



## Problems of Maoism in Odisha

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### ABSTRACT

*Today India has to deal with multiple problems both from internal and external dimensions. Maoist problem is a domestic threat to the continuation of the democratic set up of India. It is in a way outcome of the disjuncture functional mechanism of the government. Maoist problems are hit in the red corridors of the country and the present paper which is based on secondary sources aims to concentrate on the problem in one of the specific Eastern region state i.e. Odisha. The red rebellion is supported with the statistical revelations and aims to analyze the etiologies and solution to the present problem.*

**Keywords: Maoists, Red rebellion, democratic set up, domestic challenges.**

### PROLOGUE

The problem of Maoism has risen successfully from the local junctures to the threat of the Government's functional mechanism. In numerical thirteen out of the 28 states are badly hit with the rise of the red star and concomitant violence, killings and the subversion of the authorities of the Indian States. This includes several States such as Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, etc. Maoism in Odisha has emerged so ferociously that it hits almost 15 districts out of 30 revenue districts of Odisha with a wide range of nefarious killings of the civilians, police personnel and the army soldiers. The naxal militancy in parts of Southern, Northern and the North-western Odisha continues to be an area of major concern. While CPI (Maoist) continues to hold its influence in pockets of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj district, CPI-ML (Jana Shakti), another Left wing extremists outfit, has made its presence felt in the mineral rich tri-junction areas of Keonjhar, Jajpur and Dhenkanala districts.

### STATISTICAL REVELATIONS

The statistical account reveals that in the year 2005, it was 37 incidents leading to 21 deaths including 6 extremists. In 2006, it was 43 incidents leading to 28 deaths including 20 extremists. In 2007, it was 52 incidents leading to 22 deaths including 7 extremists. Till May this year the figure is 18 incidents leading to 26 deaths including 7 extremists.

### NATURE AND ETIOLOGIES OF PROBLEMS OF MAOISM IN ODISHA

Odisha is the land of paradise where the "Banjatis", "Adivasis" or the tribal reside at par excellence as compared to the proportional distribution of other States in India. Enriched with natural beauty and mineral resources it bears the seeds of protection and perseverance of these ethnic communities. But with the recent trends of introduction of the industrialization and Special Economic Zones (SEZ), there have been wide raptures in the continuities of the trends. The massive displacement problems have not only left the Kalinga Nagar incident nude before the eyes but also the protest in areas of Vedanta and Lanjigarh are marked. Tribals have now changed their "means of toleration" into active rebellion, under the banner of red Maoism. A sociological perspective of the phenomena postulates the bad hit of identity and land crisis faced by the tribal compel them to join the movement. A political perspective shows that often it is opined that there exists an intrinsic interlocking between the Maoists and the

Left parties... In fact, the leftist ideologies and the intellectuals supported most of the red revolutions. The farmer revolution was which is the back bone of the red revolution continues to be its main issue, now the red revolution getting its support from the anti-industrial activities most. In Odisha the main red revolution supporters are the tribal. The leftists however work substantively to organize the farmers, tribal and the industrial workers under different banners to fight the "rebel of freedom". The categories of the soft and hard core Maoism do no longer exist; rather it has been altered to "radical Maoism". The causes of such crumbling structures of State government and the increasing rates of Maoism mainly lies on several factors, such as poverty, unemployment, inappropriate administrative infrastructures, weakness in the executive body such as the local cops etc. The socio-psychological mindset of the Maoists has completely rejected their faith on the existing system and therefore they have chosen the path of their ultimate freedom through violence and naxal activities. They are slowly revolting against all the failures of the system. A simple mathematical appropriation of the rates can be framed into a concomitant variation in the relation that more the failure of the State Government, more is the rise of the problems of Maoism. For instance- In the last eight months Odisha has witnessed more than 62 farmer's suicide mainly distributed along the South-Eastern and the Western areas, the Maoists response to the farmer's suicide was again manifested in the subsequent five attacks which radically shattered the local policing structures of areas of Malkangiri and killed several other people.

### Environmental etiology for Maoism in Malkangiri:-

There has been no development in the region located right on the Odisha- Andhra Pradesh corridors. Attributing the "negligent attitude" of the administration, the entire Mahendragiri range has turned out to be a safe sanctuary for the Maoists. Noted environmentalist S.N.Patra, who is spearheading the agitation for protection of the environment of Mahendragiri region, says that it qualifies to be recognized as an "Entity of Incomparable Value (EVI), and Biosphere Reserve and Heritage Site". Further he explains that it has turned to be a tragic example of how environmental degradation can effect a regions vast potential, its primitive tribe, flora and fauna, due to the Maoists' capture.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

In June 2005, in the Region Of Bastar, the State backed by private capital launched "Salwa Judum" or peace movement.

On the face of that was the hidden agenda of corporate grabbing of resources. The sum total of four years of the operation displaced more than 3.5 lakh people from their villages and 32 times attacks by the Naxals. Even after such horrifying battles in the Bastar , again a phase two operation of OPERATION GREEN HAUNT and OPERATION GODAVARI were introduced . Thus the whole 'gun of peace' project was a failure and it revealed the wicked face of the State politics. Odisha also introduced 'operation cobra' and 'operation nialikantha', which ran in same lines and were failures.

#### **EPILOGUE AND AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS OF MAOISM IN ODISHA**

Battles of gun wars with the notion of 'diamond cuts a diamond' cannot be the solution of the problem. Rather a

Gandhian initiative can visualize a solution. Sustained anti-naxalite drive by the security forces, neutralization of few key cadets, and arrest of hardcore militants those have been rude to the naxals, well conceptualized civic action programme and public awareness campaign are essential. Several proactive, people centric development measures in the affected areas which can regain the faith system of the people must be placed. The democratic reincarnation and socio-psychological counseling along with the civil society activism can craft an optimistic solution of the problem of Maoism in Odisha.

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