

The Doon School Model United Nations  
Conference 2019

## Background Guide

**United Nations  
Office on Drugs and  
Crime**





## Secretary General's Address

Dear delegates,

As the Secretary General, It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 13th Doon School Model United Nations Conference. DSMUN has been growing exponentially and actively augmenting the level and intensity of crises, debate and co-operation with each passing year. It is a legacy that we hope to continue and reinforce with this year's conference.

In an ever volatile, dynamic and adaptive international status-quo, it becomes increasingly vital for us as students- and thereby potential actors in the same system of compromise- to deliberate, discuss and formulate the groundwork of bi-lateral and multi-lateral ties that are to be established in the future.

With firm precedence, it would not be wrong to say that delegates, having attended this conference in the past, have developed a deeper and a more empirical understanding of diplomacy, compromise and conflict. While the Viceroy's Executive Council strives to ensure the peaceful transfer of power from the British to the Indian Union in 1946, the NATO contemplates the feasibility of occupying Antarctica. From condemning theocracies to enforcing climate laws, DSMUN will be an invigorating amalgamation of resolving and debating dissidence, dispute and disparity.

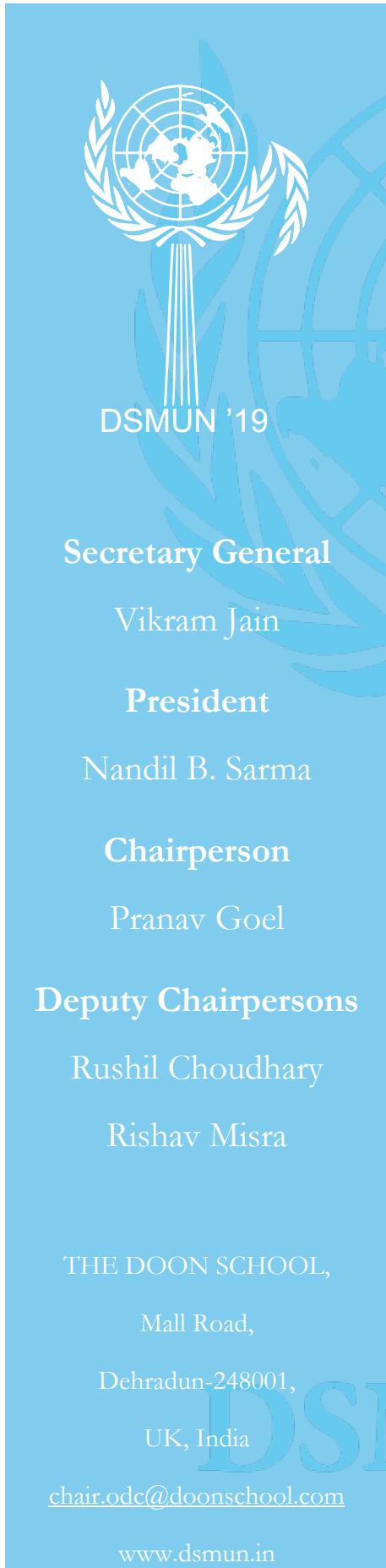
Besides whiling away my time watching typical Netflix Rom-coms, I find myself engrossed in reading about the framework and history of international and national politics. I am in-charge of the historical and political society and the editor of various publications in school. Having participated in various MUNs in India and abroad, I have had the opportunity to serve DSMUN in various capacities, and subsequently feel privileged to be given the opportunity to be at the organisational apex of the conference this year.

I eagerly await your presence at Chandbagh.

Warm regards,

Vikram Jain

**DSMUN '19**



## President's Address

Greetings!

As the President of the Doon School Model United Nations Society, it gives me immense pleasure to invite you to the 13th Session of the Doon School Model United Nations Conference. Being at the pinnacle of a conference that finds itself amidst the top ranks in the country, both in terms of global outreach and quality, has been an absolute honour. However, we at Doon constantly strive to outdo ourselves and promise that this edition of DSMUN will outdo all of its predecessors be it in terms of organizational skill, quality of debate or participation not just from the South Asian region but from around the world. It is with this vision in mind that I extend my heartiest welcome to each one of you to this year's conference.

The scope of this year's DSMUN will not remain confined to conventional committees. Keeping this in mind, we have expanded DSMUN's committee choices incorporating some bold and new ideas. With the introduction of highly challenging committees such as Lincoln's War Cabinet (1864), Viceroy's Executive Council (1946), Union Council of Ministers (1984) and the Rajya Sabha, we aim to pull off a conference not limited to one's imagination. This year's committees are aimed at developing informative deliberations and solutions to issues: both of global and national significance. Discussions pertaining to context of historical events allows one to explore the multitude of possibilities and find answers to the fundamental question of 'what if'. Having said so, the essential Model UN committees still remain intact providing an interesting challenge in terms of debate, wit and diplomacy to one and all.

As for myself, I am currently surviving the ISC curriculum and hold a keen interest in Politics and History. I deeply enjoy playing sports be it athletics or football. If not on the sports field, you can probably catch me commenting on Tottenham Hotspurs bleak chances of clinching a trophy. I also serve as the School Captain of the Doon School and the Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, one of the school's flagship publications.

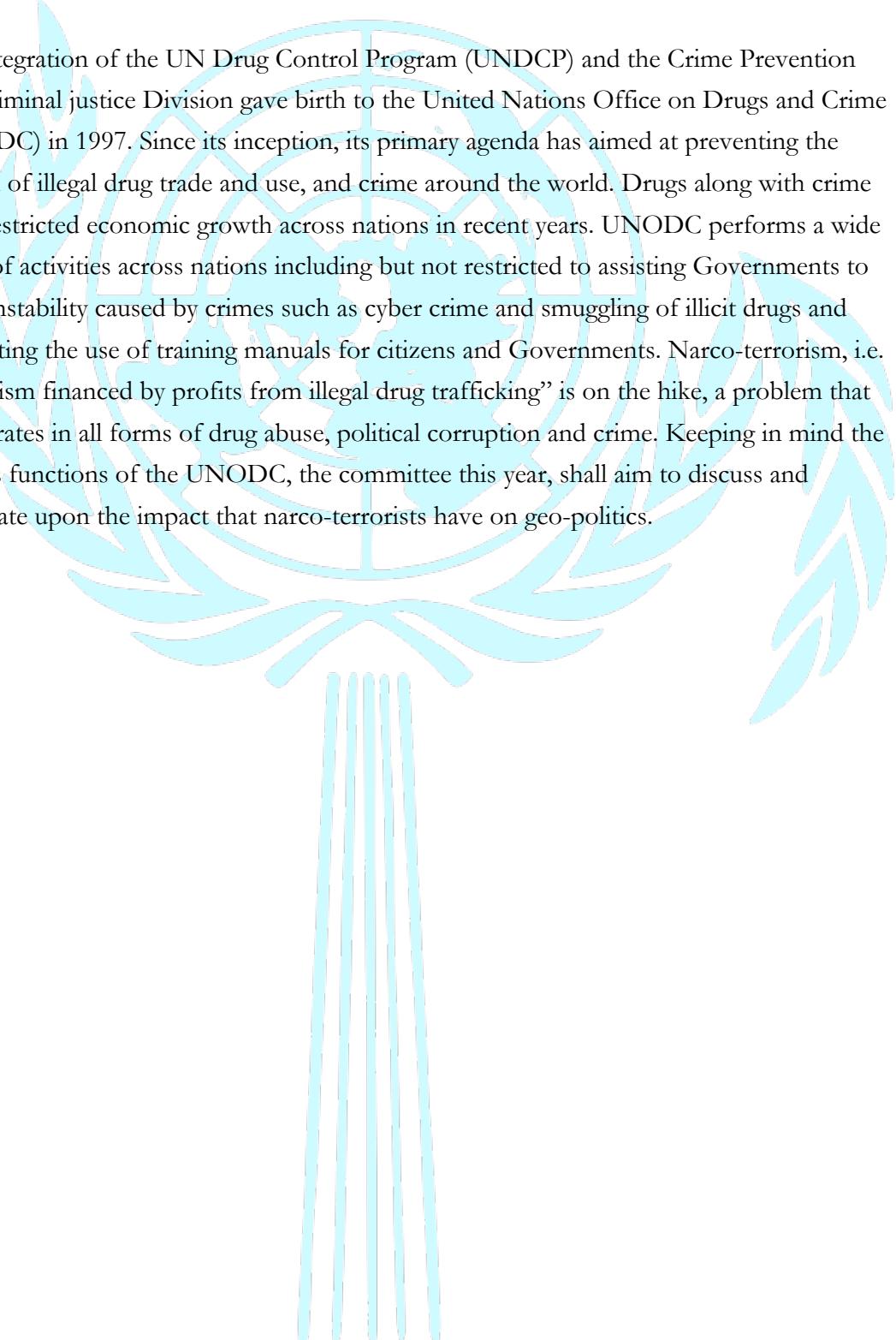
Looking forward to seeing you all in August.

Warm Regards,

Nandil B. Sarma

## Introduction to the committee

The integration of the UN Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal justice Division gave birth to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 1997. Since its inception, its primary agenda has aimed at preventing the growth of illegal drug trade and use, and crime around the world. Drugs along with crime have restricted economic growth across nations in recent years. UNODC performs a wide range of activities across nations including but not restricted to assisting Governments to solve instability caused by crimes such as cyber crime and smuggling of illicit drugs and promoting the use of training manuals for citizens and Governments. Narco-terrorism, i.e. “terrorism financed by profits from illegal drug trafficking” is on the hike, a problem that proliferates in all forms of drug abuse, political corruption and crime. Keeping in mind the various functions of the UNODC, the committee this year, shall aim to discuss and deliberate upon the impact that narco-terrorists have on geo-politics.



**DSMUN '19**

## **Agenda 1**

The impact of Narco-terrorism on Global Geo-politics

## Overview

The word narco-terrorism in today's context refers to the conflicts, which have their roots within the illegal trafficking of drugs. The concept of narco-terrorism came into existence in 1983 but it very swiftly evolved into a much more complicated issue.

In the current world, the amount of influence that narco-terrorism commands over the global geopolitical situation is astonishing. Narco-terrorism now affects entire national governments as terrorist organizations assume control over certain aspects of society. Various terrorist organizations around the world have reportedly gained an enormous amount of resources and this has effectively transformed them into bodies of great power and influence. The income from the cultivation and smuggling of several drugs essentially comprise the major share of the money laundered in those specific countries. These organizations try to manipulate the government using their leverage of influence to cease the ruling of anti-drug laws.

Apart from that, the issue of trafficking of drugs is also a major point of discussion. An organization infamous for smuggling contrabands will probably use its trade routes to smuggle other illegal goods as well.

Essentially, narco-terrorism covers an incredible number of crimes in its

purview, making it suitable for debate in committee.

## Historical Context

### The drug cartels of South America

The concept of narco-terrorism originated here. At first, cocaine was promoted as a remedy for depression and sexual impotence, but by the early 1900s, the greater public had realized the negative effects of cocaine. Cocaine was finally banned for the first time in the US by 1922 after it recorded 5000 deaths in 1912. Fast forward to the 1970s, when Colombian drug traders were steadily supplying illegal cocaine into the US, the Colombian cocaine cartels, including the infamous Medellin cartel headed by Pablo Escobar, grew faster than ever. It is estimated that they made approximately 60 million dollars per day. This financial prowess in a relatively desolate landscape indeed placed great political influence in the hands of these cartels. The result: corruption of the police department and government as well a steering of the drug-related laws in their favour.



Eventually, the gigantic measure of resources was naturally turned towards creating a feeling of terror within the citizens through inhumane acts of violence and indecency. Following the fall of Pablo Escobar, other drug cartels like the Los Zetas and Cali Cartel also played a major role in preserving the influence of narco-terrorism within the entire continent.

Drug trafficking has been a major source of turmoil within Mexico since the early 1980s. Although the Mexican government has tried to promote a positive image about the country, the widespread corruption in the administrative structure and the percolation of the evils of various drug cartels in the country works to the contrary to paint an image of a country infested with narco-terrorism. The infamous drug cartels of Mexico date back to the 1980s with the Sinaloa drug cartel headed by El Chapo being the oldest. They had essentially flourished under the rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which had given them full allowance, even government immunity.

Mexican cartels more often than not, function through tools of violence, bribery, coercion, and blackmail. For example, a massive car explosion in 2010 quoted to be planned by the Juarez Cartel resulted in several casualties including members of the police force. Furthermore, drug cartels killed over

28,000 people in 2018 alone. Although Mexican citizens and the government have launched a collective effort to eradicate the practice of drug abuse, they have failed to a large extent.

In the year 2000, however, due to a change of government control in Mexico, drug trade was banned, sparking a high degree of conflict. While drugs are still trafficked through illegal means, it remains a matter of concern for the United States as Mexico tops the charts as their contrabands provider. The US has provided aid in the form of \$3 billion to stabilize the situation in the country.



## Opium Trade in Afghanistan

Mainly a 20<sup>th</sup> century issue, opium trade in Afghanistan began in the mid-1950s. Afghanistan soon became part of the “Golden Crescent”, an Asian region including Pakistan as well, of high opium production. By the 1980s, due to the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan, opium production rose to an incredible amount of 600 metric tons.

In a cold war era, the USA took steps in order to cripple the Soviet rule, receiving only violence from Afghan rulers.

Regardless of any change in power, the cultivation and trafficking of opium rose, and the derived income was further used to fund illegal activities such as trafficking of arms throughout the country, making drug traffickers largely influential in devising policies and laws for the government.

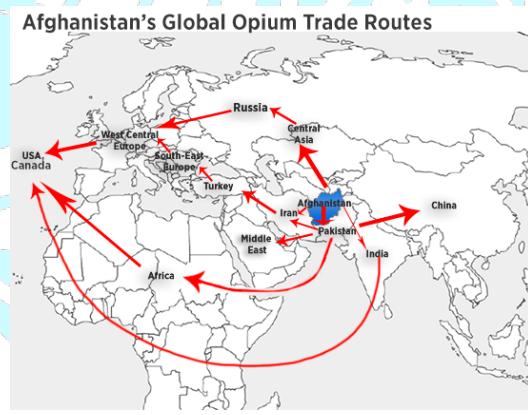
By the year 1994, the Taliban had come into power. The beginning of the reign of the Taliban saw a phenomenal rise in the production of opium of upto 5000 metric tons. The poppy-rich southwest of Afghanistan became a mediator of drug trafficking routes and home to several tribes who owned thousands of acres of land. They used their extensive resources to exploit every aspect of society.

Eventually, they gained control over most of Afghanistan and they started taxing the movement of drugs, along with imposing road exports and inflating opium prices. The huge revenue from this financed their forces to ensure law and order in the country.

In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century a major crackdown by the Taliban itself on the “un-Islamic” opium brought production to a halt. However, a malicious hunger for drug money made this success a momentary one, for production reached even higher following the crackdown period. In the past few years, Afghanistan has grown as a hotspot for the opiate-

based drug trade. The drugs are trafficked through the Balkan route to Western Europe and North America.

Since a large proportion of Afghanistan's GDP accounts to cultivation and sale of drugs, banning or taxing the poppy crop would lead to significant damage to the economy, thus the US has been vain in its efforts in this regard.



Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A pattern emerges here. Other sorts of criminal activities like money laundering, human trafficking and distribution of arms accompany Narco-terrorism. The need of the hour is to understand why this issue is so widespread. Drug production is highly dependent on the availability of raw material in the geographic region. Societies where governmental employees are paid on the lower end are more prone to corruption and thus gullible to the influence of narco-terrorist organisations.

Countries with their political and functional machinery disrupted by acts of violence such as war are also susceptible to the usage of drugs.

The UNODC has already made several resolutions that attempted to recognize the fallacies in resolutions that abolish drug trade and production. Delegates are encouraged to take reference from the precedence set in these resolutions regarding certain policy issues.

## The Erosion of Democratic Institutions

The very essence of drug trade is that it requires a non-democratic political set up. A well-functioning democracy, with vigorous discourse between government and opposition will be expected to come up with effective anti-drug laws and resolutions. Therefore, single-party states are often associated with drug-related crimes, for such states tend to lack effective anti-drug laws and maybe have a corrupt senior administration. Trade of drugs is a matter of grave concern as it has the power to erode democracies and promote extremist ideological parties in society.

## Case Studies

### Columbia

Colombia's drug trade emerged in the early 1970s. It evolved into a form wherein it invited revenues of more than a billion dollars every year. Soon enough, Pablo Escobar and his Medellin cartel had become the undeniable source of the cocaine trafficking business. This growing business even caused recession in the

economy in 1982, due to numerous issuances of questionable loans. Illegal acts committed by such cartels often forced the state to put into effect restrictive laws against them. Their response: uncontrolled and indecent acts of violence. For instance, the Medellin cartel was infamous for killing a large number of police officers, judges and government officials. Such a crisis situation undermined the smooth functioning of the state, it seemed like there was an erosion of democracy. The authority of the government had certainly been challenged and this led to a collapse of the efficient working of the democratic setup within the country.

In the concept of democracy, there lies within, an idea of discouraging censorship and promoting transparency. However, in the 1980s, Colombia's media and other means of communication were censored to a great extent. Even the state's judicial setup was drastically affected, due to widespread corruption and bribery of sitting judges who, in turn, gave verdicts in favour of these cartels. The Colombian elections were also highly influenced by drug money, with practices such as vote buying being rampant throughout the country. Cartels basically financed specific parties keeping in mind the possible political influence they could gain post-elections. Apart from that, they also used violence to intimidate opposition political parties. Thus, it will be comprehensible enough to say that

narco-terrorism had secured its hold over Colombia's socio-political setting, closely affecting and impacting the lives of millions in the process.

### Afghanistan

The Taliban emerged when the Islamic mujahideen fighters had taken form of an extremist group which intended to fight the Soviet takeover of Afghanistan.

Supported by the West as well as Pakistan's Intelligence Agency in their containment against Russian forces, they gained control of almost 15 provinces and eventually went on to capture the capital, Kabul.

Once in power, they imposed a strict Sharia Law which prevailed only to make society more conservative. Any mode of entertainment such as movies and music was banned and women of the society were curtailed the most basic human rights, with an imposition of the 'burqa' as dressing code and a blanket ban on women's education. Public shows of execution became an every-day affair. Any hint of opposition was dealt with in the most violent manner.

During a span of just five years, the Taliban had gained a stronghold in Afghan society. Their imposition of an extremist interpretation of the Islamic law had led to the creation of a totalitarian regime. These years had been followed by the formation of a democratic setup due

to the support by the United States. Elections were held in Afghanistan for the first time in quite a few years but, unfortunately, they were still rigged to a certain extent as the Taliban continued to use violence and killed several people in the process.

Even after their fall from power, they continued to infest the society of Afghanistan with an insurgent run through the country. Currently, a large portion of the Taliban's income stems from poppy cultivation in Afghanistan earning them a staggering amount of 1.5 billion dollars. This money allows them to pay off the police and several other government officials. Therefore, the Taliban's acts of narco-terrorism have impacted society and democracy in a significant way.



### Mexico

Since the early 1990s, Mexico has been a zone of conflict wherein drug cartels have held their reigns over the socio-political affairs in the country, repeatedly threatening the prevalence of democracy

in the state. Therefore, the government and these narco-terrorist organisations are always at odds. Gangs and cartels have earned a significant amount of wealth from the business of drugs. This drug money, similar to other places, has also been used to maneuver government personnel and the police to indulge in acts of corruption, as well as to fund election campaigns. There has also been a significant increase in the abuse of power by the military and other authorities.

In order to provide an effective response to this problem, the Mexican government seemed to threaten liberal ideas in society. For example, the fundamental individual rights are breached to a certain extent as rulings like stopping and searching vehicles without a court order became approved by the constitution. Moreover, the government demanded access to telephone conversations in order to intercept suspicious actions by the gangs and cartels. We see here how narco-terrorism indirectly contributed to the erosion of democratic institutions and ideologies in Mexico. The bigger problem lies in the fact that the Mexican government has continued to concede to narco-terrorism for a span of several decades, not having taken any major step to eradicate the problem.

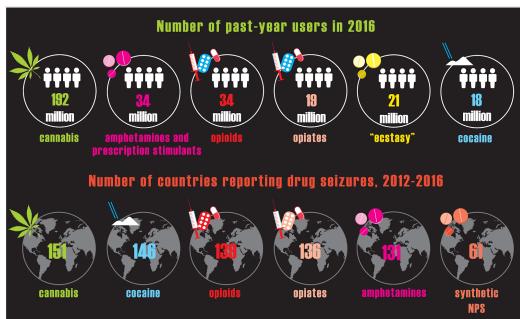
## Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is proving to be one of the most critical obstacles to human development, as it is increasing in both spread and magnitude. A rise of 21% in the number of trafficked people from 2014-2016 complements this. Trafficking takes place for a variety of reasons ranging from forced labour to sexual exploitation, with different reasons being prominent in different places. The number of people convicted for human trafficking rose by about 67% globally according to the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018. The report also showed that the increasing number of conflict zones, especially in areas like the middle east, and South-east Asia, are significantly contributing to aggravating the issue as human traffickers target financially and emotionally vulnerable people more. In light of issues as the Syrian and the Rohingya refugee crisis, human trafficking has increased to unprecedented levels. As explained later for different regions globally, drugs complement human trafficking, thus aggravating an issue that is already quite horrific.

Main forms of exploitation and profiles of detected victims, by subregions, 2016 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.  
Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



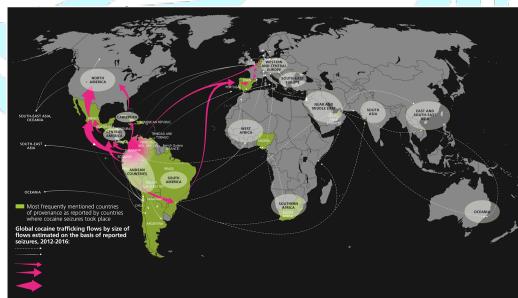
## A Region-wise analysis of the Situation

### Cocaine in America

Cocaine has experienced a startling increase of more than 50% from 2013 to 2016, something that has been attributed to the sudden increase in its production in Colombia. At a country already has a notorious history of trade in cocaine; Colombia has witnessed a surge of 31% in cocaine production from 2016, resulting in an astounding 1379 tonnes of cocaine being produced in 2017. The profits from the illicit trade of drugs are aiding terrorist organizations like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC). This rise of cocaine in Colombia has also led to a direct increase in human trafficking in and out of the region. Reports have claimed that Venezuelans have been tricked into working on the extensive coca cultivations all around the country, with some also being forced to sell the drugs. Authorities in Columbia have revealed that over 75% of the registered trafficked victims are of Venezuelan nationality. With the ongoing migrant crisis caused due to thousands of Venezuelans fleeing

to Columbia for jobs and better working conditions, this situation might just get much worse.

The high levels of cocaine production are also affecting other countries throughout the Americas and Europe, the most affected of them all being the United States of America. There were reportedly more than a million new users of this deadly drug in the US in 2016, a number that has been constantly increasing over time.



### Cocaine in Europe

Cocaine has also found ways to infiltrate most of the affluent western countries in Europe. It first entered the EU through a small backward community in northwestern Spain called Galicia, from where it spread throughout Europe. Colombian drug cartels shipped the drugs there by sea, while drug traders became leaders of this region, as it was completely dependent on the drug business. From here, cocaine spread to other European countries. Bristol, a city in England, came to be known as the 'cocaine capital of the world'. The ease

with which cocaine can be consumed, makes it a drug whose consumption is ever on the rise, with no hopes, as of now, of any eradication.

An inextricable connection lies between the drug trade and human trafficking, as is clearly visible in the recent uncovering of UK's 'county lines'. These county lines, with around 1500 being currently present in England and Wales, are the paths on which the £500 million worth local drug has been established. These paths extend all over the country, providing a secure means of communication between buyer and seller. Human trafficking comes into play as people are required to carry drugs to the consumers, and sadly, it is the children who often are subjugated to do so. Drug gangs usually target children from disadvantaged families, who are more vulnerable to lures of money. A significant number of them also face sexual exploitation. The number of trafficked children has risen to 1421 in the UK alone as of 2018. In a recent seizure, more than £200,000 was caught along with 140 firearms, and drugs of course. These seizures just show that drug money is directed into activities such as terrorism and organized crime. The financial ease with which human trafficking organizations can work is largely due to the extensive influence that these organisations have over the "higher-ups."

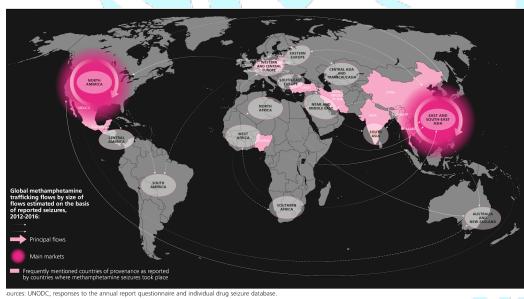


## Drugs in Southeast Asia

Since opium was first introduced to Persia and India by Alexander the Great in 330 BC, it has held immense influence over shaping the development of countries in this region. During the opium wars between the British and the Chinese, when the Chinese emperor prohibited the British from trading any more opium into China in 1839, the British retaliated. This resulted in the transfer of control of the territory of Hong Kong from the Chinese to the British for a short period of time. The fact that drugs can lead to such major political developments acts as a cold reminder of the influence that drugs now hold over society.

Looking at drugs, this area has now seen a distinct rise in the number of people using alternative synthetic drugs like methamphetamine. Due to a boost in supply, prices have dipped, subsequently resulting in a greater level of consumption of this harmful drug. A greater geographical flexibility has also enabled synthetic drugs to spread

throughout the world, as they are not limited by the constraints presented by the cultivation of crops. A huge increase in Meth in Thailand, a ten-fold increase in Cocaine and increase in production of opioids in Vietnam and Myanmar do not paint an optimistic image for these countries and this region. This is also where the infamous ‘Golden Triangle’ is situated i.e. where the borders of Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand meet.



Government policies in this region have been rendered ineffective against the resilient drug-trade. Despite countries like Thailand, Philippines, and Singapore having adopted mandatory death-penalties for possession of a minimum amount of drugs. The irony lies in the fact that even implementing the strictest possible policy has not been able to reduce drug trade. This punishment is considered to be so harsh that human right groups are actually fighting against it. A report has revealed that around 7080 drug suspects were killed in Philippines in just a year from July 2016. Market analysts have claimed that such measures actually benefit drug-trading companies as they are able to sell their drugs at higher prices because of the high ‘risk factor’

involved. The ‘dark web’ has also played a huge role in promoting the drug trade in the region, as it provides buyers and sellers with a convenient, risk-free platform to communicate anonymously. Vietnam had the third-highest bit coin transactions in the world in 2017 at one point despite not having nearly enough productive business activities. This just shows how the drug producers have embedded themselves into the system to an extent that is almost untouchable and permanent.

Human trafficking now is held responsible for a significant percentage of the number of crimes recorded, as an increase of more than 100% has been detected in the number of people convicted from 2007 to 2016. The number of victims has also increased by over a worrying 140% during the same time. Even though the reasons differ between South Asia and East Asia; sexual exploitation is dominant in East Asia while human trafficking is done for both sexual and illegal labour reasons in South Asia, forced marriage is blamed as a reason across the countries of this region. The connection between human trafficking and drugs is hard to ignore as these issues stem from that same places and are blamed upon the same organizations. Drugs are often used for human trafficking, as intoxicating the victims with drugs as always made them more vulnerable, as they become easier to manipulate. The recent influx of

Rohingyas into countries like Bangladesh has given drug-traders numerous opportunities to transport a drug called yaba inside Bangladesh. Yaba, a mixture of caffeine and meth, has been said to have made people go mad if consumed in excess. The Rohingya Muslims, who have been persecuted in their homeland for decades, started fleeing to neighbouring countries from 2016 onwards. Around 700000 have entered just Bangladesh, a country which already had problems of overpopulation before their arrival. Without much support from India, Bangladesh has now been forced to stop accepting any more refugees. But the damage has already been done. The Rohingyas, in order to earn some much-needed money, have given up to drug-dealers by trying to smuggle yaba across the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. Be it forcefully or to get money to free their relatives from jail for committing the same offence, traders in Myanmar who want to supply this drug to the growing market in Bangladesh have trapped the Rohingyas inside the Yaba trade.

Bangladeshi authorities discovered 53 million yaba tablets in the duration of only the previous year. Yaba has been blamed for breaking families up as people become more ‘sociable’, with bouts of unexpected weather and paranoia being reported. Despite the government’s methods to curb this trade, especially by carrying out strict checks near the yaba hub of Cox Bazaar, the drug trade still remains at a dangerous high.



The increasing level of drug production has also adversely affected neighbouring countries such as Australia, Malaysia and Indonesia, which are all easily accessible via sea. High amounts of meth being caught recently hint at the development of a new drug trade route from the Golden Triangle. Countries like India, which lies between the Golden Crescent and Triangle, have also suffered because of the influence of these harmful drugs. India, which has a rich history of growing opioids, has now started to experience growth in the sector of synthetic drugs. Despite recording few quantities in previous years, India has witnessed a sudden surge in the number of synthetic drugs that have been seized in 2016, with 24 tons of amphetamine and 2 tons of methaqualone being recorded. Moreover, the opium trade is still very much present in India, as it had the 4th highest amount of opium seized in 2016 globally. The preferred form of opioid in India is tramadol, with India being the origin for most of the tramadol in the world along with China. The non-medicinal use of tramadol is extremely dangerous, as it can

lead to death if taken in high quantities along with alcohol.

Most of this tramadol was discovered to be heading for countries in Africa, especially North Africa. Almost 90% of all pharmaceutical opium globally were seized in North and west Africa, most of which was reported to have come from India. Opioid addiction in Africa, which is also because of its relative inexpensive nature, has crippled countries along with the existing problems of poverty and terrorism.

### Opioids in the US

Looking back through the history books, one can easily see opium's influence in the time of the British Empire. During a time when opium was legal, hundreds and thousands of crates were opium were transported to the US. This continued even after the country gained its independence. The place of the origin of the opioid heroin, the US saw a major rise in the use of opioids as anesthetics in the Civil War. Owing to the government's heightened concern about the excessive consumption of this drug, it implemented the The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, which regulated the usage of opium in food products.

Soon, recreational uses such as opium smoking were also made illegal. Opioid usage for medical purposes also remained low throughout the 1900s as doctors stayed wary of prescribing this highly

addictive drug. Since Nixon's announcement of an official 'war on drugs', which involved significantly increasing the number of measure for countering drugs, opioid usage has remained low. But that proved to last only through the 20th century. Opioid usage started growing in the 2000s when the Joint Commission, which is a US government corporation that accredits companies in the healthcare sector, published a report stating that users of opioid medicines were not facing dependency. From that time on, opioid usage has been constantly rising. Now, the opioid addiction issue has started to be labeled as the 'Opioid epidemic' and rightly so. The number of Americans dependent on some sort of opioid prescriptions or opioid recreational use has risen to an astounding 2 million. In 2017, the US suffered more than 49000 deaths causes due to the overdose of opium, a number that is a significant percentage of the number of total deaths caused due to drug overdose- more than 72000. In a shocking find, 34000 poppy opium were uncovered over five weeks in California last year, which could be the biggest opium seizure in California history.



This opium is said to have originated from countries in West Africa and the infamous Golden Crescent in Asia. Even cocaine-rich countries like Mexico are alleged to smuggling in opioids through the south-west border. The consequences have been dire. The level of public health has dropped to worrying levels, while the economy is facing problems of declining labour-force participation rate. Even the military is given opioid medicines in order to combat their chronic pain, something which threatens to put the US army's effectiveness at stake. In response, Obama enforced the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act in 2016, which pledged \$180 million against the opioid epidemic. Opioids have recently also been passed as a schedule 1 drug. Despite these policy changes, much improvement in the situation hasn't been seen. This is blamed on the effectiveness of these policies, and also the more relaxed view on recreational drugs since the recent legalization of marijuana.

## Discussion Questions

Should strong, but addictive analgesics like opioids allowed to be used for medicinal purposes, or should less effective substitutes be used?

Is there any alternative to fighting drug-promoting groups such as the Taliban and Mexican drug cartels by using effective policies rather than violence?

Is the legalization of less harmful, recreational drugs like cannabis leading to the greater usage of more harmful drugs like cocaine?

How can global cooperation lead to the formation and implementation of better, more effective policies to combat drug trade? Is the death penalty the correct policy to adopt?

How can nations ensure that their own governments do not submit to the power and influence of drug organizations?

How can governments restrict the financial resources at the disposal of drug organizations to reduce their activity?

Should they focus on controlling consumer demand or blocking trade routes?

How can governments reduce drug trade by reducing human trafficking, and ensuring that migrants have good standards of living?

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