Defence & Security · GS - III

What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Socio-economic deprivation; tribal alienation; land and forest rights; displacement; governance deficits; Maoist mobilisation; security operations; development interventions; community participation; surrender and rehabilitation

Model Answer

Introduction

Left-wing extremism (LWE), associated primarily with Maoist organisations, has exploited governance deficits and socio-economic grievances in parts of eastern and central India. It presents both a security challenge and a development concern.

Determinants of left-wing extremism

- **Land alienation:** Dispossession and unresolved land disputes can generate resentment among tribal and rural communities.
- **Forest-rights grievances:** Restrictions on access to forest resources and weak implementation of legal protections can deepen alienation.

- **Displacement:** Mining, infrastructure projects and industrial expansion may displace communities without adequate rehabilitation.
- **Poverty and unemployment:** Limited livelihood opportunities and poor access to education and healthcare create conditions for extremist mobilisation.
- **Governance deficits:** Corruption, weak local administration and delayed justice undermine public trust.
- **Geographical factors:** Forested and remote terrain can complicate security operations and service delivery.
- **Extremist coercion:** Maoist groups exploit grievances while using intimidation, extortion and violence to sustain their influence.

Strategy to counter the threat

Government of India

- Improve intelligence coordination and provide security assistance to affected states.
- Strengthen roads, telecommunications and essential infrastructure.
- Ensure effective implementation of tribal welfare and forest-rights legislation.

Civil administration

- Deliver healthcare, education, employment and welfare services reliably.
- Resolve land disputes and ensure fair rehabilitation for displaced communities.
- Strengthen Gram Sabhas, local governance and grievance-redressal mechanisms.

Security forces

- Conduct intelligence-led operations with coordination among agencies.
- Protect civilians and maintain professional conduct.
- Disrupt arms, extortion and financing networks while enabling access to public services.

Conclusion

A durable response requires security, justice and development to operate together. Restoring public trust, protecting legitimate community rights and providing accountable governance are essential to reducing the

appeal and operational space of left-wing extremism.

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