स्वापक नियंत्रण ब्यूरो
NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU
सत्यमेव जयते
भारत INDIA
आसूचना प्रवर्तन समन्वय
INTELLIGENCE ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

Say Yes to Life, No to Drugs

NCB DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

No. 651

NEWS INDEX
Date: July 17, 2026

NEWS SUMMARY

News Summary

NCB

- Bihar (Saran): NCB arrested a habitual drug offender under the PITNDPS Act, linked to a major 2024 opium trafficking case.

Heroin/Brown Sugar Trafficking

- Punjab (Faridkot): 300 g heroin seized; 2 arrested.
- Uttar Pradesh (Lakhimpur Kheri): 40 g brown sugar seized; 2 arrested.
- Jharkhand (Jamshedpur): 4.32 g brown sugar seized; 3 arrested.

Ganja / Cannabis Trafficking

- Maharashtra (Nashik): 535 kg ganja seized; 1 arrested.
- Tripura (Sepahijala): 362.1 kg dry ganja seized.
- Telangana (Rachakonda): 237 kg ganja seized; 2 arrested.
- Andhra Pradesh (Anakapalli): 220 kg ganja seized; 3 arrested.
- Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore): 9 kg ganja seized; 1 arrested.

Synthetic Drugs / Psychotropic Substances

- Karnataka (Bagalkot): Over 5 kg MDMA seized; 2 arrested.
- Kerala (Malappuram): 405.64 g MDMA seized; 1 arrested.
- Maharashtra (Mumbai): 106 g mephedrone seized; 1 arrested.
- Tamil Nadu (Tiruchy): 15,000 sedative pills seized; 2 arrested.
- Assam (Dhubri): 600 Yaba tablets seized; 4 arrested.

Convictions / Enforcement

- Madhya Pradesh (Alot): Special NDPS court sentenced the accused to 4 years RI in 2026 ganja case.
- Uttar Pradesh (Pilibhit): Court sentenced the accused to 2 years RI in 2022 charas case.

Emerging Modus Operandi

- Heroin concealed in secret vehicle compartments and soap boxes during interstate transport.
- Car AC pipeline used to conceal MDMA.
- Ganja transported in luxury cars, pickup vehicles, and lorry cabins.
- Contraband stockpiled in forest areas near the international border before cross-border trafficking.
- Criminal networks exploiting legitimate businesses (scrap trade) and jail-based contacts to facilitate interstate drug trafficking.
- Hybrid ganja suspected to be smuggled from Thailand through organised interstate distribution networks.

Key Trends

- Continued large-scale ganja trafficking from Odisha to western and southern India.
- Interstate heroin routes linking Assam and Kerala remain active.
- Increased enforcement against synthetic drugs across multiple states.
- Border regions, particularly the India–Bangladesh border, continue to be vulnerable to narcotics movement.
- Greater focus on dismantling organised trafficking networks, financial linkages, and supply chains alongside preventive awareness initiatives.

NCB

पटना नारकोटिक्स टीम ने पूर्व अफीम तस्कर को पकड़ा, पूछताछ के लिए ले गई

livehindustan.com/national/story-major-opium-trafficking-arrest-binod-rai-detained-by-ncb-201784217498076.amp.html

Newswrap July 16, 2026

शहर के डीडीसी कार्यालय के सामने से पकड़ा गया बिनोद राय, 2024 में अफीम तस्करी मामले से जुड़ा है। एनसीबी की टीम ने उसे हिरासत में लिया और पटना लेकर गई। वह पहले भी गांजा तस्करी के मामले में गिरफ्तार हो चुका है। अधिकारियों ने मामले में अभी विस्तृत जानकारी साझा नहीं की है।

शहर के डीडीसी कार्यालय के सामने से पकड़ा 2024 में सामने आए एक बड़े अफीम तस्करी मामले में जुड़ा था छपरा, हमारे संवाददाता। पटना की नारकोटिक्स कंट्रोल ब्यूरो की टीम ने गुरुवार को अमनौर थाना क्षेत्र के पैगा शेखपुरा दुखन मोड़ के रहने वाले बिनोद राय को पूछताछ के लिए हिरासत में लिया।

बिनोद राय की गिरफ्तारी

टीम ने उसे शहर के कलेक्ट्रेट रोड से पकड़ा और टाउन थाना थाना लाकर आवश्यक कानूनी प्रक्रिया पूरी करने के बाद पटना के लिए रवाना हो गई। गुरुवार को मिली सूचना के आधार पर पटना से पहुंची एनसीबी की टीम ने उसे हिरासत में लिया। नगर थाना को इसकी सूचना देने के बाद टीम उसे अपने साथ पटना लेकर रवाना हो गई, जहां उससे पुराने अफीम तस्करी मामले और अन्य संदिग्ध गतिविधियों के संबंध में पूछताछ की जाएगी। अधिकारियों ने फिलहाल मामले में विस्तृत जानकारी साझा नहीं की है। जानकारी के अनुसार, बिनोद राय का नाम वर्ष 2024 में सामने आए एक बड़े अफीम तस्करी मामले में जुड़ा था। उस समय नेपाल से अफीम की खेप मोतिहारी के रास्ते लाई जा रही थी। एनसीबी की कार्रवाई में खैरा थाना क्षेत्र के समीप बाइक से अफीम लेकर जा रहे दो तस्करों को गिरफ्तार किया गया था। जांच के दौरान इस तस्करी नेटवर्क में बिनोद राय की भूमिका भी सामने आई थी। हालांकि कार्रवाई के दौरान वह फरार हो गया था। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, बिनोद राय इससे पहले ओडिशा में गांजा तस्करी के एक मामले में भी गिरफ्तार हो चुका था। बाद में उसे अदालत से जमानत मिल गई थी, लेकिन जमानत मिलने के बाद वह लंबे समय से फरार चल रहा था। एनसीबी उसकी गतिविधियों पर लगातार नजर रखे हुए थी।

बिनोद राय को 2024 में सामने आए एक बड़े अफीम तस्करी मामले में गिरफ्तार किया गया।

INTERNATIONAL

The Chinese graduate accused of being Mexico's 'fentanyl king'

bbc.com/news/articles/c39ymgggIxeo

By Shawn Yuan July 13, 2026

Government of Mexico

Zhang Zhidong is awaiting trial in the US, accused of drug trafficking and money laundering

"Brother Wang was very important. He was number one," says Enrique, chuckling knowingly.

Enrique – not his real name – describes himself as a high-level co-ordinator in Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, one of the world's most powerful criminal organisations.

On the outskirts of Sinaloa's state capital city, Culiacán, sitting in a parked car where no-one can overhear him, he explains how ingredients to make the deadly drug fentanyl are shipped thousands of miles from Chinese factories to laboratories in Mexico. Members of his cartel credit Brother Wang with establishing this supply chain.

Known in the criminal world as the "king of fentanyl", Brother Wang is a 39-year-old Chinese national, whose real name is Zhang Zhidong, according to the US Department of Justice. Arrested in Mexico in 2024, Zhang later made a dramatic escape before he was recaptured and extradited to the US in 2025.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin. It kills tens of thousands of people each year, mostly in the US, where the finished drug often ends up. A dose as small as a few grains of salt can be lethal.

US President Donald Trump has labelled fentanyl dealers "narco-terrorists", classified the drug and its components as weapons of mass destruction, and used the fentanyl trade as a reason for imposing tariffs on China, Mexico and Canada.

When Zhang appeared in court in New York in 2025, the Deputy Attorney General at the time, Todd Blanche, described him as one of "the world's most dangerous traffickers".

He also accused him of "running a global enterprise that pumped massive quantities of cocaine, fentanyl, and methamphetamine" into the US and laundering "millions in narcotics proceeds".

Zhang has pleaded not guilty and is now awaiting trial. We contacted his lawyer, who declined to comment while the case was ongoing.

Cartel members and former colleagues agreed to speak to the BBC to give a rare glimpse into how they believe Zhang - a graduate of China's most prestigious university - allegedly became a key link in the chain between Chinese chemical manufacturers and Mexcian drugs laboratories.

Zhang the man

Zhang graduated from the prestigious Peking University in Beijing with a Spanish degree in 2010, and a year later travelled to Mexico to work for a Chinese-owned company that mined iron ore. He soon secured a senior role.

Those that knew him at the time saw him as a bright young professional, with an appetite for life abroad.

"He was capable of negotiating with people, very resourceful, and able to adapt to all kinds of environments," says Alex – not his real name - who studied at the same university and later worked in the same mining company as Zhang in Mexico.

He says Zhang spoke excellent Spanish, with an instinct for street language and the ability to talk to anyone – always with a strong Beijing accent.

Alex says doing business in Mexico sometimes involved dealing with the underworld, including the cartels, which control significant areas of the country. Zhang was able to establish relationships with "whoever mattered locally - both the official side and the unofficial side", Alex says.

Zhang loved this aspect of Mexico, according to Alex, who paints a picture of a man drawn to risk and recklessness. He recalls him crashing his boss's car, unconcerned about repercussions, and describes how Zhang drove him out of town one night to shoot pistols at road signs on a deserted highway.

In 2013, the mining company collapsed and Alex returned to China but Zhang stayed in Mexico.

Viewers in the UK can see more on this story on Global Eye at 1900 on BBC Two.

Alex says that a year or two later Zhang began to post on the Peking University Spanish alumni group on WeChat, offering to change dollars at preferable rates. Alex believes he was laundering money.

In addition, cartel member Enrique says Zhang also got involved in drugs. Court filings in the US accuse Zhang of operating "a massive narcotics trafficking and money laundering organization" since June 2016.

Enrique believes Zhang got into a romantic relationship with a female relative of one of the cartel's leaders and suggests this helped him become close to its inner circle.

The supply chain

Another cartel member who ran errands for the organisation, Luis - not his real name - recalls a hot afternoon in 2019, when his bosses asked him to stand guard for a meeting where Zhang "came to offer his products".

Luis says these products were the precursors – the chemical building blocks – needed to manufacture fentanyl. He sees Zhang as the person who effectively introduced him to fentanyl and started this side of the group's business.

Luis says he soon became a fentanyl cook, making the drug in an clandestine laboratory. He says has seen at least five other cooks die in front of him, and believes this is because the substances they were handling seeped through gaps in their protective clothing.

"Sometimes people just pass out, and we have to carry them out of the room," he says.

Enrique describes how orders for precursors would be placed with Zhang, who he says used his contacts in China to secure the chemicals.

The ingredients would then be shipped by air or sea to Mexico, according to Enrique. He says his own network would then distribute them to fentanyl cooks, such as Luis, in the illicit laboratories in Sinaloa.

Pressed on whether he feels guilty for being involved in an industry that causes so many deaths, Enrique says one of his relatives died from a fentanyl overdose. "It shakes your conscience," he says, but adds, "work is work and we don't know another way to make a living".

When asked the same question, Luis says he once tried to stop working in the laboratory, but his boss told him the alternative was to go out on patrol. He says his boss gave him a choice: "You put on the vest, the gear, and you go out and fight - it's either that or working as a cook."

According to Mexican security agencies, Zhang ran illegal operations spanning the Americas, Europe, China and Japan.

Victoria Dittmar, a researcher at InSight Crime, a think tank, has spent years investigating the flow of precursor chemicals into Mexico. She says that brokers – the role it is suggested that Zhang played - sit at the crucial intersection between the chemical producers and the cartels.

She says that people with the kind of reach Zhang is said to have had are "quite unique" and "are key to the supply chain".

"He was a broker that connected Mexican trafficking organisations with Chinese suppliers of precursor chemicals," a world she says it's hard for outsiders to navigate.

"He also had a huge presence in the US," she says. "You don't see that often… one person that can connect three regions."

Mexican authorities said Zhang was responsible for exporting and distributing more than 1,000kg of cocaine, 1,800kg of fentanyl and 600kg of methamphetamine. They also accused him of handling more than $150 million in annual drug proceeds.

The US Department of Justice issued a press release in 2025 with details of the indictment against Zhang. As well as accusing Zhang of drug trafficking, it said he recruited people to open bank accounts on behalf of more than 100 shell companies.

It says they would pick up money, at various locations in the US "deposit that money into the shell company bank accounts, and wire the funds to other beneficiary accounts to be laundered outside of the United States".

At the other end of Zhang's alleged operations sits China. The country is one of the world's top producers and exporters of the precursor chemicals used to make synthetic drugs, according to a 2025 US State Department report.

It says China's chemical industry is "massive", with 160,000 companies, and despite steps by authorities to implement controls, oversight is "insufficiently staffed and equipped".

The Chinese embassy in Washington told the BBC that China is "one of the world's toughest countries on counternarcotics".

It noted that the country scheduled all fentanyl-related substances in 2019, which means they are tightly controlled by the government. They are not banned because some have legitimate uses across multiple industries.

The embassy said China's "extensive and in-depth" counternarcotics co-operation with the US had been "highly productive'.

Escape and arrest

Secretary Omar Harfuch of Mexico's Security and Citizen Protection

Cuban officials apprehended Zhang Zhidong and sent him back to Mexico, where authorities extradited him to the US

Zhang's alleged involvement in the drugs trade came to an abrupt end when he was arrested in Mexico on 31 October 2024.

A judge took the controversial decision to place him under house arrest, but Zhang managed to slip out – reportedly through a hole in a wall – and flee by private jet to Cuba and then on to Russia.

Russian border officials detected his forged papers and he was sent back to Cuba, which returned him to Mexico, from where he was extradited to the United States.

His arrest made headlines around the world. The alumni network of Beijing's Peking University, where Zhang had studied Spanish, was stunned.

"Everybody was talking about it," says Alex. "It was such a shocking story and he's probably one of the most famous people Peking University produced."

In Culiacán, the cartel members say Zhang's absence was felt immediately.

Luis says it became "really hard to get the precursors".

"They took the man and that caused a mess," says Enrique. He says Zhang was "the one with the connections" in China, and the cartels had to "start from scratch and build a new route".

Around the same time, the United States' Drug Enforcement Administration began to detect a decline in fentanyl purity, which it said was "consistent with indicators that many Mexico-based fentanyl cooks are having difficulty obtaining some key precursor chemicals".

But disruption in drug supply chains is usually temporary, in what Dittmar describes as a "constant game of cat and mouse".

Her research has tracked how, when brokers are removed or key chemicals controlled, fentanyl producers adapt by finding substitutes and learning new processes.

Individuals in the supply chain can also be replaced – even, according to the cartel members, ones as deeply and widely connected as Zhang is alleged to have been.

Enrique says there is already someone in the frame – another Chinese person, but he says he can't say more "for my own safety".

Another cartel member, who describes himself as a coordinator responsible for moving goods and personnel within the cartel, says that although "all this started because of him [Brother Wang]… he left lots of connections to help us keep going".

"If he's gone, someone else will step in… the business will not stop."

Mozambique seizes 3.7 tonnes of fentanyl in major narcotics operation — Watch

clubofmozambique.com/news/just-in-mozambique-seizes-3-7-tonnes-of-fentanyl-in-major-narcotics-operation-watch

COM June 14, 2026

Image: Miramar

Mozambique's National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC) has carried out one of the largest drug seizures in the country, with 3.7 tonnes of fentanyl discovered in the warehouses of a private company at Maputo Airport, it was announced on Sunday.

At a press conference, SERNIC spokesperson Hilário Lole said there was "no doubt" that the case involves an international drug trafficking network, stressing that the substance, initially declared as "multivitamins", was confirmed by laboratory tests to be illegal and highly dangerous.

As part of the investigation, a Mozambican national was arrested, who indicated that the recipient and owner of the drugs was a Nigerian national, who has since also been detained by the authorities.

Hilário Lole added that the operation, carried out under efforts to prevent and combat drug trafficking, took place on Friday (12 June) in the warehouses of a private company at Maputo Airport, where the drugs were found packaged in 50 boxes, each containing 30 packets of 2.2 kilograms, totalling 1,500 packets.

Chemical and forensic analyses confirmed that the substance is a synthetic drug composed of denadryl and fentanyl, SERNIC further stated.

“This seizure, particularly of fentanyl, represents an important milestone in the fight against drugs in the country, considering that this drug has an extremely high destructive potential on the health of those who consume it, being more potent than heroin, morphine and cocaine,” said Hilário Lole.

The SERNIC representative stressed the high level of danger posed by the substance, as it involves “extremely potent synthetic opioids” that can cause “severe depression of the central nervous system, leading to intense drowsiness, confusion, breathing difficulties and risk of death”.

Investigations into the case point to an international drug trafficking scheme, as SERNIC had prior knowledge of the shipment, initially believed to be coming from Brazil, but which was ultimately “dispatched from India to Maputo, transiting through Doha”.

The operation included surveillance at the airport to arrest suspects who would attempt to collect the cargo, with investigators identifying a scheme involving the recruitment of local employees.

“It was found that they had put in place mechanisms to recruit Customs officials to collect the cargo,” Lole explained.

Given the risks associated with the substance, the authorities decided to intervene immediately, according to the spokesperson: “To avoid the risk of diversion, considering the highly harmful potential of this drug, particularly fentanyl, SERNIC opted to seize it.”

SERNIC reaffirmed its commitment to continuing the fight against organised crime and transnational trafficking, stating that it remains “determined” to combat organised and transnational crime, “to prevent Mozambique from being used as a corridor or destination for illicit drugs”.

Afghan police seize hundreds of kilograms of illicit drugs, arrest seven smugglers in Nimroz

telanganatoday.com/afghan-police-seize-hundreds-of-kilograms-of-illicit-drugs-arrest-seven-smugglers-in-nimroz

IANS July 16, 2026

Afghan counter-narcotics police seized hundreds of kilograms of illicit drugs, including opium and methamphetamine, and arrested seven suspects in Nimroz province. The bust is part of a wider regional crackdown that dismantled a processing laboratory in Helmand

Kabul: The counter-narcotics police in the fight against illegal drugs have discovered hundreds of kilograms of materials during a series of operations in western Afghanistan's Nimroz province, the counter-narcotics police commander in the province, Mawlawi Esmatullah Ahmad, said Thursday.

The contraband, which includes 84 kg of opium, 130 kg of methamphetamine, and more than 200 kg of other illegal objects used in manufacturing opium and heroin, has been seized over the past week, the official asserted.

Police have also arrested seven persons on charges of involvement in smuggling illegal drugs in the province, the official added, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Similarly, police in the drive against illegal drugs set ablaze 730 kg of opium publicly in the northern Badakhshan province on Wednesday.

On July 4, Afghan police confiscated 60 kg of illicit drugs and arrested two suspected drug smugglers in a targeted operation in northern Takhar province, a local police official reported.

The smugglers had concealed 52 kg of opium and 8 kg of hashish in hidden sections within a vehicle while attempting to transport it to an unknown destination. However, police uncovered the drugs during the raid, said Nizamudin Omir, the provincial police spokesman.

In the fight against illicit drugs, Afghan security personnel thwarted a major drug-trafficking operation on July 2, seizing 215 kg of opium in eastern Ghazni province.

On June 30, provincial directorate for Information and Culture said that the counter-narcotics police in the fight against illegal drugs have discovered and destroyed a drug-processing lab in Helmand province south of Afghanistan.

The illegal laboratory was spotted in Baghran district, the statement said, adding that police also seized a huge quantity of illegal objects that were used in making illegal drugs from the site of operations.

No one was arrested and efforts were being made by police to arrest and bring to justice those involved in the black business, the statement emphasised.

NORTH EAST

Assam: Four drug peddlers held in Dhubri, 600 Yaba tablets seized in police raid

indiatodayne.in/assam/story/assam-four-drug-peddlers-held-in-dhubri-600-yaba-tablets-seized-in-police-raid-1425500-2026-07-16

Mehtab Uddin Ahmed

July 16, 2026

In a major anti-narcotics operation, Dhubri Police arrested four alleged drug peddlers and seized 600 Yaba tablets during a raid at a suspected drug den in the NS Road area opposite Boro Masjid in Dhubri town on Thursday evening, July 16.

In a major anti-narcotics operation, Dhubri Police arrested four alleged drug peddlers and seized 600 Yaba tablets during a raid at a suspected drug den in the NS Road area opposite Boro Masjid in Dhubri town on Thursday evening, July 16.

The operation was carried out by the Dhubri Crime Team with the support of Dhubri Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Pritam Das following specific intelligence inputs about illegal drug activities in the area.

According to police, the accused were caught red-handed while allegedly consuming narcotic substances. A search of the premises led to the recovery of 600 Yaba tablets, which were reportedly packaged and ready for distribution in the local market.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Nur Khan (50), son of late Rezzak Khan; Jahangir Alom (46), son of Nazrul Islam; Saiful Islam (34), son of Ekkabar Ali; and Monisur Islam (52), son of Samser Ali.

Police have registered a case under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

"We are committed to making Dhubri drug-free. This raid is part of our relentless zero-tolerance campaign against the narcotics trade in the region," Officer-in-Charge Pritam Das said.

Police said the four accused are being interrogated to establish the backward and forward linkages of the drug network and identify the suppliers and key operatives behind the racket. The investigation is underway.

Thoubal Police Seize Drugs and Cash in Narcotics Raid

NE **newire.in**/articles/thoubal-police-seize-drugs-and-cash-in-narcotics-raid

Imphal: Thoubal district police busted a drug trafficking ring this week. Officers arrested two men and seized illegal pharmaceuticals along with Rs 16.43 lakh in cash. The raids wrapped up over the past 48 hours following specific intelligence tips.

A police team hit the home of 46-year-old Syed Anish Shah in Lilong Haoreibi Turel Ahanbi Ubakthong Makha. They found 144 Spasmo-Proxyvon capsules and Rs 16,43,750 in cash. Shah told police where to find his associate. Officers then raided Khekman Makha Leikai and picked up Asem Somanda Singh, 46.

Singh lacked valid paperwork for his stash. Police grabbed 324 strips of Samplex+, 126 strips of Spasz+, and 30 bottles of Tussrex-TR from his location. Both men now face charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Police moved them to the local station for interrogation.

Authorities described the operation as a win in the fight against the illicit prescription medicine trade. Officials noted that drugs like Spasmo-Proxyvon, intended as pain relievers, are frequently abused. Police stated: "Drugs such as Spasmo-Proxyvon, originally intended for medical use as pain relievers and antispasmodics, are frequently abused for their opioid-like effects, contributing to substance dependence and addiction, particularly among young people."

Tripura: 362 kg ganja worth Rs 72 lakh seized near Bangladesh border

indiatodayne.in/tripura/story/tripura-362-kg-ganja-worth-rs-72-lakh-seized-near-bangladesh-border-1425492-2026-07-16

Tanmoy Chakraborty July 16, 2026

In a major anti-narcotics operation, Tripura Police, along with the Border Security Force (BSF) and Tripura State Rifles (TSR), seized 362.1 kg of dry cannabis worth an estimated Rs 72.4 lakh from a forested area near the India-Bangladesh border in Sepahijala district.

In a major anti-narcotics operation, Tripura Police, along with the Border Security Force (BSF) and Tripura State Rifles (TSR), seized 362.1 kg of dry cannabis worth an estimated Rs 72.4 lakh from a forested area near the India-Bangladesh border in Sepahijala district.

The joint operation was carried out by personnel from Sonamura Police Station, the 81 Battalion of the BSF, and the 11th Battalion of the Tripura State Rifles in the Kamalnagar Ghatighar area, a border village under Sonamura subdivision.

According to Sonamura Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tapas Das, the raid was launched after police received specific intelligence about narcotics being concealed in the area. The search operation was conducted between 12:30 am and 5:30 am.

During the operation, security personnel recovered 11 plastic drums containing 362.100 kg of dry ganja, which had allegedly been stored for trafficking.

The seized contraband, valued at around Rs 72.40 lakh in the illicit market, was taken into custody after completing the required legal formalities.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to identify those involved in storing and trafficking the narcotics. Officials said efforts are underway to trace the network behind the consignment and further action will be taken based on the investigation.

The seizure is part of intensified anti-drug operations being carried out by Tripura Police and security forces to curb cross-border narcotics trafficking in the region.

SOUTH

Released from Saudi jail on blood money, Kannur man turns interstate drug kingpin

newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2026/Jul/17/released-from-saudi-jail-on-blood-money-kannur-man-turns-interstate-drug-kingpin

Express News Service July 17, 2026

KANNUR: Kannur native, who was released from a Saudi prison upon payment of Rs 80 lakh as blood money, has been arrested for allegedly masterminding an interstate methamphetamine smuggling network that supplied the synthetic drug from Bengaluru to Kerala.

Fazaluddin T, 45, of Karikottakkari, was arrested on July 14, after he was identified as the kingpin of the network.

Police said Fazaluddin was sentenced to jail in Saudi Arabia for the 2006 murder of Mangaluru native Ashraf, 23, while working as a taxi driver. After serving 10 years in prison, he returned to India following a blood money settlement of Rs 80 lakh arranged with the support of voluntary organisations.

In 2023, he was arrested by the Bengaluru police for allegedly possessing and selling 50 kg of cannabis while working at a friend’s tea shop. He spent three years in a Bengaluru jail before release this January.

“While serving time in Bengaluru jail, Fazaluddin established links with a major drug syndicate. Upon release, he returned to Kerala and started working at his relatives’ eatery in Iritty. There, he continued building an extensive distribution network for methamphetamine and other narcotics,” said an officer.

The breakthrough came on June 22, when the police arrested one Denny Abraham for allegedly smuggling meth.

“We got information that drugs were being brought in through passengers and crew of an interstate tourist bus. We conducted an inspection and arrested Denny,” said another officer. Denny’s interrogation and examination of his call records and bank account transactions blew the lid off the interstate drug network run by Fazaluddin, the officer said. After monitoring his activities, the Iritty police arrested Fasaluddin.

2 drug peddlers held in Tiruchy; 15,000 pills seized

dtnext.in/amp/story/news/tamilnadu/2-drug-peddlers-held-in-tiruchy-15000-pills-seized

DT NEXT Bureau

July 16, 2026

TIRUCHY: Tiruchy City police arrested two persons on Thursday on charges of peddling sedative pills and seized 15,000 pills and cash from the duo.

Based on the information received by the Tiruchy City Commissioner of Police N Kamini, that a huge quantity of drugs was hoarded, the police searched a house in Malligai Street at Big Bazaar.

Two persons identified as P Ganesh Pandian (21) and K Karthik (25), who had hoarded a huge quantity of sedative pills, were secured.

Police seized 15,000 pills, cash of Rs 1 lakh, four laptops and a two-wheeler. Upon interrogation, the duo confessed to the police that they were peddling the drugs across the city. Subsequently, they were arrested and remanded under judicial custody.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

MDMA worth Rs 5.2 crore seized in Karnataka, 2 arrested

TIMESOFINDIA.COM | Jul 16, 2026, 09.03 PM IST

BAGALKOT: More than 5 kg of MDMA, valued at Rs 5.20 crore, was seized and two persons were arrested in a major anti-drug operation.
The accused were intercepted on Wednesday at Royal Inn Lodge on the National Highway in Hunagund, Bagalkot district, while allegedly transporting the narcotics from Delhi to Bengaluru, news agency PTI reported.

According to police, the operation was launched following the arrest of a man identified as Annappa Swami on June 25.
During a raid at a house within the Surathkal police station limits, CCBI police recovered 15.17 grams of MDMA from his possession.

His interrogation subsequently led investigators to the alleged suppliers, resulting in the latest arrests.
Police also seized bags and mobile phones from the accused.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the duo was allegedly supplying MDMA in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and parts of Kerala, police said.

Mastermind behind Assam-Kerala heroin trafficking network nabbed

newindianexpress.com/amp/story/cities/kochi/2026/Jul/17/mastermind-behind-assam-kerala-heroin-trafficking-network-nabbed

Express News Service July 17, 2026

KOCHI: The Ernakulam rural police have arrested the alleged kingpin behind an Assam-Kerala heroin trafficking network as part of the ongoing Operation Toofan anti-narcotics drive, in a major breakthrough in the probe into an inter-state heroin trafficking network operating in Kerala.

The accused – Shefikul Islam, 38, a native of Nagaon in Assam – was arrested by a special investigation team led by Ernakulam rural district police chief K S Sudarshan on Thursday.

Police said he was the prime supplier behind the seizure of 609g of heroin, valued at several lakh rupees, from three migrant workers at Angamaly earlier this month. Known as “Dada” in drug trafficking circles, Shefikul had been living in Kerala for nearly 10 years. He initially worked in plywood factories before entering the scrap business and later allegedly shifted to heroin trafficking. According to investigators, he led a lavish lifestyle and frequently travelled between Assam and Kochi by air.

Police said Shefikul sourced heroin from Assam for around Rs 30,000 and sold it in Kerala for Rs 80,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The narcotic was also repackaged into small bottles and sold for around Rs 1,000 per bottle.

According to police, Perumbavoor was his main area of operation. Investigators said he had rented several houses in different parts of Ernakulam district, choosing locations that were unlikely to attract the attention of the police or local residents.

During a search at one of his rented houses at Ponjassery near Perumbavoor, police recovered hundreds of small bottles allegedly used for repackaging heroin. Investigators also found that bank records showed transactions worth lakhs of rupees routed through accounts linked to his scrap business.

Police said the three accused arrested earlier had transported the heroin from Assam to Kerala by car.

The contraband was concealed in secret compartments inside the vehicle and packed in soap boxes hidden inside bags. The vehicle bore an Assam registration. Officials said the seizure of 609g of heroin was the largest single-day heroin seizure ever recorded in Ernakulam district.

Anakapalli district police seize 220 kg ganja worth Rs 1.1 cr

thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/anakapalli-district-police-seize-220-kg-ganja-worth-rs-11-cr-1098258

The Hans India July 17, 2026

Anakapalli district police officials with seized ganja and accused in Anakapalli district on Thursday

A team conducted vehicle checks at Gudivada Junction on the Ravikamatham–Anakapalli road on July 15

Anakapalli: Ravikamatham police achieved a major breakthrough by busting an inter-state ganja smuggling racket and seizing 220 kilograms of contraband worth approximately Rs 1.1 crore. Acting on the directions of District Superintendent of Police Tuhin Sinha and Anakapalli Sub-Division in-charge DSP G R R Mohan, the operation was carried out under the supervision of Kothakota Circle Inspector G Koteswara Rao. Based on credible information, Sub-Inspector M Raghuvarma and his team conducted vehicle checks at Gudivada Junction on the Ravikamatham–Anakapalli road on July 15. During inspection, they intercepted two suspicious luxury cars, leading to the seizure of 220-kg of ganja being illegally transported.

Police arrested three persons identified as Killo Timothy, ganja supplier, Sheikh Mohammed Rafi, buyer, and Sheikh Fayyaz, who was driving one of the vehicles. Police also seized two luxury cars used for transporting the contraband. However, three other occupants travelling in the cars, along with two persons allegedly piloting the convoy on a motorcycle, managed to flee after noticing the police presence.

Efforts are underway to apprehend them as well. Preliminary investigation revealed that Sheikh Mohammed Rafi had contacted local ganja supplier Killo Timothy at Pedabayalu mandal of Alluri Sitarama Raju district a few days ago. Timothy allegedly agreed to supply ganja on a profit-sharing basis. About a month ago, Rafi procured 50-kg of ganja and transported it to Sattenapalli, where it was stored for two days before being sold to Soundar from Hosur.

Police further stated that Rafi and his associates had recently purchased 220-kg of ganja using two cars and a motorcycle after paying an advance amount of Rs 1.50 lakh, with an agreement to pay the rest after selling the contraband to the Tamil Nadu-based buyer.

Special police teams have been constituted to trace and arrest the remaining accused, including two persons from the Agency area, three from Sattenapalli, and Soundar of Hosur, Tamil Nadu.

At a media conference held at the Anakapalli Sub-Division Office, in-charge DSP G R R Mohan felicitated SI M. Raghuvarma, Buchayyapet SI P. Manoj Kumar, and the police personnel who played a key role in the operation. The officers also received cash rewards in recognition of their timely action in preventing the transportation of ganja.

Telangana Police seize 237 kg ganja from lorry on highway

siasat.com/telangana-police-seize-237-kg-ganja-from-lorry-on-highway-3507909

News Desk July 16, 2026

Hyderabad: The Telangana EAGLE Force, along with the Rachakonda Narcotics Police, intercepted a lorry container carrying 237 kg of ganja worth Rs 1.18 crore near YNR Function Hall on National Highway 65 at the Vijayawada-Mumbai stretch, and apprehended two persons, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, the joint team stopped the vehicle and took into custody Rajesh Kumar, the owner-cum-driver of the lorry, and his associate Anil Ranganath Bichare, who was travelling with him, an official said.

According to police, Kumar, a native of Bihar who moved to Mumbai in 2015 and took up truck driving for a living, came in contact around seven months ago with two Pune-based men, Suresh Kedari and Dharam Shindey, who allegedly procure ganja from Odisha and sell it in Pune and Mumbai.

When Rajesh Kumar expressed interest in buying a second-hand lorry container, the duo offered to fund the purchase in exchange for his help transporting ganja from Odisha, police said. He bought the vehicle about four months ago, with Kedari and Shindey chipping in Rs 3 lakh towards the cost.

Bichare, a labourer from Pune, had reportedly been assisting the duo with the Odisha-to-Pune ganja run for the past two years.

The trail from Vijayawada to Rayagada

Police said Kedari and Shindey handed Rajesh Kumar Rs 1.5 lakh on July 7, Rs 70,000 as commission and Rs 80,000 towards travel, and directed him to contact one Pabitra Kumar Sabar, alias Pitambar Sabar, in Vijayawada. Bichare accompanied him on the trip.

The two reached Vijayawada on July 11 and, after unloading a consignment of PVC pipes at the airport there, travelled with Sabar to Gunpur village in Odisha's Rayagada district. With ganja unavailable at the time, they were told to wait, then asked to move to Visakhapatnam for two more days.

On the night of July 14, Sabar arrived in a four-wheeler and handed over 10 gunny bags containing 237 kg of ganja, the police said.

The duo were intercepted by EAGLE Force while heading towards Pune via Hyderabad. They initially claimed to have travelled only as far as Visakhapatnam, but their call detail records showed visits to Rayagada district, following which they admitted to concealing the ganja in the lorry's cabin, police said.

Hunt on for absconding accused

A case has been registered at Rachakonda Narcotics Police Station and police said further investigation was on to trace Kedari, Shindey and Sabar, all of whom remain absconding, and to dismantle the wider network.

Police said EAGLE Force has kept a close watch on ganja movement from Odisha into the state and elsewhere in the country and has seized around 1,500 kg of the contraband in the past two months alone.

Coimbatore college student held with 9 kg of ganja

TOI **timesofindia.indiatimes.com**/city/coimbatore/coimbatore-college-student-held-with-9-kg-of-ganja/amp_articleshow/132439029.cms

Tysion Prabhu

July 16, 2026

COIMBATORE: A postgraduate student was arrested by the Podanur police after 9 kg of ganja was seized from him on Wednesday. The arrested has been identified as P Sivasakthi, 23, of Ariyalur district. He is a second-year postgraduate student in a private college at Saravanampatti here and staying in a rented house in the area.

The Podanur police on Wednesday received intelligence about ganja peddling on the Salem-Kochi National Highway. Following this, a patrol team conducted checks on the highway. They noticed a youth standing suspiciously in front of a bakery. The team questioned him, but as he gave contradictory replies, police searched him and found 200 gram of ganja in his possession.

The youth was taken to the police station for further inquiry. During interrogation, Sivasakthi told police that he had kept more ganja in his room. Police searched his room and seized 9 kg of ganja from there. Further inquiries revealed that he had procured ganja from Chennai with the help of Gokul and Akilan and was supplying it to college students and others in and around Coimbatore.

The Podanur police registered a case under Section 8(c) read with 20(b)(ii)(B) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and Section 123 of BNS. He was remanded in judicial custody.

मलप्पुरम में 400 ग्राम से ज्यादा एमडीएमए जब्त, एक गिरफ्तार

hindi.theprint.in/india/over-400-grams-of-mdma-seized-in-malappuram-one-arrested/1000278

भाषा

July 16, 2026

मलप्पुरम (केरल), 16 जुलाई (भाषा) जिले में एक व्यक्ति के पास से 400 ग्राम से ज्यादा एमडीएमए जब्त होने के बाद उसे गिरफ्तार किया गया है। पुलिस ने बृहस्पतिवार को यह जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने बताया कि गिरफ्तार व्यक्ति अनिल (44) उर्फ थुप्रान मणि वेंगारा के कन्नडिपडी का मूल निवासी है।

जिला मादक पदार्थ रोधी विशेष कार्य बल (डीएएनएसएएफ) पिछले कुछ दिनों से अनिल पर नजर रख रहा था। उन्हें सूचना मिली थी कि उसने भारी मात्रा में मादक पदार्थ एकत्र किया है और उन्हें बेचने की कोशिश कर रहा है। बुधवार शाम को, पुलिस की एक टीम ने डीएएनएसएएफ के साथ मिलकर आरोपी को अंगदीपुरम में रेलवे ओवरब्रिज के नीचे खड़ी एक कार में पकड़ा।

पुलिस को देखते ही आरोपी ने कथित तौर पर भागने की कोशिश की, लेकिन स्थानीय लोगों की मदद से उसे रोक लिया गया।

गाड़ी की तलाशी लेने पर, कार के एसी की पाइप में छिपाकर रखे गए मादक पदार्थ के कई पैकेट बरामद हुए।

पुलिस ने बताया कि इन पैकेटों में 405.64 ग्राम एमडीएमए था, जिसकी कीमत अवैध बाजार में 15 लाख रुपये से ज्यादा है।

WEST

Maha needs collective effort to be drug-free: CM Fadnavis

thehansindia.com/news/national/maha-needs-collective-effort-to-be-drugfree-cm-fadnavis-1098158

The Hans India July 16, 2026

Mumbai: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday called for a collective public movement to build a strong, drug-free Maharashtra.

At a high-level review meeting, he directed authorities to uproot the illicit economy surrounding natural and synthetic drug manufacturing, supply, and trade. He announced that awareness about the adverse effects of drug abuse will be integrated into the school curriculum for classes 7 to 10.

Fadnavis said the focus will be on curriculum integration, campus policies, de-addiction networks, healthcare, legal measures, and incentives. School principals and college directors must declare campuses as drug-free zones.

He noted that a robust network of de-addiction centres will be established in coordination with NGOs, the Medical Education Department, the Public Health Department, and the Anti-Narcotics Cell.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has been directed to set up multidisciplinary centres in Mumbai, while government hospitals will reserve beds for de-addiction treatment.

Special fast-track courts will be set up to ensure speedy trials under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Prosecutors will undergo specialised training to secure higher conviction rates.

Police have been instructed to track down peddlers, map supply networks, and intensify patrols in high-risk zones.

A reward scheme will be launched for citizens who provide confidential information that leads to drug busts. Police officers who demonstrate exemplary performance will receive a 3 per cent salary advance and special awards.

Investigating officers will be allowed air travel under operational requirements.

According to the government, in 2025, the Maharashtra Police registered 17,611 cases and seized 56,206 kg of narcotics worth Rs 1,340 crore. A total of 15,994 accused were arrested, including 72 foreign nationals.

Earlier, during the Monsoon Session, Fadnavis announced zero-tolerance measures against drug syndicates. Police personnel found involved in drug crimes will be dismissed from service.

He personally reviews narcotics cases daily and has directed anti-narcotics squads to be set up in every police station.

The Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), 1999, has been amended to classify large-scale drug trafficking as organised crime, making bail difficult and enabling property seizure.

The government also proposed stricter laws against adults using minors as couriers and initiated SOPs to deport foreign nationals running drug rings.

Man held with 106 grams of mephedrone worth Rs 26.50 lakh

theprint.in/india/man-held-with-106-grams-of-mephedrone-worth-rs-26-50-lakh/2988543

PTI July 16, 2026

Mumbai, Jul 16 (PTI) Mumbai police's Anti Narcotics Cell (ANC) seized mephedrone worth Rs 26.50 lakh allegedly from a 56-year-old man from Nagpada in the southern part of the metropolis on Thursday, an official said. The man was held by the ANC's Bandra unit in the afternoon when a team was patrolling Arab Galli, he […]

Mumbai, Jul 16 (PTI) Mumbai police's Anti Narcotics Cell (ANC) seized mephedrone worth Rs 26.50 lakh allegedly from a 56-year-old man from Nagpada in the southern part of the metropolis on Thursday, an official said.

The man was held by the ANC's Bandra unit in the afternoon when a team was patrolling Arab Galli, he added.

"The man was found moving in a suspicious manner, and during a search, we recovered 106 grams of mephedrone worth Rs 26.50 lakh from him. He was arrested under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act," the official said. PTI ZA BNM

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Hybrid ganja worth Rs 11.58L seized from bungalow in Ghuma

ahmedabadmirror.com/hybrid-ganja-worth-rs-1158l-seized-from-bungalow-in-ghuma/81917947.html

Ahmedabad Mirror Jul 17, 2026 06:00 AM | UPDATED: Jul 17, 2026 01:48 AM | 8 min read July 17, 2026

Ahmedabad Crime

One accused held; Thai link suspected; A'bad Rural SOG traces V'dara supplier

The Special Operations Group (SOG) of Ahmedabad Rural Police on Wednesday night busted an alleged narcotics racket and seized 313 grams of high-grade hybrid ganja worth Rs 11.58 lakh from the bungalow of Raju Sapra (31) in Surya Nagar, Ghuma. Cops suspect that the contraband was being supplied to local customers through a well-organised distribution network.

Acting on a specific tip-off, an SOG team conducted a raid at Sapra's residence and recovered the contraband from the accused's trouser pockets and from a bedroom cupboard. Preliminary tests confirmed that it was hybrid ganja. The narcotics have been sent for forensic examination, while a case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Sapra reportedly told investigators that the consignment had been delivered to him by a man from Vadodara. Based on his statement, the SOG recovered a mobile phone number believed to belong to the suspected supplier and registered in Vadodara. Police have launched technical surveillance to trace the suspect. They suspect that Sapra and the supplier were jointly operating a distribution network catering to customers in Ahmedabad and nearby areas. Police have now intensified efforts to uncover the entire supply chain behind the racket.

Initial findings indicate that the seized hybrid ganja may have been illegally smuggled from Thailand through an organised interstate network. Officials are also examining whether the accused had received previous consignments and if the operation has links with larger interstate or international drug trafficking syndicates.

Police said further investigation is underway to establish the source of the narcotics, identify other members of the network, and determine the extent of the distribution chain. More arrests are expected as the investigation progresses.

535kg ganja worth over Rs 1 crore seized near Pimpalgaon toll plaza in Nashik, driver held

timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nashik/535kg-ganja-worth-over-rs-1-crore-seized-near-pimpalgaon-toll-plaza-in-nashik-driver-held/amp_articleshow/132445015.cms

Santosh Sonawane   July 16, 2026

Nashik: In a major anti-narcotics operation, the Nashik Rural police seized 535kg of ganja (cannabis) valued at over Rs 1 crore from a pickup near the Pimpalgaon toll plaza on the Nashik-Malegaon highway. The police have arrested the driver of the vehicle.

The raid was carried out on the night of July 14 following a tip-off that a consignment of drugs was being transported from Nashik towards Malegaon.

Inspector Ganesh Gurav, of the Pimpalgaon police station, received specific information about the movement of the contraband and immediately deployed a special team at the toll plaza. The suspected vehicle was intercepted and searched in the presence of panch witnesses.

During the search, the police found 535kg of ganja concealed inside the pickup. Rahul Patil, the 33-year-old driver from Mutki in Dhule district, was taken into custody on the spot.

The police said the combined value of the seized ganja and the vehicle is estimated at over Rs 1.1 crore.

The action comes as part of an intensified drive against illegal trades and narcotics smuggling launched by the Nashik Rural police following directives from superintendent of police D S Swami to crack down on drug trafficking in the district.

A case has been registered against the accused at the Pimpalgaon police station under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The operation was carried out under the guidance of the SP, the additional superintendent of police and the sub-divisional police officer of Nashik Rural.

Pune Police to Strengthen Coordination With Schools and Colleges for Drug-Free City Campaign: Commissioner Amitesh Kumar

punekarnews.in/pune-police-to-strengthen-coordination-with-schools-and-colleges-for-drug-free-city-campaign-commissioner-amitesh-kumar

Rahul Dolare

July 16, 2026

Reported by Mubarak Ansari Pune, 16th July 2026: In a major push to make Pune drug-free, the Pune City Police has launched a comprehensive outreach initiative to strengthen coordination with schools and colleges across the city.

As part of the campaign, a special interaction was held with principals, teachers, and management representatives of educational institutions at Ganesh Kala Krida Manch.

Pune Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar said that under the ‘Campus Connect’ initiative, educational institutions will play an active role in creating awareness among students on the dangers of drug abuse, while also promoting discipline, cyber safety, women’s safety, and traffic awareness.

“Through the Campus Connect initiative, we aim to build stronger partnerships with schools and colleges to educate students about the harmful effects of drugs and encourage responsible behaviour. Educational institutions are key stakeholders in making Pune a drug-free city,” said Amitesh Kumar, Commissioner of Police, Pune.

To improve coordination, the Pune City Police will create WhatsApp groups involving police stations, police outposts, and the management of schools and colleges. These groups will facilitate quicker communication and help address local issues through coordinated action.

Commissioner Kumar said that over the next month, police officers will visit all schools and colleges in the city to interact with students, teachers, and management teams as part of the awareness drive.

Reiterating the police department’s zero-tolerance policy against narcotics, Kumar said strict action is being taken against drug peddlers and identified drug hotspots across Pune.

“Pune Police has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against the sale and consumption of drugs. We are taking action against drug peddlers and hotspots on a war footing. I appeal to students and parents to embrace the message of ‘Say No to Drugs’ and actively support this campaign,” Kumar said.

The initiative is part of the Pune Police’s broader strategy to curb drug abuse through community participation and preventive awareness, with educational institutions expected to play a central role in reaching young people.

NORTH

Financial Investigation under Chapter VA of the NDPS Act: A Study of the Relationship between Criminal Investigation and Financial Investigation - Part - I

JULY 17, 2026

By Srinivasan Gopal, Assistant Director(retd.), Nacin

Introduction

THE Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, for short the 'NDPS Act' was enacted by the Parliament and came into effect on 16 September 1985 in pursuance of India's obligations under the Single Convention, 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Both these Conventions dealt with Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances respectively. With India becoming signatory to the 1988 International Convention on NDPS, a need was felt for amendment and according to give effect to the provisions of the 1988 International Convention, the amending Act No. 2 of 1989 was passed, which gave effect to the provisions of the 1988 International Convention.

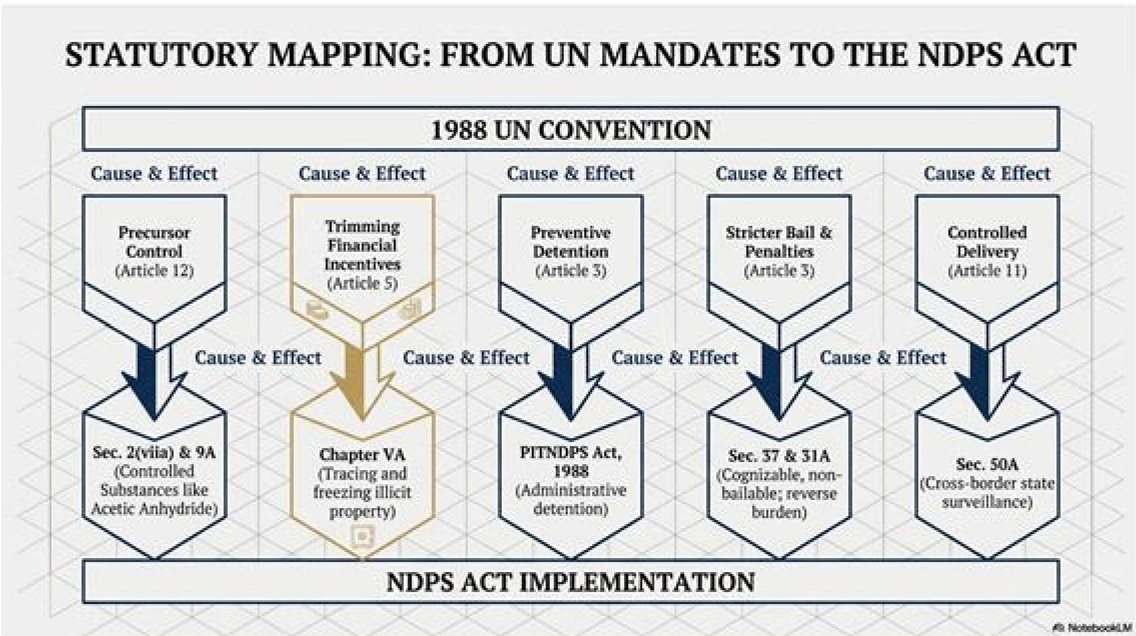
The structural features of the 1988 UN Convention that were brought directly into the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 are as per the Tabulation below:

Feature Mapping: 1988 UN Convention vs. NDPS Act, 1985

1988 UN Convention Feature	**Corresponding NDPS Act Provision / Implementation**	**Key Impact & Legal Mechanism**
Precursor Control *(Article 12)*	**Section 2(viia) & Section 9A**	Created a new category called Precursor Chemicals. They are substances which are used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In India, it is called ***"Controlled Substances".*** India exercises 'control' over the substances in Schedule A, B, and C to 2013 RCS Order and hence we have termed it 'controlled substances'. The RCS Order, 2013 is to monitor controlled substances (e.g., *Acetic Anhydride*) and to track trade and prevent chemical diversion.
Trimming Financial Incentives *(Article 5: Confiscation)*	**Chapter VA** *(Sections 68A to 68Y)*	Inserted a complete chapter enabling the **tracing, freezing, and forfeiture of illegally acquired property** derived from, or used in, illicit traffic. It effectively targets finances of drug syndicates.
Preventive Detention *(Preamble & Article 3)*	**PITNDPS Act, 1988** *(Companion Legislation)*	Passed alongside the 1989 amendments. The **Prevention of Illicit Traffic in NDPS Act** allows for the administrative preventive detention of regular traffickers without a trial to break operational chains.
Stricter Bail & Penalties	**Section 37 & Section 31A**	Made all major offences **cognizable and non-bailable,** establishing a reverse burden of proof where bail is denied unless the court is convinced

(Article 3: Sanctions)		of innocence. It also introduced death penalties for specific repeat offences.
Controlled Delivery *(Article 11)*	**Section 50A**	Legally validated the executive mechanism of *"**Controlled Delivery**"*. This permits suspect shipments of drugs or precursors to cross borders under state surveillance to trap high-level drug lords

Note: 68Z in Chapter VA was inserted *vide* Section 38 of Act 9 of 2001 and came into effect from 02 October 2001.



The Legislative background to introduction of Chapter VA of NDPS Act

At the time of the enactment of the NDPS Act, 1985, organised illicit drug trafficking had not yet assumed the scale, sophistication and transnational dimensions that characterise it today. During the succeeding years, the global narcotics landscape underwent a profound transformation. The focus gradually shifted from conventional narcotic drugs to synthetic psychotropic substances, clandestine manufacture, and the diversion of precursor chemicals (described in India as *"controlled substances"*). Simultaneously, the enormous financial gains generated through illicit traffic became the economic backbone of organised drug crime, attracting organised criminal syndicates, including those previously engaged in other forms of smuggling and contraband trafficking. In several jurisdictions, such syndicates wielded considerable economic, political, and coercive influence, posing a serious challenge to the rule of law. India was not immune to these emerging challenges. The growing nexus between illicit drug trafficking, organised crime and illegally acquired wealth underscored the need for a legal framework directed not merely at prosecuting traffickers but also at depriving them of the economic resources that financed existing criminal enterprises and encouraged the emergence of new criminal syndicates, albeit on varying scales.

It was against this changing international landscape that India became a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. Recognising that merely prosecuting traffickers would not dismantle organised drug syndicates unless their economic foundations were simultaneously destroyed, **Article 5 of the Convention** obligated State Parties to adopt effective legislative measures for tracing, identifying, freezing, seizing, and confiscating the proceeds and instrumentalities of illicit traffic. In discharge of these international obligations, Parliament introduced the comprehensive and self-contained **Chapter VA** dealing with the forfeiture of illegally acquired property through the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1989 (Act 2 of 1989), which came into force on 29 May 1989.

Importance of Chapter VA of NDPS Act

Out of all the provisions, the insertion of Chapter VA into the NDPS Act was landmark as it recognised the importance of neutralising the illegal gains accumulated through illegally acquired property - movable or immovable, tangible or intangible or corporeal or incorporeal - earned out of illicit traffic.

Chapter VA was initially titled as *"**Forfeiture of property derived from, or used in illicit traffic.**"* The title was rechristened *vide* Act 6 of 2014 with effect from 01 May 2014 and the same reads now as *"**Forfeiture of illegally Acquired Property".***

Primarily meant to target, *inter alia,* persons accused of 'dealing' in narcotic drug and psychotropic substance in commercial quantity cases, or a person convicted of a similar offence of a competent court of criminal jurisdiction abroad or a detenu under PITNDPS Act, 1988, whose Detention Order has not been revoked. The definitions of the term 'relative' and 'associate' are vast enough to cover all conceivable permutation and combination.

Basics of NDPS Act - Issuance of Search Warrant v. Search Authorisation

Section 41(1) enables a Judicial First Class Magistrate (JFCM) to issue a search warrant based on the evidence placed before him, and to record the reasons to believe that any narcotic drug, psychotropic substance, or controlled substance in respect of which an offence punishable under the NDPS Act has been committed, or any document or article which may furnish evidence of such offence, or any illegally acquired property liable to seizure, freezing, or forfeiture under Chapter VA, is kept or concealed.

Similar power has been conferred under Section 41(2) of the NDPS Act in respect of the Gazetted Officers of the departments mentioned in Section 42.

Search, seizure and arrest under NDPS Act

The NDPS Act provides for search between sunrise and sunset and between sunset and sunrise. In respect of the latter operations, it essential that *"the Grounds of Belief"*, in addition to other mandatory compliances are complied with. Section 42 primarily deals enclosed space while Section 43 deals with public space and the Explanation appended to Section 43 defines *"public space."*

The operations under the NDPS Act gets triggered based on information received reduced into writing and submitting it to the official superior (applicable only in respect of non-gazetted officer under Section 42 of the NDPS Act; in respect of Gazetted Officer, they would reduce the information and send it to the immediate subordinate for execution.) or personal knowledge. The proceedings would generally happen under Section 42 or Section 43 of the NDPS Act by drawal of a panchnama in the presence of independent witnesses and the drugs, articles, plant and machinery, raw materials, cash, conveyances, equipments, utensils, etc., are seized and they become the property of the Ld. Court and it is only the Ld. Court which has control over it.

At this stage it is necessary to understand that the search, seizure, and arrest is effected by an officer empowered and notified under Section 42 of the NDPS Act. It is noteworthy to mention that the empowered officers under Section 42 belonging to Central Government have also been simultaneously empowered under Section 53 too. However, this is not the situation with reference to empowered officers of the Revenue, police force, falling under the respective State Governments. This is of vital importance because what has happened under Section 42 or Section 43 is search, seizure, and arrest formalities and it is the officer who is empowered under Section 53 of the NDPS Act who can conduct post-seizure investigation. Post-seizure investigation includes Financial Investigation, which is required to be conducted under Section 57A of the NDPS Act within a period of 90 days from the date of seizure/arrest and this direction has been held to be directory and not mandatory in nature.

Section 57A - Time period of 90 days is directory

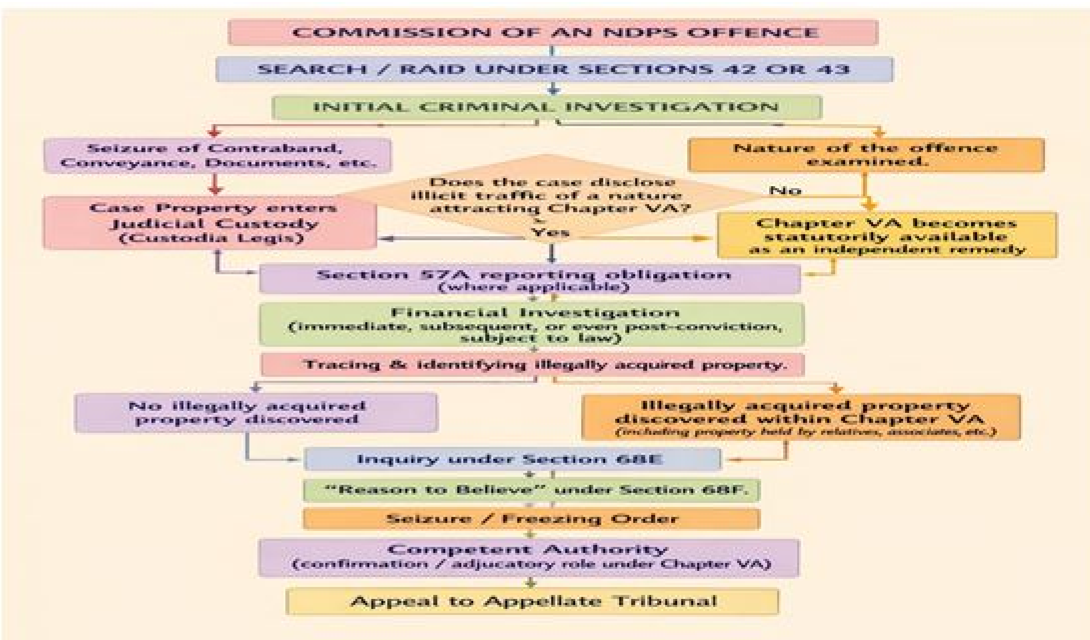
The 90-day period cannot be viewed in isolation. It must be harmoniously read with Section 68A, forming part of Chapter VA. Where the applicability of Chapter VA itself depends upon a future event, such as conviction by the Ld. Trial Court or non-revocation of the Detention Order under PITNDPS Act,1988, etc., strict adherence to the 90-day period from the date of arrest or seizure may become impossible. Section 68A also extends to relatives, associates, and holders of illegally acquired property. Parliament cannot be presumed to have enacted a provision in a manner that renders compliance impossible or the law itself dysfunctional. The legislative presumption is always that statutes are designed to operate effectively, not to become otiose or self-defeating.

Analysis of Section 57A

A quick reading of Section 57A reveals that every seizure under Sections 42 or 43 does automatically attract Chapter VA. However, on a careful analysis this is incorrect because of the use of conjunctive 'and'. The fact remains that an empowered officer under Section 53 makes a search, seizure, and arrest under the NDPS Act, and the provisions of Chapter VA does not apply merely because a case, for example, of commercial quantity is made out. If the empowered officer does unearth illegally acquired property, he shall issue a freezing or seizing order and shall mark a copy of the same to the jurisdictional Competent Authority within 48 hours. Meaning thereby, both the conditions should be fulfilled.

Hence, by implications, Section 57A appears to recognise the statutory distinction between the initial arrest or seizure under the NDPS Act and the subsequent applicability of Chapter VA. The use of the conjunctive 'and' indicates that the reporting obligation to the Competent Authority arises only where, in addition to the initial arrest or seizure, the statutory conditions for invoking Chapter VA are satisfied.

The proposition for the trigger is depicted in the following visual:



The Core Action under Section 42 and Section 43

A careful reading of Section 42 and 43 reveals as under:

Section 42

> *………………. if he **has reason to believe from personal knowledge or information** given by any person and taken down in writing that any narcotic drug, or psychotropic substance, or controlled substance in respect of which an offence punishable under this Act has been committed or **any document or other article which may furnish evidence of the commission of such offence or any illegally acquired property or any document or other article which may furnish evidence of holding any illegally acquired property which is liable for seizure** or freezing or forfeiture under Chapter VA of this Act is kept or concealed in any building, conveyance or enclosed place,"*

Section 43

……………….any document or other article which ***he has reason to believe*** *may furnish evidence of the commission of an offence punishable under this Act or any document or other article which may* ***furnish evidence of holding any illegally acquired property which is liable for seizure*** *or freezing or forfeiture under Chapter VA of this Act; …………."*

A cursory glance reveals the use of the phrase of ***any document or other article which may furnish evidence of the commission of such offence or any illegally acquired property or any document or other article which may furnish evidence of holding any illegally acquired property which is liable for seizure"*** and goes on to state ***"or freezing or forfeiture under Chapter VA of this Act;***

It is to be noted that there might be an occasion during initial search proceedings under Section 42 or Section 43, the empowered officer is able to lay his hands on any document or other article which may furnish evidence of the commission of such offence or any illegally acquired property or any document or other article which may furnish evidence of holding any illegally acquired property. If this be the case, it is to be noted that these shall be subjected to Seizure Proceedings under Section 42 or Section 43 of NDPS Act.

Financial Investigation (FI)- Explained

A Financial Investigation is the post-seizure analytical process that traces, identifies, unearths, and proves the origin and movement of movable and immovable (whether in original or altered condition) from illicit traffic in narcotic drug or psychotropic substance operates under Chapter VA (Sections 68A-68Y) of the NDPS Act. Controlled substances by legal interpretation are outside the ambit of Chapter VA on account of the wordings in Section 68A(2)(a) of the NDPS Act.

It is only when the empowered officer under Section 53 conducts a post-seizure investigation, he is also mandated to undertake take an independent Financial Investigation as mandated under Section 57A of the NDPS Act, for which he has to take recourse under Chapter VA wherein after tracing and identifying the property obtained through illicit traffic, the freezing or forfeiture under Chapter VA comes into play.

Distinct Supervisory Frameworks: Criminal Investigation *vis a vis* Financial Investigation

The NDPS Act appears to envisage two distinct, though complementary, investigative streams. The first is the conventional criminal investigation culminating in the filing of a complaint or charge-sheet before the Ld. Special Court. The second is the Financial Investigation contemplated under Chapter VA, directed towards tracing, identifying and ultimately forfeiting illegally acquired property. Although both investigations may arise from the same offence, they operate within different statutory frameworks and are subject to different supervisory mechanisms.

During the criminal investigation, the empowered officer investigates the commission of the offence, collects evidence, records statements, effects seizures, arrests the accused and, upon completion of the investigation, files a complaint or charge-sheet. Throughout this process, the investigating officer functions under the administrative and departmental hierarchy prescribed by the respective organisation.

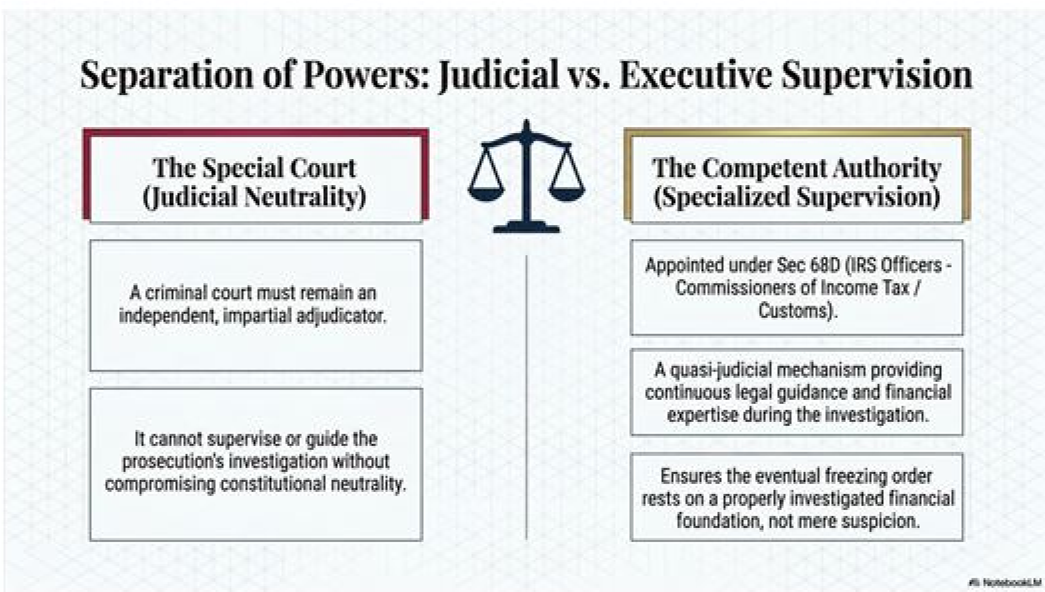
Once the empowered officer embarks upon a Financial Investigation under Chapter VA, the empowered officer is statutorily required to determine the **nature, source, disposition, movement, title and ownership of the property, identify its nexus with illicit traffic and objectively establish whether it answers the statutory description of *"illegally acquired property"***. Recognising this, the Competent Authority has been vested with powers under Section 68(3) with the power to issue such directions or guidelines as may be considered necessary to the empowered officer conducting the Financial Investigation. Implicitly, the Financial Investigation conducted under the directions and guidance of the Competent Authority, who functions as a statutory supervisory authority.

Why such distinction?

The distinction is both logical and necessary. A criminal court is constitutionally required to remain an independent and impartial adjudicator. It cannot ordinarily supervise or guide the prosecution in the conduct of the investigation without compromising its adjudicatory neutrality.

On the other hand, the Competent Authority is a specialised quasi-judicial authority created under Chapter VA to provide directions and guidance during the Financial Investigation. The investigating officer, therefore, continues to investigate, while the Competent Authority ensures that the investigation remains focused on the jurisdictional requirements prescribed under Chapter VA.

The Financial Investigation is not finding 'illegally acquired property". It goes much more beyond this.



What are the requirements contemplated in an FI?

Chapter VA contains a series of safeguards and it is required to understood, the Chapter VA has inbuilt conditions precedent set out and these are required to be fulfilled prior to issuing a seizing or a freezing order. At the outset, every property, initially, subject to Chapter VA is undoubtedly illegal property. But every illegal property does not **necessarily qualify** as *"illegally acquired property"* within the meaning of Chapter VA.

A property may have been obtained by proceeds of corruption, contract killing, organised crime, customs fraud, CGST/SGST tax evasion, illegal mining, hawala transactions, unlicensed/unregistered commercial activities, or other criminal offences such as arms dealings. Such property may undoubtedly be tainted and liable to action under the respective governing statutes. It is in this context, it is necessary to understand that what is covered under Chapter VA is to be linked to the proceeds of crime obtained through illicit traffic and hence, the empowered officer, through the statutory process of tracing and identifying, should link and prove that the property was derived from, or used in, illicit traffic as contemplated under the NDPS Act, failing which the requirements of Chapter VA remain unfulfilled.

Keeping in view the specific requirements, the empowered officer determine the nature, source, disposition, movement, title, and ownership of the property before arriving at the statutory conclusion that it constitutes *"illegally acquired property"* under the NDPS Act. Meaning there, the FI is directed towards establishing that the property belongs to the special statutory category created by Chapter VA.

Appoint of Competent Authority

The Competent Authority, appointed under Section 68D, are basically from the Indian Revenue Service (Income tax; Customs and Indirect Taxes) of the rank of Commissioner. Being a specialist in taxation (Direct Tax or Indirect Tax), the powers vested in the Competent Authority in Section 68E(3) assume significance and by issuing directions and guidance, the Competent Authority can steer the FI in the right directions.

Purpose of the Competent Authority and the Quasi-Judicial Mechanism

The appointment of the Competent Authority and the incorporation of a quasi-judicial mechanism under Chapter VA appear to be a conscious legislative choice. Financial Investigation under Chapter VA is not confined to the mere collection of evidence. It requires the empowered officer to objectively determine the nature, source, disposition, movement, title, and ownership of the property; identify its nexus with illicit traffic; evaluate competing explanations put forth by the affected person; and ultimately arrive at legally sustainable *"reasons to believe"* that the property constitutes *"illegally acquired property"* within the meaning of the Act. These are specialised statutory functions requiring continuous supervision, legal guidance and financial expertise.

It is perhaps for this reason that Parliament has entrusted the office of the Competent Authority to officers of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) and the Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Indirect Taxes), who possess specialised knowledge and experience in financial matters. Section 68E(3) empowers the Competent Authority to issue directions and guidance to the officer conducting the Financial Investigation. The objective appears to be to ensure that the investigation proceeds in accordance with the statutory discipline prescribed under Chapter VA and that the eventual Seizing or Freezing Order rests upon a properly investigated financial foundation rather than on mere suspicion or assumption. Consequently, every empowered officer conducting a Financial Investigation, irrespective of the department to which he belongs or his individual qualifications, may seek guidance from the Competent Authority in the discharge of his statutory functions.

This supervisory role could not ordinarily be entrusted to the Special Court trying offences under the NDPS Act. A criminal court is constitutionally required to function as an independent and impartial adjudicatory institution. Judicial neutrality demands that the Court should neither supervise nor guide the prosecution in the way a Financial Investigation is conducted. Were the Court to advise the investigating agency regarding the tracing of assets, examination of financial records, identification of beneficial ownership, or evaluation of competing financial explanations, legitimate questions could subsequently arise regarding its institutional neutrality while adjudicating the criminal trial. The statutory scheme, therefore, appears to preserve the constitutional separation between investigation and adjudication by entrusting supervisory guidance during the Financial Investigation to the Competent Authority while reserving the adjudicatory function to the Special Court.

Viewed in this perspective, the creation of the Competent Authority is not merely an administrative arrangement. It forms an integral component of the legislative architecture of Chapter VA, ensuring that Financial Investigation remains specialised, legally guided, institutionally supervised and constitutionally distinct from the criminal adjudicatory process.

Meeting of requirements under Chapter VA

The following steps are involved in the FI conducted under Chapter VA

- Receipt of credible information;

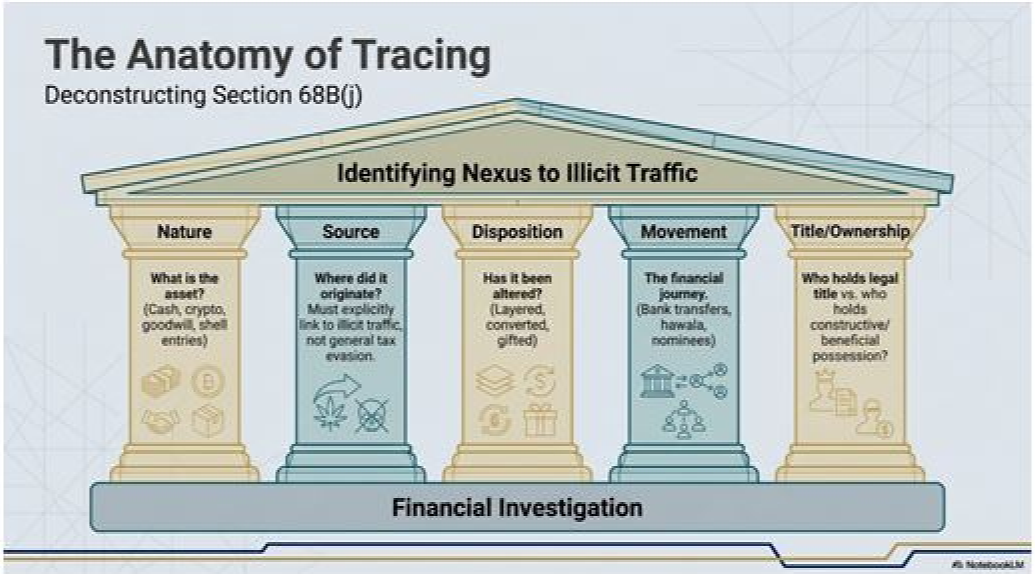
- Satisfaction of the empowered officer that the information warrants action under Chapter VA;

- Tracing the property by determining its **nature, source, disposition, movement, title, or ownership** ;

- Identifying the property by establishing that it was derived from, or used in, illicit traffic; and

- Recording the statutory "reasons to believe" before exercising the powers contemplated under Chapter VA.

Commencement of Chapter VA proceedings - Explained



Chapter VA exercise commences with the process of tracing. Section 68B(j) defines ***"tracing"*** to mean determining the nature, source, disposition, movement, title or ownership of the property. Each of these expressions carries a distinct legal significance.

Determining the nature of the property requires the empowered officer to ascertain the true character of the illegally acquired property. The inquiry is not merely confined to identifying whether the property is cash, jewellery, immovable property etc. It also extends to determining whether the property falls under *"illegally acquired property"* within the meaning of Chapter VA. The inquiry into the nature of the property is of huge importance to determine the character of the property itself-whether it is cash, bank deposits, gold, jewellery, immovable property, shares, securities, cryptocurrency, business interests, goodwill, trademarks, patents, trading in accommodation entries, or any other form of property. The objective is to identify the precise asset that is alleged to constitute illegally acquired property.

Determining the **source** requires the empowered officer to ascertain the origin from which the property was acquired. This is perhaps the most crucial component of the Financial Investigation. The empowered officer must assess and examine the sources of income - legal and illegal. In respect of illegal sources, it must be further ascertained as to whether the origins, through backward linkages, can be traced to illicit traffic. Mere suspicion of illicit traffic cannot replace proof for initiation of Chapter VA proceedings. The source of the property requires the officer to ascertain the origin from which the property was acquired. The mere existence or seizure of cash, property papers is insufficient. The investigation must establish whether the property originated from illicit traffic under the NDPS Act or from some other source. The property may have emanated from corruption, contract killing, organised crime, illegal mining, hawala transactions, unlicensed business activities, customs violations, benami transactions, tax evasion, or other unlawful activities. Every illegally acquired property does not automatically become property falling within Chapter VA. The requirement of Chapter VA categorically envisages it is those illegally acquired property which have a nexus with illicit traffic fall under the scope of Chapter VA of the NDPS Act. Else, the concerned authorities are to be informed. For e.g. cash found on account of evasion of Customs duty/IGST would be outside the ambit and it is DRI/Customs, who are the proper officers to dive deep into it and use the provisions of Section 121 of the Customs Act, 1962 to nail the persons

The next limb is **disposition** which requires an indepth analysis and examination of records as to whether the property obtained through illicit traffic has undergone any change or not. It also encompasses the empowered officer to find as to whether property has been retained in its original shape, transferred, gifted, layered, converted into another asset, invested in or through shell entries (by providing accommodation entries to legitimize the transaction) or otherwise dealt with in a manner intended to disguise its illicit origin.

The investigation into the disposition of the property requires examination of the way the property has been dealt with after its acquisition. This includes transfers, conversions, investments, layering, diversion of funds, utilisation through intermediaries, or any other method adopted to alter its legal or financial character.

Movement of the property envisages tracing its financial journey. In the case of money, this may involve analysing bank accounts, electronic fund transfers, cash deposits, withdrawals, investments, digital transactions, and other financial records to reconstruct the flow of funds from their origin to their present form.

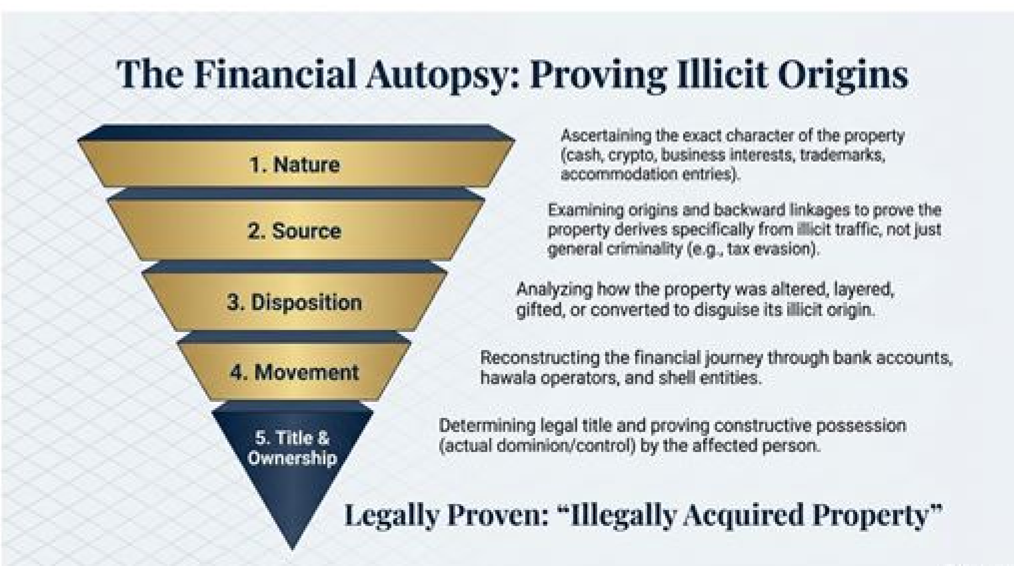
The movement of the property requires tracing its financial journey. The empowered officer must establish how the property travelled from its point of origin to its present form through banking channels, cash transactions, hawala operators, shell entities, nominees, relatives, associates, intermediaries, or any other financial mechanism. This exercise frequently constitutes the backbone of a Financial Investigation.

Determining the **title** requires examination of the legal ownership of the property. It means determining the ownership - whether held by the affected person himself or through his relatives or associates. The ownership could be entirely with funds of illicit traffic or partly out of illicit flow[see Ramzan Beevi in para **infra** for further details]

The inquiry into title requires determination of the legal ownership of the property, whereas ownership extends beyond formal title to identify the person who exercises actual dominion, control, or beneficial interest over the illegally acquired property. It should be demonstrated that the ownership is in name X, his driver, the affected person exercises conscious control over it. Meaning thereby constructive possession has to be proved and is a sine qua non of Chapter VA.

Section 68B(f) defines ***"identifying"*** to include the establishment of proof that the property was derived from, or used in, illicit traffic. Thus, the mere recovery of cash or property during a criminal investigation does not, by itself, satisfy the statutory requirements of Chapter VA. It is required to be noted that recovery is always part of the investigative act of the empowered department/officer. However, identification is a statutory conclusion. Identification can be reached only after the empowered officer has objectively undertaken the exercise of tracing, established the financial nexus between the property and illicit traffic, and thereafter recorded legally sustainable reasons to believe that the property constitutes *"illegally acquired property"*. It is only upon fulfilment of these jurisdictional safeguards that the extraordinary powers under Chapter VA become applicable and invokable. Needless to mention all the requirements must be met cumulatively.

Chapter VA does not intend every recovery of cash or illegally acquired property during a criminal investigation to be automatically fall under Chapter VA. Such a conclusion can be arrived only after the empowered officer undertakes a full-fledged Financial Investigation satisfying each of these distinct statutory requirements and thereafter records the mandatory *"reasons to believe"* contemplated under the Act.



Distinct Stages in the Operation of Chapter VA

For the sake of clarity, it is essential to distinguish four separate concepts which are often used interchangeably, though they operate at different stages of the statutory scheme:

- **Applicability of Chapter VA**

- This refers to the statutory circumstances in which a case can attract the provisions of Chapter VA. The mere detection of an offence involving illicit traffic does not render invocation of Chapter VA.

- **Availability of Chapter VA**

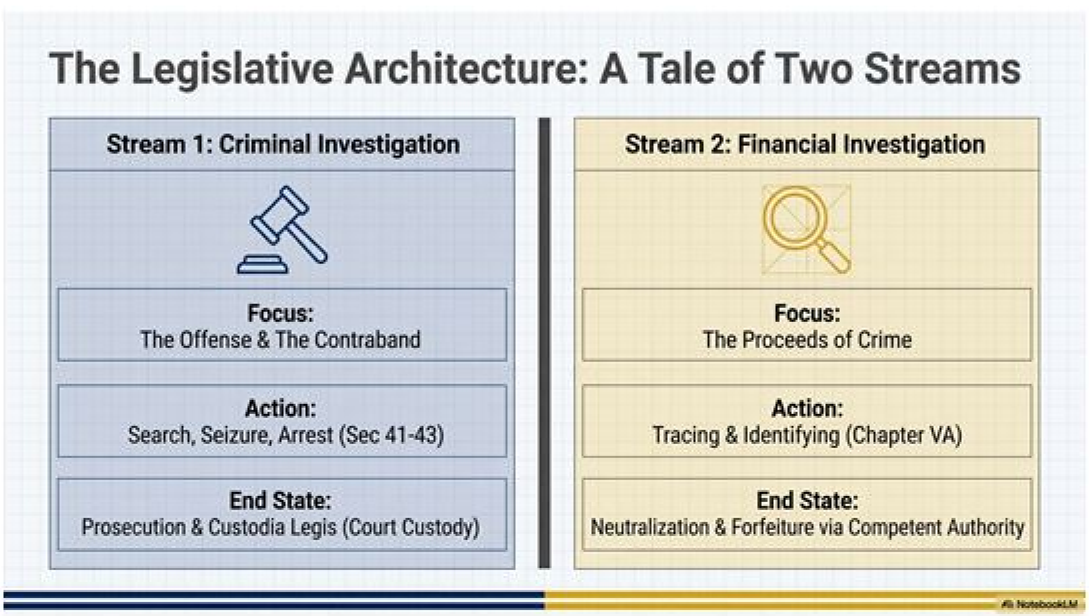
- Once the statutory preconditions exist, Chapter VA becomes an independent legal mechanism available to the investigating agency. Its availability signifies that Availability of Chapter VA depends upon tracing, identifying, etc. and linking them to illicit traffic resulting in the issuance seizing/ freezing order under 68F(1) by the empowered officer.

- In view of the above the invocation of Chapter VA is necessarily satisfied.

- **Exercise of Powers under Chapter VA** The actual exercise of statutory powers commences only after the procedural requirements prescribed under Chapter VA are fulfilled. This includes the inquiry contemplated under the Act, formation of the requisite *"reason to believe",* issuance of seizure or freezing orders where warranted, and the consequential role of the Competent Authority in accordance with the statutory framework.

Recognising these distinct stages is fundamental to understanding the procedural architecture of Chapter VA.

A Tale of Two Streams under the NDPS Act



A proper understanding of the NDPS Act reveals that the Act contemplates two distinct statutory streams. Both operate within the same enactment and have unity of purpose a towards neutralising the proceeds of crime obtained through illicit drug trafficking. However, they serve fundamentally different purposes, are governed by different statutory provisions, and are intended to achieve different legislative objectives.

The first is the **Criminal Investigation Stream**. It encompasses the statutory powers relating to search, seizure, arrest, custody of case property, investigation, filing of charge- sheet/complaint launching prosecution & trial. Property seized during investigation enters the criminal justice process and remains subject to the supervision and orders of the jurisdictional criminal court. It is required to be emphasized that the seizure of cash or property in this phase does not, *ipso facto,* translate into 'illegally acquired property' well within the meaning of the term under Chapter VA.

The second is the **Financial Investigation Stream,** covered in Chapter VA of the Act. Its primary purpose is **not the prosecution of the offence** itself, but the tracing, identification, freezing and eventual forfeiture of illegally acquired property representing the proceeds of illicit traffic. This stream is concerned with dismantling the parallel structure of organised drug trafficking by following the money trail, identifying beneficial ownership, examining the role of relatives and associates and ultimately depriving traffickers of the illegal financial gains derived from illicit traffic.

These two streams are complementary, not competing. The criminal investigation establishes the commission of the offence and secures the evidence necessary for prosecution. The Financial Investigation, on the other hand, seeks to identify and proceed against illegally acquired property that may not have been discovered during the initial search or seizure.

The distinction assumes considerable significance because the statutory powers, procedural safeguards, authorities involved, and legal consequences are not identical in the two streams. A proper interpretation of Chapter VA therefore requires recognising that the Financial Investigation is an independent statutory mechanism operating within its own legislative framework, even though it may arise out of the same criminal occurrence.

The statutory framework discussed above lays down the architecture of Financial Investigation under Chapter VA. Its practical application, however, is best understood through the judicial decisions that have interpreted these provisions. The discussion now turns to some of the important decisions rendered under the NDPS Act.

[The views expressed are strictly personal. The author confirms that no AI has been used to generate the content.]

Himachal police seize assets worth ₹2 cr belonging to 2 drug traffickers’

hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/himachal-police-seize-assets-worth-2-cr-belonging-to-2-drug-traffickers-101784227813246.html

HT Correspondent July 17, 2026

Police said that during 2026, financial investigations have so far led to the seizure of illegal assets worth ₹4.11 crore in six NDPS cases involving 24 accused, describing it as the highest value of property seized by any district police unit in Himachal Pradesh this year

In a major crackdown on the financial network of narcotics trafficking, Shimla police have seized illegal movable and immovable assets worth ₹2.28 crore in two separate NDPS cases, following detailed financial investigations, officials said on Thursday.

The action forms part of the district police’s strategy to dismantle the economic infrastructure of drug trafficking by targeting properties allegedly acquired from proceeds of crime, in addition to prosecuting those involved in narcotics offences.

In the first case, registered at Kotkhai police station on September 19, 2024, under Sections 21, 27A and 29 of the NDPS Act and Section 111 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), investigators conducted an extensive financial probe against 17 accused.

The investigation found that proceeds from drug trafficking had allegedly been used to acquire 16 vehicles, two residential flats in Chopra Apartments, Solan, purchased by Harinder Singh and Pradeep Kumar, and one residential house, with a combined estimated value of ₹2.05 crore. Police said the assets were disproportionate to the accused persons’ known lawful sources of income and have been seized in accordance with law.

In the second case, registered at Baluganj (West) police station, police recovered 8 grams of heroin (chitta) from the possession of accused Rishabh Kumar near Tara Devi Road on National Highway-05 on April 21, 2026. A second accused, Badal, alias Titla, was arrested on April 25 under Section 29 of the NDPS Act.

A subsequent financial investigation revealed that Rishabh had purchased a land plot at Bharoi in Shimla district and a Maruti Ciaz car using proceeds allegedly generated through drug trafficking. The seized assets are valued at ₹23.23 lakh, police said, adding that they were found to be disproportionate to the accused’s legitimate income.

“Shimla police have confiscated illegal assets worth about ₹2.28 crore in the two cases,” said additional superintendent of police (City) Mehar Panwar while adding: “The district police are focusing not only on arresting drug traffickers but also on dismantling the financial networks that sustain the illegal trade.”

Police said that during 2026, financial investigations have so far led to the seizure of illegal assets worth ₹4.11 crore in six NDPS cases involving 24 accused, describing it as the highest value of property seized by any district police unit in Himachal Pradesh this year.

Two habitual drug peddlers detained in Handwara

kashmirvision.in/2026/07/17/two-habitual-drug-peddlers-detained-in-handwara-2

Srinagar: Police on Thursday detained two habitual drug peddlers under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act in Handwara area of north Kashmir.
"According to the policy of zero tolerance towards narcotics under the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, police in Handwara secured detention orders under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act against two notorious drug peddlers involved in multiple NDPS cases," a police spokesperson said.
He said the accused have been identified as Hilal Ahmad Tantray alias Hilal Taki and Bilal Ahmad Mir.
"Both the accused are habitual offenders with involvement in multiple cases registered under the NDPS Act. Despite repeated legal action, they continued to indulge in illicit drug trafficking, posing a serious threat to society, particularly the youth," the spokesperson said.
After completing all legal formalities and obtaining the competent authority's approval, detention warrants under the PIT-NDPS Act were executed, and both accused have been lodged in Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

Kashmir Narco-Terror Case: NIA Court Frames Charges Against 10 Accused Linked To LeT

etvbharat.com/en/bharat/kashmir-narco-terror-case-nia-court-frames-charges-against-10-accused-linked-to-let-enn26071607048

ETV Bharat Jammu & Kashmir Team July 16, 2026

A Special NIA Court framed charges against 10 accused in a Pakistan-backed narco-terror case in Jammu and Kashmir, involving narcotics smuggling to finance terrorism.

Srinagar: A Special NIA Court has framed charges against 10 accused in a major narco-terror case investigated by the State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir. The development has cleared the way for the trial in a case involving an alleged Pakistan-backed network accused of using narcotics smuggling to finance terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the SIA, the case stems from FIR No. 19/2022, registered at Police Station SIA Kashmir in October 2022 after intelligence inputs suggested the existence of a cross-border conspiracy allegedly orchestrated by Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoJK)-based handlers linked to the banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The agency alleged that narcotics were smuggled into Jammu and Kashmir across the Line of Control (LoC). The proceeds generated from the illegal trade were allegedly used to fund terrorist activities and sustain the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The investigation identified a total of 16 accused, including four alleged handlers operating from Pakistan and PoJK.

Those arrested in the case are Rubeena Nazir Malik, Ishfaq Ahmad Mir, Mudasir Ahmed Poswal, Safeer Ahmad Mughal, Mohammad Rashid Thakkar, Mohammad Rayaz Lohar, Javid Iqbal Thakkar alias Raja Thakkar, Abdul Rashid Mir, Abdul Rashid Bhat and Basharat Ali Poswal.

Sageer Ahmad Poswal, a resident of Amrohi Arna in Kupwara district, remains absconding, the agency said.

The SIA identified the Pakistan and PoJK-based accused as Tariq Ahmad Malik alias Dilawar, Alif-ud-Din Badana, Mushtaq Ahmad Naik alias Usman Bhai and Firdous Ahmad Dar alias Umer Dar. All four have been declared absconders.

Another accused in the case, Mushtaq Ahmad Malik alias Rahee of Panzipora in Sopore, was killed in an encounter during the course of the investigation.

According to the SIA, six charge sheets have been filed against all 16 accused. The agency also arrested three proclaimed offenders who had allegedly been evading arrest for an extended period.

After hearing the prosecution, the Special NIA Court framed charges against the 10 accused who are currently before the court.

The charges have been framed under various provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The offences include criminal conspiracy, terrorist acts, terror financing, membership of a terrorist organisation, waging war against the Government of India, destruction of evidence and forgery.

With the charges now framed, the trial will proceed with the recording of prosecution evidence before the competent court.

The SIA said it is continuing legal proceedings against the absconding accused. It is also pursuing the attachment and forfeiture of properties allegedly linked to terrorist activities under the provisions of the UAPA as part of efforts to dismantle the financial infrastructure supporting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

29-Year-Old Man Gets Four-Year Jail Term Under The NDPS Act In A Lot

freepressjournal.in/indore/29-year-old-man-gets-four-year-jail-term-under-the-ndps-act-in-a-lot

FP News Service July 16, 2026

Alot (Madhya Pradesh): A special NDPS court in Alot sentenced a 29-year-old man to four years' rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 after convicting him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for possessing ganja on Wednesday.

According to the prosecution, police received a tip-off on May 3, that a man carrying illegal ganja was sitting at the stadium on Ram Singh Darbar Road. Acting on the information, a police team conducted a raid and detained Rizwan, a resident of Fakir Mohalla, Alot.

During the search, officers recovered 1.15 kg of ganja concealed in a white plastic bag tucked inside the back of his T-shirt. Rizwan failed to produce any valid licence or permit for possessing the contraband. Police seized the ganja, prepared the necessary seizure documents and arrested him.

The case was registered at Alot police station under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act. After examining the evidence and hearing prosecution witnesses, Special Judge Sandeep Kumar Soni found Rizwan guilty and sentenced him to four years' rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 15,000.

Advocate Nitin Vyas represented the prosecution during the trial, which concluded with the conviction.

Drug peddler held in Prayagraj

timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/allahabad/drug-peddler-held/amp_articleshow/132444286.cms

The Times Of India July 16, 2026

Prayagraj: A joint team of Kandhai police and special operations group of Pratapgarh on Thursday arrested a drug peddler with 38.42 grams of methamphetamine (highly addictive drug), police said.

They said Junaid Ahmed of Poore Devyani was arrested near Saray Jamuari canal road when he was out to deliver the consignment.

Police said as many as 17 criminal cases, including Arms Act, attempt to murder, Gangsters Act and NDPS Act, were pending against Ahmed.

145 ग्राम चरस के साथ पकड़े गए युवक को तीन साल की सजा

livehindustan.com/national/story-pilibhit-court-sentences-youth-to-three-years-for-possession-of-charas-201784234906269.amp.html

Newswrap

July 16, 2026

पीलीभीत में एक युवक को चार वर्ष पहले 145 ग्राम चरस के साथ पकड़े जाने पर विशेष एनडीपीएस कोर्ट ने तीन साल की कठोर कारावास और पांच हजार रुपये का जुर्माना सुनाया है। आरोपी ने चरस बेचने के लिए लाने की बात कबूल की थी। अदालत ने सहानुभूति दिखाते हुए उसे सजा में कुछ कमी की।

पीलीभीत। करीब चार वर्ष पहले बिलगवां फाटक के पास 145 ग्राम चरस के साथ पकड़े गए युवक को विशेष एनडीपीएस कोर्ट ने तीन वर्ष के कठोर कारावास और पांच हजार रुपये जुर्माने की सजा सुनाई है। जुर्माना अदा न करने पर उसे 15 दिन का अतिरिक्त कारावास भुगतना होगा।

अभियोजन की कहानी

अभियोजन के अनुसार 30 अक्तूबर 2022 की रात करीब 9:40 बजे कोतवाली पुलिस के तत्कालीन उपनिरीक्षक अरुण कुमार सिंह पुलिस टीम के साथ गश्त पर थे। बिलगवां फाटक रेलवे क्रॉसिंग के पास पुलिस को देखकर दो युवक भागने लगे। पुलिस ने पीछा कर मोहल्ला जोशी टोला निवासी रोहित उर्फ लपका पुत्र रामकिशोर को पकड़ लिया। तलाशी लेने पर उसके पास से पॉलीथिन में रखी 145 ग्राम चरस बरामद हुई। पूछताछ में आरोपी ने चरस बेचने के लिए लाने की बात बताई थाना कोतवाली में एनडीपीएस अधिनियम के तहत मुकदमा दर्ज किया गया था।

अदालत का निर्णय

मामले की सुनवाई विशेष न्यायाधीश एनडीपीएस/अपर जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश न्यायालय संख्या-3 विजय कुमार हिमांशु की अदालत में हुई। अभियोजन की ओर से प्रस्तुत साक्ष्यों और गवाहों के आधार पर न्यायालय ने आरोपी को दोषी करार दिया। सजा के बिंदु पर अदालत ने माना कि बरामद चरस की मात्रा व्यावसायिक मात्रा नहीं थी, बल्कि लघु मात्रा से कुछ अधिक थी। साथ ही आरोपी का कोई आपराधिक इतिहास नहीं मिला और वह परिवार का एकमात्र कमाने वाला बताया गया। इन परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए न्यायालय ने उसे तीन वर्ष के कठोर कारावास और पांच हजार रुपये जुर्माने से दंडित किया। न्यायालय ने आरोपी को जेल में बिताई गई अवधि का समायोजन (सेट-ऑफ) का लाभ भी प्रदान किया।

दिल्ली से लाता था पार्टी ड्रग, गुरुग्राम में करता था सप्लाई; 13.58 ग्राम एमडीएमए के साथ तस्कर गिरफ्तार

lalluram.com/delhi-mdma-party-drug-smuggler-arrested-in-gurugram-with-13-58-gram-mdma

News Desk July 16, 2026

सुशीला देवी, गुरूग्राम। गुरुग्राम पुलिस की एंटी नारकोटिक्स सेल (सिकंदरपुर) ने नशे के कारोबार पर बड़ी कार्रवाई करते हुए 13.58 ग्राम एमडीएमए (पार्टी ड्रग) के साथ एक आरोपी को गिरफ्तार किया है। आरोपी की पहचान अंशुल राठौर (28) निवासी फिरोजाबाद (उत्तर प्रदेश), हाल निवासी सिकंदरपुर बढ़ा, गुरुग्राम के रूप में हुई है।

शहरऔर स्थानीय मार्गदर्शिका
पुलिस के अनुसार, टीम ने गुप्त सूचना के आधार पर सेक्टर-85 स्थित केडीएम स्कूल के पास घेराबंदी कर आरोपी को दबोच लिया। तलाशी के दौरान उसके कब्जे से 13.58 ग्राम एमडीएमए बरामद हुई। बरामदगी के आधार पर थाना खेड़की दौला में एनडीपीएस एक्ट की संबंधित धाराओं के तहत मामला दर्ज कर लिया गया है।प्रारंभिक पूछताछ में आरोपी ने खुलासा किया कि वह दिल्ली से करीब 2 हजार रुपये प्रति ग्राम के हिसाब से एमडीएमए खरीदकर गुरुग्राम लाता था और यहां नशा करने वालों को छोटी-छोटी मात्रा में बेचकर मोटा मुनाफा कमाता था।

पुलिस अब यह पता लगाने में जुटी है कि आरोपी यह मादक पदार्थ किस सप्लायर से खरीदता था और इसके नेटवर्क में कौन-कौन लोग शामिल हैं। मामले की जांच जारी है और पुलिस का कहना है कि जल्द ही इस गिरोह से जुड़े अन्य लोगों तक भी पहुंच बनाई जाएगी।

प्रतिबंधित ड्रग्स के साथ एक आरोपी गिरफ्तार, पुलिस ने मुठभेड़ के दौरान दबोचा

amarujala.com/video/uttar-pradesh/pratapgarh/video-accused-arrested-with-banned-drugs-police-nabbed-him-during-an-encounter-2026-07-16

विनोद सिंह

प्रतापगढ़ ब्यूरो

Updated Thu, 16 Jul 2026 03:00 PM IST

थाना कंधई पुलिस एवं स्पेशल टीम की संयुक्त कार्रवाई में सराय जमुआरी नहर पुलिया के पास से हिस्ट्रीशीटर अभियुक्त जुनैद अहमद को गिरफ्तार किया गया। अभियुक्त के कब्जे से 38.42 ग्राम अवैध एमडी. (मेथामफेटामाइन) बरामद हुई। इस संबंध में थाना कंधई पर अभियोग पंजीकृत कर अभियुक्त को न्यायालय के समक्ष पेश किया जा रहा है तथा की गई है।

फरीदकोट में 300 ग्राम हेरोइन के साथ दो नशा तस्कर गिरफ्तार

amarujala.com/amp/video/punjab/chandigarh-punjab/video-two-drug-smugglers-arrested-with-300-grams-of-heroin-in-faridkot-2026-07-16

Nivedita

फरीदकोट में एसएसपी गुरबंस सिंह बैंस के नेतृत्व में नशे के खिलाफ चल रहे अभियान के दौरान सीआईए स्टाफ जैतो ने 300 ग्राम हेरोइन के साथ दो तस्करों को गिरफ्तार किया है। आरोपियों की पहचान तरनतारन जिले के गांव माड़ी कंबोके निवासी अर्शदीप सिंह और करणदीप सिंह के रूप में हुई है। दोनों को अमृतसर-बठिंडा नेशनल हाईवे से जुड़े गांव संधवां के लिंक रोड पर मोटरसाइकिल के पास संदिग्ध हालत में बैठा देखकर पुलिस ने काबू किया। तलाशी के दौरान उनके कब्जे से 300 ग्राम हेरोइन बरामद हुई, जिसके बाद थाना सदर कोटकपूरा में एनडीपीएस एक्ट के तहत मामला दर्ज किया गया। इस संबंध में डीएसपी कोटकपूरा संजीव कुमार ने बताया कि अब आरोपियों को अदालत से पुलिस रिमांड पर लेकर पूछताछ की जाएगी और ड्रग नेटवर्क की बैकवर्ड और फॉरवर्ड लिंक की जांच की जाएगी ताकि सप्लाई चेन से जुड़े अन्य लोगों तक भी पहुंचा जा सके।

EAST

Odisha STF Arrests Drug Peddler With 151 Kg Ganja In Sonepur

odishabytes.com/odisha-stf-arrests-drug-peddler-with-151-kg-ganja-in-sonepur

OB Bureau March 7, 2024

Bhubaneswar: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police arrested a drug peddler and seized 151 kg of ganja during a special operation in Sonepur district on Thursday.

The arrest was made after a team of STF with the help of Sonepur Police conducted a raid in a poultry farm at village Kamira Talabandha under Subalaya Police Station in sonepur.

The accused has been identified as Sanjay Bagh (27) of the same district.

During search ganja weighing 151 kg and other incriminating materials were recovered and seized from his possession. The accused person could not produce any document or authority for possession such contraband ganja, for which he has been arrested.

During investigation, it is learnt that the accused person and his associates (who are yet to be arrested) used to deliver contraband ganja to the drug peddlers of other states especially of Madhya Pradesh.

The accused persons have frequent contacts with the drug peddlers of other States. A team of STF is tracking them and will be arrested soon.

It is also disclosed that the accused persons have accumulated huge wealth out of the earning from the ganja business. A team of STF is also conducting financial investigation so that all properties (movable and immovable property earned in last six years out of the ganja business) can be seized/ frozen as per the provisions of section 68 of NDPS Act.

After seizing/ freezing of properties, STF will move to the Competent Authority, Kolkata (A quasi judicial authority under NDPS ACT) for permanent forfeiture of the seized properties.

‘ऑपरेशन बाज’ : 8.43 लाख रुपये के गांजा, ब्राउन शुगर, चरस और अफीम का किया गया नष्टीकरण

lokswar.in/operation-baaz-ganja-brown-sugar-hashish-and-opium-worth-rs-8-43-lakh-destroyed

Chief Editor - Lokswar.in

July 16, 2026

मुंगेली पुलिस ने नशे के खिलाफ बड़ी कार्रवाई करते हुए 8 लाख 43 हजार 914 रुपये कीमत के मादक पदार्थों का नष्टीकरण किया है। वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक भोजराम पटेल की अध्यक्षता में शासन के निर्देशानुसार यह कार्रवाई की गई, जिसमें एनडीपीएस एक्ट के 12 प्रकरणों में जब्त मादक पदार्थों को नष्ट किया गया।

पुलिस द्वारा चलाए जा रहे **‘ऑपरेशन बाज’** अभियान के तहत जिले के विभिन्न थाना और चौकियों से जब्त 71.541 किलोग्राम गांजा, 55.87 ग्राम ब्राउन शुगर, 26.42 ग्राम अफीम और 20.18 ग्राम चरस को न्यायालय की अनुमति के बाद पर्यावरणीय मानकों का पालन करते हुए दीपक इंडस्ट्रीज के प्लांट भट्ठी में जलाकर नष्ट किया गया।

इस दौरान अतिरिक्त पुलिस अधीक्षक नवनीत कौर छाबड़ा, जिला आबकारी अधिकारी, पर्यावरण विभाग के अधिकारी सहित पुलिस के अन्य अधिकारी और कर्मचारी मौजूद रहे। मुंगेली पुलिस ने स्पष्ट किया है कि जिले में नशे के कारोबार के खिलाफ अभियान आगे भी लगातार जारी रहेगा।

Jamshedpur police action – सीतारामडेरा में महिला ड्रग्स पैडलर समेत तीन पकड़ाये, दोनों बेटे के साथ घर से कर रही थी डीलिंग

sharpbharat.com/jamshedpur-police-action-three-people-including-a-female-drug-peddler-were-arrested-in-sitaramdera

July 13, 2026

जमशेदपुर : जमशेदपुर के सीतारामडेरा थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत ह्यूमपाइप स्थित इंद्रानगर में पुलिस ने ब्राउन शुगर की खरीद-बिक्री के खिलाफ बड़ी कार्रवाई करते हुए एक महिला, उसके बेटे और एक विधि-विरुद्ध निरुद्ध बालक को गिरफ्तार किया है. पुलिस ने आरोपियों के कब्जे से 4.32 ग्राम ब्राउन शुगर, 38 पुड़िया अवैध मादक पदार्थ और 4,820 रुपये नकद बरामद किए हैं. पुलिस के अनुसार 12 जुलाई की शाम सूचना मिली थी कि इंद्रानगर निवासी भारती कैबर्तो अपने दोनों बेटों के साथ घर से ब्राउन शुगर की बिक्री कर रही है. **(नीचे भी पढ़ें)**

सूचना के सत्यापन के बाद वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक के निर्देश पर पुलिस अधीक्षक नगर और सहायक पुलिस अधीक्षक मुख्यालय-प्रथम की निगरानी में सीतारामडेरा थाना प्रभारी आनंद कुमार मिश्रा के नेतृत्व में विशेष टीम का गठन किया गया. **(नीचे भी पढ़ें)**

गठित टीम ने त्वरित छापेमारी कर भारती कैबर्तो (40 वर्ष), उसके पुत्र विशाल कैबर्तो (22 वर्ष) और एक विधि-विरुद्ध निरुद्ध बालक को हिरासत में लिया. तलाशी के दौरान कुल 38 पुड़िया ब्राउन शुगर, 4.32 ग्राम मादक पदार्थ और 4,820 रुपये नकद बरामद किए गए. पुलिस के अनुसार, गिरफ्तार महिला भारती कैबर्तो एक पेशेवर ड्रग्स पैडलर है और पूर्व से अपने परिवार के सदस्यों के साथ मिलकर अवैध मादक पदार्थों की खरीद-बिक्री में संलिप्त रही है. उसके खिलाफ पहले से एनडीपीएस एक्ट के तहत सीतारामडेरा, जुगसलाई और सोनारी थाना में कई मामले दर्ज हैं. वहीं विशाल कैबर्तो के खिलाफ भी पूर्व में एनडीपीएस एक्ट के दो मामले दर्ज हैं.

स्वापक नियंत्रण ब्यूरो
NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU
भारत INDIA

आसूचना प्रवर्तन समन्वय
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