



## Crack Down on Illegal Liquor Supply

**For Mains:** Dimensions of Ethics, Determinants and Consequences of Ethics in Human Action

### Why in News?

Recently, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer used soft policing to crack down on illegal hooch distilleries in Solapur (Maharashtra).

- Hooch is made when 'country alcohol' or cheap distilled liquor (desi daru) is adulterated with industrial alcohol or methanol to increase its intoxicating potency.
- [National Crime Records Bureau \(NCRB\)](#) data show that 6,172 people died between 2016 and 2020 due to the consumption of illicit hooch in India

### What are the Responsibilities of Different Stakeholders involved in Such Operations?

- **State and Central Governments:**
  - **Implement the constitutional values** by endeavouring for prohibition (**Article 47**).
  - Maintain impartiality in taking legal actions against the culprits.
  - **Be transparent and uphold rule of law** in investigations.
  - Maintain fairness in decision making and determining the accountability of mishaps.
- **District Magistrate:**
  - **Maintaining nonpartisanship and probity in bringing perpetrators** to justice no matter how powerful they might be.
  - Show empathy towards the victims and their families.
- **Police:**
  - **Curb the illegal liquor trade** with an unbiased attitude
  - To maintain nonpartisanship in discharge of their duty by not sidelining or exonerating the politicians.
  - Maintaining integrity while delivering duty.
  - Be accountable for its omissions and commissions.
  - Rectitude of dereliction duties.
  - Elimination of corruption, promoting honesty in discharge of duties.
- **Media:**
  - **Be responsible and liable** for their reports.
  - Being one of the pillars of democracy it is their duty to report the truth fearlessly but objectively.
- **Ministers/ MLAs:**
  - Uphold integrity by following the laws in letter and spirit.
  - Pay allegiance to the oath of public service
- **Society:**
  - Inculcate moral restraint to abjure consumption of liquor, which also causes health hazards.
  - Embracing the Gandhian ideals of prohibition.
  - Perform the duty of being a good citizen by helping the administration and police to bring

about justice.

## What should be the Way Forward?

- **Soft Policing Method:**
  - **'Operation Parivartan'**, a four-point action plan that combined soft policing methods such as counselling with a concerted crackdown on the haath bhattis or the hand-operated illicit liquor distilleries in the police district was launched.
- **Public Campaign Strategy:**
  - **Start a public campaign with advertisements**, street plays etc. to appeal to people to avoid the consumption of liquor.
- **Rehabilitation Process:**
  - **Facilitate rehabilitation process of people** addicted to alcohol, for this, allocation of adequate funds from the Government to open deaddiction centres for the same.

[Source: IE](#)

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