

Press Note

Press Note No. 53/DCA/2025

Date: 23-05-2025

The Drug Control Administration, Telangana, as part of a special drive to curb the **illegal sale of habit-forming drugs**, conducted raids across the state on **23rd May, 2025**.

The raids were conducted on several medical shops across the state, focused on detecting the illegal sale of habit-forming drugs, including **Codeine-containing cough syrups, Nitravet (Nitrazepam) Tablets, Alprazolam Tablets, Tramadol Tablets, Zolpidem Tablets, Tydol Tablets (Tapentadol), etc.**

Discrepancies were detected in **142 medical shops** regarding the sale of habit-forming drugs, and **Show Cause Notices** were issued for initiating departmental action.

The details are as follows:

The Drugs Control Administration, Telangana, conducted a special drive on **23rd May, 2025**, to detect the illegal sale of habit-forming drugs in medical shops across the state.

During the raids, special emphasis was laid on checking the indiscriminate sale of **habit-forming drugs**, primarily classified under **Schedule H1** and **Schedule X** of the Drugs Rules.

Habit forming drugs under Schedule H1	Habit forming drugs under Schedule X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alprazolam • Buprenorphine • Chlordiazepoxide • Codiene • Diazepam • Nitrazepam • Pentazocine • Tramadol • Zolpidem • Tapentadol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amobarbital • Glutethimide • Pentobarbital • Ketamine hydrochloride • Amphetamine • Meprobamate • Phencyclidine • Barbitol • Methamphetamine • Phenometrazine • Cyclobarbitol • Dexamphetamine • Methylphenidate • Secobarbital • Ethchlorvynol • Methylphenobarbital

During the special raids, officers of the Drugs Control Administration detected several discrepancies related to the sale of habit-forming drugs in **142 medical shops**.

The officers detected several **violations** related to the indiscriminate sale of habit-forming drugs, including the sale of such drugs without a prescription from a Registered Medical Practitioner, the sale of habit-forming drugs without issuing bills, non-maintenance and failure to produce sales bills for habit-forming drugs, dispensing of habit-forming drugs in the absence of a Registered Pharmacist, failure to produce purchase bills, failure to maintain prescription drug registers and Schedule H1 drug registers, irregularities in maintaining copies of sales and purchase bills, and other violations of the Drugs Rules.

Show Cause Notices have been issued to the **142** violating medical shops, and appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the rules made thereunder.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The abuse of habit-forming drugs, such as **Codeine** syrups and **Nitrazepam** Tablets, can lead to severe physical and psychological consequences. These substances are often misused for their sedative effects, which can result in addiction and dependence. Continued misuse or overdose of these drugs can cause respiratory depression, seizures, coma, and even death.

Alprazolam is used to treat anxiety disorders, panic disorders, anxiety associated with depression, and insomnia. However, it has a high potential for addiction and habit formation. Abuse of Alprazolam can lead to a range of adverse effects, including addiction, physical dependence, tolerance, and withdrawal symptoms upon discontinuation.

Misuse of **Alprazolam** can result in sedation, drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, impaired coordination, memory problems, and respiratory depression, **especially when combined with alcohol** or other central nervous system depressants. Long-term abuse of Alprazolam can have serious consequences for both physical and mental health, including cognitive impairment, mood disturbances, and an increased risk of accidents.

Due to their potential for abuse and addiction, habit-forming drugs are classified under **Schedule H1** and **Schedule X** of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Drugs listed in Schedule H1 and Schedule X have a high potential for abuse or

indiscriminate use and are subject to stricter regulations regarding their sale.

Inclusion in **Schedule H1** or **Schedule X** means these drugs can only be sold by retail pharmacies upon presentation of a prescription from a registered medical practitioner.

The illegal sale of habit-forming drugs is a serious offence punishable under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Stringent action will be taken against medical shops that violate the provisions of the Drugs Rules regarding the sale of habit-forming drugs.

The public may report any suspected manufacturing activity related to drugs, including narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in residential, commercial, or industrial areas, as well as any other complaints regarding illegal activities concerning medicines, through the **Drugs Control Administration, Telangana Toll-Free Number 1800-599-6969**, which is operational from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm on all working days.

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Photographs


