Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Drug abuse in India requires a shift from an enforcement-centric approach to a comprehensive public-health and social-development strategy. Examine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Drug demand reduction, NDPS Act, NAPDDR, public health, rehabilitation, community participation, inter-agency coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

Drug abuse is a multidimensional challenge affecting public health, family structures, productivity and internal security. Addressing it requires both effective enforcement and sustained demand-reduction measures.

Need for a Comprehensive Strategy

1. **Preventive education:** School-based awareness, community campaigns and youth engagement can reduce the risk of substance initiation.
2. **Healthcare interventions:** Accessible screening, counselling, treatment and de-addiction services are essential for addressing substance dependence.
3. **Rehabilitation and reintegration:** Vocational training, family support and community rehabilitation help prevent relapse and social exclusion.

4. **Law-enforcement coordination:** The NDPS Act, 1985 and agencies such as the Narcotics Control Bureau provide the framework for action against trafficking networks.
5. **Local participation:** Panchayats, educational institutions, civil society and healthcare workers can identify vulnerable populations and support early intervention.

Challenges

1. Cross-border trafficking and organised criminal networks complicate enforcement.
2. Social stigma discourages affected individuals from seeking treatment.
3. Uneven availability of rehabilitation facilities limits access.
4. Weak coordination between enforcement and health agencies reduces policy effectiveness.

Way Forward

1. Strengthen district-level coordination between police, health departments and social-welfare institutions.
2. Expand evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation services.
3. Monitor outcomes through measurable indicators, including treatment access and relapse prevention.

Conclusion

A drug-free society cannot be achieved through policing alone. Combining targeted enforcement with prevention, treatment and social reintegration offers a more sustainable response.

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