UNODC helps countries and its people to reduce illegal drugs and crime throughout the world and to address justice and human security. It helps Member States with technical assistance, legal advice and research within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the three United Nations Conventions on Drugs.

UNODC South Asia is present in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

India: Anti-human trafficking trainings for forced labour
UNODC is part of the ‘Work in Freedom’ initiative led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to prevent trafficking of women and girls in South Asian countries. Under this partnership, UNODC is organizing trainings for labour and law enforcement officers in countering trafficking for forced labour and domestic work in India and Bangladesh. Trainings have already been held in the Indian states of Chhattisgarh in September 2014, Jharkhand in February 2015 and more recently in New Delhi in May 2015. Some of the recommendations that emerged during the trainings at Delhi included: (i) swift enactment of the Delhi Placement Agency Bill to ensure the protection of the rights of domestic workers and also bring placement agencies under the purview of law, (ii) enhancing coordination between law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to holistically address the issue of trafficking for forced labour and (iii) developing a SOP for police and labour officers to address trafficking for forced labour.

India: UNODC’s e-learning programme
UNODC inaugurated its 32nd e-learning center in India for drug law enforcement officials at the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Gwalior in the presence of the Narcotics Commissioner. CBN is one of India’s key government agencies in the field of drug law enforcement. The establishment of the centre was followed by training for CBN personnel who will be managing the centre. A first batch of CBN officials and Gwalior Police officials then undertook the online training programme at the centre. UNODC’s e-learning programme delivers a modern form of capacity building targeting law enforcement officials. Modules under this programme include land border, airport and sea port interdiction, search of persons, investigating drug organized crime, intelligence gathering etc.

Human rights and counter-terrorism measures
In line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that highlights that protection of human rights is central to effective counter-terrorism measures, UNODC has published its latest Counter-Terrorism Training Curriculum titled ‘Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism’. It is developed to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice officials to put the universal legal framework against terrorism into practice in conformity with human rights and rule of law framework. The Training Curriculum is designed for prosecutors, judges, investigators, law enforcement officials and policymakers. The publication can be viewed at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/terrorism/Publications/Module_on_Human_Rights/Module_HR_and_CJ_responses_to_terrorism_ebook.pdf

India: Working with Bihar Police, moving towards health-centric responses to drug control
The relationship between drug control policy and human development is complex and multifaceted. When drug control is looked at solely from a law enforcement perspective, public health considerations get side-lined. However, drug control policies should focus on health and respect for human rights, and address stigma and discrimination that may limit access to services by people who use drugs. In this regard, UNODC has been working towards sensitizing and training law enforcement personnel to be able to work with drug users, creating a safe environment for them to seek information and referrals for care and support. It was suggested that in keeping with national legislation and international best practices, Bihar should develop a state specific drug policy. Further to this, a drug survey on the extent and nature of drug abuse in the state would help tailor policy responses. The meeting was well received by the Bihar Police, who extended their full support in addressing this challenge and proposed to organise more sensitization and training workshops for law enforcement personnel.

Internal news corner
The Regional UNODC Office for South Asia is located at: EP 16/17, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri New Delhi, India- 110 021, Tel +91-11-4222 5000 We encourage feedback and comments. Do write to us at the following email address: isheeta.sumra@unodc.org Visit us at www.unodc.org/southasia

India: Working with Bihar Police
The Office bids farewell to Ms. Archana Oinam who worked as a Technical Officer on a regional project on HIV prevention amongst drug users. We thank Archana for the energy and commitment she brought to the Office and wish her the very best ahead.

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