identified closely with villagers and their ilk. The use of brute force was not seen till recently as the answer, except in exceptional circumstances. To compare the U.S. President's attacks against Jihadists in Somalia and Yemen – based on the logic that Jihadist groups were plotting against the U.S. – with the tactics employed by the Indian security forces against Naxalites would, hence, be an error. There were, and still exist, many checks and balances in the Indian context on the use of deadly force, even against adversaries who believe in overthrowing the established order through violence.

The campaign against Naxalites and Naxalite violence, has, by and large, been conducted along certain well-defined lines. Preventing revolutionary groups, however high-minded they may proclaim to be, and irrespective of the grievances they have, from disturbing the established order has, however, been the set objective of whichever government has governments have been in power in Delhi or in the States. Admittedly, the original Naxalites were filled with revolutionary fervour and were intent on putting in place a more democratic order. However, having failed to achieve their objective, they soon began to resort to indiscriminate violence. Having said this, it is also true that even while they resorted to indiscriminate violence, most groups retained a veneer of ideology.

### A new term

The distinction is important and vital. Currently, the misuse of the term 'urban naxals' has given a distorted view of the original Naxalite movement. The origin of the 'Spring Thunder Over India' initiated in the late 1960s, was based on certain principles, however misdirected these might have been. The Marxist-Leninist Movement also had a well-defined structure and a robust philosophy. While not denigrating today's 'urban naxals', the latter seem, at least for the present, to be a loose-knit group of intellectuals who are opposed to the actions of the administration and the government on several policy aspects. Today's 'urban naxals' have little in common with the original Naxalites.

Wrong classification could and would have unintended consequences. Inability to identify, comprehend and implement policies to address such matters can again magnify the risk they pose. Better understanding of the factors involved is needed to avoid incurring high latent costs. It is vital to avoid blind spots that arise due to cognitive bias or short-sightedness.

❑ Recent discourse on terrorism highlights a contrast: while global doomsday predictions warn of rising threats, India is witnessing a **decline in militancy and ideologically-driven terrorism**.

❑ Historically, **predictions have often been unreliable**, with few proving accurate.

❑ In the **age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, growing uncertainty makes forecasting even more hazardous.

❑ Political leaders are cautioned to **exercise restraint in speculative predictions** and focus on grounded realities

## Indian Scenario: A Declining Curve

- ❑ Contrary to global trends, India is witnessing a **decline in ideologically-oriented terrorism**.
- ❑ The **Naxalite/Maoist movement** is on a downward trajectory.
- ❑ Union Home Minister has indicated that **Naxalism may end by mid-2026**, for the first time officially predicting its demise.

## The Rise and Fall of Naxalism

- ❑ Initially, the movement inspired by **revolutionary zeal** (1960s–70s) drew students, intellectuals, and youth.
- ❑ Leaders included **Charu Mazumdar, Kanu Sanyal, Satyanarayan Singh, and Kondapalli Seetharamaiah**.
- ❑ Once hailed as a movement of the oppressed — tribals and urban poor — it degenerated into **mindless violence**.
- ❑ The **revolutionary fervour evaporated** as the movement split into regional factions, losing its all-India character.

## The Campaign Against Naxalism

- ❑ Under directions of the **Union Home Minister**, a **sustained nationwide offensive** was launched against Naxalite groups.
- ❑ Thousands of militants are reported killed in encounters (figures vary).
- ❑ **CPI (Maoist) booklet** admitted **357 Naxalites killed in 2024 alone**, with **over one-third being women cadres**.

## Strategic Approach in India

- ❑ Objective: Prevent revolutionary groups, however ideological, from **disturbing the established democratic order**.
- ❑ Recognition that early Naxalites were driven by **revolutionary zeal and democratic ideals**.
- ❑ Over time, ideology degenerated into **indiscriminate violence**, though groups continued to maintain a **vener of ideological justification**.

# LEFT WING EXTREMISM

New Operational Doctrine '**SAMADHAN**' enunciated to tackle LWE menace:



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SMART POLICING AND LEADERSHIP

AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY

MOTIVATION AND TRAINING

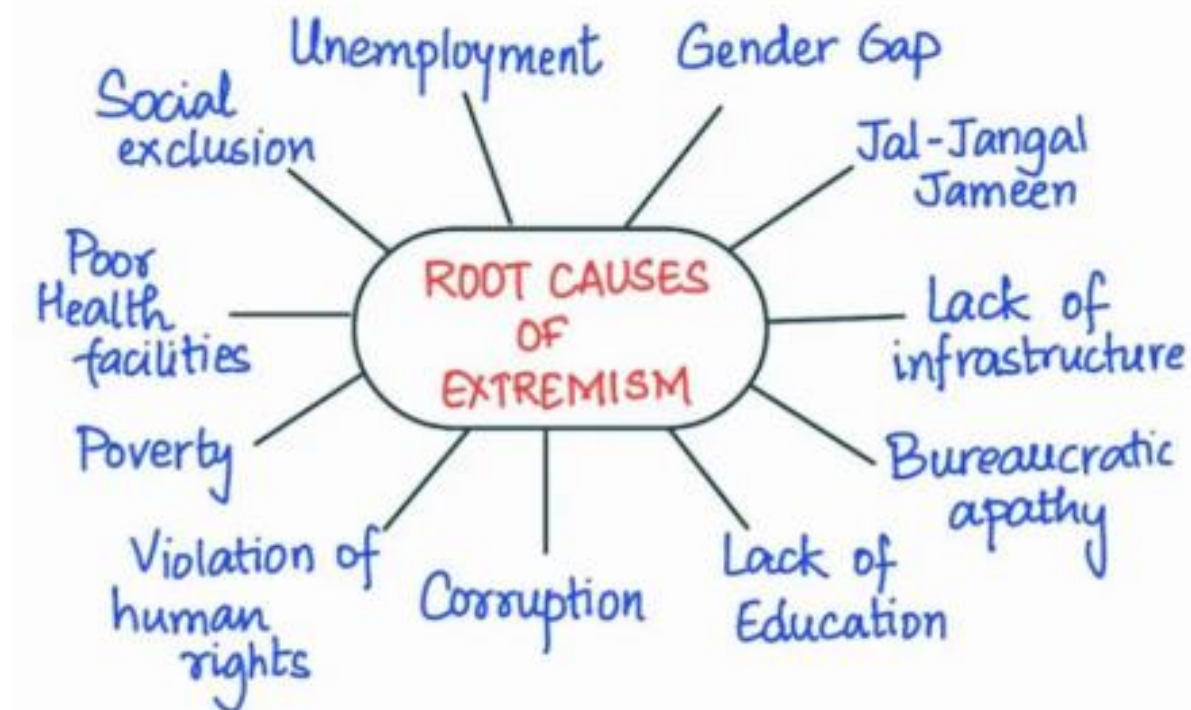
ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE

DASHBOARD FOR DEVELOPMENT AND  
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY FOR  
DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY

ACTION PLAN FOR EACH THEATRE

NO ACCESS TO FINANCING



# Indigenous Air Defence System

## India to build indigenous air defence system by 2035: PM

'Sudarshan Chakra' aims at providing complete security for strategic and civilian areas, such as hospitals and railway stations; national security cannot rest on foreign dependence, says Modi

**Saurabh Trivedi**  
NEW DELHI

India will develop an indigenous air defence system by 2035 not just to neutralise enemy attacks, but also to hit back strongly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day address on Friday. The mission, announced on the eve of Krishna Jayanti, will be called 'Sudarshan Chakra' in honour of Lord Krishna's mythological shield.

"By 2035, all the important places of the nation, which include strategic as well as civilian areas, like hospitals, railways, any centre of faith, will be given complete security cover through new platforms of technology. This security shield should keep expanding, every citizen of the country should feel safe," Mr. Modi said.

"Whatever technology comes to attack us, our technology should prove to be better than that and hence, in the coming 10



**Military asset:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with NCC cadets at Red Fort in New Delhi on Friday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR  
Join FREE Telegram Channel <https://t.me/s/UYKq0AFHBAwMGQ1>  
years, I want to expand this national security shield, strengthen it, modernise it," the Prime Minister said.

### Missile systems

India currently has three S-400 missile systems developed by Russia, which played a crucial role in taking down Pakistani drones and missiles fired towards more than 15 Indian cities in retaliation for Operation Sindoor in May. India's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) played a pivotal role in maintaining air superiority over Pakistan.

strength, dignity, and the journey to a developed India by 2047.

On the Indus Waters Treaty, the Prime Minister was unequivocal: "Blood and water will not flow together. The Treaty was unjust – our farmers suffered while enemy lands were irrigated. India will no longer compromise on national interests."

He underlined self-reliant India as a core pillar of Viksit Bharat, warning against the "dangerous habit" of dependence. "Self-reliance is not just about exports, imports, the rupee, or the dollar – it is about our ability to stand on our own," he said.

Calling on innovators and youth to develop indigenous jet engines, he drew parallels with India's COVID-19 vaccine success and the UPI revolution. "Our scientists and youth must take it up as a direct challenge," he urged.

Mr. Modi also celebrated Group Captain Shubhan-shu Shukla's achievements in space.

## CONTEXT

- ❑ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, in his Independence Day address, announced the launch of '**Sudarshan Chakra**', India's first **indigenous air defence system**, to be completed by **2035**.
- ❑ The mission aims to provide **comprehensive security cover** to both strategic and civilian areas.



## Government's Vision for National Security

- ❑ The 'Sudarshan Chakra' mission will act as a **security shield** for important sites such as **hospitals, railway stations, and strategic locations**.
- ❑ By 2035, every **citizen** should feel safe under this advanced **technological protection system**.
- ❑ The PM stressed that **self-reliance (Atmanirbharta)** is essential, as **national security cannot rest on foreign dependence**.
- ❑ The plan is to **expand, strengthen, and modernise** the national security shield over the next decade.
- ❑ The mission draws inspiration from **Lord Krishna's mythological shield – the Sudarshan Chakra**.





## Recent Achievements & Strategic Context

- ❑ India currently deploys **three S-400 missile systems** purchased from Russia, which successfully neutralised **Pakistani drones and missiles** during **Operation Sindoor** (May 2024).
- ❑ The **Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS)** ensured **air superiority** over Pakistan.
- ❑ The PM hailed **Operation Sindoor** as proof of India's **strategic autonomy** and strength of '**Made-in-India**' defence technologies.
- ❑ India rejected **nuclear blackmail** and foreign terms, showcasing **decisive military capability**.
- ❑ Modi also criticised the **Indus Waters Treaty**, calling it **unjust** and reaffirming that **India will no longer compromise on national interests**.
- ❑ He urged **youth and innovators** to develop **indigenous jet engines**, citing India's success with **COVID-19 vaccines** and **UPI** as proof of capability.

## Key Defence, Security and Legal Frameworks


- ❑ **Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS):** A secure automated network that integrates **radars, sensors, and communication systems** to ensure real-time monitoring of airspace.
- ❑ **S-400 Triumph:** Long-range surface-to-air missile system from Russia, capable of intercepting aircraft, drones, and ballistic missiles up to **400 km** away.
- ❑ **Transplantation of Human Organs & Tissues Act, 1994 (THOTA):** Regulates organ donation and transplantation in India.
- ❑ **Operation Sindoor (2024):** First major combat showcasing **Made-in-India weapon systems** in neutralising cross-border threats.

*Sudarshan Chakra:*  
**INDIA'S NEXT-GEN DEFENCE SHIELD**

By 2035, every critical site, from hospitals to railways, temples to military hubs, to be under an unbreachable, tech-driven security cover.

Inspired by Lord Krishna's **Sudarshan Chakra**, this indigenous weapon system will:

- Neutralise enemy attacks** and strike back with greater force
- Predict future threats** with advanced AI-led strategy
- Deliver precision-targeted action** and return safely



# VIKASIT BHARAT VISION 2047

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❑ On **August 15, 2024**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the nation from the **Red Fort**.

- ❑ He emphasized **self-reliance (Atmanirbharta)** as the foundation for building a **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.

- ❑ The speech focused on **defence preparedness, energy independence, technological leadership, and “Vocal for Local”** as guiding mantras for the next 25 years.

Those who lived by the manta of an independent Bharat gave us freedom. That generation dedicated itself to a free Bharat; this generation must take bold new steps for a prosperous Bharat. That is why I keep urging again and again, and I want to tell all the influencers of the country—help me in spreading this manta. I appeal to all political parties, politicians, everyone. Come, this is not the agenda of anyone political party. Bharat belongs to all of us.

[illegible]

The writer is Prime Minister of India.  
 Edited excerpts of the English translation of his  
 address to the nation on August 15.



## Importance of Atmanirbharta (Self-Reliance)

- ❑ Self-reliance is not only about imports and exports but about national capability.
- ❑ The PM stressed that **dependency reduces freedom**, whereas self-reliance enhances national confidence.
- ❑ The **success of Operation Sindoor** showcased how India's **indigenous defence capacity** ensured swift retaliation against cross-border terrorism.

## Sectors emphasized

- Defence manufacturing
- Energy security (solar, hydro, nuclear, hydrogen)
- MSMEs & local industries
- Semiconductors & technology-driven growth



## Key government mission

- ❑ **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (2020)** – ₹20 lakh crore package for self-reliance.
- ❑ **Make in India (2014)** – Boost manufacturing & FDI.
- ❑ **National Solar Mission (2010)** – Renewable energy expansion.
- ❑ **National Hydrogen Mission (2021)** – Green fuel initiative.
- ❑ **Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP 2016, DAP 2020)** – Indigenous procurement emphasis.
- ❑ **Semiconductor Mission (2021)** – \$10 billion package for chip industry.
- ❑ **Articles 19, 21, 301** – Link with economic freedom & self-reliance.
- ❑ **Five-Year Plans & NITI Aayog** – Frameworks for industrial and economic growth.

## Challenges

- ❑ Despite progress, India still imports large amounts of oil and gas.
- ❑ **Defence Sector Gaps:** Indigenous production is growing but reliance on imports for critical technology remains.
- ❑ Delay in adopting **semiconductors** and **AI-based innovations** hampers global competitiveness.
- ❑ Many small industries lack access to finance, global supply chains, and advanced tech.
- ❑ **Demographic Issues** such as Illegal migration, uneven population growth, and pressure on border states threaten **social harmony and national security**.
- ❑ **Climate Commitments** such as Balancing rapid industrialization with **Paris Agreement goals** poses a dilemma.
- ❑ **Societal Mindset** as People often prefer foreign brands over local products, slowing “Vocal for Local”.
- ❑ **Poor Policy Implementation** as Previous policies show gaps between announcements and ground-level execution.





# Thank you

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