

## General Studies – 3; Topic: Linkages between development and spread of extremism.

### Naxal Movement in India

#### 1) Introduction

- Naxalism is considered to be one of the biggest internal security threats India faces.
- Naxal violence is related to the intensity of the feeling of people of their deprivation and their commitment to take revenge against those who are believed to be responsible for such denial.
- Currently, the main supporters of the movement are marginalised groups of India including Dalits and Adivasi's, who believe they have been neglected by the government.
- The presence of Naxals in the country reveals the loopholes in the law and order of the country which has failed to curb the menace.

#### 2) Factors responsible for growth of Naxalism

- **Political Factors**
  - a. Nature and apathy of the political system towards tribals remained one of the most important factors that led to such uprisings
  - b. Inability of political authority in India to provide avenues for structural uplift to the deprived sections of society in the affected states
  - c. Lack of political participation by the tribal community
- **Economic Factors**
  - a. Poverty and economic inequality and underdevelopment in the naxal affected regions.
  - b. Entry of mining companies in Tribal lands and forests, posing threat to the livelihood of the tribals.
  - c. Indigenous tribal population deprived of their lands, uprooted from their traditional source of livelihood.
  - d. The benefits of the resource exploitation are not passed on the tribals.
- **Environmental Degradation**
  - a. Environmental degradation in the form of destruction of land and water resources due to mining and industrial activities
- **Lack of basic facilities**
  - a. Lack of basic facilities like education, freedom, sanitation and food.
  - b. The socially backward tribals form the major support base for Naxalites because of inequality, illiteracy and lack of opportunities.

#### 3) Reasons for the reversals faced by CRPF in fight against Naxals

- Lack of a common plan across the states
- Lack of coordination between state police and Central forces.
- Inadequate training and combat capability of forces in Maoism affected states.
- Lack of institutionalized intelligence sharing between states and regions.
- Naxalites are well versed with terrain which gives them a substantial upper hand in armed struggle.

#### 4) Solution

- The movement cannot be approached from a purely law and order point of view.
- Central government needs to implement a coherent national strategy to end Naxalism.
- Capacity building and coordination shall be emphasized in fight against naxals.

- Provide the people of the area with proper employment opportunities with increased wage.
- Rehabilitation of the mining affected population.
- Grey hounds special police force of Andhra Pradesh is the most successful model to fight against naxals. It can be replicated in other states.
- Winning the hearts and minds of the tribal population and other marginalised groups will lie at the core of the counter-insurgency strategy.
- Development of road and rail infrastructure will not only enhance economic growth and development but will also help the security forces in carrying out operations.
- Civil society and the media should build pressure on the Maoists to eschew violence and join the mainstream to achieve the aspirations of 21st Century India.
- Recognition of adivasi icons by felicitating them and naming important buildings, airports and roads after them.
- Increased monetary support from state governments for celebrating adivasi festivals and the setting up of dedicated museums and cultural centres.

### 5) Government Efforts

- 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects, action on maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the State Governments.
- Filling up critical infrastructure gaps under the Scheme for Special Infrastructure in Left Wing Extremism affected States.
- Assistance in training of State Police through the Ministry of Defence.
- Assistance in community policing and civic action programmes.
- 'National Policy and Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism', aimed at eliminating the menace in the shortest possible timeframe.
- Anti-left-wing extremism (LWE) policy to enhance the deployment of central forces in the Naxal infested areas in the state.