Defence & Security · GS - III

The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Ethnic diversity; historical grievances; identity politics; difficult terrain; porous borders; governance deficits; peace agreements

Model Answer

Introduction

Insurgency in parts of Northeast India has historical, ethnic, political and socio-economic roots. Although several peace agreements and security measures have reduced violence in some areas, certain armed groups and unresolved grievances continue to sustain instability.

Major Reasons for Continued Insurgency

- **Ethnic and identity concerns:** Communities seek recognition, autonomy or protection of language, land and cultural identity.
- **Historical grievances:** Political integration, perceived neglect and unresolved demands have contributed to alienation in some areas.
- **Governance deficits:** Inadequate infrastructure, limited livelihood opportunities and weak public services can undermine trust.
- **Difficult terrain:** Forested hills and remote settlements complicate security operations and public-service delivery.

- **Porous international borders:** Cross-border movement and external sanctuaries have historically enabled some armed groups.
- **Fragmented organisations:** Splinter groups, competing leadership and extortion networks can prolong conflict.
- **Delayed political settlement:** Unresolved demands and uneven implementation of agreements may sustain recruitment.

Measures to Address Insurgency

- Implement peace accords transparently and address legitimate political and developmental concerns.
- Improve roads, education, healthcare, employment and digital connectivity.
- Strengthen border management and intelligence coordination.
- Promote community policing and protect human rights during security operations.
- Encourage rehabilitation, disarmament and reintegration of former militants.
- Support local institutions and inclusive dialogue among communities.

Conclusion

Insurgency cannot be addressed through security operations alone. A combination of political dialogue, accountable governance, economic inclusion and proportionate security measures is necessary for lasting peace in Northeast India.

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