

## **BRICS HEADS OF DRUG CONTROL AGENCIE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANTI-DRUG WORKING GROUP VIRTUAL MEETING**

**24June 2021**

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Anti-Drug Working Group Meeting of Heads of Drug Control Agencies on 24 June 2021 virtually under BRICS presidency of India.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Rakesh Asthana, Director General, NCB. Mr. Rodrigo Bertoglio Cardoso, Division for Combating Transnational Crime, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented Brazil, Mr. Kirill Smurov, First Deputy Chief of the Main Directorate for Drug Control, Ministry of Internal Affairs represented Russia, Mr. Lan Weihong, Deputy Secretary General of National Narcotics Control Commission and Deputy Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau, Ministry of Public Security, represented China and Advocate Andrea Johnson, Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions Organized Crime National Head: National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), represented South Africa in the meeting.

Mr. Rakesh Asthana, DG, NCB steered the BRICS meeting and briefed the member states about the enforcement efforts of India in eradicating drug trafficking in the region. He stated that although India has seized more than 1000kg of Heroin from its territorial waters in the last one year, more concerted efforts are required for tackling maritime trafficking of drugs. He also emphasized the need for closer co-operation between BRICS nations in fighting drug trafficking, which is increasingly turning into more

technologically aided. Mr. Asthana pointed out that India has interdicted considerably more drug trafficking attempts through couriers & parcels in 2020 and all the member countries will benefit from the analysis of the change in tactics adopted by the drug trafficking organisations during the times of COVID-19.

During the meeting, the participants discussed on drug trafficking through B2B platforms, illicit financial flows related to drug trafficking, maritime drug trafficking and sharing of best practices for interdiction of couriers at airports. The member states also discussed on future co-operation in conducting joint training program on darknet and trafficking of drugs through express courier parcels. Deliberations were made on conducting controlled delivery operations. The meeting also discussed on the needs for a Mechanism for BRICS Anti-Drug Liaison Officers proposed by India.

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