



Haryana's Growing Drug Problem

Why in News?

Recently, Haryana authorities seized [drugs](#) and liquor worth Rs.14 crore since the election announcement, highlighting ongoing concerns about [drug-related issues](#) in the state.

Key Points

- Haryana Police registered 3,757 FIRs and arrested 5,350 people under the [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act \(NDPS\), 1985](#) till December 2023.
 - The haul included **590 kg charas, 4,950 kg ganja, 34 kg heroin, 310 kg opium, and 33,602 kg poppy husk**, with **Sirsa** leading in cases and arrests (582 cases, 766 arrests).
- According to [Haryana Narcotics Control Bureau](#), **top 10 districts in Haryana for drug cases (1st Jan to 8th Dec, 2023)** are Sirsa, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Hisar, Rohtak, Panchkula.
- Studies by the **Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development** and [Indian Council for Social Science Research](#) link the drug problem to [youth unemployment and frustration](#).
- **Unemployment Rate in Haryana :**
 - [Unemployment rate](#) is the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.
 - Based on the [current weekly status \(CWS\) approach](#), a person is considered unemployed if they did not work for even an hour during the reference week but were available for or sought work for at least one hour.
 - Urban unemployment rate for **the 15-29 age group increased to 11.2%** in the April-June 2024 quarter, up from **9.5% in the January-March 2024** quarter according to the [Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\) April-June 2024 Report](#).
 - For women in the **15-29 age group** in urban areas, the unemployment rate rose to **17.2%** in April-June, compared to **13.9%** in the previous quarter.
- **Haryana's Hriday Parivartan Abhiyan (Heart Change Campaign):**
 - The campaign aims to bring about a **behavioral change in drug addicts** and peddlers by encouraging renunciation of drugs through **community involvement**.
 - Identified drug peddlers and consumers will appear **before village elders**, the community, and a pandit.
 - They will be **educated on the damaging effects of drugs** on their lives, families, and communities.
 - A ceremony involving the symbolic act of putting salt in a pot will signify the renunciation of drugs. **'Namak-Lota Abhiyaan' (pledge in front of elders to stay off drugs)**
 - Participants will take an oath before village deities and the community, vowing to give up drugs.
 - Peddlers involved [due to poverty](#) will be made aware of [government schemes](#) designed for people [below the poverty line](#) to provide them with alternative livelihoods.
- [Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau \(HSNCB\)](#) has launched a pioneering project called '[Chakravayuh: The escape room](#)' which aims to keep teenagers away from [narcotics addiction](#).

