

## **SUMMARY of “Anti-smuggling drive,” Dawn Editorial, October 4th, 2023**

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The caretaker Interior Minister of Pakistan, Sarfraz Bugti, has openly acknowledged the involvement of security personnel in large-scale smuggling activities of currency, oil, and other commodities across the country's borders with Iran and Afghanistan. This admission is a significant step in addressing the issue of smuggling, as it implicates security officials in illegal cross-border movements. It was also noted that the army chief had warned those involved in such practices that they would face court-martial and imprisonment. The government, in collaboration with the military, has initiated a crackdown on smugglers and hoarders following the army chief's meetings with the business community, with the aim of curbing the substantial losses incurred due to pilferage. The coming weeks will test the resolve of civil and military authorities to expose and punish those engaged in illicit cross-border trade, including the smuggling of dollars, wheat, sugar, and cheap petroleum from neighboring countries. However, the problem of smuggling extends beyond the porous borders of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Smugglers use these routes not only for imports and exports of various commodities but also for high-value products like perfumes, watches, and designer purses, primarily brought in from Gulf nations via major airports and seaports. This illegal trade often evades taxes or involves substantial under-invoicing. Additionally, taking dollars out of the country through airports remains relatively easy. The article highlights the widespread availability of smuggled foreign goods in Pakistan, as a nexus between traders and customs officials contributes to this problem. To combat smuggling effectively, it is crucial to make it challenging for traders to display and sell such illicit goods while dismantling the connections between traders and officials posted along borders and ports. Smuggling continues to harm the economy, weaken industries, and impact employment and public welfare. It is



hoped that the ongoing efforts against illegal cross-border trade will not be prematurely terminated, as has occurred in the past.

## Easy/Short SUMMARY:

The caretaker Interior Minister of Pakistan, Sarfraz Bugti, openly acknowledged that security personnel are involved in large-scale smuggling activities of currency, oil, and other commodities across the borders with Iran and Afghanistan. This admission is a crucial step in addressing smuggling issues. The government, along with the military, has initiated a crackdown on smugglers and hoarders to curb losses due to pilferage. However, smuggling extends beyond specific border areas, encompassing high-value products brought from Gulf nations and illicit dollar movements. To combat smuggling effectively, it is essential to disrupt the nexus between traders and officials while making it challenging for smuggled goods to be sold. Smuggling continues to harm the economy and public well-being, and it is hoped that the ongoing efforts will not be abandoned prematurely.

## SOLUTIONS of The Problem:

### Addressing Border Smuggling:

- **Enhanced Surveillance:** Deploy advanced surveillance technology and increase the presence of security forces along porous borders to deter smuggling activities.
- **Strengthening Border Control:** Implement stricter border control measures, including vehicle checks and monitoring of cross-border movement.
- **Cooperation with Neighboring Countries:** Collaborate with Iran and Afghanistan to address cross-border smuggling and strengthen regional security.
- **Legal Reforms:** Introduce stricter penalties and legal measures to discourage involvement in smuggling, especially among security personnel.

### Airport and Seaport Vigilance:

- **Customs Overhaul:** Conduct a comprehensive overhaul of the customs

system to prevent the smuggling of high-value goods at airports and seaports.

- **Increased Inspections:** Enhance inspections and scrutiny of incoming cargo, focusing on items susceptible to smuggling.
- **Transparency:** Promote transparency in customs operations to reduce corruption and collusion between traders and officials.
- **International Cooperation:** Collaborate with international agencies to exchange information and combat smuggling networks operating through airports and seaports.

### **Crackdown on Illicit Dollar Movements:**

- **Financial Oversight:** Strengthen financial oversight mechanisms to monitor and track suspicious transactions involving the movement of dollars.
- **Regulatory Reforms:** Enact regulatory reforms to ensure greater accountability in currency exchange and foreign remittances.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Educate the public about legal and secure means of currency exchange and discourage illicit practices.

**Sustained Efforts: Ensure that anti-smuggling efforts continue over the long term and do not wane as they have in the past. Consistency and determination are essential in combating smuggling effectively.**

### **IMPORTANT Facts and Figures Given in the article:**

- Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti acknowledged the involvement of security personnel in large-scale smuggling across Pakistan's borders with Iran and Afghanistan.
- The crackdown on smugglers and hoarders was initiated following the army chief's commitment to addressing illegal activities.
- Smuggling extends beyond border areas to include high-value products imported from Gulf nations, often evading taxes.
- The availability of smuggled foreign goods is widespread due to a nexus between traders and customs officials.



- Combatting smuggling is crucial to the economy, industries, employment, and public welfare.

## MCQs from the Article:

**1. What did the caretaker Interior Minister of Pakistan admit regarding smuggling activities?**

- A. He denied any involvement of security personnel.
- B. He acknowledged the involvement of security personnel.
- C. He declared that smuggling was not a significant issue.
- D. He blamed the business community for smuggling.

**Answer: B. He acknowledged the involvement of security personnel.**

**2. What is the primary aim of the government's crackdown on smuggling?**

- A. To increase profits for traders.
- B. To encourage illegal cross-border trade.
- C. To curb substantial losses due to pilferage.
- D. To support the influx of cheap petroleum.

**Answer: C. To curb substantial losses due to pilferage.**

**3. Where are high-value products like perfumes and designer purses primarily brought from, according to the article?**

- A. Iran and Afghanistan.
- B. Balochistan and KP.
- C. Dubai and Gulf nations.
- D. Pakistan's local markets.

**Answer: C. Dubai and Gulf nations.**

**4. What is one solution proposed in the article to combat smuggling effectively?**

- A. Promoting transparency in customs operations.

B. Reducing the presence of security forces along borders.



- C. Encouraging the public to engage in smuggling.
- D. Providing preferential treatment to traders.

**Answer: A. Promoting transparency in customs operations.**

**1. Why is consistency and determination emphasized in the article's solutions?**

- A. To encourage more people to engage in smuggling.
- B. To support the influx of cheap petroleum.
- C. To ensure anti-smuggling efforts continue over the long term.
- D. To prioritize the interests of security personnel.

**Answer: C. To ensure anti-smuggling efforts continue over the long term.**

## VOCABULARY:

1. **Porous** (adjective) (□□□□□): Allowing liquids or gases to pass through; having small holes or gaps.
2. **Crackdown** (noun) (□□□□□□□□ □□□): A series of strict measures taken to restrict or suppress illegal activities.
3. **Illicit** (adjective) (□□□□□□ □□□): Forbidden by law, rules, or custom; illegal.
4. **Nexus** (noun) (□□□□): A connection or link between things, people, or events.
5. **Evade** (verb) (□□□□ □□□): Escape or avoid, especially by cleverness or trickery.
6. **Collusion** (noun) (□□□□): Secret or illegal cooperation or conspiracy, especially to deceive others.
7. **Overhaul** (verb) (□□□□ □□□□□□ □□ □□□ □□□□): Take apart (a piece of machinery or equipment) in order to examine it and repair it if necessary.
8. **Scrutiny** (noun) (□□□□□): Critical observation or examination.
9. **Accountability** (noun) (□□□ □□□□): The fact or condition of being accountable; responsibility.
10. **Pilferage** (noun) (□□□□□): The action of stealing goods regarded as minor or petty, especially when committed by an employee.

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