Defence & Security · GS - III

Evaluate the challenges faced by India in combating transnational human trafficking networks that exploit digital platforms and vulnerable migrant workers.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Human trafficking, forced labour, cyber slavery, organised crime, digital recruitment, international cooperation, victim protection, law enforcement coordination

Model Answer

The reported rescue of Indonesian and Malaysian nationals from a cyber-enabled exploitation network in the Delhi-NCR region highlights the changing nature of human trafficking. Criminal networks increasingly combine fraudulent overseas recruitment, forced labour and online financial fraud.

Changing methods of exploitation

1. **Deceptive recruitment:** Fake employment advertisements and promises of high salaries attract individuals seeking overseas opportunities.
2. **Coercive control:** Confiscation of passports, confinement, threats and withholding wages restrict victims' freedom.
3. **Digital exploitation:** Victims may be forced to operate fraudulent investment platforms, phishing networks or other online scams.
4. **Transnational organisation:** Recruitment, transportation, financial transactions and exploitation may occur across different jurisdictions, complicating investigation.

Major challenges for India

1. **Jurisdictional complexity:** Evidence, victims, perpetrators and financial proceeds may be located in different countries.
2. **Digital anonymity:** Fake identities, encrypted communication and cross-border financial transfers make tracing criminal networks difficult.
3. **Victim identification:** Foreign nationals may initially be treated as immigration violators or cybercrime suspects rather than trafficking victims.
4. **Institutional coordination:** Police, immigration authorities, cybercrime units and foreign missions need effective coordination.
5. **Rehabilitation:** Language barriers, trauma and repatriation procedures complicate victim assistance.

A coordinated response

India must strengthen intelligence sharing, digital investigation capabilities and cooperation with countries of origin. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, provides provisions addressing trafficking and exploitation. Victim-centred identification, legal assistance, safe shelters and timely repatriation must accompany prosecution.

Conclusion

Combating cyber-enabled trafficking requires treating exploited individuals primarily as victims, while dismantling the criminal networks that profit from their exploitation. International cooperation and coordinated law enforcement are central to this effort.

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