

**Thematic Discussion**  
**65<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**  
**21-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2002, Vienna**

**Thank you, Chairperson** for the just conduct of events, Excellencies, Ambassadors, Panelists & Delegates.

India, recognizing the importance of Demand Reduction as a strategy to combat the world drug problem has taken action oriented and proactive steps in strengthening the response against substance use, not just for those who are vulnerable & at-risk but aimed at the larger community as well.

As enshrined in Article 38 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drug, 1961 and Article 20 of the Convention of Psychotropic Substances, 1971, strong measures are being taken by India to prevent the use of psychotropic substances and to provide treatment, after-care, rehabilitation as well as social reintegration of the affected population.

Recognizing drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder, interventions are being implemented to reduce the stigma that is associated with

substance users, preventing them from seeking treatment. This de-stigmatisation would encourage those in need to develop help seeking behaviour. Rehabilitation and reformation of users is also being explored through their involvement in social and community work, thereby ensuring their dignity, their right to life & contribution to society.

To ensure services for the de-addiction are available and accessible, India has set up De-Addiction centers which provide comprehensive services of counselling, medical treatment, skill development and rehabilitation under one roof.

To promote awareness among the general public on the risks associated with use of psychotropic substances, the 'Drug Free India Campaign', launched in 2020, has been instrumental in engaging with all relevant stakeholders through a host of interventions with a special focus on youth, women, children and education institutions and population in special setting such as prisons. This campaign has provided all stakeholders and their efforts a common platform to work with synergy and also

collectively come up with ways to address substance use as per their local situations and needs.

### **Chairperson,**

The interventions undertaken has led the community to acknowledge substance use as a serious problem and instilled a sense of ownership in them thereby shaping the campaign into a mass movement envisioned to bring to fruition a Drug Free India.

This campaign has touched base and so far has elicited a direct participation of 100 million people with a lively & spirited involvement of 29 million youth and 20 million women. We tell emphatically that their participation matters.

In line with the operational recommendations given in the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem, India reaffirms its commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions to prevent use and treat the drug use disorders with a specific focus on children, young people and women

**Thank You chairperson**