Defence & Security · GS - III

Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2022	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Naxalism draws strength from a combination of governance deficits, land and forest-related grievances, socio-economic exclusion and armed mobilisation. Its changing security tactics, exploitation of remote terrain and disruption of development make a multidimensional response necessary, combining lawful security operations, accountable governance, tribal rights and inclusive development.

Model Answer

Introduction

Naxalism, particularly the Maoist insurgency, is a serious internal security challenge concentrated historically in parts of central and eastern India. It reflects both armed violence and persistent governance and development deficits.

Emerging Issues

Maoist groups exploit difficult terrain, grievances over land and forest rights, displacement and weak public services. They use improvised explosive devices, extortion and intimidation to sustain operations and disrupt infrastructure. Attacks on security personnel, recruitment of vulnerable youth and obstruction of local administration remain concerns. Insecurity can further delay education, healthcare and economic opportunities,

reinforcing alienation.

Multilayered Strategy

1. Security Measures: Intelligence-led operations, inter-state coordination, modern surveillance and better protection for security personnel are necessary, with strict adherence to law and human rights.

2. Inclusive Development: Reliable roads, schools, healthcare, telecommunications, livelihoods and financial services should reach remote areas.

3. Tribal and Land Rights: Effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, can address grievances and strengthen local self-governance.

4. Good Governance: Transparent administration, accessible grievance redressal and action against corruption can rebuild public trust.

5. Rehabilitation: Surrender and rehabilitation policies, vocational training and livelihood support can encourage reintegration.

6. Community Engagement: Local participation and credible information channels can reduce extremist influence.

Conclusion

Naxalism cannot be eliminated through security operations alone. A coordinated strategy combining lawful enforcement, rights protection, accountable governance and inclusive development is essential for lasting peace.

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