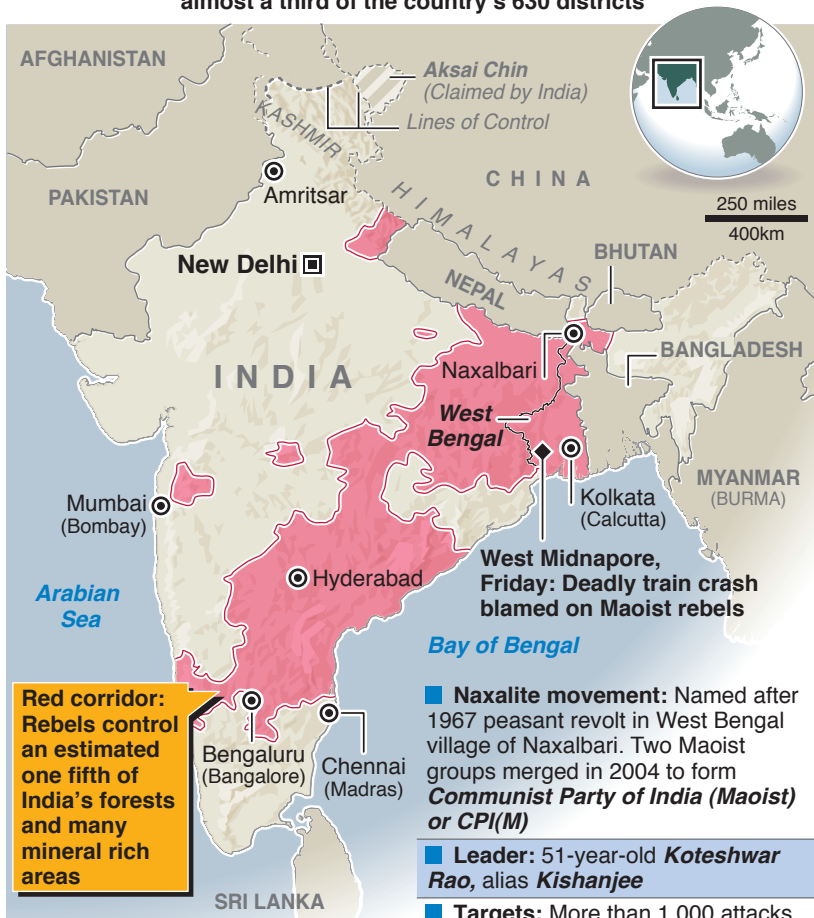


The Maoist threat in India

The Maoist-inspired Naxalite insurgency is seen as India's biggest threat in terms of internal security. The shadowy group has an estimated 20,000 combatants and operates across a "red corridor," which comprises almost a third of the country's 630 districts



Red corridor: Rebels control an estimated one fifth of India's forests and many mineral rich areas

Foreign support: Arms supplied by Nepalese and Filipino groups, training by remnants of **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam** from Sri Lanka

Naxalite movement: Named after 1967 peasant revolt in West Bengal village of Naxalbari. Two Maoist groups merged in 2004 to form **Communist Party of India (Maoist) or CPI(M)**

Leader: 51-year-old **Koteshwar Rao**, alias **Kishanjee**

Targets: More than 1,000 attacks recorded in 2009. 600 people killed. CPI(M) regularly attacks railway lines and factories, aiming to cripple economic activity