



## Maoists' 'Look East Policy'

25 May, 2012    [Dr. N Manoharan, Senior Fellow, VIF](#)    [View889](#)    [Comments 0](#)

The problem of the Left-wing Extremism (LWE) has been like a shifting pain that moved from West Bengal to Bihar in 1970s, and then to 1980s.

After nearly two decades, when there was pressure in Andhra Pradesh, the Naxals found suitable sanctuary in the central Indian areas Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar and West Bengal. This constitutes the so-called "Red Corridor", which is the ideal base to set up "Revolutionary Zones". The movement of Maoists to tribal-dominated central India is in fact a search for an ideal base to set up "Revolutionary Zones". The movement of Maoists to tribal-dominated central India is in fact a search for an ideal base to set up "Revolutionary Zones". The movement of Maoists to tribal-dominated central India is in fact a search for an ideal base to set up "Revolutionary Zones".

It is known that the Indian Maoists have good network with several key militant groups of the northeast India that commenced around 1990s. In fact, with some groups like People's Liberation Army of Manipur, the exact modalities of working – formal, semi-formal and informal – are out through "memoranda of understanding".<sup>1</sup> The linkage ranges from getting arms, ammunitions, communication devices to training militant groups like National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM), anti-talk faction of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) like People's Liberation Army (PLA), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (Prepak), Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), Gorkha Liberation Tiger Force (GLTF), Gurkha Liberation Organisation (GLO), Adivasi National Liberation Army, Adivasi People's National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB). Maoists, in turn, are said to be providing explosives (ammonium nitrate) and funds to the Chinese small arms find their way to the 'Red Corridor' mainly through these groups. It is through the northeast groups the Maoists have found militant groups of Myanmar. The mutual support between Naxals and northeast militant groups is not just restricted to material, but also in other aspects as well. While Naxals have strongly supported "people's movements" of the northeast, the northeast militant groups have supported "revolutionaries". "Enemy's enemy is a friend" is the guiding maxim in this case as well. ULFA leader Paresh Baruah once remarked, "The government is also viewed as an enemy by the Maoists. Our enemy is also the same and so there is an understanding with them."<sup>2</sup>

But, what is more disconcerting is attempts being made by the Maoists to push the boundaries of the 'Red Corridor' and set up supply bases in Assam and some of the tribal areas in the hilly interiors. The presence of Maoists is felt in pockets of Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Golaghat and Karbi Anglong districts of Assam and Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh (adjoining Tinsukia). The hub of Maoists activities is in the Sadiya area, situated in Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border. Governments of Assam and India have recently admitted to this.<sup>3</sup> How deep this is where the ULFA chief Paresh Barua went partly wrong when he observed: "We have a definite strategy and we do not think Maoists will strike deep roots in Assam".<sup>4</sup> Maoists have clear-cut objective: capture of power, as against ULFA's secession from India. The north has become a new "strategic area" by the Maoists. To Maoists,

The "strategic areas" are hilly regions with dense forest cover, have sufficient economic resources, a vast population, and a vast forest area of thousands of square kilometers. In such areas the enemy is weak, and these areas are very favourable for the manoeuvres of the people's army; in strategic areas we can defeat the enemy completely by fulfilling the tasks of building and consolidating a strong proletarian party and an army; procuring the people's support and economic resources, while developing the guerrilla war aiming at the building of liberated/tribal areas.<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, apart from military utility of training, arms procurement and sanctuary, the Maoists also found parts of the northeast of India as "revolution" to establish what they call as "base areas". In this regard, two major causes are being exploited: deprivation among the tribals and anti-dam sentiments in Arunachal Pradesh. Since there is political vacuum in both cases, Maoists are more than willing to fill the vacuum. The adivasis in tea gardens are descendants of migrants from present-day Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh from British times. The Maoists have already set up local committees in these areas. From there it will become easy for them to link up to the border with Bhutan, where Nepali refugees are populated. Indian Maoists already have well-established links with the Bhutanese Maoists at both the local and national levels. They are members of umbrella organisations like Coordination Committee of Maoist Parties and Organisations of South India, Revolutionary International Movement (RIM), World People's Resistance Movement (WPRM) and International Communist Movement (ICM)

As it looks, Maoists are just making a foray in the region. It is, therefore, important to nip it in the bud. The idea of the government special task force on the lines of Andhra Pradesh's 'Greyhounds' and coordinated operation with neighbouring states like Arunachal Pradesh what is more crucial is a comprehensive development approach. All Maoists want is a cause to exploit. And they spread their tentacles wherever they exist. Addressing the root causes, therefore, is important; breeding grounds should be busted. Basic development issues like water, health and employment should be taken care of. Granting Scheduled Tribe status to the adivasis, carving out a separate Development Council, local administration like Zilla Parishads are some of the measures that are worth considering at policy level and they need to be implemented in a timely manner.

**End-Notes:**

"PLA, Naxals signed MoU in 2008 for fighting govt: cops," The Indian Express, 02 April 2012.

"ULFA C-in-C Paresh Barua Confirms ULFA-Maoists links," The Shillong Times, 03 February 2012.

"Will take steps to curb Maoist menace: Tarun Gogoi," Daily News and Analysis, 23 April 2012. "Maoists will be dealt with firmly: Chidambaram," The Indian Express, 12 May 2012.

Ibid.

Central Committee of CPI (Maoists), "Strategy and Tactics of Indian Revolution", Chapter 7, p. 51, available at [http://www.bannedthought.net/India\\_Docs/Founding/StrategyTact...](http://www.bannedthought.net/India_Docs/Founding/StrategyTact...), accessed on 23 May 2012.

Published Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012

**Post new comment**

Your name: \*

Anonymous

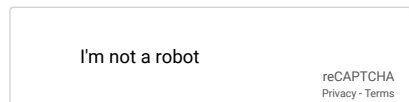
E-mail: \*

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly.

Comment: \*

Message\*

Input format



Save Preview

**Related Articles**



**Tripura and a North-Eastern Perspective**

India's north-east is a fascinating geo-political entity in the c



**Naga Accord: Challenges Remain**

"Today, we mark not merely the end of a problem, but the beginn



**Nagaland: Reassessing the Situation**

Late on Monday, the question of the mind of c



**Military Action in Myanmar: Managing the Message**

The Special Forces operation in Myanmar against insurgent camps i



**New signals in the Northeast**

The decision of the BJP-led NDA government to take military actio



**Strategic Stalemate in Internal Security**

Paresh Barua's Liberation Front Independent

National Counter-terrorism Centre (NCTC): Issues and Options

Hydro Power Projects Race to Tap the Potential of Brahmaputra

Special Laws to Counter Terrorism in India



Going by the recent claims of Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde,



For past many years while China has been in the news for its effo



A National held recently on 'Politics o

### About Us

The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) is a New Delhi-based think tank set up with the collaborative efforts of India's leading security experts, diplomats, industrialists and philanthropists under the aegis of the Vivekananda Kendra. The VIF's objective is to become a centre of excellence to kick start innovative ideas and thoughts that can lead ...

[Read More](#)

### Contact Us

Name\*

Email Id\*

Phone Number\*

Message\*

I'm not a robot reCAPTCHA Privacy - Terms

Submit

### Tweet With Us



**VIF India**  
@vifindia

'The organs are the horses, the rein, the intellect is the charioteer, the rider, and the body is the chariot master of the household, the King of man, is sitting in this chariot.'  
[#SwamiVivekananda](#)

