Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the public health and governance challenges posed by the illegal manufacture and sale of spurious liquor in India. Suggest measures to prevent recurring hooch tragedies.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

State excise administration, public health, illicit alcohol supply chains, methanol poisoning, enforcement gaps, inter-state coordination, community awareness, emergency healthcare, regulatory accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Spurious liquor tragedies expose serious weaknesses in public health protection, excise regulation and enforcement. Contaminated illicit alcohol, particularly containing methanol, can cause blindness, organ failure and mass fatalities.

Major Challenges

1. **Public health risks:** Methanol contamination can cause severe poisoning, permanent disability and death, placing pressure on emergency healthcare facilities.

2. **Regulatory gaps:** Illegal production and distribution often exploit weak monitoring in remote and vulnerable areas.

3. **Organised illicit networks:** Informal supply chains, corruption and inadequate enforcement facilitate the circulation of toxic liquor.

4. **Socioeconomic vulnerability:** Poverty, limited awareness and poor access to regulated products can increase exposure to unsafe alcohol.

5. **Healthcare limitations:** Remote communities may lack timely toxicology testing, antidotes and specialised treatment facilities.

Measures Required

- Strengthen state excise enforcement, intelligence gathering and surveillance of illicit production units.
- Conduct regular inspections and trace illegal supply chains.
- Improve access to emergency treatment, methanol testing and poison-control facilities.
- Establish rapid reporting and coordination mechanisms among police, health and excise departments.
- Promote community awareness regarding the dangers of unregulated alcohol.
- Ensure accountability of officials and effective prosecution of those involved in illegal manufacture and distribution.

Conclusion

Hooch tragedies are not merely law-and-order incidents but preventable public health emergencies. A coordinated strategy combining enforcement, accessible healthcare, community participation and regulatory accountability is essential to prevent their recurrence.

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