

Drug money endangering country's security, economy: Amit Shah

Home Minister inaugurates zonal office of Narcotics Control Bureau in Raipur and says consumption of contraband in Chhattisgarh is higher than the national average

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai during the review meeting on the drug scenario and inauguration of Raipur Zonal Office of Narcotics Control Bureau, at Nava Raipur Atal Nagar. | Photo Credit: ANI

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Sunday (August 25, 2024) virtually inaugurated the zonal office of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) here, even as he said consumption of contraband in Chhattisgarh was higher than the national average.

Post the inauguration, Mr. Shah said the percentage of use of sedatives in Chhattisgarh was 1.45, which was more than the national average and the use of cannabis (ganja) was also 4.98%, which was also more than the national average.

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Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve of a drug-free India by 2047, the Home Minister said that apart from ruining the country's young generation, it weakened the country's national security and economy as the money earned from illicit drug trade promoted terrorism and left-wing extremism.

NCB performance

On the action taken against drugs and the performance of the NCB in the past 10 years, Mr. Shah presented the comparative numbers between that period and the preceding decade. He said that from 2004 to 2014, a total of 1,250 cases were registered whereas in the 10 years from 2014 to 2024, 4,150 cases had been registered with a rise of 230%. Between 2004 and 2014, there were a total of 1,360 arrests, which had now risen to 6,300, he added.

On seizure volumes, too, he said 1,52,000 kg of drugs were seized between 2004 and 2014 while 5,43,000 kg of drugs were seized between 2014 and 2024, which was an increase of 257%. The value of drugs seized between 2004 to 2014 was ₹5,900 crore while the value of drugs seized between 2014 to 2024 was ₹22,000 crore, according to the Minister.

Mr. Shah emphasised on the use of scientific methods in the investigation of drug trafficking cases and highlighted the need to work with a 'Top to Bottom and Bottom to Top' approach and dismantle the entire network in a ruthless manner.

Speaking about the Raipur zonal office that he inaugurated, Mr. Shah said it would play an important role in controlling narcotics not only in the State but also in the entire region. "Our aim is to have the presence of NCB in every State," he said.

Later, he chaired a review meeting regarding expansion of cooperatives in the State and launched Primary Agriculture Credit Society (PACS) in 33 districts of Chhattisgarh.