



GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF NARCOTICS CONTROL
(MoNC)

Newsletter

January-March, 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

- ☞ "Note: Federal Secretary for Narcotics Control
- ☞ Awareness Walk at Thatta
- ☞ Meeting on pilot project of Opioid Substitute Therapy (OST)
- ☞ First Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) Conference
- ☞ ANF Gender Strategy and Advocacy Plan 2022-23
- ☞ International Cooperation Section
- ☞ Drug Demand Reduction Section
- ☞ Precursor Control in Pakistan
- ☞ Anti Narcotics Force Section
- ☞ Pictorial coverage of important events

Drugs take you to hell, disguised as heaven



عالمی دن برائے انسدادِ منشیات

JUNE 26, 2021



طبی نگہداشت، باقاعدگی سے علاج
اور رہنمائی کے ذریعے منشیات کے عادی افراد کو
صحت مند طرز زندگی کی طرف واپس لایا جاسکتا ہے



منشیات کا استعمال مضر صحت ہے

“*Drugs are the enemies of ambition and hope - and when we fight against drugs we are fighting for the future*”

Bob Riley



عالمی دن برائے انسدادِ منشیات
JUNE 26, 2021

Designed and Edited by: Ms. Affaf Malik, Deputy Secretary

Mr. Muhammad Zia, Section Officer

Twitter: MNCofficialpk

www.narcon.gov.pk

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Narcotics Control

Currently, drugs are the greatest threat to humanity, and countries around the world must work together and make effective efforts to curtail their spread, especially among youth. Statistics show that the use of chemical/synthetic drugs has increased dramatically in the last few years.



Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam
(TI, QPM, PPM, UNPM, NSC)

Through multidimensional collaboration of all stakeholders, MoNC has developed a strategic roadmap for drug control. MoNC works tirelessly with the provincial departments and other law enforcement agencies to combat illicit drug trafficking, treat addicts and find new ways to rehab them. National Anti-Narcotics Policy 2019 is being implemented in letter and spirit and campaigns targeting schools, colleges, and madrasahs have been launched.

Toward achieving our desired goals, we are enhancing regional and international relations and collaborating pro-actively with international organizations.

My compliments to the editorial team on compiling yet another informative newsletter.

“ “ *Drug addiction reduces a man to a mindless and ridiculous thing and creates social parasites and criminals.* ” ”

(Dr. T.P.Chia)

Awareness Walk at Thatta:

In the light of the instructions of the Federal Minister Narcotics Control, to focus on small cities and towns to create awareness among the masses about the use of drugs and its harms and ills associated with its use.

An Awareness Walk was conducted at District Thatta with the collaboration of District Administration to target youth from the educational institutions. Media and civil society also participated and appreciated the steps taken by the Federal Secretary to organize such type of events in the far flung areas so that the message may be disseminated all across to achieve the results of drug free communities and cities.



14 Feb - Federal Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam addressing the civil society / participants / media personnel at Press Club, Thatta



14 Feb - The Federal Secretary MoNC with DPO Thatta leading awareness walk from DPO office to Press Club, Thatta



14 Feb - Awareness Walk with students of various educational institutions of Thatta

Implementation of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST):

The Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmed Shah chaired a meeting held on 29th March, 2022 which was attended by SAPM on Ministry of Health and Federal Secretaries of Ministry of Narcotics Control and Ministry of Health to discuss the implementation of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) to curtail the increase in HIV Aids transmitting through injecting syringes.

The Federal Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control, Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam highlighted that in recent years number of People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) has increased. This has resulted in increase in number of patients infected with blood borne diseases like HIV through sharing injecting equipment among the drug users. He emphasized that the increase in HIV Aids can be curtailed by adopting OST.

The SAPM on Health, Dr. Faisal Sultan explained the procedure as to how the said disease is transmitted from person to person. He informed that OST is being used across the world to control the spread of HIV patients and it is an established global practice for harm reduction and is approved/ recommended by World Health Organization (WHO).

It was decided that OST facility initially shall be available in the designated public hospitals at Federal and Provincial Headquarters in a controlled environment as a pilot project. MoNC and ANF will ensure strong vigilance over its management to avoid misuse and abuse.



Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) Conference:



First ever Drug Liaison Officers (DLOs) Conference was held on 1st April, 2022 at the Ministry of Narcotics Control on Friday, chaired by the Federal Secretary Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam. Participants included Erik Watson Head of DEA, USA, Mark Taravoski Head of INL, USA and Drug Liaison officers and senior law enforcement agencies officers from UK, Spain, Italy, Germany, Australia, Greece, South Africa, Saudia Arabia, Iran, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines and Korea.



The participants were briefed on the National Anti Narcotics Policy 2019, drug demand and supply reduction process and Pakistan's efforts to eliminate the menace of drugs from society. The Joint Secretary Sabino Sikandar Jalal gave detailed briefing on functioning of the policy and role of Ministry of Narcotics Control and Anti Narcotics Force in fighting drugs.



The purpose of this conference was to form effective mutual mechanism to counter illicit drug trafficking and related matters. It was reinforced in the meeting that mutual cooperation and collective approach will play key role in reaching the goal of creating a drug free society.



Islamabad, 01 April - Group Photo of participants with the Federal Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control.

ANF Gender Strategy and Advocacy Plan 2022-23:

A gender strategy for the Anti Narcotics Force was launched by the Ministry of Narcotics Control in collaboration with US Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Section and UNDP. The strategy aims to foster gender mainstreaming and create opportunities for gender transformation in the ANF.

The Federal Secretary Ministry of Narcotics Control Dr. Syed Kaleem Imam thanked INL and UNDP for supporting the Ministry and its attached department ANF in initiating interventions for gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. He further said that the strategy should be disseminated through the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) for wide outreach.

Gender Expert Ms. Sidra Minhas delivered an overview of the gender strategy and said that there are multiple challenges to increasing women participation in the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), but the strategy proposals various activities to mitigate and overcome them.



Islamabad, 10 March - Federal Secretary, MoNC addressing the participants at the launching ceremony of Gender Strategy and Advocacy Plan



Islamabad, 10 March - Panel of Speakers

International Cooperation Section:

International Cooperation (IC) Section of the Ministry is the focal point of engagement with regional and global counterparts to effectively check the illicit flow of drugs. International Cooperation has been accorded special place in National Anti Narcotics Policy, 2019 with the serious responsibility of making Pakistan drug free country.

The role of IC Section remains important to maintain good relations with International entities like United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), National Crime Agency, NCA (UK), International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, INL-P (USA), European Union to enhance operational capacity of Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) by provision of IT equipments, infrastructural and logistic support. Participation of MoNC and ANF officers have been secured in international meetings, conferences and trainings for better understanding, exchange of ideas and experiences to counter the drug trafficking. Recently, UNODC Country Programme-III (2022-2025) has been signed which is the main document under which all the activities of UNODC will be initiated in fight against illicit drug trafficking. Interaction is also made with DLOs of important countries deputed in their respective Embassies at Islamabad and efforts are being made for posting of Pakistani DLOs in all important countries. Pakistan has entered into mutually beneficial Agreements / MoUs with 35 countries on narcotics drugs and negotiation for signing of MoUs with 12 more countries are going on. IC Section will continue to take initiative to identify emerging areas of concern for international drug control and organize international conferences, meetings, seminars to foster cooperation. Projecting the policy framework and unified national stance on all counter narcotics matters at relevant regional / international counter narcotics forums would be an important priority to deal with the serious threat of narcotics drug worldwide.

(Article by Abdul Slam Khetran, Section Officer, International Cooperation)

Drug Demand Reduction Section:

Ministry of Narcotics Control is mandated under the Rules of Business, 1973 to carry out drug interdiction, prevention and awareness activities all across the country in order to achieve the aims and objectives enshrined under the National Anti Narcotics Policy, 2019. Drug Demand Reduction Section is core section of this Ministry which deals with the awareness campaigns. Aim is to sensitize the civil society in general and youth in particular about the ills and harms associated with the drug abuse. A very serious and alarming trend of drugs use has been noticed in educational institutions across the country which indeed poses a great threat and challenge to the development of the country. Since the future of the country depends on the youth, hence, Ministry of Narcotics Control targeted the educational institutions/ colleges, schools etc to sensitize the youth regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse and making efforts to keep the educational institutions drug free. This section conducts many seminars, lectures, workshops and awareness walks in different cities to sensitize the civil society about evils of drug abuse.

Drug Demand Reduction Section has developed a mass awareness smart phone application with the name "Zindgi app". The said app encompasses various tools varying from basic information about addiction, causes, and types of drugs. In addition, comprehensive information regarding effective methods of prevention and treatment facilities, being provided in different rehabilitation centers, is also available on this app. This section is also responsible for periodical publications such as the quarterly news letter and other awareness material such as pamphlets, streamers, banners etc as and when required.

(Article by Muhammad Zia, Section Officer, Drug Demand Reduction)

Precursor Control in Pakistan:

Pakistan has been a signatory to all three UN conventions relevant to control of Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals, popularly referred to as UN Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988. Pakistan has formulated its laws, rules and policies on curbing the flow of illicit drugs in light of these conventions and has an effective mechanism to control illicit use of these substances. Pakistan was given GSP Plus status by the European Union in 2014 and these three UN conventions were among the twenty seven conventions that were required to be implemented by Pakistan in letter and spirit. While Pakistan struggles to satisfy the EU on implementation of some of these twenty seven conventions, these three conventions had been implemented in Pakistan even before there was a requirement for getting GSP Plus status.

Narcotic and Psychotropic substances are used for manufacturing medication by the Pharmaceutical industry and there is a laid down mechanism for allocation of their quota. However Precursors are multi-purpose chemicals that are used by pharmaceutical as well as industry units for manufacturing various products. In order to ascertain legitimate requirement of a precursor chemical for a company, ANF teams are sent to verify their actual legitimate requirement. These companies are registered by the Ministry of Narcotics Control after recommendation of ANF and annual NOCs are issued as per the company's requirements. It is important to control the free flow of these precursors as they are also used in manufacturing various narcotic substances. Therefore it would not be wrong to say that controlling the flow of precursor chemicals results in controlling the manufacture of narcotics and thus it helps in saving precious lives.

(Article by Syed Saadat Ali Bukhari, Section Officer, Controlled Substances)

Anti Narcotics Force Section:

ANF Section deals with various administrative matters related to the force. As ANF comprises of three different streams from where personal are taken to serve, thus, one of the most important tasks of this Section is to process the cases of secondment of Army officers and officials to ANF for nearly a period of three years. Similarly, induction, promotions and disciplinary matters of ANF cadre employees is also administered by this section. This Section serves as the focal point for coordination with various Ministries/Divisions regarding tasks for improvement of the force such as capacity enhancement through creation of posts and provision of latest technical equipment. The legislative aspects of ANF including amendments in Control of Narcotics Substances (CNS) Act, 1997, Anti Narcotics Force Act, 1997 and rules made thereunder are initially scrutinized and taken up with Ministry of Law & Justice for legal vetting. As the offense of drug smuggling is of transnational nature, thus, coordination with international counterparts is of primary importance. Therefore, under Mutual Legal Assistance Act, 2020 and Anti Money Laundering Act, 2010, mutual legal assistance with various countries is undertaken by this section, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore, administrative matters such as processing the cases of hiring of residential accommodation leave preparatory to retirement and other such matters are also dealt with in this Section.?

Article by Muhammad Hasan Abdullah , section Officer ANF

Pictorial coverage of important Events



Islamabad, 09th Feb - Inauguration ceremony for capacity building activities under Japan funded project



Islamabad, 09th Feb - Group photo with the Country Head of UNODC and Japanese H.E. Ambassador of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Pakistan.



Islamabad, 09th Feb - Federal Secretary, MoNC giving opening remarks in inauguration ceremony for capacity building activities under Japan funded project



Islamabad, 17th March - Online joint side event of Ministry of Narcotics Control and UNODC in the 65th Session of Commission on Drugs 2020



Islamabad, 17th March - The side event titled "Pakistan's National and Regional Responses to Drug and Crime, in the light of current regional challenges 2022-25"



“Addiction isn't about using drugs. It's about what the drug does to your life. (Enock Maregesi)”