Defence & Security · GS - III

Discuss the challenges posed by cross-border smuggling to India's economic security. Suggest measures to strengthen enforcement and prevent illegal trade.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Cross-Border Smuggling, Economic Security, Revenue Loss, Organised Crime, Border Management, Customs Enforcement, Inter-agency Coordination

Model Answer

Introduction

Cross-border smuggling refers to the illegal movement of goods across national borders to evade customs duties and other legal restrictions. Gold smuggling remains a concern for India's economic security and border management.

Main Body

1. Major Challenges

1. Revenue Loss: Smuggling leads to customs duty evasion and reduces government revenue.
2. Organised Crime: Illegal trade networks may be linked to money laundering and other criminal activities.
3. Economic Distortion: Smuggled goods create unfair competition for legitimate businesses.
4. Border Security: Porous borders and complex transport routes make detection difficult.

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2. Measures to Strengthen Enforcement

1. Strengthen intelligence gathering and risk-based customs inspections.
2. Improve coordination among the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Customs and border security agencies.
3. Use digital tracking, data analytics and modern scanning technologies.
4. Enhance international cooperation and information sharing with neighbouring countries.
5. Simplify legal import procedures and ensure strict action against offenders.

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Conclusion

Cross-border smuggling requires a coordinated approach combining effective enforcement, modern technology and international cooperation. Strong border management and transparent trade procedures can protect India's revenue and economic security.

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