



### **Growing Menace of Illicit Drugs Trafficking**

The word "drug trafficking" refers to a broad range of offenses related to the manufacturing, importation, smuggling, cultivation, and promotion of psychotropic and narcotic drugs. Crimes pertaining to instruments and modes of transportation are encompassed under this phrase.

Drug trafficking refers to the use of precursors and chemicals in the illegal synthesis of psychotropic and narcotic drugs, as well as crimes using the proceeds utilized in or resulting from

Illicit trafficking from commission of offence. There are various causes and reasons that make the drug trafficking most prominent crime in worldwide.

Drug trafficking is a tempting alternative for surviving financially in many regions of the world due to poverty and a lack of employment options. For instance, a large number of people in Colombia turn to the drug trade as a means of escaping their extreme poverty.

Contrasting significantly with their far lower manufacturing costs in their countries of origin are the substantial profits made from drugs like cocaine, where wholesale prices can reach up to \$25,000 per kilogram in the United States.

Narcotics are in high demand, which fuels trafficking networks. For instance, almost 16 million Americans have used cocaine at some point in their lives, which provides a sizable market for traffickers. Additionally, the legalization of drug use can support and grow trafficking operations in areas where drug use is deeply rooted in culture, such sections of Southeast Asia.

Instability and political corruption encourage drug trafficking even more. For example, high levels of corruption in Mexico allow drug cartels to function relatively freely.

The problem can be made worse by traffickers' ability to elude law enforcement and circumvent legal restrictions due to the influence of dishonest officials.<sup>2</sup>

A significant contributing element to drug trafficking is unemployment and poverty. Some people resort to drug trafficking as a means of subsistence when they are unable to get gainful jobs. Addiction of drugs also leads the individual to indulge in drug trafficking or smuggling of drugs to fulfill its need.

In recent era internet is the fast growing source of on line drugs trafficking that it provide easy access to controlled substances. Some companies are openly advertising controlled drugs for sale on internet.

### **America**

Latin America has been a key player in various global illegal drug markets in the last few years. Many parts of the drug supply chain occur in the region, such as growing drug crops, producing drugs, trafficking them, and finally using them.<sup>3</sup> South America has held the title of the biggest cocaine producer for the worldwide market. Mexico is where most of the opiates and cannabis (marijuana) consumed in the United States originate from. North America is a significant cannabis producer. Recently, the amount of cannabis herb seized in North and South America has reached a concerning level.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup><https://www.cfr.org/background/mexicos-long-war-drugs-crime-and-cartels>

<sup>3</sup>Seelke, Clare Ribando, Liana Sun Wyler and June S. Beittel (2011), "Latin America and the Caribbean: AJAY KR. UPADHYAY, Illicit Drug Trafficking and U.S. Counterdrug Programs" Accessed on 12 February 2012, <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41215.pdf>, p. no. 1.

<sup>4</sup>The Chart (September 8, 2011), "Study: 22 Million Americans use Illegal Drugs," Accessed on 23 February 2012, <http://thechart.blogs.cnn.com/2011/09/08/study-22-million-americans-use-illegal-drugs-3>

### Asia

Opium and heroin dominate the drug trade in Asia. Illegal drugs are transported and used in the area before being sent to European markets. Since the late 1970s, heroin made from opium in Afghanistan has been sent through India to be sold in other nations. Border regions in states like Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Jammu and Kashmir have been used for this objective. India serves as a transit route for drug traffickers, with cocaine being transported from South America in small amounts, then traded for South-West Asian heroin destined for Europe or North America. Smuggling across borders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal is made simple because of the porous boundaries. India lies between the Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent countries and serves as a passageway for narcotics from these areas to the West.

The Central Asian republics have been affected by Afghan opium infiltration, leading to various social, political, and economic issues as criminal organizations gain more control over the already fragile political systems of the Central Asian countries. The hashish market in Central Asia has expanded in recent years, becoming a competitor to Morocco, Europe's main hashish provider.

### Europe

In Europe, cannabis remains the most widely used drug. The main route for smuggling Moroccan cannabis resin into Europe is through the Iberian Peninsula, with the Netherlands and Belgium also serving as secondary hubs for distribution and storage, with less trafficking to other areas. The practice of using light aircraft to transport drugs across borders is not a recent phenomenon, but it has possibly grown in recent years between the African coast and the Iberian Peninsula.<sup>5</sup> The majority of heroin found in illegal drug markets in Europe originates from Afghanistan. The reported rise in heroin trafficking from Georgia to Europe through the Black Sea is linked to the conflict in the region. Turkey serves as the primary route for heroin shipments heading to Western Europe. Most of the heroin that is transported through this route is destined for Germany and the Netherlands, passing through Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary, and Austria or through Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Austria. Heroin is transported from Germany and the Netherlands to bigger markets in France, the United Kingdom, and Spain.<sup>6</sup>

### Drug trafficking in India

India has become both a transit and destination country for heroin and hashish produced in the Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent throughout the past thirty years. Furthermore, a range of psychoactive and medicinal preparations, together with precursor chemicals produced both locally and internationally, are trafficked through Indian Territory. These substances and drugs are being trafficked illegally in both directions, which not only breaches Indian borders but also seriously jeopardize the national security. The relationship between terrorists, organized crime, and drug traffickers has produced a force strong enough to destabilize the nation. Drug-related revenue has been utilized to support a number of terrorist and insurgent organizations. The smuggling of hashish across borders, which was in any event far too little an amount, did not raise any alarm because the nation had a long heritage of drug use.<sup>7</sup>

Drug trafficking, however, came to light in the early 1980s as a result of the heroin inflow, which had severe and extensive effects. Drug trafficking concerns have taken on new dimensions in the wake of the widespread availability of synthetic and prescription for medication as well as the abuse of these substances.

Now India becomes the first largest populated country in the world. Due to vast population India is the hub for drug trafficking. There are other several reasons due to which drug trafficking is prevalent crime in India.

1. India's geographical location is in between the 'Golden Crescent' and 'Golden Triangle' region. These region considered as the most drugs producing areas and therefore it makes more venerable for drugs trafficking. For eg. In

<sup>5</sup>UNODC (2011), World Drug Report 2011, United Nations Publication: Vienna, p. no. 38

<sup>6</sup>European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2013), EU Drug Markets Report: A Strategic Analysis, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, p. no. 45.

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.unodc.org/pdf/india/publications/south Asia Regional Profile Sept 2005/10 india.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/india/publications/south%20Asia%20Regional%20Profile%20Sept%202005/10%20india.pdf)

the area of Golden Crescent drugs like opium, heroin and hashish are manufactured, by Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and smuggled in to India through North West border.<sup>8</sup>

2. Due to large number of population, there is highly demanding of drugs for recreational and medicinal purposes.
3. India is having porous border i.e it shares with the border of several countries, and mostly venerable for the drug trafficking for the smugglers.
4. In India corruption is one of the major cause for drug abuse.
5. Lack of awareness among the people about the use and effect of dangerous drugs. Young generation always put on the risk of using drugs and also indulged in the activity of drugs trafficking.

To combat the drug abuse and trafficking India has taken various initiative to regulate and prevent the drugs trafficking in the following ways-<sup>9</sup>

In 1985, India introduced National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) to regulate and control the drug trafficking in India.

In 1986, India established Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB), is a nodal agency to enforce the drugs law in all over the country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs constituted four tier coordination mechanism amongst the nation wise stakeholders from grass root level to apex level to effectively combating the drug abuse. These four pillars are the apex NCORD, executive NCORD, State NCORD, and District CORD.

For 2018 to 2025, MOSJE launched National Action Plan for Drugs Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) to reduce the adverse impact of drugs by implementing various strategy which includes awareness programs and interactions with the parents, younger generation and also organizes various workshops, seminar in school, colleges, and universities. It also provide the treatment facility and capacity building of service providers.

On the occasion of Independence Day, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020, India launched NashaMukti Bharat Abhiyaan (Drugs Free India Campaign) in 272 districts of 32 states and union territories which was assisted under the NAPDDR scheme in association with the voluntary organizations.

Established various Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for Addicts (IRCA's) to provide assistance to the rehabilitation to the persons with substance abuse disorder with the help of NGO's.

India has signed various treaties and also having collaboration with the International agencies. It has signed several bilateral agreements and conventions with the other countries to regulate the drug trafficking which includes-<sup>10</sup>

UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961

The Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971

The Convention on Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), 2000

India also signed various Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLAT's) with the other countries for the purpose of investigation, prosecution and extradition of drugs traffickers. It will provide the legal framework for the sharing of information and evidence between the signatory countries. India is a member of various international organizations like United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) etc. These organizations work in coordination to prevent drug trafficking at international level. It also cooperate the other countries through joint operations and sharing of intelligence to prevent drug trafficking.

In India, drug abuse and trafficking are controlled by The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. According to this Act, the cultivation, production, transportation, import and export of all narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are prohibited, except with government permission for medical and scientific purposes. The law provides for severe penalties for anyone who violates the law, and the death penalty can be imposed on a person

---

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.clearias.com/drug-trafficking/>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Ibid page no. 6

caught selling drugs for the second time. The law also provides for the detention of anyone for more than two years in areas it classifies as highly vulnerable.<sup>11</sup>

The NDPS Act includes provisions for seizing property obtained through illegal drug trafficking. Furthermore, the Indian government passed the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in 1988, permitting the detention of individuals suspected of participating in drug trafficking. Additionally, certain sections of the Customs Act of 1962 are utilized to prevent the unlawful export of precursor chemicals.

1. **In Rhea Chakraborty vs Union of India and Another**,<sup>12</sup> in this case applicant found with drug storage and helped Sushant Singh Rajput in procuring drugs for consumption. The Applicant not only regularly dealt in, but, also financed illicit trafficking. Ample of material including electronic evidence that the applicant was involved in drug trafficking. She had facilitated in drug deliveries and payment through credit card and cash.

2. **The Kerla High Court in suomoto**<sup>13</sup> proceeding taken by the DANSAF team to curb the activities of drug mafia, drug trafficking, disrupting the supply of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances illegal transportation of drugs and other contraband items. Frequent district level interactions are made with similar departments to curtail drug trafficking, to exchange information.

3. **Court on its own motion vs State of Punjab**<sup>14</sup> treated as the best source to identify the source of drug trafficking and supply chain at local levels. Thus, the investigation was carried out in this case. develop strategies, measures and methods to enforce the law against drug- trafficking, prevent drug abuse, rehabilitate the drug victims and co- ordinate with other governmental

4. **Bhikaram Singh Majithi vs State of Punjab**<sup>15</sup> using such illegal proceeds and money received from such activities of drug trafficking is also stated to be an offence. It is further stated that ... security personnel, other government facilities for assisting, facilitating and abetting drug trafficking and other related illegal activities is an offence.

5. **Rajjit Singh Hundal vs State of Punjab**,<sup>16</sup> NDPS Act read with different provisions of the IPC against Inspector Inderjit Singh who was found to be in collusion with drug traffickers. . Court gives emphasis on use of drug intake consumption and mass awareness programme. The functions were also to develop strategies, measures and methods to enforce the law against drug trafficking, prevent.

#### **Issues and Challenges to Combat Drugs Trafficking on Internet**

There are so many issues and challenges to combat the drug trafficking from grass root level. The drugs traffickers are more technologically advanced. They used the internet based technology for supply of drugs and also use the drones for the supply of drugs across the border. Due to the growth of industrialization, unemployment and youth culture leads the crime of drug trafficking. Drug trafficking is recognized as one of organized crime which helps and financially support the terror groups to conduct the terrorist activities. Supply of drugs in various ways to facilitate the illegal activities worldwide.

Despite of this, there are political issues, instability, there is lack of coordination to handle these issues to tackle effectively. There is lack of awareness among the people about the drug abuse and preventive measures use for it. There are inadequate rehabilitation centers or facilities available to the addicted people. There are so many people are struggling with addiction generally the youth. Drug trafficking cast a wide negative impact on both the manufacturing and consuming nations. It affects the society economically with violence and create instability in development country. In most of the countries it closely related with the violent crimes which affects public safety and social structure. It also related to the other forms of offences which including terrorism, corruption and money laundering etc. Drug traffickers can use social media and other online platforms to promote their products to large audiences worldwide. Local

<sup>11</sup> The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, bare Act

<sup>12</sup> AIR ONLINE 2020 BOM 1252

<sup>13</sup> AIR ONLINE 2021 KER 595

<sup>14</sup> <https://indiankanoon.org/doc>

<sup>15</sup> <https://indiankanoon.org/doc>

<sup>16</sup> Ibid



marketplaces are being created on traditional social media platforms, and children and teenagers can easily access inappropriate content.

There is increase of in production of new synthetic drugs regularly, so the enforcement agencies as well as the public must aware about the new trends of the products in illicit market. Due to the increased availability of illicit drugs on the Internet, exploitation by criminal groups of online platforms, and the risk of overdose deaths due to the online presence of synthetic opioids like fentanyl are significant challenges.<sup>17</sup>

The criminals are using various legitimate online platform, social media for illicit drugs trafficking. Encryption methods, anonymous browsing on the dark net, and crypto currencies are used to avoid detection, making it difficult to prosecute online trafficking offences. Due to which people health safety is at risk if drugs sells without prescriptions on internet directly to the customers. Most of the times the customers are not aware about whether drugs are counterfeit, illegal or even unapproved.

To combat the menace of drug trafficking on internet the following measures should be taken-

It is necessary for the government to enhance and improve the border security by strengthening the security forces and also increase the surveillance by adapting advanced technology and AI.

There is a need to strengthening of law enforcement agencies which are involved in drug controlling and preventing drug trafficking by giving them proper training and resources.

The government has to take initiative to enhance the international cooperation with the other countries to tackle the issues relating to drugs trafficking.

There is need to give more attention by the government to the issues relating to unemployment, poverty, and education and other socioeconomic factors.

To provide public awareness amongst the public regarding dangerous drugs abuse and prevent drugs trafficking network which will help to reduce the demand of drugs.

The government take initiative to make more stringent laws and regulations to control and prevent the drugs trafficking on internet.

## II. CONCLUSION

Drug trafficking now becomes the new threat to national and international security. It is transnational crime hence it need global response to combat the menace of drugs trafficking. Due to which all the states affected by different ways. Mostly developed as well as developing countries are falls under the ambit of abuse of drug trafficking. In South Asia, drug misuse is also on the rise and has reached notable levels in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.

The worldwide drug trafficking business is always changing, posing a threat to social and economic advancement as well as being a factor in crime, instability, insecurity.

There is need to enhance the continuous monitoring and surveillance in remote areas.

To stop the drugs trafficking there is need to take measures to control the cross border trafficking.

## REFERENCES

- [1]. Voice of America (26 June 2012), "UN: Trafficking, Use of Illegal Drugs on the Rise in Asia," Accessed on 13 August 2012, <http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2012/06/26/un-trafficking-use-of-illegal-drugs-on-the-rise-in-asia>
- [2]. UNODC (2011), World Drug Report 2011, United Nations Publication: Vienna, p. no 42.
- [3]. Taylor, Avril (2006), The Social Impact of Public Injecting, UK: Josaph Rowntree Foundation, p. no. 7
- [4]. UNODC (2012), World Drug Report 2012, United Nations Publication: Vienna, p. no. 26.
- [5]. UNODC (2013), World Drug Report 2013, United Nations Publication: Vienna, p. no. xii.
- [6]. Lubin (2001), in Shanty, Frank C. (2011), The Nexus: International Terrorism and Drug Trafficking from Afghanistan, Santa Barbara, California, Colorado, England: Praeger, p. no. 38.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.drishitias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/role-of-the-internet-in-drug-trafficking>

- [7]. UNODC (2012), World Drug Report 2012, United Nations Publication: Vienna, p. no. 78.
- [8]. UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (2008), Illicit Drug Trends in Central Asia, Accessed on 13 February 2010, [http://www.unodc.org/documents/regional/central-asia/Illicit%20Drug%20Trends\\_Central%20Asia-final.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/regional/central-asia/Illicit%20Drug%20Trends_Central%20Asia-final.pdf), p. no. 6.
- [9]. Malik, Abdul, SyedaFarhanaSarfaraz (2011), "Origin and Development of Drug Addiction in South Asia with Special Reference to Pakistan", Pak. J. Commer. Soc. Sci., Vol. 5, No. 1, 155-165, p. no. 159.
- [10]. Taylor, Lowry; SherifaZuhur (2006), The Nexus of Terrorism and Drug Trafficking in the Golden Crescent: Afghanistan, U.S.: U.S. Army War College, p. no. 6-7.
- [11]. International Narcotics Control Board (2007), Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2007, New York: United Nations, p. no. 8.
- [12]. SOCA (2008), The United Kingdom Threat Assessment of Serious Organised Crime 2008/9, London: The Stationery Office, p. no. 26.
- [13]. UNODC (2011), World Drug Report 2011, United Nations Publication: Vienna, p. no. 38.
- [14]. UNODC (2011), Drug Situation Analysis Report South Eastern, Europe, Accessed on 3 February 2012, [www.msb.gov.ba/dokumenti/DSAR.SEE.published.pdf](http://www.msb.gov.ba/dokumenti/DSAR.SEE.published.pdf), p. no. 4.
- [15]. UNODC (2010), World Drug Report 2010, United Nations Publication: Vienna, p. no. 56.
- [16]. UNODC (2011), Drug Situation Analysis Report South Eastern, Europe, Accessed on 3 February 2012, [www.msb.gov.ba/dokumenti/DSAR.SEE.published.pdf](http://www.msb.gov.ba/dokumenti/DSAR.SEE.published.pdf), p. no. 6.
- [17]. International Narcotics Control Board (2011), International Narcotics Control Board Annual Report, Accessed on 25 April 2012, [www.incb.org/pdf/annual.../05\\_Regional\\_Highlights\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.incb.org/pdf/annual.../05_Regional_Highlights_Presentation.pdf).
- [18]. <https://www.drishtias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/role-of-the-internet-in-drug-trafficking>