Defence & Security · GS - III

“Drug trafficking is not merely a law-and-order problem but also a challenge to public health, social stability and internal security.” Discuss the challenges posed by drug trafficking in Punjab and suggest a comprehensive strategy to address the problem.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/10/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Drug trafficking, NDPS Act 1985, border management, organised crime, illicit financial networks, youth vulnerability, substance dependence, police accountability, intelligence sharing, inter-state coordination, financial investigation, de-addiction, rehabilitation, community participation, demand reduction, public health approach.

Model Answer

Introduction

Drug trafficking is a serious challenge to internal security and social development. Punjab’s reported drug crisis highlights the need to address both the supply of narcotics and the demand for addictive substances.

Major Challenges

1. Internal Security: Drug networks may be linked to organised crime, illegal financial flows and cross-border trafficking, requiring effective intelligence and enforcement.

2. Social Impact: Substance dependence can harm physical and mental health, disrupt families, affect education and employment, and increase social vulnerability.

3. Governance: Weak coordination, inadequate accountability and gaps in enforcement can undermine public confidence in anti-drug efforts.

Way Forward

The government should strengthen intelligence-led policing, border surveillance, inter-state coordination and financial investigations. Strict enforcement of the NDPS Act must be accompanied by transparent investigations and accountability.

Equally important are early prevention, accessible de-addiction services, rehabilitation, vocational training and community participation. People experiencing substance dependence should receive appropriate treatment rather than face social stigma.

Conclusion

A sustainable response requires a balanced strategy combining enforcement, prevention and rehabilitation. Coordinated action can help protect youth, strengthen internal security and restore public trust.