Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

In one of the districts of a frontier state, narcotics menace has been rampant. This has resulted in money laundering, mushrooming of poppy farming, arms smuggling and near stalling of education. The system is on the verge of collapse. The situation has been further worsened by unconfirmed reports that local politicians as well as some senior police officers are providing surreptitious patronage to the drug mafia. At that point of time a woman police officer, known for her skills in handling such situations is appointed as superintendent of police to bring the situation to normalcy.

If you are the same police officer, identify the various dimensions of the crisis. Based on your understanding, suggest measures to deal with the crisis.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
20	~250 words

Answer Hint

Drug trafficking; organised crime; money laundering; arms smuggling; institutional corruption; educational disruption; public health crisis; border security; inter-agency coordination; rehabilitation; ethical leadership

Model Answer

Introduction

The narcotics menace is not merely a law-and-order problem; it is a multidimensional crisis threatening public health, economic stability, education, national security and public trust. As Superintendent of Police, I would adopt a coordinated, intelligence-led and people-centric strategy.

Various Dimensions of the Crisis

1. **Law and order:** Drug mafias, arms smuggling and organised criminal networks threaten public safety.

2. **Economic:** Money laundering and illicit poppy cultivation distort the local economy and finance criminal activities.

3. **Social and educational:** Addiction, school disruption and youth involvement in trafficking weaken human development.

4. **Institutional:** Alleged collusion between politicians, police officers and drug traffickers undermines integrity and the rule of law.

5. **National security:** In a frontier district, narcotics and arms networks may exploit porous borders and threaten internal security.

6. **Public health:** Substance dependence, mental distress and associated health risks place additional pressure on healthcare services.

Measures to Deal with the Crisis

1. Intelligence and Enforcement

Establish a dedicated anti-narcotics task force, map trafficking networks, strengthen surveillance and coordinate with border agencies and neighbouring districts. Target major traffickers, financiers, arms suppliers and distribution networks.

2. Financial Investigation

Work with relevant financial and enforcement agencies to trace illicit assets, investigate money laundering and pursue lawful seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime.

3. Internal Accountability

Verify allegations of official complicity through impartial investigations. Remove compromised personnel from sensitive duties where justified, protect whistleblowers and ensure action is based on evidence rather than political pressure.

4. Community Participation

Develop confidential reporting channels and build trust with residents, teachers, community leaders and civil society to improve intelligence and protect witnesses.

5. Prevention and Rehabilitation

Coordinate with education and health departments to restore school attendance, conduct awareness programmes, provide accessible de-addiction services and support the rehabilitation of affected youth.

6. Ethical Leadership and Monitoring

Maintain transparent records, review progress regularly and ensure that enforcement respects human rights, due process and the dignity of affected persons.

Conclusion

A sustainable response must combine firm action against criminal networks with institutional cleansing, education, public health and community cooperation. As SP, I would act impartially, resist improper influence and ensure that the law applies equally to all.

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