Polity & Governance · GS - II

Deaths caused by consumption of spurious liquor expose serious gaps in public health administration and enforcement of state excise laws. Analyse the constitutional responsibilities of State Governments in preventing illicit liquor-related tragedies and suggest measures to strengthen regulatory enforcement.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

State List Entry 8, Entry 6, Entry 51, public health, excise administration, illicit supply chains, toxic adulterants, inter-state coordination, community awareness, accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Spurious liquor tragedies represent a serious public health and governance failure. They expose weaknesses in enforcement, supply-chain monitoring and access to timely medical treatment.

Constitutional and Administrative Responsibilities

1. **Regulatory authority:** State List Entry 8 empowers States to regulate intoxicating liquor, including its production, possession, transport and sale.

2. **Public health:** Entry 6 places public health and sanitation primarily within State legislative jurisdiction.

3. **Excise administration:** Entry 51 empowers States to levy excise duties on alcoholic liquor for human consumption, supporting regulation of the sector.

4. **Law enforcement:** State police and excise departments are responsible for detecting illegal manufacturing, distribution and sale networks.

Measures to Prevent Recurrence

- Strengthen intelligence-led inspections and action against illicit manufacturing units.
- Improve forensic testing and surveillance of suspected toxic substances.
- Establish rapid-response medical facilities and public poisoning awareness systems.
- Coordinate enforcement across district and state borders.
- Ensure accountability of officials and organised illegal supply networks.
- Promote community reporting and rehabilitation for alcohol dependence.

Conclusion

Preventing illicit liquor tragedies requires moving beyond arrests after deaths occur. Strong excise administration, preventive public health measures and coordinated enforcement are essential to protect lives.

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