



Golden Triangle and India's Narcotics Challenge

- According to the **Narcotics Control Bureau Annual Report 2025**, the **Golden Triangle** has overtaken the **Golden Crescent** as India's primary narcotics challenge.
- The **Golden Triangle** comprises **Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand**, while the **Golden Crescent** includes **Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan**.
- Illicit opium cultivation in **Myanmar** increased by about **56%** between **2021 and 2023**, while cultivation in Afghanistan declined sharply following strict enforcement measures.
- India's **eastern borders** have become increasingly vulnerable to drug trafficking from the Golden Triangle. Reflecting this trend, **Assam** recorded the **highest seizure of opium and morphine in Northeast India** in 2025.

APSC Relevance: Drug Trafficking; Internal Security