



# Narcotics Control Bureau

## Press Release

Date - 23.04.2026

**Subject: Advisory to Indian citizens travelling to the Maldives regarding stringent anti-drug laws.**

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) issues an advisory to all Indian citizens travelling to or visiting the Maldives regarding the recent strengthening of anti-narcotics laws in the country. Recent legislative amendments to the Maldives' Drugs Act, effective March 2026, prescribe significantly enhanced penalties for drug-related offences, including life imprisonment and, in certain cases involving large-scale trafficking, the death penalty, subject to confirmation by the competent court under Maldivian law. The amended law provides stricter punishment even for possession of small quantities of prohibited substances.

Recent instances have been reported involving foreign nationals, including Indian citizens, being arrested in the Maldives for drug-related offences. In this regard, High Commission of India in Malé has also issued advisories urging Indian nationals to strictly comply with local laws and regulations.

In view of the above, all Indian citizens are strongly advised:

- Not to carry any package, baggage, or item on behalf of others under any circumstances without being absolutely sure of the contents.
- Exercise extreme caution at airports, ports, and transit points when approached by unknown requesting carriage of goods.
- Maintain full control and supervision of personal baggage at all times.

- Be aware that ignorance of the law is not a defence and any legal violations may result in severe punishments.

The citizens are urged to report any suspicious approach or incident at the MANAS National Narcotics Helpline (1933).

NCB reiterates its zero-tolerance approach towards drug trafficking and urges all citizens to remain vigilant, responsible, and law-abiding while travelling abroad.

Issued in public interest.

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