Defence & Security · GS - III

The use of digital communication platforms and conventional parcel-delivery networks by organised drug-trafficking groups has complicated internal security enforcement. Examine the challenges this creates and suggest measures for strengthening India's anti-narcotics framework.

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Digital platforms, encrypted communication, parcel logistics, organised crime, NDPS Act, NCB, financial intelligence, cyber forensics, inter-agency coordination, international cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

Drug trafficking has increasingly acquired a technology-enabled character, with criminal networks exploiting digital communication and commercial logistics to evade detection. This creates new challenges for India's internal security institutions.

Major Enforcement Challenges

- **Digital anonymity:** Online platforms and encrypted communication complicate identification of suppliers and buyers.

- **Logistics misuse:** Commercial parcel networks can be exploited to conceal and distribute prohibited substances.
- **Financial concealment:** Digital payments and intermediary accounts can obscure the proceeds of organised crime.
- **Transnational networks:** Cross-border supply chains make investigation and prosecution more complex.

Measures to Strengthen Enforcement

India should enhance cyber-forensic capabilities, intelligence-led surveillance and coordination between police, NCB, customs and financial intelligence agencies. Risk-based parcel screening, lawful digital evidence collection and stronger financial investigations are essential.

Public awareness, rehabilitation services and international cooperation should complement enforcement measures.

Conclusion

Combating technology-enabled drug trafficking requires an integrated approach combining digital intelligence, effective law enforcement and public health interventions. Institutional coordination and accountability are crucial for disrupting organised narcotics networks.

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