



Narcotics Control Bureau

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Why in News

The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** has arrested the **country's first 'darknet' narcotics** operative under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act**.

Key Points

- **Darknet** refers to the hidden internet platform used for narcotics sale, exchange of pornographic content and other illegal activities by using the secret alleys of the onion router (ToR- a free and open-source software for enabling anonymous communication) to stay away from the surveillance of law enforcement agencies.
 - It is tough to crack because of its end-to-end encryption.
 - The payment gateways of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoins and Litecoin were used by the operators to conceal the transactions from regulatory agencies.
- The NCB was part of a global '**Operation Trance**', launched in December 2019, which is a **joint intelligence-gathering action** on international postal, express mail and courier shipments containing psychotropic drugs (which can only be purchased on a doctor's prescription) that are abused as sedatives and painkillers.
- It was constituted by the Government of India in **1986** under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**.
- It is the apex coordinating agency under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on **Article 47** of the Indian Constitution which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.
- **Drug abuse control** is the **responsibility of the central government**.

- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**

- It provides for the penalty of property derived from or used in illegal traffic in narcotic drugs.
- The Act made an express provision for constituting a Central Authority for the purpose of exercising the powers and functions of the Central Government under the Act.

Source: TH