

Punjab Control of Narcotics Substances (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 (IV of 2025)

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An Ordinance

to amend the Punjab Control of Narcotics Substances Act, 2025.

Preamble

Whereas it is necessary to amend the Punjab Control of Narcotics Substances Act, 2025 (LXIV of 2025) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

And whereas the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab is not in session and the Governor of the Punjab is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under clause (1) of Article 128 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Governor of the Punjab is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:

1. Short title and commencement

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the *Punjab Control of Narcotics Substances (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025*.
2. It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of Section 38 of Act LXIV of 2025

In the Punjab Control of Narcotics Substances Act, 2025, in section 38, in sub-section (2), in clause (b), for the word “*three*”, the word “*two*” shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of Section 39 of Act LXIV of 2025

In the Act, in section 39:

(a) In sub-section (1), the expression “*Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force,*” shall be omitted, and for the words “*the Special*”, the words “*The Special*” shall be substituted.

(b) For sub-section (3), the following shall be substituted:

“(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 496 and 497 of the Code, bail shall not be granted to an accused person charged with an offence under this Act or under any other law relating to narcotics where the offence is punishable with life imprisonment.

(4) In case of offences, other than those punishable as provided under sub-section (3), bail, normally, shall not be granted unless the court is of the opinion that it is a case fit for the grant of bail and against the security of a substantial amount.”

4. Amendment of Section 40 of Act LXIV of 2025

In the Act, in section 40:

(a) For clause (a), the following shall be substituted:

“(a) Against the order of the Special Court, as specified in clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 38, to the Lahore High Court, and it shall be heard by a bench consisting of not less than two judges of that Court to be nominated by the Chief Justice, Lahore High Court; and”

(b) In clause (b), for the figure “39”, the figure “38” shall be substituted.

5. Amendment of Section 41 of Act LXIV of 2025

In the Act, in section 41, sub-section (2) shall be omitted.

6. Amendment of Section 44 of Act LXIV of 2025

In the Act, in section 44, for the word “*may*”, the word “*shall*” shall be substituted, and for the full stop “.” at the end, the colon “:” shall be substituted, and thereafter the following shall be inserted:

“Provided that this Act shall be in addition to but not in derogation of CNSA and both shall have coextensive jurisdiction.”

Statement of Objects and Reasons

The Punjab Control of Narcotics Substances Act, 2025 was enacted to provide for control of narcotics substances, controlled substances, and the production, processing, trafficking, and transportation of such drugs and substances, and the prevention of illicit narcotics-related activities.

In order to ensure that the operational and legal setup under the said Act remains thoroughly in harmony with other laws, in particular the *Control of Narcotics Substances Act, 1997*, and in order to avoid any operational and legal bottlenecks leading to effective enforcement and application of the Punjab Control of Narcotics Substances Act, 2025, amendments in the relevant sections have been proposed in the shape of this Ordinance.