

Regional meeting of the Committee on Narcotics Trafficking and National Security in Guwahati

Chief Minister proposed to open a branch of the Narcotics Control Bureau in the state.

Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha proposed to open a Narcotics Control Bureau branch in the state during the regional meeting of the Committee on Narcotics Trafficking and National Security in Guwahati on October 8. Union Home Minister Amit Shah presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by Chief Ministers of North Eastern states including Ministry of DoNER, G Kishan Reddy. In the meeting, Chief Minister highlighted all the measures taken to prevent drug trafficking in the state.

In the press conference at the Secretariat yesterday, Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha briefed the reporters on the issues discussed in the meeting of the Committee on Drug Trafficking and National Security. Chief Secretary J.K Sinha, DGP Amitabh Ranjan, Planning Department Secretary Apurba Roy were present in the press conference. Highlighting the topic discussed in the meeting, Chief Minister informed that different drugs are smuggled to Bangladesh from Myanmar through Tripura. Moreover, drugs are smuggled from Myanmar to Bangladesh via Mizoram and Assam through Tripura. On the other hand, cough syrup is also smuggled into Bangladesh from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal via Tripura. The issue of cannabis cultivation in the state for many years was also brought up in the meeting. He said that after the establishment of the state government in 2018, Nesha Mukt Tripura awareness programme was taken up in the state along with Nesha Mukt Bharat. Tripura was highlighted in the meeting as one of the states with the highest number of drug seizures. Chief Minister informed that since 2018, around 700 drug-trafficking vehicles have been seized. A special investigation team has been formed in the state for anti-narcotics operations. About 19 cases have been registered till September 2022. Trial monitoring of cases and due coordination with Public Prosecutor and Assistant Public Prosecutor resulted in conviction of accused in 7 cases. Regular unannounced inspections are being conducted besides organizing special operations to prevent drug trafficking. Tripura Police has recovered a total of 6.5 crore rupees including assets and cash in financial investigations in 39 cases against those involved in drug trafficking. Besides, drugs worth 200 crore rupees have been seized along with vehicles.

In the press conference, Chief Minister informed that regular coordination with the central agencies like Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) was highlighted in the meeting. Moreover, training programmes for capacity building of different levels of police personnel in North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA), National Police Academy (NPA), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) and regular police initiative and effort programmes in schools, colleges, social awareness was highlighted in the meeting.

In the press conference, Chief Minister said that in the meeting, formation of school watch groups in the state, use of social media to increase awareness among the people was highlighted. Besides, in the meeting, Chief Minister emphasized on strengthening the deployment of BSF in the unfenced areas along the international border and taking appropriate measures including vigilance on the Assam and Mizoram borders. He emphasized on monthly meetings between the Border Superintendents of Police of Assam,

Mizoram and Tripura as well as greater coordination with the Enforcement Directorate. The use of advanced technologies such as lighting, cameras, satellite imagery software, drone technology to prevent drug trafficking was seriously highlighted in the meeting.

In the press conference, Chief Minister informed, more surveillance at Naka points with closed circuit television and increased patrolling of national highways with vehicles to prevent drug trafficking was also raised in the meeting. He also highlighted the importance for the need of baggage scanners / full body vehicle scanners. The meeting also highlighted the need of fund for mass awareness programmes and profitable alternative cash crop cultivation instead of Cannabis cultivation.

After the regional meeting of the Committee on Narcotics Trafficking and National Security, a meeting on the issues of North East Space Application Centre was held under the chairmanship of Home Minister, Amit Shah. The meeting discussed in detail the issues relating to proper use of satellite technology. Besides, the use of advanced technology in different fields was also discussed in the meeting.
