

# THE HINDU ANALYSIS

**16 AUGUST 2025** 



INDIGENOUS DEFENCE SYSTEM BY 2035



### The Decline of Naxalism

#### The politics of insurgency, the decline of Naxalism

cross history, making predictions has been a hazardous task. Nevertheless, leaders of all types continue to make redictions, only a few of which turn out to be true. In today's world, where Artificial Intelligence (Al) 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 beed

A concern across the world is that a quarter of century after the September II, 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 rammings of late, the most publicised case being the one which took place in New Orleans, U.S. or January I 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 -Oaeda-sponsored terror

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 AL The warnings are that Al-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 global terrorists mid-2026 would mark the final demise of Naxalit are very 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 what is being seen in India of youth and intellectuals, and also energised what philosopher Frantz Fanon had referred to as the declining curve wretched of the earth', vir., tribals in the deepest in militancy, or forests and the 'urban poor' in the cities. Till now ideologically 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 ronounced till date

The revolutionary fervour seemed to vaporate all too soon. Even while revolutionary leaders such as Charu Mazumdar, Kanu Sanval, 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 (Maryist-Leninia) 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 Navalites 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 Navalites 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 2008.

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 Navalites 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 eneer of ideology

#### A new term

the misuse of the term 'urban naxals' has given a distorted view of the original Navalite 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 eiginal Navalites

Wrong classification could and would have mintended consequences. Inability to identify omprehend 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 o cognitive bias or short-sightedness.

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

- ☐ 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.

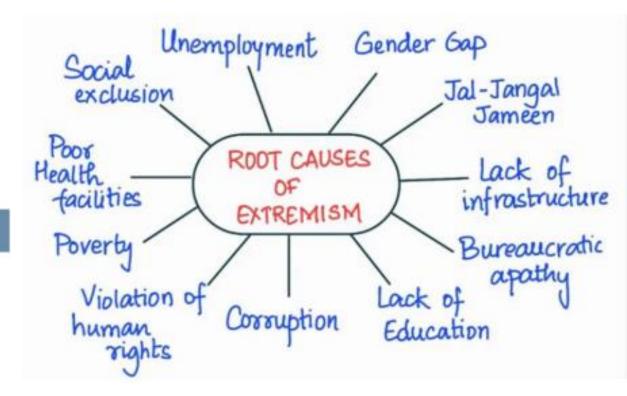
□ Over time, ideology degenerated into **indiscriminate violence**, though groups continued to maintain a **veneer of ideological justification**.

### **LEFT WING EXTREMISM**

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



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

ndia 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 corer 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, SHI/KUMUR PUSHPAKAR John FREE Telegram Channel https://t.me/+jUYKq0AFHBAWMGO1

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.

Mr. Modi hailed Operation Sindoor as a landmark demonstration of India's strategic autonomy and self-reliance in defence. The armed forces had used 'Made-in-India' weapons during the operation to dismantle terror networks and Pakistan-based infrastructure, he said, signalling an era where India rejects nuclear blackmail and foreign-imposed terms.

"Indigenous capabilities allow India to act decisively and independently. National security cannot rest on foreign dependence," he declared, calling self-reliance the bedrock of 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. "Selfreliance 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 Shubhanshu Shukla's achievements in space.

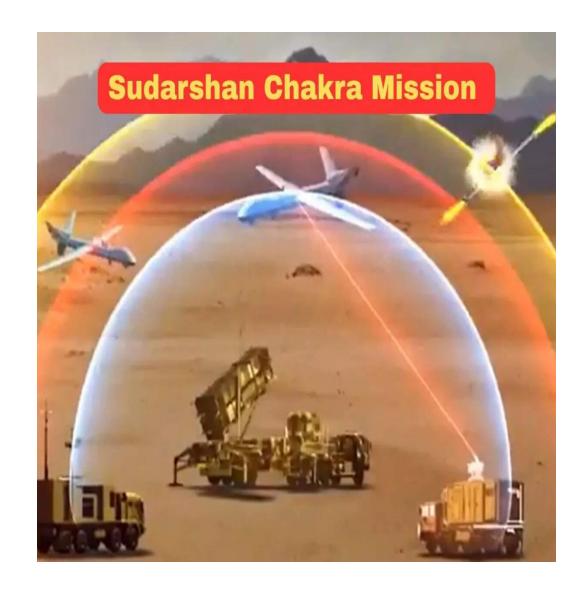
#### CONTEXT

- □ 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.

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### **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 Triumf: 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**

### **Atmanirbhar and Viksit**

Self-reliance is not confined merely to imports and exports, or to rupees, pounds, and dollars, it is linked to our capability. Together, let us make 'Vocal for Local' the mantra of every citizen's life



IS GRAND RETUAL of Independence is a Gebantion of the 140 crore resolutions of our ment of collective achievements, a moment nets: the Hieralannenealer the neathorse domely populated regions and everywhere soitone who enother: The praise of our otherland, clearer to us than life itself. Disords I find excet paids that I know the ex-

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reany-countries for petrol, diesel, and gas. We are spending takins of crores of repeat to proand in the last II years, solar energy has seen a thirty-fold increase. We are building new claras to expandilla drepower so that we may estratogy choose the targets, and select the obtain closes energy. With Mission Grove of cross of rapses. In the field of naclear on eggs: ID new mactors are progressing rapidly By 2047, when the nation will complete 100 years of independence - the year we have so as the turnet for achieving the goal of a Vilesi Bharat - we are moving b solve to increase our nuclear energy capacity

Today, the National Manufacturing into-question. Self-reliance is not confined — always some tool or correspond that come from our country's MSMIs in the making o pounds, and dollars. Self-solance is linked to — some of the biggest products globally list sw want to move towards again of comprehen sive and integrated development. That is why herefore to greene maintain and enhance — we must strengthen their capabilities. I had Imagine if we were not self-relant, could ... Jero Effect Today, bugget to return that if we sch swiftness? Wowould have been planted — the slobal market, we must constantly scale

over the part 10 years towards of Freliance in eastion dedicated itself to a five liberat: this syneration must take bold new steps for a None-can done that the 21st contary is a prosperces liberat. That is why like to under echnology-drivencentury When we speak of again and again, and i want to tell all the inflapoliticians, everyone: Come, this is not the editorare in reflection started moving \$0.40. For Local' the manter of energy citizen's life.

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of any one political party.

Bharat belongs to all of us.

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This nation is built by the toil of crosss of people – by sages, saints, scientists, teachers, farmers, soldiers, workers, labourers. Contributions come from individuals and from institutions allow Today, with grout price. I wish to mention one such institution. One hundred years ago, the Rashtriya Swayansevuk/Sanghwasfounded/These 100 sours of service to the nation countitute a proud analysides chapter. With the resolve of nation-building through character-building. with the aim of serving Maxifharati, the management of the second and deficated their lives to the well-top of the contholiand. In a sense, the Rashtriya Seugamanyak Saragh in the would's largest NGD. Today from the care parts of the RediFort, I salute all the everyone sevale who have contributed to this contury long journey of national service. The nation taker pride in this grand and dedicated journey of the Bashtriya Swayanarevak Sangh schich will continue to impire us. I wish to sum the aution of a grave con

cernand challenge. As part of adeliherate con spiracy file-demography of the country is be-ing aboved. These infiltration are matching away the livelihoods of our youth. These intiration are trageting market would disagliden These infiltrators are unideading innocent talkits and seizing their lands. When done exaphic charges occurs, particularly in baseles fluorations the unity intentity and progress of the country. Our lose lighers attained fived on firreghacriics hisourdelytewards from great souls that we do not accept such acts cided to Jaunch a High-Power Demographs Mission Through this raission, the sewere cr six will be addressed in a deliberate and

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Once again, lost and my best wishes to all of you on this great festisul of lade pendence.

Edited excepts of the English translation of his caldress to the nation on August 15 m/shames/2015/VascVilheiRGF0KHesiMBE

mantza of an independent Bharat gave us freedom. That experation dedicated itself to a free Bluest, this generation time-bound manner. We have to comoraber — the one who has must take bold new steps for a prosperous Bharat. That is why I keep urging again and aguin, and I want to tell all the influences of the countryhelp me in spreading this mantra. I appeal to all political parties, politicians, everyone Come, this is not the agenda

#### CONTEXT

- ☐ 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.

### 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 **Al-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 groundlevel execution.



# Thank you

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