

08.07.2022

NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU

PRESS RELEASE

- **3rd Counter Narcotics Working Group (CNWG) Meeting between India and the USA concluded in New Delhi.**
- **NCB organised the meeting on 7th & 8th of July, 2022.**
- **Wide ranging topics discussed; important decisions taken.**

The Third Counter Narcotics Working Group (CNWG) Meeting between India and the USA was held in New Delhi on 7th & 8th of July, 2022. The Indian side was led by Mr. S N Pradhan, Director General, NCB, and the USA side was led Mr. Kemp Chester, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Both sides reviewed the drug trafficking scenario and enforcement efforts in respective countries. They discussed coordination and regulatory matters relating to drug law enforcement, drug trafficking crimes emanating from the region, cooperation in the fields of combating drug abuse, capacity building and mechanisms to share best practices. Appreciating the need for closer cooperation in the fields of drug abuse, both sides agreed to expand objective and CNWG and included Demand and Harm Reduction under its ambit.

An Amended Letter of Agreement (ALOA) in the field of cooperation for drug related matters between India and the U.S.A was also signed during the event. The agreement was signed on behalf of India by Sh Tarun Bajaj, Secretary (Revenue) and on behalf of the USA by Ms. Patricia Lacina, Chargé d'affaires (CDA).

Both sides decided to establish a CNWG Executive Group and three Steering groups on Multilateral Policy and Regulatory coordination, Law Enforcement Cooperation and Drug Demand/Harm Reduction. Both countries stressed upon

enhancing the cooperation on information sharing and capacity building in combating drug trafficking.

Meeting was concluded with important decisions taken to counter common concerns related to drug trafficking and abuse. It was further agreed to hold the next meeting of the CNWG at a mutually convenient date in 2023.
