

Proceedings Of The Workshop

Inaugural ceremony

The workshop began with a brief inaugural ceremony. Welcoming the guests and participants, the Project Coordinator, Mr. Devendra Dutt briefly explained the aims and objectives of the Project in strengthening precursor control in SAARC countries.

After brief opening remarks by Ms. Renate Ehmer, Regional Representative, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, New Delhi, the Chief Guest, Mr. A.K. Bhandari, Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs inaugurated the workshop. After the inaugural ceremony and a tea break, the participants reassembled for the workshop.

Workshop

Hon'ble Justice Ashok Desai, the former Chief Justice of Uttaranchal presided over the workshop. During the first three sessions, presentations were made to review the basic concepts of precursor control, international concerns and the current domestic situation including recent developments.

Presentations

The workshop began with three brief presentations on the following topics:

1. The concept and significance of precursor control in containing illicit drug production, India's international obligations under the UN Conventions – Mr. Devendra Dutt, Project Coordinator
2. An overview of the Indian precursor control laws – Dr. M.C. Mehanathan, Private Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Development
3. Problem of diversion of precursors and their use in illicit production of drugs in Indian context – Mr. A.P. Kala, Deputy. Director General (Enforcement), Narcotics Control Bureau

A summary of each of these presentations is given in the next chapter.

Working sessions

In the fourth session, the participants were divided into two working groups- the first comprising judges and public prosecutors and the second comprising drug law enforcement officers and public prosecutors. The first group discussed common

lacunae in investigations leading to acquittals in NDPS cases. The second group discussed the practical difficulties in investigating cases and attempted to find solutions. Each group elected a chairperson to conduct the meeting and a rapporteur to prepare the report.

Plenary

After these two working sessions, participants reassembled in a plenary session during which the leaders of both groups presented their reports including recommendations. These reports are reproduced in a subsequent chapter.

Open house

The last session of the conference was an open house in which all participants could freely exchange views, express opinions and clarify doubts.

Valediction

Justice Venkatanarayana, retired judge of high court of Andhra Pradesh spoke at the valedictory function and suggested that similar workshops should be held in other cities of the country as well. Justice Desai who presided over the workshop gave his presidential address. Mr.M.K. Singh, Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau, delivered the valedictory address. He appreciated the efforts of UNODC in organising the workshop and assured his full support for any future activities. Text of the valedictory as well as the presidential address are reproduced at the end of this book. The workshop ended with a vote of thanks.