



Delisting of Controlled Substances

In a bid to curb trade of narcotics and other controlled substances on online portals, the government has reached out to the industry, especially **business-to-business (B2B) portals**, to ensure their delisting from such platforms.

- The Government has shared a list of about 400 items including narcotics and psychotropic substances with business-to-business (B2B) portals.
- The industry outreach follows a **probe against online B2B marketplace IndiaMART**, which was investigated by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in September 2018 for listing acetic anhydride, a precursor for heroin.

Narcotics Control Bureau

- The Narcotics Control Bureau was **constituted by the Government of India in 1986** under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**.
- 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.
- 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**.
- The drug abuse control is the **responsibility of central government**.

- Following this, the portals have **taken measures** to ensure delisting of such controlled substances on their platform.
- Earlier in January 2019, the **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)** held a workshop in Bangkok to create more awareness among the industry.
 - The **INCB Report 2018** had highlighted the growing evidence of an **emerging modus operandi of drug trafficking** in the region that involves the **use of the Internet as a marketplace for drugs and precursors**, with mail or courier services being used for delivery.
 - It had also pointed to [India being the transit country for illicitly produced opiates](#), in particular heroin, which **originate in Afghanistan and are trafficked through the country via Pakistan en route to Europe and North America (mainly Canada)**

International Narcotics Control Board

- The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is the **independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body** for the implementation of the **United Nations international drug control conventions**.
- It was **established in 1968** in accordance with the **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961**.
- It was established by **merging two bodies**: the Permanent Central Narcotics Board, and the Drug Supervisory Body.
- The functions of INCB are laid down in the following treaties:
 - the **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961**,
 - the **Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971**, and

- the **United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988**.
- India is a **signatory to all the above three** mentioned treaties.
- INCB has **13 members (10 of the members are elected from a list of persons nominated by Governments, and remaining 3 members are elected from a list of persons nominated by the World Health Organization** for their medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience), each elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of five years.
- INCB members may be **re-elected**.
- It's **secretariat** is located in **Vienna, Austria**.

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