CONCLUSION

Since 1980s, drug abuse emerged as a national problem in India. However, the exact number of drug abusers in the country remains unknown. By 1960s the global illicit drug market was badly in need of an enormous aggregation of addicts to sustain its operations. The peculiar geographical position of India makes her vulnerable to drug trafficking: In the northern border, countries of the Golden Crescent, namely Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran produce huge quantities of heroin and supplies it overland through the Middle East to European markets. Illicit drugs from the Golden Triangle, namely Myanmar, Thailand and Laos also are imported to and supplied through India since early eighties. The Golden Hexagon also act as illicit source of opiates, which continues to affect India by constantly increasing illicit transit traffic of heroin.

Being surrounded by the Golden Crescent, the Golden Triangle and the Golden Hexagon, India has become both a destination and a transit route for opiates produced in these regions. Nepal which is a traditional source of
cannabis, both herbal (marijuana) and resinous (hashish) also makes the situation worst. Moreover, since early eighties, the border State of Punjab became affected with narco-terrorism connected with the smuggling of narcotic drugs and arms across the border. By this time, the use of India by the drug traffickers as a transit country has resulted in an increase in drug abuse due to the spill-over effect. However, drug addiction in India has not assumed such a serious magnitude as in some of the western countries; but there are no grounds for complacency.

In India, drug users are found throughout the society, not just on its fringes, and that too irrespective of cast, creed, social and economic levels. But the “brands” keep on changing. Traditionally, opium and cannabis derivatives, LSD, mandrax, cocaine and barbiturates etc. have been used by drug addicts. But recently ‘synthetics’ that contain stimulants like methaqualone, acetic anhydride, eperidine etc. conquered the market. One of the significant recent shifts visible in drug use patterns is the move from smoking to injecting drugs. Heroin is the most commonly used drug in India. However, in rural areas opium emerged as the most commonly used drug. Drug and alcohol addiction among youth is increasing in large cities;
especially in the metros at an alarming rate. Increasing seizures of cocaine, hashish etc. testify this fact.

Pharmaceutical preparations continue to be diverted from domestic distribution routes and are sold without prescription in pharmacies and various other retail outlets. The country is increasingly becoming a part of the worldwide network of internet pharmacies. Cough syrups containing a high level of codeine and buprenorphine are mainly used as drug of addiction in most areas. In Kerala, certain ayurvedic medicines are also being abused. Cannabis is also illicitly cultivated and widely abused in the region.

In India, production of licit opium is permitted for medicinal and scientific purposes and it is mainly grown in three States: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, subjected to governments’ strict licensing, supervision and control. Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh are centers for cannabis related drugs; while in northern States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, poppy (from which opium is derived) is cultivated. However, drug trade pattern shows only a slow increase.
Though there has not been alarming escalations in the supply of drugs in the country in the last decade, most of the terrorist attacks are connected with illicit drug traffickers. Narco-terrorism which is a multi-dimensional phenomenon is a growing menace to the nation. Illegal drug business is having three sides: production, trafficking and consumption. The present study has established the relationship between drug production, abuse, trafficking, money laundering and narco-terrorism. To prevent the resurgence of such cultivation, Government may adopt effective means; for example, by providing legitimate sources of livelihood for the farmers in question, in addition to intensifying law enforcement action. Government must be alert against the danger of illicit production of opium and its diversion.

Mumbai is considered to be the major drug trafficking centre in India. The information and data based on the seizures carries the researcher to the conclusion: that the mastermind remains far way, those apprehended are low-level operatives; and that they have no clear idea about their ultimate master. This fact continues to be crucial in defining drug trafficking trends in the subcontinent.
Terrorism becomes even more devastating when it is combined with illicit drug trafficking. Illicit drug trade forms the main funding source of the terrorist groups viz LTTE, JKLF, Bodoland Liberation Tiger Forces (BLTF), Al-Quida, Deccan Mujahideens etc. It is to be doubted that the present increased rate of terrorism in India is the fallout of the unfulfilled commitments made by the political leaders to the people of India, especially in the north-east region. Growth of terrorism and illegal narcotic syndicates is a manifestation of the growing frustration in India’s political and social system. Hence, this issue must also be addressed before answering how to cope with the growing menace of narco-terrorism in India. The narcotic scenario in the Golden Crescent and the direct involvement of Pakistani politicians and law enforcement agencies therein has brought about an insecure Indian continent. The deplorable situation should be dealt with by analyzing the prevalent situation in Pakistan, which has become the breeding ground for both terrorists and drug traffickers. In other words, unless the causes for sponsoring narco-terrorism are examined, an effective control over this phenomenon cannot be worked out by the Indian Government. However, cutting off the financial power of the terrorists may, to some extent prevent them from the acquisition
of sophisticated and deadly weapons; which in turn, depends upon the effective implementation of anti-money laundering measures.

In view of the continued diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India, the Government should take initiative to investigate all cases of diversion and attempted diversion, inorder to identify the new trends; to detect such crimes and to arrest the traffickers involved. With respect to demand reduction, the competent authorities should ascertain regularly the extent and pattern of drug abuse and improve the measures relating to the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. However, today though Government continues to expand drug abuse prevention and treatment activities, the resources of drug control remain inadequate and there is lack of co-ordination and co-operation between the agencies involved. To make such agencies more effective, Government may provide more human resources, training and equipments. In addition, the Government must implement policies of zero tolerance of corruption, increase the effectiveness and transparency of the law enforcement agencies and judicial system by providing appropriate human resources and training.
The relation between illicit drug trafficking and money laundering is very complex. The Government must take stringent steps to ensure that the legislation to prevent money laundering that came into force in 2005 is strictly enforced. The main highlight of the Act is that it defines a number of acts as offences; and establishes a multi-disciplinary unit for gathering intelligence on suspicious financial transactions and connections with criminal activities. However, it is submitted that any effective system to combat money laundering must be obviously based on the following three principles:

- Increased international co-operation,
- Strengthened mutual assistance in criminal proceedings; and
- Guarantee that criminals laundering funds derived from illicit activities will be brought to book and that they will be extradited, where necessary.

Moreover, banks and similar institutions should put in place adequate procedures, not only to identify persons opening accounts with them, but also to bring to light automatically any suspicious transaction and the persons involved, and to report them to the authorities.
The growing drug abuse perpetuated the spread of AIDS too. Consequently, the government is taking continuous efforts in implementing programmes for the prevention of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse: grant-in-aid is provided to voluntary organizations for implementing community-based programmes on awareness generation, preventive education, counselling and identification, detoxification, rehabilitation and after care of the addicts.

International drug traffickers as well as large scale local drug dealers are mostly unscrupulous criminals. Aiming the huge profits from drugs, they are able to use every means of technology available, regardless of the cost, to avoid police interference. Law enforcement agencies lag behind the perpetrators in upgrading their technology: the formal technological devices used for surveillance, communication and combat are obsolete. In many cases, these agencies lack comparable technologies simply because it is so difficult to compete with the financial resources of drug traffickers. However, when future of the country is at stake, every possible means should be resorted to.
Corruption amongst Government officials is another obstacle that weakens and even makes it impossible to defeat drug traffickers. This hinders the effective implementation of law and even pollutes the State’s own legitimacy. Without legal-rational authority, the State has no foundation to stand upon to fight against evils. Hence, corruption must be eliminated at every level. This elimination process in turn, requires a strict enforcement of laws, vigilant preservation of institutions, morally upright personnel and of course financial resources.

Since drug abuse constitute a problem sans geographical boundaries, no single country can successfully combat it without active help of others. International co-operation thus becomes the vital element in the fight against illicit drug trafficking. Creating an international community that is sensitive to the issue and aware of the seriousness of the problem, is the first requirement. International co-operation may take different forms: information exchange, financial aid, joint operations, creation of international norms and principles, conclusion of treaties, appointment of liaison officers, regular meetings and trainings and so on. Information must be exchanged immediately. Due to long bureaucratic procedures, vital information often arrives well after it is needed.
For an effective international co-operation, a rapid information exchange system is critical. Therefore, States that are willing to co-operate should regulate their internal procedures to avoid bureaucratic obstacles. In addition, steps must be taken to give ample training to officers dealing with drug mafia to share their experiences with other countries to learn new techniques, and to familiarise themselves with recent developments in equipments and technology.

In India, a total elimination of drug abuse, proved to be a utopian approach. However, Government of India has already taken many noteworthy steps in this regard: instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, notifying certain precursor chemicals viz. Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine etc. as ‘controlled substances’ under the NDPS Act, quarterly co-ordination meetings by NCB, signing of a bilateral agreement with Pakistan to hold periodic meetings at Secretary level and Director General level, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF.
and Pak Rangers, signing of a bilateral agreement with Myanmar, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing sniffer dogs to Myanmar and training dog handlers of Myanmar.

At present, strict vigil is maintained by Indo-Nepal Border Police, CBN, Customs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, NCB and other State enforcement agencies to check illicit diversion/smuggling of opium. Stringent action is taken under the narcotics law in all cases of embezzlement of opium by cultivators and traffickers.

The NDPS Act 1985 is a very comprehensive legislation with unique features: under certain circumstances, there is no possibility of bail; burden on the accused to be proven innocent, as opposed to normal jurisprudence where a person is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty. In fact, it is as stringent as any anti-drug laws in the West. However, the Act itself is quite draconian, and though the Act is having deterrent effect upon the culprits, there is a hitch-slow trial, leading to acquittals. The result is over crowding of jails.
Another ambiguity raised is with regard to the illogical effect of the provision under Section 50: if a person who has been arrested for possessing drugs is not taken to the nearest Magistrate or gazetted officer immediately, the contraband seized cannot be used to fix the liability of unlawful possession against him. Again, under Section 42 of the Act, if the police officer who makes seizures fails to inform his superiors about the grounds thereof, the accused is liable to be acquitted.

For reducing the flaws, the Act was amended in 1989, by incorporating certain provisions: constitution of a National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse, introduction of death penalty on second conviction under specific circumstances, forfeiture of property acquired through drug trafficking, trial by special courts, pre-trail destruction of seized drugs and prompt destruction of illicit cultivation etc. The Act was further amended in 2001. The most significant changes brought about by this amendment include: quantum of sentence to be based on the quantity of the drug seized, formal authorization of controlled deliveries inside and outside India, forfeiture of the sale proceeds of illegally acquired property and crediting it to the ‘National Fund for Control of Drug Abuse’, and the application of such fund to meet the expenditure incurred
in connection with the measures taken for combating illicit traffic, or controlling abuse of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances. Prior to these changes, individuals found with small quantities of illicit drugs were subject to the same penalties as large-scale drug traffickers.

Though certain features of the NDPS Act, 1985 are unique (e.g. under certain circumstances there is no possibility of bail, burden is on the accused to prove innocence as opposed to normal jurisprudence, where a person is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty), it is not free from flaws and criticisms. Amendments in 1989 and 2001 have solved some technical flaws: forfeiture of property and sentencing to be based on the size of the drug seizure.

NDPS Act is as rigorous as any anti-drug law anywhere in the West. But it is often criticized as an Act which has been drafted under the pressure of USA without regard to Indian culture and conditions.

The Act failed to check the ever-growing drug addiction, and need to be re-written or re-drafted or its provisions be altered in tune with new realities.
Some of the technical flaws coming under sections 42 and 50 of the Act are that the accused gets an upper hand. This Act has failed to dispose the cases immediately and the cases are dragging in courts for years to the advantage of the offenders.

Based on this study, the researcher suggests the following to be incorporated in the anti-drug policy of India:

(i) Strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land borders, coastal areas, airports, major and minor ports, foreign post offices etc.

(ii) Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.

(iii) Improved co-ordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction.
(iv) Identification of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the wild growth of cannabis; and eradication of these sources of supply.

(v) Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence.

(vi) The use of opium should be restricted and confined solely for medical and scientific purposes.

(vii) Non-medical uses of ganja and bhang may be re-examined throughout the country.

(viii) Abuse of pharmaceuticals and world network of internet pharmacies may be examined.

(ix) Stringent controls to be exercised at each stage of the distribution of manufactured drugs from the point of import or manufacture up to the point of their prescription by medical practitioners.

(x) Machinery may be set up to watch the co-ordination between various Central and State Government agencies in order to ensure that their objectives are properly, speedily and consistently implemented.
(xi) The governments should strengthen rules regarding ‘rewards’ on a uniform pattern with due regard to the fact that the scale of rewards provided therein should be attractive enough to provide a real inducement to informers to come forward with useful information relating to narcotic offences.

(xii) Improve the existing measures to check illicit traffic in narcotic raw material and pharmaceutical drugs.

(xiii) The minimum qualifying yield prescribed by the Government of India for the purpose of grant of licenses for cultivation of opium, may gradually be enhanced for eliminating bad and undesirable cultivators.

(xiv) Elimination of the element of speculative bidding for excise shops, which provides cover for clandestine sales.

(xv) Strengthening of security operations at the ports in India; and strict patrolling in coastal areas to prevent infiltration through sea.

(xvi) Setting up of more intelligence bureaus in States which are more vulnerable.
(xvii) Imparting of thorough training to officers and harnessing into service of the latest improvements in the methods of detection and investigation.

(xviii) Efforts should be concentrated on demand reduction measures amongst the vulnerable population groups and in counter-measures against smuggling of drugs along with arms and explosives that foster subversive activities and indigenous illicit production of drugs.

(xix) The Government of India may integrate drug abuse prevention elements into school curricula and textbooks.

(xx) The conclusion of reciprocal arrangements between State governments with regard to the exercise of powers under NDPS Act.

(xxii) Presently, the NCB is having only limited powers. Hence, steps must be taken to formulate special schemes to strengthen NCB for fixing its future role, NCB could be empowered under
Formation of more number of special courts for avoiding delay in trials, which is the main reason for present overcrowding of jails.

To combat the menace, the Government has to set up district level committees consisting of representatives of various departments such as police, excise, forests and Narcotic and Drugs Control Board.

### Recommendations to Reduce Drug Use and Trafficking

- **Demand Reduction Strategy**

  Today, demand-reduction strategies are being given emphasis by many governments. The demand for drugs that comes from large number of addicts and habitual abusers in many parts of world, stimulate both production and illicit traffic. To diminish demand, addicts and abusers must be treated and reintegrated as productive members of the society. The treatment and
reintegration may not or cannot follow a uniform pattern anywhere but should be based on studies taking into account social and economic condition, cultural tradition, etc. of the country or region. The demand must also be reduced by preventive measures which include education; particularly of young people, in the dangers of drug-taking and addiction. In this venture, developing countries, requires the help of developed countries. In the absence of this help, there is serious risk of the addictions spreading from one part of the world to the other.

The issues relating to drugs are being tackled to some extent by the Government of India through its two-pronged strategy viz supply reduction and demand reduction. Whereas the supply reduction is within the realm of enforcement agencies under the Department of Revenue as the nodal agency, the demand reduction strategy is under the domain of social sector; and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in Government of India is responsible for implementation of demand reduction strategy in the country.

Over the years it was realized that drug abuse is a problem arising out of the availability of intoxicating drinks and drugs and that the vulnerability of the modern society plays a catalytic role in promoting consumption and abuse
of drugs. Studies/reports also indicated that drug abuse is closely related to the socio-economic conditions or the social dynamics of the population, and that drug abuse is a psycho-socio-medical problem, which can be best, handled through community based interventions. With this, the need arose for implementing strategies for the prevention of drug abuse, educating the people about its ill effects and rehabilitation of the addicts. Meanwhile, UN documents projected ‘Demand Reduction’ as the pillar of drug control strategies; and have urged upon all the Member States to take immediate steps so as to make significant achievement by the end of year 2003 in controlling the demand for consumption of illicit drugs.

Keeping the aforesaid approach in view, the Government of India has adopted a strategy for demand reduction consisting of:

1. Creating awareness especially among national and international tourists about the ill effects of drug abuse.
2. Implementing programmes including motivational counselling, treatment, following up and social-reintegration of recovered addicts.
3. Imparting drug abuse prevention/rehabilitation training to volunteers with a view to build up an educated cadre of service providers.
4. Empowerment of the society and the community to deal with the problem of drug abuse.

While taking steps for ‘demand reduction’ and ‘supply control’ it has to be kept in mind that if there is no demand, there is no sale. Hence, ‘demand reduction’ and ‘supply control’ measures should be integrated within the framework of a comprehensive and balanced approach incorporating the following recommendations:

1. Nations should undertake an assessment of the nature, extent and pattern of drug abuse within their respective borders.
2. Awareness generation programmes should be devised for the general population and the high-risk group taking into account the socio-cultural and economic conditions in the countries of the region.
Special attention should be given to the prevention of drug abuse among young persons by integrating appropriate message in the education curricula.

All forms of communication media should be constructively utilized in the prevention and control of drug abuse in the context of changing perspectives.

Method of treatment of drug dependents should be formulated in all their psychological, social and medical dimensions, with regard to both voluntary and compulsory settings.

To ensure a lasting recovery, rehabilitation and social integration of drug dependents, the social support systems should be used to the maximum possible extent.

Laws relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances should be reviewed with a view to achieve a basic uniformity in the provisions and services for their effective enforcement.

All agencies of the criminal justice system-public, government officials, policemen courts, public prosecutor, scientific experts, media etc. should be oriented and trained adequately.
Concerted measures should be taken to curb the illicit cultivation of poppy, cannabis, and coca and to provide for a sustained alternative development including crop substitution.

A comprehensive manual of resource material should be prepared for the training of persons engaged in the prevention and control of drug and also to provide for programme development.

The recommendations made by the conferences of the ACPF should be implemented in the context of the resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly at its Special Session in June 1998.

International community should put pressure on such countries who have not signed the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; to sign and ratify them.

Experience has shown that the demand of drugs can be curbed effectively only in congenial social climate of abstinence among the people, to be created by propagating a life-style that rejects the use of dependence producing substances. By and large, abstinence is deeply rooted in our culture and is strongly supported by the family, the community and the religion.
• **Awareness and Preventive Education**

Deprivation, discrimination against ethnic minorities, tensions between rich and poor, psychological and social under-development, run-down neighbourhoods etc. may all be factors that could lead to substance abuse. Therefore, as a panacea some countries like Netherlands, demand reduction programmes are being integrated in the social security system, which guarantees a minimum income to every citizen and an accessible general health care system. It is believed that if these multifactor socio-economic aspects are not taken into account, efforts to reduce demand will have little chance of success. They would only deal with the symptoms.

The basic premise of education is that information on the risks of drug use and on the risks attached to the use of alcohol and tobacco should be presented together. This general information has been incorporated in the broad framework of the primary school subjects “promotion of healthy behaviour” and “promotion of social skills” (such as increased consciousness of social influences and learning the skills to resist these influences) in order to
enable children to cope with the risks of life in general. Secondary school pupils are also encouraged to act responsibly in this respect.

The value of information as a means of preventing drug abuse should not be over estimated, however, various studies have shown that publicity is ineffective in preventing drug abuse, particularly where it seeks to emphasize the dangers involved by presenting warning, deterrent or sensational facts. Publicity of this kind, which is likely to be one-sided, is often counter-productive.

Researches into the lifestyles of heroin addicts are to be carried out to analyse new attitudes towards prevention and better understanding of the reasons why people turn to drugs. In the light of the studies undertaken hitherto, it could be validity concluded that using drugs does not automatically lead to addiction. A large number of people experiment with drugs without actually becoming addicted. Moreover, there are many types of users with different lifestyles. Measures to prevent occasional users from becoming addicted becomes therefore extremely important.
In India, a number of counselling and awareness centres are engaged in a wide range of awareness generation programmes in varied community settings including village panchayats, schools etc. Besides, the Government has been actively utilizing various media channels, print as well as audio-visual for educating the people on the ill effects of drug abuse and also disseminating information on the service delivery. The overall approach is based on the need to comprehensively address the widespread ignorance and lack of information on the ill-effects of drug abuse, prevention/rehabilitation services and to build up a climate of abstinence from drugs through sensitizing the community at large. However, the initiatives remain futile, and many, especially tourists are ignorant about the legal framework in India. Hence it is suggested that national and international tourists must be given awareness about Indian laws on Do’s and Don’ts for not indulging in any offences which might attract punishment under NDPS Act.

- Development of Service Providers

The assurance of quality in delivery of the services being the benchmark, creation of infrastructure of professionally trained service
providers should be in the centre stage of Government agenda. Realising this, National Centre for Drug Abuse (NC-DAP) has been constituted as an apex institution with the mandate for training, research and development in the drug sector. Further, to ensure that training is imparted indigenously, eight Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) have been established as Regional Resource and Training Centres (RRTCs). These objectives have been realized under the collaborative projects of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, UNODC and ILO, popularly known as E40 and E41. Today to meet the growing demand of rehabilitation professionals in the country, the Centre conducts three months Certificate Course on De-addiction Counselling and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers, in addition to the advocacy programmes, seminars, conferences and training courses all over the country in collaboration with the State Government institutions and NGOs for sensitization, awareness generation and training. However, in order to strengthen the jurisdiction of NC-DAP and to make it a Centre of Excellence, an in-house team of experts as faculty, complemented and supported by eminent experts and professionals as guest faculty, is necessary.
Inter-Sectoral Collaboration

Since, drug demand prevention has to be addressed at the level of individuals, families and communities, India has adopted a holistic approach by way of convergence of advocacy, prevention and rehabilitation programmes of all relevant Government departments as also of other non-government activities. The Government of India has been following an integrated approach involving all concerned Ministries and Departments who could complement and supplement the initiatives being taken by each other. This convergence has been concretized by the inclusion of drug related issues in the curriculum of schools/colleges, educational and informative programmes of media, activities of youth and sports organizations and health programmes. Programmes are being developed for the sensitization of the teachers, parents and the peer groups in a school environment through the participation of the Non-Government Organisations too. The co-operation of the media and various youth organizations for dissemination of information on ill effects of alcohol/drugs and in engaging the community in positive/healthy alternatives, is a welcome step.
In addition, available Government infrastructure and services have been integrated with the services offered by the NGO sector for dealing with associated health problems such as TB, HIV/AIDS, and Hepatitis etc. Efforts are also being made to provide the medical professionals in the health sector with the knowledge on rehabilitation and after-care of alcohol and drug dependents. Simultaneously, steps have been initiated for providing training to the NGO professionals on various medical inputs for providing effective service to the clients. One of the successful initiatives towards inter-sectoral collaboration has been the integration of HIV/AIDS prevention programme into the substance abuse programme of 100 NGO run de-addiction centres supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. These initiatives are really laudable.

- **International Efforts and Co-operation**

Drugs abuse which was formerly confined to a particular territory and the areas within the particular territory has gradually spread its wings to other parts due to the operation of several factors: one of them being the huge profits that is being derived from illicit drug trafficking. Drug trafficking has
thus assumed international importance and the nations find it extremely
difficult to counter individually, perhaps, due to the inadequacy of
international controls. Nations viewing the problem of international drug
trafficking with utmost dismay have started thinking about an integrated
approach to solve the problem.

India is having bilateral agreements with many countries like Russia,
U.K, Nigeria etc. which are indented to fight against international terrorism
and drug trafficking. In the 20th special session of the United Nations General
Assembly, India has adopted resolutions envisaging *inter-alia* the following
action in relation to smuggling of narcotics:

1. Adoption of comprehensive national legislation to give effect to
the three UN Conventions, namely the 1961 Single Convention
against Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention against
Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention against Illicit
Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

2. Establishment or strengthening of national legislation
programmes to give effect to the Action Plan against the Illicit
manufacture, trafficking and abuse of Amphetamine type stimulants and their precursors.

3. Eliminating or reducing significantly the illicit manufacture, marketing and trafficking of psychotropic substances including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors by the year 2008.

4. Adoption of a comprehensive approach for the elimination of narcotic drug crops and for international co-operation in eradication of illicit drug crops and in alternative development.

However, it must be remembered that if there is no political will, no amount of international legal structure will prove effective. A nation is confronted with many problems in its attempt to combat international drug trafficking: Such problems are not within the domain of international law but within the limits of the national laws of different countries. The creativity and resourcefulness of the drug traffickers has proved to be a great challenge for these national laws. For instance, international drug traffickers may obtain their materials from one country, transport them to a second country for processing with chemicals they have obtained from a third country, transport the processed product to a fourth country for distribution and sale and then
repatriate their proceeds to their home country. The trans-national nature of this activity complicates the detection of crime, makes the proof of the crime difficult and shrouds the proceeds of the criminal activity in mystery.

Hence, the need of the hour is effective national laws that criminalize the conduct and that make it possible for investigators to obtain evidence of the crime, to trace, seize and forfeit the proceeds, and to prosecute and punish offenders.

The major tools used to combat international drug trafficking include: extradition treaties, executive agreements between customs services for the enforcement of customs laws, tax treaties and tax information exchange treaties. Though these tools are effective against narcotic traffickers, many practical problems remain unresolved. For instance the international law relating to extradition is having its own inherent defects. Moreover, international co-operation in the area of money laundering investigations remains inadequate. In today’s economy, money moves very quickly. Within a few hours, a person can deposit the proceeds of a cocaine sale and it can be wired by close of the business day to London, Paris or wherever. The events in
Panama have shown that General Manuel Noriega had bank accounts all over the world, which were very difficult to be traced.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation and UNODC implemented a project on “Developing Community Drug Rehabilitation and Workplace Prevention Programmes”, to sensitise and train voluntary organizations and workplace settings on prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse in workplace.

It is submitted that work environment of an individual is the most important area of preventive intervention for a potential addict as he enjoys economic security. Further, loss of a job aggravates the addictive behaviour. However, this aspect has been totally ignored under the on-going programme. Hence, these initiatives must be addressed towards: strengthening the delivery of services through capacity building of the service providers, developing infrastructure of decentralization of programme monitoring at the regional levels, developing networking and linkages amongst the NGOs, the concerned agencies and the Government as well as sister UN organizations drawing upon the experience gained in the earlier projects. Similarly, the project for the
Northeast must be specifically designed keeping in mind the local customs, cultural traditions, community bonding as well as infrastructural inadequacies.

- **Quality Assurance and Minimum Standards:**

  The sheer size of population and geographical expanse of the country with cultural diversity makes it a real challenge to ensure delivery of quality services across the country. The quality assurance has, however, been ensured by developing a Manual of Minimum Standards of Services with adequate flexibility for adaptations to suit regional requirements, and by making institutional arrangements for professional training of service providers.

- **Networking of Service Providers:**

  The uniform delivery of services across the vast country with basic minimum standards is a *sine qua non* in drug prevention programme. FINGODAP (Federation for Indian NGOs in Drug Abuse Prevention) which is a movement to facilitate networking amongst member NGOs (essentially those funded by the Government of India) so as to gain from each other’s
experience, and also to ensure self-restraint towards implementation of minimum standard of services, is rendering signal services in this regard.

- **Focused Interventions for Vulnerable Targets:**

  The workplaces prone to drug addiction among the employees have warranted focused interventions to check the prevalence of drug abuse at these places. The Workplace Prevention Programme (WPP), a collaborative effort of the Government, ILO, NGOs and corporate sector has come up as a result. This collaboration has led to the formation of an effective group of various stakeholders, known as ARMADA, the Association of Resource Managers against Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

- **Desire Reduction Strategy:**

  The major concerns that opiates and other psychoactive drugs give rise to, include: improper medical use; and diversion into non-medical use or illicit trade. To reduce the risk of getting infected with HIV through intravenous use of heroin and cocaine, National Aids Control Organisation, introduced a new
programme so that Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs) in India will officially get Bupernorphin and syringes from the government itself: Addicts will first be asked to exchange their syringes with safe needles. They will then be put under the six-nine month-long programme in which substances abusers will keep an oral pill of Bupernorphin called Addncock under their tongue for five minutes everyday in front of a supervising doctor. This will cut their desire for addiction. This strategy has been successfully worked out in China, USA, Holland, Germany and Australia also. It is therefore suggested that legalization of drug substitution will help to reduce drug abuse and HIV infection.

Drug consumption is not an isolated phenomenon. Most, but not all, nations have problems with drug users. There are 25 million drug users in the world, and Americans top the list. However, a breeze of change is visible in the world drugs market. The World Drug Report, 2006 argues that drug control measures are working and that the world drug problem is being contained. The 2007 Report provides further robust evidence of this trend. For almost every kind of illicit drug-cocaine, heroin, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS)- there are signs of overall stability, whether for cultivation, production or consumption. Hopefully, within the next few years evidence to support this
claim will become statistically and logically incontrovertible. This does not however, mean that the drug problem has been solved or that we can become complacent. Nor is the good news universal. Progress made in some areas is often offset by negative trends elsewhere. While the world drug situation has been stabilized and brought under control, the Indian scenario remains dark.

Scope for future study

An empirical study on these issues can be carried out. Drug problems cannot be solved by laws. Hence, suitable fields are to be invented for doing away with this menace. The negative results of drug addiction may also be analysed.