



Note

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# INSURGENCY

You will now learn about threats faced in the form of insurgency and terrorism by a nation. You have learnt how people came together to form communities, janapadas and how they chose a king and made armies. In modern days, instead of a king there are Governments who make laws and policies for the welfare of the people. Within this community that we live in there are people who don't like the way a government works or the laws made. They form a group and rebel against it. This act of protest usually starts peacefully like "Andolans" but can take violent forms if the demands are not met. You know of the Satyagraha Andolan started by Gandhiji for independence. That was a peaceful protest asking the British to leave India.

Ever since our nation's independence in 1947, we have faced numerous external and internal threats. A number of small groups in the NE states of India started a rebellion to have a separate country for themselves. Such movement became violent and they took to arms to achieve their demands & aspirations. This action by a few people acting against a nation and its government is called insurgency.

In this lesson we will learn what is insurgency and how it has affected our country. The measures that the Government takes to counter the insurgency and how the army gets involved to stop it. You will also learn the difference between Insurgency and Terrorism.



## Objectives

After studying this lesson you will be able to:-

- differentiate between insurgency and terrorism;
- describe the insurgency in World and India
- explain the causes of insurgency and
- list the counter insurgency measures to be taken by a country.

## 21.1 Insurgency and Terrorism

Insurgencies and Terrorism are sometimes used interchangeably. However, there is lot of difference between the two. Terrorism is a comparatively new phenomenon and it is used to terrorise the population to support the cause of terrorists. Where as, insurgency has a specified political aim and ideology, usually atleast in the beginning.

### Insurgency and Terrorism



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INSURGENCY	TERRORISM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are part of group. It is called People's war</li> <li>• Political aim of over throwing government</li> <li>• Violence against government only</li> <li>• Money and support from own people because they sympathise with the group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People not involved; small groups with a leader form terror group</li> <li>• Can be with political aim but it is aimed at creating panic amongst population.</li> <li>• Violence against population</li> <li>• Money and support from outside agencies. Some countries support terrorists</li> </ul>

It must also be understood that, insurgents will frequently describe themselves as "insurgents" or "guerillas". Terrorists will not refer to themselves as "terrorists" but describe themselves using military or political terminology ("freedom fighters", "soldiers", "activists").

**Insurgency** Let us understand what is insurgency and what is the difference between insurgency and terrorism.

- **Insurgency** A rebellion that takes place within the national territory of a country and involves the citizens of the same country is called as insurgency. There is no standard definition for Insurgency, just as there is no set definition for Terrorism. However, insurgency has political aims of secession, terrorism is more an act of violence to cause terror. You can also define insurgency **as a violent attempt to oppose a country's government which is carried out by citizens of that country**. In insurgency, armed groups operate to achieve their aims.
- **Civil Resistance** is a political action that is non-violent and organised by the people of a nation to challenge the government. Methods such as protests, demonstrations, hartals and boycott etc are used. It is peaceful. Best examples are, Indian independence movement
- **Guerrilla warfare** It is a type of warfare which is used by insurgents against government forces. In this type of warfare, small groups of armed people, use military tactics to fight government forces. Guerrillas use a small highly quick force to attack large armies. They depend a lot on the local population for support. They never get into combat directly with the army. But, attack small parties of soldiers who may be going from one place to another, government

buildings, buses etc. An example of successful guerilla warfare tactics was by Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam against the US army. US Army was forced to withdraw from Vietnam. Guerrilla warfare is also referred to as Irregular Warfare.

- **Naxalites/Maoists** Naxalites/Maoists are a group of radical communists, supportive of Maoist political sentiment and ideology. The origins of the word Naxal comes from the village of Naxalbari, near Siliguri in West Bengal where the movement first originated. The origins of all naxalite groups come from the CPI (ML), the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist. The Communist Party of India (Maoist) is a Maoist communist party in India which aims to overthrow the government of India through people's war as they do not believe in the present form of democracy.
- The photo shows how Spanish people revolted against Napoleon when he invaded Spain. Napoleon was an outsider and the people of Spain did not want to be ruled by an outsider.



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### Insurgency and Terrorism



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Spanish guerrilla resistance against Napoleonic invasion of Spain in 1808.



### Intext Questions

21.1

- Q 1. Define in simple words the meaning of Insurgency.
- Q 2. Where did Naxalism originate in India?
- Q 3. Who is a Maoist?

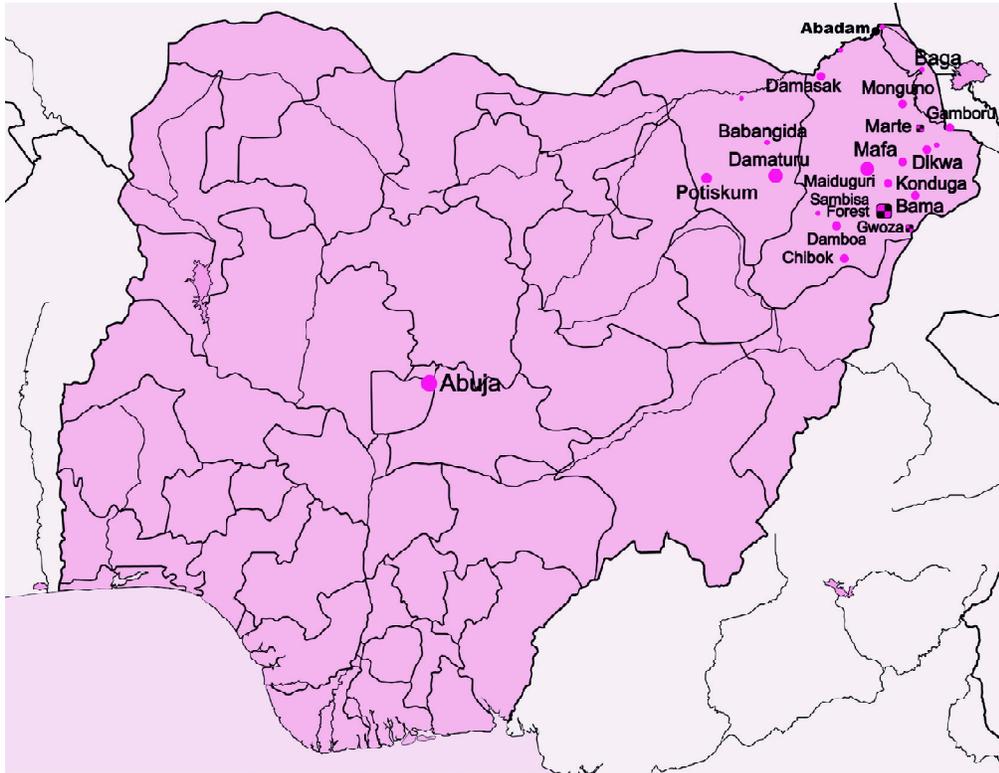
Having understood the various terminologies concerned with the subject, let us learn about the rise of terrorism and insurgency in India.

### 21.2 Insurgencies in the World

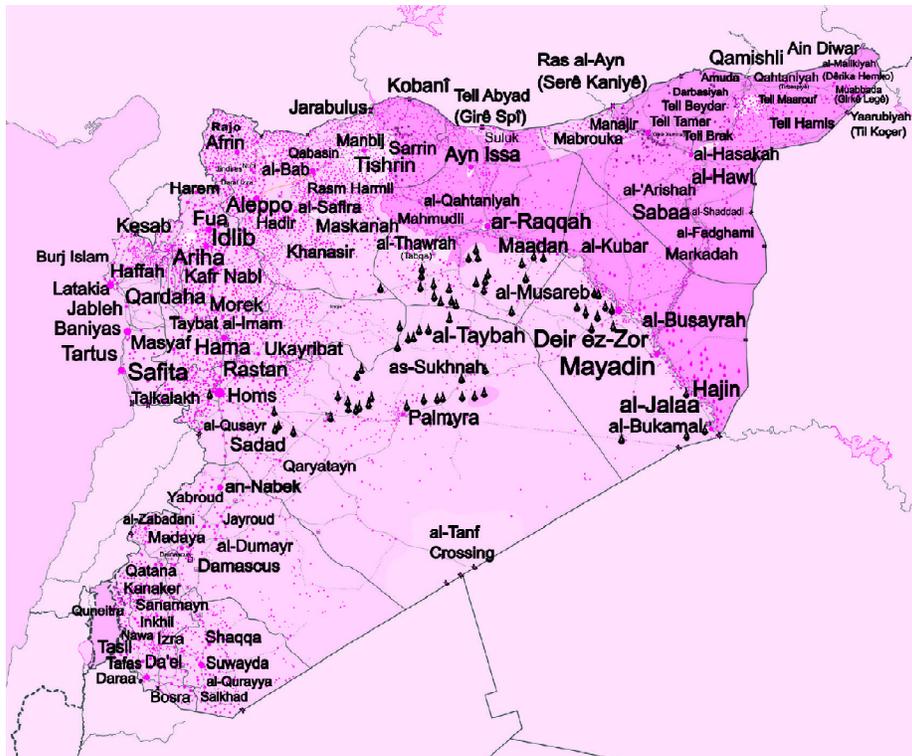
Let us have a brief understanding of the countries affected by insurgency movements. A few countries are shown. You will identify all the countries as part of an activity.



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Map 21.1 : Nigeria - Boko Haram



Map 21.2 : Syria - civil war





### ACTIVITY 22.1

- Name the Continents where the above mentioned conflicts are shown in the maps.
- Using the internet name the other countries in the world affected by revolt by the people.

#### 21.2.1 Insurgency in India

The conflicts that take place within the geographical territory of India and involving Indian citizens are termed as internal conflicts. What happens in such a conflict is that a group of people resort to armed and violent movement against the government. Since Independence our nation has been confronting two major on-going Internal Security Problems that include the terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), the collective insurgency in the North-eastern states of India.

##### (a) Terrorism in J&K

Pakistan came into being based on the 'Two nation Theory' and the partition took place based on Indian Independence Act 1947 and the boundary between the two nations was to be determined by Boundary Commission headed by Sir Cyril Radcliffe. The princely states were free to join any of the nations. Initially the Ruler of J & K did not join any of the countries. However, Pakistan launched OP Gulmarg, a covert operation, by employing raiders to create unrest in J & K and then more Pakistan Army to capture J & K. Maharaj Hari Singh decided to sign instrument of Accession on 26 October 1947 and merge with India legally. Indian troops were landed at Srinagar airport to defend J&K people. The raiders were chased away, they suffered massive casualties. The Indian Government ended Article 370 which gave special status to J & K on 5th August 2019. The J & K was divided into two Union Territories- J & K and Ladakh.

Even since the Pakistan has been employing raiders and now terrorists to infiltrate in J & K and create unrest which will help it to annex the whole state.

##### (b) Insurgency in the NE

It is very complicated for us to trace the origin of Insurgency in the Northeastern States of India in comparison to the Insurgency in J&K. We have to understand that the term Northeast of India is collectively used to denote seven states that include Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. All these seven states have different ethnic, cultural, linguistic, economic and political traditions. Unlike the other states of India, each of these states achieved their statehood and became part of the Indian Union in different periods.

### Insurgency and Terrorism



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The first to witness insurgency was Manipur by a number of small organizations demanding complete independence from India. Later others like ULFA, National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), in Assam, Mizo National Front in Mizoram and Naga National Council in Nagaland, started demanding independence. See Map given below to identify the NE states of India and their year of becoming a state of India. Reasons for rise of insurgency for the rise of extremism in our North-Eastern states of Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, and Assam, etc. are many. Some important reasons are given below:-

- The long British rule never attempted to bring the tribals of these states into the mainstream of the nation. A feeling of hatred, alienation and disharmony was created in their hearts which fuelled the insurgency based in the North East.
- Psychological, emotional and religious aspects are also involved in the problem.
- Widespread poverty, unemployment, neglect of youth, peasants and working class and emotional alienation are some of the main reasons of insurgency in these States.

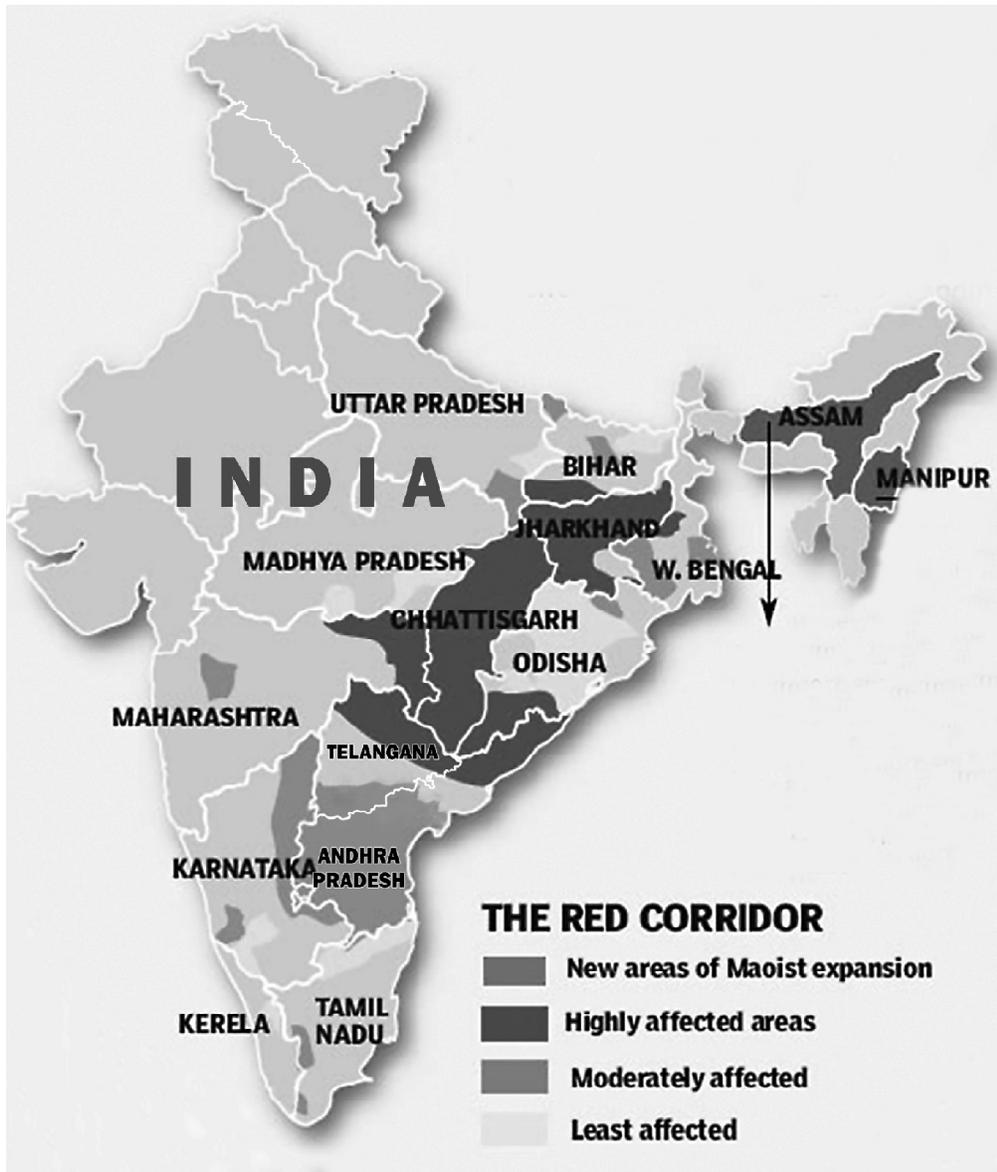
#### (c) Left Wing Extremism in India

Left Wing Extremism is an important element in the problem of armed insurgency in India. The Left Wing Insurgents are motivated to carry out an armed struggle against the Indian Union and to establish a Communist State. Similar to all the other major insurgencies in India the origin of the Left Wing Insurgents can be traced back to the British rule. The communist political movements, tribal unrests, labour and agrarian unrests started during the British rule in India. States affected by this type of insurgency are, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Bihar. This entire region where the Naxalites are active is termed as the "Red Corridor".

- The Red Corridor covers about 170 districts, which has population of economically and socially backward tribals. This provides the Naxalites with a population that has youth willing to join the movement. Also this region has dense forest that enables the Naxalites to carry out guerrilla warfare against Central and State security forces. See map no 21.5 below to identify areas affected by Naxalites.
- Indian government has adopted the policy of development and dealing with insurgents firmly. This policy is paying, dividends and the left wing extremism is now under control to a great extent.



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Map 21.5 : Areas affected by Maoist and Naxalites



**Intext Questions**

**21.2**

- Q 1. Name the regions in India that are affected by Insurgency.
- Q 2. Write the full form of ULFA.

**21.3 Causes of Insurgency**

World over there have been rebellion against kings during ancient times, governments in recent times. Insurgency as you have learnt is by the people. Therefore the reasons why they revolt is because they are unhappy. Research on the subject of insurgency

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has said that the causes of insurgency can be as follows:-

- (a) Ethnic, language and cultural difference from rest of India;
- (b) Lack of attention to the problems of people by the Government.
- (c) Boundary dispute with neighbouring states;
- (d) Clashes between locals and illegal immigrants.
- (e) Support from the neighbouring countries.

### 21.4 Counter Insurgency

If we have understood the causes of insurgencies, let us see how a nation counters the problem. They take steps to remove the reasons for the insurgency to happen. List of measures or also called as Counter insurgency operations (COIN) will be as follows:-

- Remove people support to the insurgents. This means that the government must talk to the people and solve their routine problems quickly. Govt should undertake development works like building schools, health centres in villages/ districts and making them function efficiently.
- Eliminate armed insurgents by military action.
- Forces that carry out military actions are Army, Assam Rifles (AR), Rashtria Rifles (RR), CRPF, and local police.
- Talk to insurgent leaders, and arrive at a pact or understanding. Indian Government talked to Mizo rebels, ULFA and others and arrived at an understanding. The Government is now talking to Naga rebels and an understanding is likely.
- Army has established a Counter Insurgency Warfare school in the NE and regularly trains its troops and foreign armies such as US, UK and Asian armies. Indian army has the expertise to deal with insurgency and terrorism.



### What You Have Learnt

- Learn and understand about insurgency and acts of terrorism;
- Discuss with parents and teachers about it without fear or worry;
- Say what you want about it - express your feelings;
- Develop a plan of what you will do to stop insurgency and terrorism.



### Terminal Exercises

1. What are the reasons for Insurgency in India?

2. Explain the counter Insurgency.
3. Write a note on Terrorism.
4. What is the difference between Insurgency and terrorism



**Answers to Intext Questions**

**21.1**

1. A violent attempt to oppose a country's government which is carried out by citizens of that country.
2. Naxalbari village in West Bengal.
3. Maoists are a group of radical communists, supportive of Maoist political sentiment and ideology.

**21.2**

1. J&K and NE states.
2. United Liberation Front for Assam.



Note

