

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi-Disciplinary  
Peer Reviewed

[www.ijlra.com](http://www.ijlra.com)

## DISCLAIMER

No part of this publication may be reproduced or copied in any form by any means without prior written permission of Managing Editor of IJLRA. The views expressed in this publication are purely personal opinions of the authors and do not reflect the views of the Editorial Team of IJLRA.

Though every effort has been made to ensure that the information in Volume II Issue 7 is accurate and appropriately cited/referenced, neither the Editorial Board nor IJLRA shall be held liable or responsible in any manner what sever for any consequences for any action taken by anyone on the basis of information in the Journal.

Copyright © International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis

## EDITORIALTEAM

### EDITORS

#### **Dr. Samrat Datta**

*Dr. Samrat Datta Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Samrat Datta is currently associated with Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Datta has completed his graduation i.e., B.A.LL.B. from Law College Dehradun, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand. He is an alumnus of KIIT University, Bhubaneswar where he pursued his post-graduation (LL.M.) in Criminal Law and subsequently completed his Ph.D. in Police Law and Information Technology from the Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University, Udaipur in 2020. His area of interest and research is Criminal and Police Law. Dr. Datta has a teaching experience of 7 years in various law schools across North India and has held administrative positions like Academic Coordinator, Centre Superintendent for Examinations, Deputy Controller of Examinations, Member of the Proctorial Board*



#### **Dr. Namita Jain**



*Head & Associate Professor*

*School of Law, JECRC University, Jaipur Ph.D. (Commercial Law) LL.M., UGC-NET Post Graduation Diploma in Taxation law and Practice, Bachelor of Commerce.*

*Teaching Experience: 12 years, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION of Dr. Namita Jain are - ICF Global Excellence Award 2020 in the category of educationalist by I Can Foundation, India. India Women Empowerment Award in the category of "Emerging Excellence in Academics by Prime Time & Utkrish Bharat Foundation, New Delhi. (2020). Conferred in FL Book of Top 21 Record Holders in the category of education by Fashion Lifestyle Magazine, New Delhi. (2020). Certificate of Appreciation for organizing and managing the Professional Development Training Program on IPR in Collaboration with Trade Innovations Services, Jaipur on March 14th, 2019*

## Mrs.S.Kalpna

Assistant professor of Law

*Mrs.S.Kalpna, presently Assistant professor of Law, VelTech Rangarajan Dr.Sagunthala R & D Institute of Science and Technology, Avadi. Formerly Assistant professor of Law,Vels University in the year 2019 to 2020, Worked as Guest Faculty, Chennai Dr.Ambedkar Law College, Pudupakkam. Published one book. Published 8Articles in various reputed Law Journals. Conducted 1Moot court competition and participated in nearly 80 National and International seminars and webinars conducted on various subjects of Law. Did ML in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Administration.10 paper presentations in various National and International seminars. Attended more than 10 FDP programs. Ph.D. in Law pursuing.*



## Avinash Kumar



*Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC – NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR – Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.*

## **ABOUT US**

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS ISSN- 2582-6433 is an Online Journal is Monthly, Peer Review, Academic Journal, Published online, that seeks to provide an interactive platform for the publication of Short Articles, Long Articles, Book Review, Case Comments, Research Papers, Essay in the field of Law & Multidisciplinary issue. Our aim is to upgrade the level of interaction and discourse about contemporary issues of law. We are eager to become a highly cited academic publication, through quality contributions from students, academics, professionals from the industry, the bar and the bench. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS ISSN 2582-6433 welcomes contributions from all legal branches, as long as the work is original, unpublished and is in consonance with the submission guidelines.

# **THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN NORMALISING DRUG CULTURE: A LEGAL AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE**

AUTHORED BY - S.M.HARIDHAPRIYADHARSINI,  
PG Law Student, LL.M – Criminal Law,  
B.S Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology – Vandalur, Chennai

## **I. Introduction**

The way people connect, communicate, and create their social identities has been drastically altered by the digital revolution. One of the most alarming effects of this change is how social media has helped normalize drug culture, among other things. Drug subcultures have spread into the virtual world, reaching millions of people through platforms like Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube, in contrast to previous decades when they were frequently limited to music festivals, underground movements, or certain urban areas. In the case of young people, who make up the largest number of social media users and the most susceptible to experimenting with harmful behaviors, such as drug usage, the influence is especially concerning.

Nearly 296 million individuals took drugs worldwide in 2021, a number that represents a 23% rise over the preceding ten years, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) 2023 World Drug Report. Although cannabis is still the most often used drug, the availability of opioids, stimulants, and synthetic substances through internet platforms and darknet markets has also led to an increase in their use.<sup>1</sup> As a result, the relationship between drug culture and internet communication has become a major issue for legislators, educators, law enforcement, and legal experts. As a result, this essay aims to investigate how social media normalizes drug culture by looking at how online environments influence attitudes, actions, and perceptions around drug usage.

## **II. Understanding Drug Culture in the Digital Age**

Drug culture encompasses not only drug use patterns but also the common symbols, beliefs, and customs that provide a social group's drug usage with significance. Throughout history, countercultural movements, music, art, and film have all influenced drug culture. However,

social media platforms have taken center stage in the creation and propagation of drug culture in the digital age.

Three overlapping trends define the culture of digital drugs. First, drug usage is made to seem more commonplace by visualizing it through pictures, quick videos, and memes. Content that presents drug-related aesthetics (such as cannabis leaves, psychedelic images, or drug-related emoticons) as a normal part of daily life is amplified on platforms like Instagram and TikTok. Second, drug-related communities are now globalized networks rather than just local groupings. Using hashtags like #420, #weedlife, or #psychedeliccommunity, individuals from different places can connect and create online communities where drug use is not only accepted but also discussed. Third, the way that digital platforms are used for advertising is a clear example of how drug culture has become commodified. Drugs are ingrained in consumer society through the subtle branding integration of clothing brands, music festivals, and online influencers.

The line between illegal activity and leisure is likewise blurred in the digital world. A seemingly innocuous music video with images of drugs, for instance, may entice viewers to look up hashtags that take them to internet forums talking about consuming habits or even darknet marketplaces. Online platforms are increasingly serving as entry points for drug purchases, either through direct communications or connections to encrypted messaging services, according to research from Europol and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).<sup>1</sup>

The hazards are increased for India because of the country's high youth population and fast digitalization. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has issued many warnings on the coordination of drug deliveries through encrypted platforms such as WhatsApp and Telegram. Additionally, young audiences are exposed to drug-related material on youth-oriented platforms like YouTube and Instagram during a critical phase of identity formation.<sup>2</sup> This combined problem of digital drug trafficking and cultural normalization demonstrates how drug culture in the digital age is not limited to private settings but is instead ingrained in online life.

---

<sup>1</sup> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) & Europol, "EU Drug Markets: Online Trafficking Report 2022," Publications Office of the European Union (Luxembourg, 2022), p. 11. <sup>2</sup> Narcotics Control Bureau (India), Annual Report 2023–24 (Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2024), p. 32.

### **III. Mechanisms of Influence: How Social Media Shapes Drug Perceptions**

Social media's impact on drug culture is not a standalone phenomenon; rather, it is based on distinct psychological and sociological processes that make online platforms especially useful for influencing drug attitudes.

#### **(a) Peer Influence and Validation**

Peer approbation is one of the most potent forces influencing social behavior in adolescents and youth. Because social media platforms enable users to observe, react to, and model the behavior of their peers, they intensify this propensity. A cycle of validation is created when a user submits content about drugs and gets likes, shares, or encouraging remarks. This reinforces the normalization of drug usage.<sup>3</sup>

#### **(b) Algorithmic Amplification**

In order to maximize interaction, social media algorithms frequently promote information that piques interest, excitement, or controversy. Whether it's music, memes, or short movies, information about drugs usually gets a lot of interaction. Algorithms recognize this and unintentionally aid in the propagation of such information by promoting it more broadly.

#### **(c) Influencer Marketing and Celebrity Endorsements**

Online celebrities and personalities with substantial fan bases are another source of influence. Influencers frequently include oblique or explicit allusions to drugs in their lifestyle, fashion, or music content. For example, psychedelic imagery and cannabis are often promoted by subcultures such as hip-hop and electronic music. Adolescents who look up to these role models could see drug use as a sign of achievement, ingenuity, or defiance.

#### **(d) Desensitization and Trivialization**

The process by which frequent exposure to drug-related content lessens emotional reactions like dread or moral condemnation is known as desensitization, and social media plays a role in this process. Repeated exposure to a meme that trivializes the use of cocaine or LSD gradually reduces the stigma associated with those substances.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, depictions of drunkenness that are amusing or sardonic downplay the gravity of drug use, particularly in the eyes of young audiences.

---

<sup>3</sup> Shashwat & Kumari, "The Role of Social Media in Normalising Drug Use Among Youth: A Narrative Review," *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews (IJRAR)*, Vol. 12, Issue 1 (2025), p. 151.

<sup>4</sup> Mentor Arabia, "The Influence of Social Media on Youth Drug Use: Prevention Strategies," *Mentor Arabia Report* (2022), p. 8.

#### **IV. Legal Framework in India and Its Challenges**

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) is the main legal tool used in India to combat drug use and its online normalization. It is supplemented by provisions found in the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) and enforced by state police Cyber Crime Cells, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), and the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN). However, India has a difficult time preventing social media from glamorizing narcotics, even with a robust legal structure.

##### **(a) The NDPS Act, 1985**

The main legislative framework for outlawing the production, distribution, and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India is provided by the NDPS Act. Except in cases of medical or scientific research, Section 8 forbids the manufacture, possession, sale, acquisition, or use of narcotic substances.<sup>5</sup> Crucially, the Act stipulates severe penalties that range from fines to arduous incarceration.

##### **(b) Information Technology Act, 2000**

The IT Act regulates digital platforms, which is an addition to the NDPS Act. The IT Act's Section 67 makes it illegal to publish or distribute pornographic material,<sup>6</sup> In contrast, Section 69A gives the government the authority to restrict access to information for the sake of morality, public order, or crime prevention.

##### **(c) Constitutional Concerns**

Articles 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution must also be weighed against India's drug control policies. When publishing content about drugs on social media, people frequently assert their right to freedom of speech and expression. Although Article 19(2) allows for reasonable limitations based on morality and public order, courts have warned against overzealous censorship.

##### **(d) Judicial Interpretation**

The Indian judiciary has emphasized procedural safeguards while maintaining the NDPS Act's strictness. The Supreme Court ruled in *Tofan Singh v. State of Tamil Nadu* (2020) that confessions given to NCB personnel cannot be used as evidence.<sup>7</sup> This case illustrates the conflict between rigorous drug control and the defense of fundamental rights, even though it had nothing to do with internet drug promotion specifically.

---

<sup>5</sup> NDPS Act, 1985, Section 8.

<sup>6</sup> Information Technology Act, 2000, Section 67.

<sup>7</sup> *Tofan Singh v. State of Tamil Nadu*, (2020) 9 SCC 1.

### **(e) Role of Enforcement Agencies**

The top national organization in charge of preventing drug usage and trafficking is the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).<sup>8</sup> The NCB has looked into incidents involving internet platforms in recent years, such as the distribution of LSD and cannabis via darknet markets and encrypted chat apps. In 2020, after drug-related WhatsApp communications appeared, exposing the growing digitalization of drug culture, the NCB called a number of Bollywood superstars for interrogation.

## **V. Enforcement Challenges of India's legal framework**

Several practical challenges undermine the effectiveness of India's legal framework:

1. Volume of Content – Millions of posts are generated daily on social media, making monitoring nearly impossible.
2. Cross-Border Jurisdiction – Much drug-related content originates from accounts outside India, limiting the jurisdiction of Indian authorities.
3. Ambiguity of Content – Memes, songs, and coded language make it difficult to establish intent to abet drug consumption.
4. Resource Limitations – Cyber cells and NCB units lack the manpower and technological resources to track all cases.
5. Public Sympathy – Enforcement against celebrities often sparks debates about personal liberty and privacy, weakening public support for harsh crackdowns.

## **VI. International Legal Framework.**

### **(a) United Nations Conventions The cornerstone of the international legal framework is the United**

Nations drug control regime, consisting of three conventions:

1. The 1972 Protocol to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 restricts the use of narcotics to medical and scientific purposes and unifies previous treaties. States are required to make drug possession, cultivation, and trafficking illegal.<sup>9</sup>
2. The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic chemicals expands the scope of regulations to include synthetic psychotropic chemicals like amphetamines, LSD, and ecstasy, many of which are marketed as "party drugs" on social media.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Narcotics Control Bureau, Annual Report 2023–24, Ministry of Home Affairs (2024), p. 11.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (amended 1972).

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.

3. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 – Strengthens international cooperation, obliges states to criminalise money laundering from drug trafficking, and addresses organised crime aspects of the drug trade.<sup>11</sup>

#### **(b) Human Rights Concerns in UN Framework**

The UN system balances drug control obligations with human rights standards. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) protects free expression under Article 19, but allows restrictions for public health and morality.<sup>12</sup>

#### **(c) European Union Approach**

The European Union (EU) has taken a well-rounded stance, emphasizing public health, demand reduction, and digital space regulation. The EU Drugs Strategy 2021–2025 demands for increased oversight of online content and emphasizes the role of the internet in drug promotion. The EU also funds the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), which tracks emerging drug trends, including social media-driven subcultures.

#### **(d) United State**

The Controlled Substances Act of 1970, which divides narcotics into five categories, gives the US a law enforcement-heavy approach. It is illegal to promote or advertise banned substances without permission. To identify and eliminate posts that glorify drugs, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) works closely with social media businesses. One significant change is the STOP Act of 2018, which controls postal shipments and online drug sales, specifically focusing on opioids sold on the darknet and promoted on social media sites like Instagram.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, the United States has filed lawsuits against social media corporations, claiming that they were negligent in permitting drug dealers to utilize their platforms.

#### **(e) Canada**

Canada legalized cannabis in 2018 under the Cannabis Act, but imposed stringent prohibitions on advertising and promotion, including online, and regulators keep an eye out for illicit cannabis promotion on social media. Presenting cannabis in a way that would appeal to youth, portray beauty, or link use to leisure is forbidden by Section 17.<sup>14</sup> Violations carry heavy penalties. Platforms must work together. This is an example of a regulation-through-legalization model: Canada prioritizes prudent regulation with stringent restrictions rather than

---

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

<sup>12</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, Art. 19.

<sup>13</sup> UK Home Office Report on Cannabis Promotion, 2020.

<sup>14</sup> Health Canada, Enforcement Report under Cannabis Act, 2019.

criminalizing all drug advertising.

#### **(f) Australia**

The harm-reduction strategy is used in Australia. It is illegal to sell or advertise drugs online, according to the Criminal Code Act of 1995 and other legislation. Websites or accounts that promote drugs may be ordered to be taken down by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). In addition, the Illicit Drug Data Report integrates digital surveillance, including monitoring of online forums and encrypted apps.<sup>15</sup>

## **VII. Need for International Cooperation**

Unilateral national regulations are inadequate because to the global operations of social media sites. International collaboration is necessary by:

The Interpol Cybercrime Directorate is already investigating drug trafficking on the dark web. Cross-border information exchange: Arrangements between NCB and organizations such as Europol or the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Globally consistent guidelines for social media businesses Drug-promotion laws should be harmonized, just as laws pertaining to child pornography need worldwide compliance.

Users will continue to access drug-related content across countries without such collaboration, undermining national prohibitions.

## **VII. Case Studies & Real-World Examples**

### **(a) Indian Case Studies**

#### **1. Aryan Khan Case (2021)**

The Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) arrest of actor Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan Khan, during a cruise party raid, is among the most well-known instances in India. The NCB mostly relied on WhatsApp communications to accuse him of participating in drug-related conversations, even though no narcotics were found on him directly.<sup>16</sup>

The case demonstrated the use of digital traces on encrypted applications and social media as circumstantial evidence in drug prosecutions. The Bombay High Court noted that "nothing objectionable" was discovered in the talks to demonstrate conspiracy, even though it granted bail. This demonstrates the judiciary's prudence in striking a balance between drug control and digital privacy rights.

<sup>15</sup> Australian Federal Police, Operation Ironside Report, 2021.

<sup>16</sup> State v. Aryan Khan, Bail Order, Bombay High Court, October 2021.

2. Bengaluru Drug Case (2020)

A number of Kannada cinema artists were detained in Karnataka for allegedly consuming and promoting drugs through parties that were promoted on Instagram and Snapchat.<sup>17</sup> According to an investigation, drug dealers exploited social media to entice young customers by displaying glitzy drug-related lifestyles. The case demonstrated how celebrities' cultural effect on young people through social media normalizes drug usage.

3. Darknet & Cryptocurrency Cases

In 2020, the NCB detained people in Chennai and Mumbai for using Bitcoin to pay for the darknet purchases of LSD and MDMA.<sup>18</sup> Drugs were frequently linked and promoted on Reddit forums and Telegram groups before being sent to users via foreign postal services. This instance demonstrates how international digital ecosystems circumvent national boundaries and the pressing need for more robust cyber-monitoring.

**(b) International Case Studies**

1. United States – Snapchat & Fentanyl Crisis

Several teen deaths in the US have been connected to fentanyl-laced tablets bought through Snapchat. The parents of 15-year-old Sammy Chapman, who passed away after taking one of these pills, filed a lawsuit against Snapchat in 2021 for enabling communication with drug dealers.<sup>19</sup> This case demonstrates the liability of social media platforms when drug dealers exploit their services.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has since reported that social media emojis like 🍊 and 🍓 are used as codes to advertise drugs.<sup>20</sup>

2. United Kingdom – The Instagram “Cannabis Lifestyle”

Police in the UK reported that thousands of Instagram profiles promoted cannabis usage as a lifestyle, frequently using influencer endorsements, reels, and memes to target young people.<sup>21</sup> Cannabis usage for recreational purposes is still prohibited, but enforcement was challenging because the information was presented as "lifestyle promotion" rather than as a direct sale. This demonstrates the regulatory gap that exists between commercial advertising and free speech.

<sup>17</sup> “Bengaluru Drug Case: Kannada Actors Arrested,” The Hindu, September 2020.

<sup>18</sup> Narcotics Control Bureau Press Release, “Darknet Drug Seizures,” 2020.

<sup>19</sup> Chapman v. Snap Inc., Complaint filed in California, 2021

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, “Emoji Drug Code: Decoded,” 2021.

<sup>21</sup> UK Home Office Report on Cannabis Promotion, 2020.

### 3. Canada – Breach of Cannabis Act on TikTok

Following Canada's 2018 legalization of cannabis, authorities discovered that influencers were using TikTok and YouTube to promote cannabis firms in ways that were against Section 17 of the Cannabis Act.<sup>22</sup> These cases attracted penalties, reinforcing the importance of strict advertising bans to prevent drug glamorisation.

## IX. Findings

1. Most law students believed that social media frequently glorifies drug use through memes, reels, and over-the-top (OTT) content, which can deceive youth.
2. Advocates emphasized how casual allusions from influencers and celebrities pique young people's interest and diminish the law's deterrence power.
3. Others (working professionals and students not majoring in law) acknowledged that internet music and jokes occasionally normalize drug use by portraying it as innocuous.
4. Law students emphasized that because viewers prefer to ignore OTT disclaimers, they are ineffective.
5. Advocates drew attention to the fact that law enforcement continues to struggle to regulate secret online forums where drugs are discussed or exchanged.
6. Others noted that algorithms in social media often push similar content once someone interacts with drug-related material.
7. Law students and advocates agreed that awareness campaigns on social media are very limited compared to the content indirectly promoting drug culture.
8. Advocates strongly supported stricter monitoring and regulation of online content that encourages drug use.
9. There was disagreement among others; some favored regulation, while others voiced worries about excessive restriction and how it may affect the right to free speech.
10. All three groups agreed that combating drug culture necessitates a well-rounded strategy that combines increased internet law enforcement, awareness campaigns, and legislation.

---

<sup>22</sup> Health Canada, Enforcement Report under Cannabis Act, 2019.

## X. Conclusion

The research makes it evident that social media plays a decisive role in shaping public perceptions about drugs, often normalising their use through entertainment, influencer culture, and algorithm-driven exposure. While law students and advocates stressed the clash between online narratives and the legal framework, the responses from others reflect a worrying gap in awareness of the health and legal consequences of drug use. This gap underlines the fact that the law alone cannot deter the growing influence of social media on drug culture.

Therefore, a dual approach is essential—on one side, strengthening cyber-monitoring and regulatory mechanisms to curb online glorification of drugs, and on the other, increasing targeted awareness campaigns that reach youth and professionals alike. If left unchecked, the normalisation of drug use through digital spaces may erode the effectiveness of existing laws and weaken societal resistance to substance abuse.

This study, though limited in scope, demonstrates the urgent need for legal reform, technological regulation, and social awareness to collectively address the complex interplay between social media and drug culture in India.

## REFERENCE

### Articles & Reports

1. Shashwat & Kumari, “The Role of Social Media in Normalising Drug Use Among Youth: A Narrative Review,” *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews (IJRAR)*, Vol. 12, Issue 1 (2025), p. 151.
2. M. Elbahnasawy, “Algorithmic Bias and Substance Use Representation on Social Media,” *Journal of Digital Media & Society*, Vol. 10, Issue 3 (2023), p. 67.
3. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2023: Booklet 4 – Drug Market Trends: Cannabis, Opioids, Cocaine, Amphetamine-type Stimulants* (UNODC, 2023) p. 12.
4. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) & Europol, “EU Drug Markets: Online Trafficking Report 2022,” Publications Office of the European Union (Luxembourg, 2022), p. 11.
5. Narcotics Control Bureau (India), *Annual Report 2023–24* (Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, 2024), p. 32.

6. Narcotics Control Bureau Press Release, “Darknet Drug Seizures,” 2020.

### **Act**

1. NDPS Act, 1985, Section 8.
2. Information Technology Act, 2000, Section 67.

### **Convention**

1. United Nations, Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (amended 1972).
2. United Nations, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971.
3. United Nations, Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
4. Narcotics Control Bureau Press Release, “Darknet Drug Seizures,” 2020.

