

Drug Trafficking

Impact

- Money from drugs are used in financing terrorism such as ISIS, Taliban, insurgency in Kashmir
- It inhibit the full utilization of potential of youth in desire activity and weakens the demographic dividen
- Use of drug increases domestic violence and degrade the women's position in the family.
- use of drug divert the money from being used to avail nutritious food thus fuelling malnutritioi
- Drug use breeds poverty by two ways - one it decrease earning capability of youth and second use of money to buy drugs.
- It places heavy burden on the health system of the country and precious economic resource is used to fight the undesirable drug menace.

Action Taken

- Drug trafficking hampers peace and stability of the country.
- Enacted legislation such as the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act to curb the drug menace.
- Government constituted Narco-Coordination Centre in November, 2016 and revived the scheme of "Financial Assistance to States for Narcotics Control.
- The government approved new Reward Guidelines with increased quantum of reward for interdiction or seizure of different illicit drugs.
- Government has scheduled 07 new substances into the list of Narcotic drugs in the year 2017 so that action can be taken against trafficking in these substances.
- Narcotics Control Bureau has been provided funds for developing a new software i.e. Seizure Information Management System (SIMS) which will create a complete online database of drug offences and offenders.
- Government has constituted a fund called "National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse" to meet the expenditure incurred in combating illicit drug traffic and identifying, treating, educating & rehabilitating drug addicts.
- India signed Bilateral Agreements with neighbouring countries to deal with drug menace

Way forward

- To stop the inflow of money generated from illegal trade of narcotic drugs into our economy, proper financial investigation needs to be conducted in each significant drug case
- Identify drug syndicates & cartels and their kingpins and take stern action against them to disrupt their illegal business.
- Spread more awareness among the public about ill effects of drug abuse and need to create adequate infrastructure for treatment, rehabilitation and harm reduction for the victim of the drug abuse.
- Provide skill/training to youth and engage them in meaningful employment so that they are not attracted to drug trafficking.
- Strict check in colleges and severe punishment for students who are found consuming narcotic drugs.
- Coordination between countries at national level and strict vigilance against money flow generated through drug trafficking.

Context

- The Madras High Court has directed the Centre to spell out whether India is being used as a hub by international drug cartels.
- Court called for a detailed report on the number of cases booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act of 1985 in the last 10 years.

Courts observation

- Youngsters and students of Punjab are mostly addicted to drugs.
- Same situation should not be allowed to spread to other States.
- Punjab is the transit point on the drug route and the State has become a major consumer base.
- There is an increase in drug abuse cases and rising crimes in southern states.
- Only one in 20 drug addicts gets treatment at a hospital.

Statistics

- Survey by the Ministry of Social Justice & AIMS revealed that 3.1 crore Indians use cannabis, bhang, ganja, charas, heroin and opium.
- Only one in 20 drug addicts gets treatment at a hospital.
- The problem of drug addiction of children is more prevalent in U.P., M.P., Delhi and Haryan
- Easy availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances near schools, colleges and other public places makes it higher prevalence.

Reasons Behind Drug Trafficking

- India is in between Golden Crescent (Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan) in the west and the Golden Triangle (South-East Asia) in the east the two major illicit opium producing region in the world.
- Unemployment: drug trafficking attracts the youngsters as it provide them source of income.
- Rising demand of drugs among people to reduce stress and anxiety about work.
- Huge profit: drug trafficking generate huge profit which makes this business very lucrative
- Usage of crypto-currencies have deepened the drug network and increase the drug trafficking.
- Latin American cartels are also increasing their presence in South Asia to benefit from increased drug trade.
- Porous border, corruption in police services, human trafficking further provide impetus to drug trafficking.
- Many illegal pharma companies also engage in production of illicit drugs

Challenges in tackling drug trafficking

- Porous international border
- Organized way of functioning
- Rising demand in youth due to growing individualism and reducing contact with famil
- Easy availability of couriers for drug trafficking
- lack of coordination between different agencies