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Q20

India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What countermeasures should be taken to prevent the same? (250 Words, 15 Marks).

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · GS III · 15 marks · Cyber Security and Money Laundering

Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

Core demand of the question

- Explain how drug trafficking links to gunrunning, money laundering, and human trafficking given India's place next to major opium zones
- Recommend countermeasures

Revision summary

The **Golden Crescent** and **Golden Triangle** put India on heroin, opium, and meth routes as transit, destination, and precursor source.

Drug profits buy arms; the same logistics move weapons.

Cash is laundered through hawala, trade, property, and new digital rails.

Mules and parallel sex-labour trafficking sit on the same smuggling networks.

Countermeasures are joint borders, NDPS plus PMLA, precursor control, FIU, neighbour cooperation, and treatment of addiction.

Flow diagram

Golden Crescent -> India routes

Golden Triangle -> India routes

India routes -> Drug cash

Drug cash -> Gunrunning

Drug cash -> Hawala PMLA

Drug cash -> Mules human trafficking

NCB ED FIU border health -> Drug cash

Conclusion

- **Treat the problem as a network:** seize the gun, the hawala slip, and the trafficked person in the same case theory.
- Reduce **corruption at mandi, port, and thana**, or every fence is a gate.
- Give border States **forensic and rehab** money, not only more rifles.

India's place beside two opium belts pulls drugs into the same pipes as guns, hawala, and human trafficking. Countermeasures work when NDPS, PMLA, arms, and trafficking laws, plus border forces and FIU, hit the network as one. Health demand-cut and clean ports are as necessary as the next seizure statistic.

Facts & figures

Golden Crescent

Opium-producing belt of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran; a main source of heroin toward South Asia.

Golden Triangle

Myanmar-Laos-Thailand opium and, increasingly, synthetic-drug belt affecting India's north-east and sea routes.

NDPS Act

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, the core criminal law on trafficking, possession, and precursors in India.

NCB

Narcotics Control Bureau, the central coordinating agency for drug-law enforcement and international liaison.

PMLA predicate

Drug offences can feed money-laundering charges so that hawala and property bought with narcotics cash can be attached.

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