

# India figures in Obama's list of 22 illicit drug-producing nations

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US President Barack Obama has identified 22 countries, including India and Pakistan, as major illicit drug-producing or transit countries.

Obama also determined three of them—Bolivia, Burma, and Venezuela—as nations which have “failed demonstrably” in the past 12 months to make sufficient or meaningful efforts to adhere to international obligations.

The other 20 countries are: Afghanistan, the Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Do-



minican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

In a memorandum to US secretary of state John Kerry, Obama said a country's presence on the list did not necessarily reflect its counter-narcotics efforts or its level of cooperation with the US on il-

legal drug control. The designation can reflect a combination of geographic, commercial and economic factors that allow drugs to be produced or trafficked through a country, the memorandum said. Noting that cooperation remains the cornerstone for reducing the threat posed by the illegal narcotics trade and related crimes carried out by criminal organisations, Obama said sophisticated drug operations challenge law enforcement officials and policymakers everywhere.

The US shares the view of most countries that the UN drug conventions—without

negotiation or amendment—are resilient enough to unify countries that often hold divergent views on the international narcotics problem, while, at the same time, provide a framework upon which to build the best solutions to it, Obama said.

The US state department, in a statement, said when a country on the list does not fulfil its obligations under international counter-narcotics agreements and conventions, the President determines that the country has “failed demonstrably” to meet its counter-drug obligations.

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