



# International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

**For Prelims:** International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan/Drugs-Free India Campaign, World Drug Report 2022

**For Mains:** Problem of drug abuse and related Initiatives, World Drug Report 2022, Government Policies & Interventions

## Why in News?

Every Year, **26<sup>th</sup> June is celebrated as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking or World Drug Day.**

- UNODC World Drug Report 2022 was released on the occasion of the [World Drug Day](#).
  - UNODC World Drug Report 2022 highlights trends on cannabis post-legalization, environmental impacts of illicit drugs, and drug use among women and youth.

## What is the World Drug Day all About?

- **Theme:**
  - Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises.
    - The focus of [United Nations Office On Drug And Crime \(UNODC\)](#) is to spread awareness about it so that a world free of drug abuse can be created.
- **History:**
  - On 7<sup>th</sup> December 1987, the **United Nations General Assembly decided to observe 26<sup>th</sup> June as** the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
  - It did so to strengthen their efforts in order to achieve the **goal of making the society free of drug abuse.**
- **Significance:**
  - The focus is to create awareness about the hazardous impacts of drug abuse on the society and to create a world without it.
    - In 2022, the world continues to witness widespread [humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Ukraine](#) and elsewhere, while the [Covid-19 pandemic](#) is still a major global health crisis.
    - The synthetic drug crisis also requires nimble and adaptable solutions.

## What are the Related Initiatives?

- **Indian:**
  - [Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan/Drugs-Free India Campaign](#)
  - [National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction](#)
  - [Narco-Coordination Centre](#)
    - [National Fund to Control Drug Abuse](#)
- **Global Initiatives:**
  - **Single** [Convention on Narcotic Drugs](#), 1961.

- The [Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971](#).
- The UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988](#).
  - India is a signatory to all three and has enacted the [Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances \(NDPS\) Act, 1985](#).
- Every year, the UN publishes a [World Drug Report](#), [Global Drug Policy Index](#).

## What are the Key Highlights of the World Drug Report 2022?

### ▪ India:

- **India's Market and users are likely to increase:**
  - India is **one of the world's single largest opiate markets in terms of users** and would likely be vulnerable to increased supply.
    - This is because of the intensification of trafficking in opiates originating in Afghanistan may be taking place eastwards, in addition to southwards and westwards along the traditional [Balkan route](#).
  - Consequences could range from expanded use to increased levels of trafficking and associated organised crime.
- **Seizure of Opium:**
  - India has the **fourth largest quantities of opium seized in 2020** at 5.2 tons and the **third-highest amount of morphine was also seized** in the same year at 0.7 tons.
  - About 3.8 tons of heroin were seized in 2020 in India, the fifth-highest in the world.
    - In 2020, authorities in India had announced for the first time dismantling of a major international criminal network trafficking non-medical tramadol and other psychoactive substances on the dark web.

### ▪ World:

- **Increase in Drug Usage:**
  - Around 284 million people, aged 15-64 years, used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26 % increase over the previous decade.
- **Cocaine Manufacturing is on High:**
  - Cocaine manufacture worldwide was at a record high in 2020, growing 11 % from 2019 to 1,982 tons.
  - Cocaine seizures also increased despite the Covid-19 pandemic to a record 1,424 tons in 2020.
  - Opium production worldwide grew 7 % between 2020 and 2021 to 7,930 tons predominantly due to an increase in production in Afghanistan.
  - However, the global area under opium poppy cultivation fell by 16 % to 2,46,800 ha in the same period.
- **Role of Women:**
  - Women remain in the **minority of drug users** globally yet tend to increase their rate of drug consumption and progress to drug use disorders more rapidly than men do.
  - Women now represent an **estimated 45-49 % of users of amphetamines and non-medical users of pharmaceutical stimulants**, pharmaceutical opioids, sedatives, and tranquilizers.
  - Women played a wide range of roles in the global cocaine economy, including cultivating coca, transporting small quantities of drugs, selling to consumers, and smuggling into prisons.
- **Misperceptions depriving people of treatment:**
  - Misperceptions regarding the magnitude of the problem and the associated harms are depriving people of care and treatment and driving young people towards harmful behaviours.
- **Factors:**
  - The Cannabis legalisation in parts of the world appears to have accelerated daily use and related health impacts.

## What are the Recommendations of the Report?

- There is need to devote **the necessary resources and attention to addressing every aspect of the world drug problem**, including the provision of evidence-based care to all who need it, and we need to improve the knowledge base on how illicit drugs relate to other urgent challenges, such as conflicts and environmental degradation.
- It is needed that the policy makers across the world **to tailor holistic drug-supply reduction strategies encompassing economic development** and alternative livelihoods in countries where coca bush is illicitly cultivated.
- Drug policy approaches **should be integrated into conflict and peacebuilding responses in conflict areas**.
- Governments should **encourage more complex and deep investigation of transnational crimes**, aimed at revealing and dismantling related financial flows.

[Source: IE](#)

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