



Mains Practice Question

Q. Examine the complex interplay between economic marginalization, governance deficits, and the rise of radical ideologies in India's left-wing extremism affected areas. **(250 words)**

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Approach

- Introduce the answer by briefing about the interplay between economic marginalization, governance deficits, and the rise of radical ideologies in India's conflict-prone regions
- Delve into the complex interplay by breaking down three factors into pairs, with each factor influencing the other
- Suggest a way forward
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

Economic marginalization, governance deficits, and radical ideologies form a **self-reinforcing cycle, particularly in India's conflict-prone regions such as Central India, the Northeast, and Jammu & Kashmir**. Their interplay exacerbates socio-political tensions and perpetuates violence.

Body

Complex Interplay Between the Three Factors

- **Economic Marginalization and Governance Deficits**
 - **Unemployment and Poverty:** Economic exclusion fosters resentment among marginalized groups.
 - For example, **tribal communities in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh** face displacement due to mining projects but receive inadequate rehabilitation.
 - **Inefficient Welfare Delivery:** Corruption and poor implementation of welfare schemes like **MNREGA alienate the poor**, leaving them susceptible to anti-state narratives.
- **Economic Marginalization Fueling Radical Ideologies**
 - **Promise of Redistribution:** Groups like Maoists in Central India leverage economic grievances to recruit marginalized youth, **promising a redistribution of resources**.
 - The Maoist insurgency has its roots in the deprivation of forest rights and access to resources for tribal communities.
 - **Exclusion from National Development:** Areas like **Bastar lag in key HDI indicators**, making them fertile ground for radical ideologies to gain traction.
- **Governance Deficits Enabling Radicalization**
 - **Security Vacuum:** Weak law enforcement in regions like **Manipur during the ethnic**

violence of 2023 allowed insurgent groups to exploit tensions and recruit members.

- **Neglect of Dialogue:** Governance failure to address grievances diplomatically (e.g., **delay in implementing Sixth Schedule provisions in Northeast India**) pushes marginalized groups towards militancy.
- **Radical Ideologies Exploiting Governance and Economic Gaps**
 - **Creating Parallel Governance:** Radical groups often step in to fill governance voids, offering basic services, justice, and protection (e.g., **Maoist-controlled regions in Chhattisgarh**).
 - **Weaponizing Identity and Grievances:** Radical ideologies like those seen in **Jammu & Kashmir** exploit socio-economic exclusions to fuel separatist sentiments.
 - **Unemployment in J&K is over 18%, far above the national average**, creating fertile ground for radical narratives.
 - The abrogation of Article 370 brought administrative reforms but **not yet adequately addressed deep-seated economic alienation**, leading to continued unrest and recruitment by extremist groups.

Way Forward

- **Inclusive Development:** Enhance employment opportunities through region-specific policies (e.g., extending **Skill India to conflict-prone areas**).
- **Strengthening Governance:** Improve last-mile delivery of schemes and address corruption through digital governance (e.g., **JAM trinity**).
- **De-radicalization Programs:** Engage communities via education, counseling, and socio-economic upliftment, as seen in **Kerala's model to counter radicalization**.
- **Inclusive Development:** Strengthen welfare delivery through better governance, particularly in tribal regions. For example, expand the success of **PM Van Dhan Yojana** to enhance tribal livelihoods.
- **Conflict Resolution Mechanisms:** Promote dialogues, as seen in the **Naga Peace Accord (2015)**, to address long-standing grievances.
 - India could benefit from Singapore's community-driven approach while learning from the UK and Saudi Arabia's shortcomings in scalability and individual assessments

Conclusion

The interplay of economic marginalization, governance deficits, and radical ideologies requires a multi-pronged approach. Bridging **governance gaps, promoting inclusive growth, and addressing identity-based grievances** are essential to breaking this cycle. As evidenced by the **Aspirational Districts Program**, targeted efforts combining development and good governance can offer a pathway to peace and progress in India's conflict-prone regions.