

Decisive war against drugs, says Shah

'Between 2014 and 2021, contraband estimated at ₹20,000 crore was seized in the country'

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Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Union government was effectively pursuing a decisive war against the drugs menace, saying that between 2014 and 2021, drugs estimated at ₹20,000 crore were seized in the country as against the seizures valued at only ₹768 crore between 2006 and 2013.

Mr. Shah said the government was working with a multi-pronged approach towards a "drug-free India" and was progressing at a rapid pace in that direction. "We have adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards narcotics and drug abuse and encouraging results are being witnessed," he said. The difference between ₹768 crore (estimate of drug seizures from 2006 to 2013) and ₹20,000 crore (2014 to 2021) was indicative of the



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing the Narcotics Control Bureau's national conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security in Chandigarh on Saturday. ■PTI

fact that the government's campaign and its path was in the right direction.

A few loopholes

"The necessity is to put a cap on a few loopholes that are left on the path, and I want to promise that we are rapidly working in that direction,"

he said. Mr. Shah said from 2014 to 2021, there were seizures of 3.3 lakh kilograms of drugs in the country. He said the registration of cases related to drugs had seen a 200% rise, while arrests in drug cases has gone up by 260% during the same period. "...If I talk about the

seized drugs, between 2006-2013 about 1.52 lakh kilograms of drugs were seized; on the other hand, between 2014 and 2021 as much as 3.3 lakh kg of drugs were caught," he said.

Mr. Shah was speaking here at the National Conference on Drug Trafficking

and National Security aimed at formulating strategies to root out the drug abuse from the northern States.

CMs joined

The Chief Ministers of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, the Administrator of Chandigarh and officers of different Drugs Enforcement Agencies participated in the first-of-its-kind of national conference that saw all these participants on one platform.

Mr. Shah said drug smuggling was a big challenge for national security, and the Modi government was dealing with it firmly.

"We are committed to freeing the younger generation from the menace of drugs. To make this fight against drugs more coordinated, many new initiatives like NCORD and NIDAAN portals have been initiated," he said.