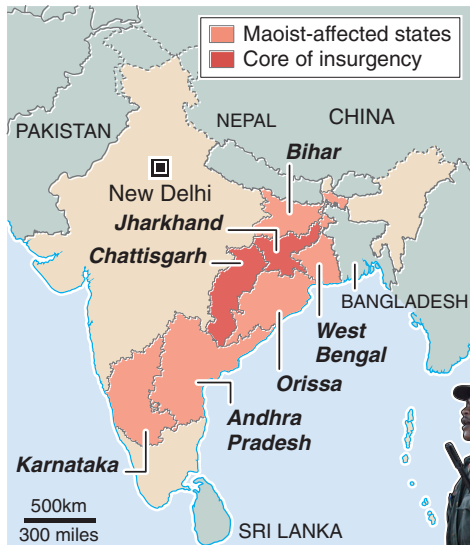


# Maoist threat looms large over Indian election

Communist rebels waging a 40-year-old insurrection are threatening to disrupt India's national elections with a growing campaign of violence.

The *Naxalite-Maoist* insurgency has been declared the most serious threat to India's national security by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh



► Movement began as agrarian uprising in West Bengal in 1967

► Maoists say they are fighting for rights of poor and landless

► Fighters are well-armed and number some 20,000

► About 6,000 people have died since insurgency began

► Maoists aim to control India by 2050

*Maoist fighters*



**India's Red Corridor:** *Maoist insurgency exerts influence in series of states making up 40% of India's geographical area*