



Uttarakhand Police Recover MDMA Drugs

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Police arrested a woman near the [India-Nepal border](#) with 5.688 kg of [methylenedioxy-methylamphetamine \(MDMA\)](#) worth Rs 10.23 crore and booked her under the [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985](#).

Note: India's National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is guided by [Article 47 of the Constitution](#), which urges the State to prohibit the consumption of intoxicating substances harmful to health, except for medicinal use.

- The **Central Government holds the primary responsibility for controlling drug abuse** and enforcing narcotics laws in the country.

Key Points

- **About MDMA:**
 - MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine) is a **synthetic derivative of amphetamine**, widely known as a **recreational drug**.
 - Since the 1980s, it has been popular on the streets under names like **Ecstasy, E, Molly, XTC, X, Beans, and Adams**.
 - MDMA belongs to a class of **psychoactive substances** known as **entactogens** (from Greek, meaning "touching within").
 - As an entactogen, it induces **euphoria**, **enhances emotional closeness**, **boosts empathy and communication**, and may aid in **retrieving repressed memories**.
 - It can **severely affect the cardiovascular, neurological, renal, and hepatic systems**. Its potentially **life-threatening effects** require urgent recognition and intervention in clinical and emergency settings.
- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985:**
 - The Act regulates certain operations such as **manufacture, transport, and consumption** related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
 - Under the Act, financing certain illicit activities such as cultivating cannabis, manufacturing narcotic drugs, or harbouring persons engaged in them is an offence.
 - Persons found guilty of this offence will be punished with rigorous imprisonment of at **least 10 years**, extendable **up to 20 years**, and a fine of **at least Rs 1 lakh**.
 - It also provides for **forfeiture of property** derived from, or used in, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and **psychotropic substances**.
 - It also provides for the **death penalty in some cases** where a person is a repeat offender.
 - The [Narcotics Control Bureau](#) was also constituted in 1986 under the Act.
- **Initiatives Taken to Tackle Drug Abuse in India:**
 - [Project Sunrise](#): It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016 to tackle the [rising HIV prevalence](#) in north-eastern states in India, especially among **people injecting drugs**.

- **Nasha Mukht Bharat:** The government has also announced the launch of the '[Nasha Mukht Bharat](#)', or [Drug-Free India Campaign](#), which focuses on community outreach programs.
- **NIDAAN and NCORD Portals:** [NIDAAN and NCORD Portals](#) are online platforms that maintain detailed databases of drug offenders, supporting law enforcement agencies in tracking drug-related crimes and trends.
- **Seizure Information Management System:** The Narcotics Control Bureau has been provided funds for developing new software like the [Seizure Information Management System \(SIMS\)](#), which will create a complete online database of drug offenses and offenders.
- **National Drug Abuse Survey:** The government is also conducting a National Drug Abuse Survey to measure trends of drug abuse in India through the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment with the help of the **National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre of AIIMS**.

Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

- The Government of India **established the NCB in 1986** under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.
- NCB functions as the **apex coordinating agency for drug law enforcement in India** and operates **under the Ministry of Home Affairs**.

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