Ethics & Morality · GS - IV

It is a State where prohibition is in force. You are recently appointed as the Superintendent of Police of a district notorious for illicit distillation of liquor. The illicit liquor leads to many death, reported and unreported, and causes a major problem for the district authorities.
The approach till now had been to view it as a law and order problem and tackle it accordingly. Raids, arrest, police cases, and criminal trials – all these had only limited impact. The problem remains as serious as ever.

Your inspections show that the parts of the district where the distillation flourishes are economically, industrially and educationally backward. Agriculture is badly affected by poor irrigation facilities. Frequent clashes among communities gave boost to illicit distillation. No major initiatives had taken place in the past either from the government's side or from social organizations to improve the lot of the people.

Which new approach will you adopt to bring the problem under control?

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EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - IV	Ethics & Morality

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
20	~250 words

Answer Hint

Holistic governance; root-cause analysis; law enforcement; livelihood generation; rural development; irrigation and agricultural support; education and skill development; community engagement; interdepartmental coordination; rehabilitation; accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Illicit liquor distillation is not merely a law-and-order problem; it reflects economic deprivation, social conflict, unemployment, and administrative neglect. As Superintendent of Police, I would adopt an integrated approach combining enforcement with development and community participation.

New Approach to Control the Problem

1. Intelligence-Based Enforcement

Identify illegal distillation units, supply chains, major distributors, and corrupt networks. Conduct targeted raids, seize hazardous liquor, and prosecute offenders fairly. Strengthen surveillance to prevent recurrence rather than relying solely on mass arrests.

2. Immediate Public Safety

Establish rapid-response teams, coordinate with health authorities, and spread awareness about the dangers of illicit alcohol. Ensure prompt medical treatment for suspected poisoning and investigate every reported or suspected death.

3. Address Economic Causes

Coordinate with district administration to promote employment through rural public works, small industries, self-help groups, and skill-development programmes. Support farmers through improved irrigation, agricultural extension, and alternative livelihood opportunities.

4. Education and Social Awareness

Work with schools, community leaders, civil society organisations, and health workers to explain the health, legal, and social consequences of illicit liquor. Promote de-addiction and rehabilitation services where required.

5. Reduce Community Tensions

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Facilitate peace committees involving representatives of different communities. Address local grievances impartially and prevent illicit liquor networks from exploiting social divisions.

6. Interdepartmental Coordination

Create a district-level task force involving police, excise, health, education, agriculture, and social welfare departments. Set measurable targets and review progress regularly.

7. Accountability and Public Participation

Develop confidential channels for reporting illegal production, protect informants, act against official collusion, and monitor whether interventions reduce deaths and repeat offences.

Conclusion

Sustainable control requires both firm law enforcement and inclusive development. By addressing the causes of illicit distillation while protecting lives and restoring public trust, I would pursue a safer, healthier, and economically empowered district.

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