

# MEDHA CHATURVEDI

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## BRIEF PROFILE

My primary areas of focus are Democratic Systems and Developmental Challenges in India's Left Wing Extremism and Indigenous and Ethnic Conflicts in Myanmar examining the role of governance deficit including the role of federal structures (PESA, PRIs and Gram Sabhas in the Indian context). I also examined the impact of these conflicts on the most vulnerable sections of the society, women and children and have worked on issues of trafficking and forced migration.

In pursuing my research, I had a chance to visit some of the most excluded areas in India in states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab. I have also conducted my field visit in Myanmar, visiting Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states among other places of interest over a span of six weeks in 2013.

**I am currently a Senior Fellow with India Centre for Migration at the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, steering a project on PIO's in Myanmar. I am also associated with a project on Infrastructure Development in LWE affected regions and their impact on the conflict with the Woodrow Wilson Centre, Princeton University and Paris School of Economics.**

I have complete proficiency in English and Hindi and have reasonable proficiency in Urdu, Marathi and Bengali. In addition, I have intermediate knowledge of Spanish.

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## EDUCATION

- 2010-11: **Masters in Arts (Political Science and International Relations)**  
University of Delhi  
New Delhi, India
  - 2005-06: **Post Graduate Diploma in Mass Communications (Journalism)**  
*Grade 'B'*  
Xavier Institute of Communications  
Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
  - 2002-2005: **Bachelor of Commerce (International Economics and Costing & Taxation Law)**  
*First Class with Distinction & University Rank*
  - Symbiosis Society's College of Arts and Commerce, University of Pune  
Pune, Maharashtra, India
  - 2001-02: **All India Senior Secondary Education**  
*Central Board of Secondary Education Merit card for being amongst the top 0.1% scorers in English Language in India*  
Army Public School, Lucknow  
Uttar Pradesh, India
  - 1999-2000: **Indian Certificate of Secondary Education**  
*Council of Indian School Certificate Examination*  
St. Agnes' Loreto Day School, Lucknow  
Uttar Pradesh, India
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## NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

- **Book Chapter** - Armed Conflicts in South Asia 2011 –Early Naxalism Warnings in North India and also presented it at the Annual ACSA 2011 Conference.
- **Research Paper** – Myanmar vs Burma: Myanmar's ethnic conflicts

- **Short Paper** - Asian Conflicts Report, Issue 13, September-October 2010: "Recent Trends in Naxal Violence,"
- **Special Commentary, The Wall Street Journal, May 22, 2013** – Attempts to stamp out Maoists Backfire
- **Op-ed, The Pioneer, June 1, 2013** – The Great Massacre and Wrong Lessons Learnt
- **Special Commentary, Mainstream, Vol. L, No. 16, April 2012** - Chhattisgarh's Wandering Tribes: Problems of IDPs on the Chhattisgarh-AP border
- **Op-ed - The Tribune, 7 October 2011** - Myanmar towards civil war: Suu Kyi has a major role to play
- **Article #3598, 4 April 2012** – Maoist Hostage Crisis in Odisha: State under siege?
- **Article #3557, 18 January 2012** – BKI and Naxals in Punjab: Opportunist Allies?
- **Backgrounder** - Naxalism in India - Competition Wizard Magazine – April 2011
- **Issue Brief #163, March 2011** - Alternative Strategies towards Myanmar: Revising India's Look-east Policy
- **Special Report #98, February 2011** - India's Strategic Interests in Myanmar: An Interview with Shyam Saran
- **Article #3462, 25 September 2011** - Ten Years After: 'Terror Outsourcing' as an Evolving Phenomenon
- **Article #3433, 18 July 2011** - SC Verdict on Salwa Judum: End of State-Sponsored Civil Vigilantism?
- **Article #3398, 9 June 2011** - Early Warnings: Is Naxalism Expanding in Punjab?
- **Article #3252, 4 October 2010** - Right Information by Right to Information: An Interview with Wajahat Habibullah
- **Article #3218, 17 August 2010** - Fighting the Naxalites: CRPF is not the Best Option
- **Article #3215, 16 August 2010** - Trying Times for the CPMFs in the Red Corridor

*In addition, about 800 articles in Newspapers under my byline from 2006 to 2010.*

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

- October 2014 – Present – Senior Fellow, India Centre for Migration, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, New Delhi. Also associated with a project on Infrastructure Development in LWE affected regions and their impact on the conflict with the Woodrow Wilson Centre, Princeton University and Paris School of Economics.
- July 2013 – October 2014 – Associate Fellow, Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, New Delhi
- December 2012 – June 2013 – Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi
- July 2010 – December 2012– Senior Research Officer - Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi
- June 2012-present – Freelance Contributor – The Wall Street Journal, India Real Time, New Delhi
- October 2007-August 2009 – Senior Correspondent, Organised Crime – The Times of India, New Delhi
- April 2006-September 2007 – Reporter, Crime – MidDay Newspaper, Mumbai
- Early 2006 – Trainee – The Asian Age Newspaper, Mumbai

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## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Headed two projects at RGICS, one on Political Representation towards Conflict Mitigation in Left Wing Extremism and the second on Criminal Justice Administration. Provided advisory services to Congress MP's and MLA's.
- Management of various projects from different sources, including from international agencies and government ministries.
- Conducting several simulation game exercises for the members of the National Defence College and the Indian Intelligence Bureau.
- Supervised a team of interns and trainees working on crime at the Times of India
- Editing and Compiling the IPCS Quarterly journal 'Peace and Conflict'
- Helped prepare the IPCS presentation and the Southeast Asia Research Programme presentation and presented it on numerous occasions.
- Organised over 70 high-profile events in and outside India including two conferences of Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks, five Simulation Game Exercises for the National Defence College and one for

the Intelligence Bureau, India and Annual Armed Conflicts in South Asia Conference in 2011 with the Indian Home Secretary as the keynote speaker. About ten events organized along with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung of Germany.

- Prepared Conference and Seminar Reports for almost 40 conferences/seminars at the IPCS.

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## CONFERENCES AND INTERVIEWS

- Represented India in the Fifth Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Workshop organized by BIPSS in Dhaka in October 2010: Presented a paper on India's counter-terrorism capacity.
- Visited Chhattisgarh for a field visit in Dantewada and Sukma districts of the 'Red Corridor' in September-October 2012.
- Visited Punjab for the Early Warnings Project of the IPCS and wrote a COMMENTARY and a book chapter based on that.
- Presented a paper on a Mechanism for Early Warnings of Left Wing Extremism in Peripheral Areas at the Second Annual Dialogue on Naxalism, a collaborative event of the IPCS and NTNU, Trondheim, Norway in March 2012.
- Presented a Paper on the ethnic minorities in Myanmar at the Annual Inside Southeast Asia Conference in November 2011.
- Presented a Paper on Early Warnings of Naxalism in North India at the Annual Armed Conflicts in South Asia Conference in March 2011.
- Participated in a conference, The Changing Face of Myanmar, organized by the European Union and Euro-Burma Office at the India International Centre in February 2011.
- Organised and Participated in the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT) Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal in January 2011.
- Interviewed by Lok Sabha TV (*Program: Insight*), Doordarshan National TV (*program: War and Peace and Defence Watch*); British Broadcasting Corporation, Agence France-Presse (AFP), Asian News International (ANI) and other national and international news agencies, newspapers and news channels on issues of National Security and Strategic affairs.
- Cited in many publications and news channels in India and outside Including BBC, Stern, Germany, CNN International, Russia TV, Mexican National Television, China Daily, Global Times, Wall Stree Journal, Al-Jazeera, and the Economist among others.

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## REFERENCES

1. **Maj. Gen. Dipankar Banerjee**  
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2. **Mr. Deepak Lokhande**  
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