

**Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Narcotics Control Bureau
PRESS NOTE**

Date: 22nd March 2025

Subject: Preventive Detention of High-Profile Drug Offenders under PITNDPS Act, 1988
– Strategic Action to Disrupt Jail-Based Narcotics Syndicates

In furtherance of its mandate to combat the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has undertaken a coordinated and multi-jurisdictional operation resulting in the preventive detention of key drug traffickers under the provisions of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 (PITNDPS Act).

These actions were executed following detailed intelligence inputs and sustained investigations that revealed the continued involvement of several high-profile traffickers in orchestrating drug trafficking networks from within judicial custody. The preventive detention orders were issued with the objective of disrupting operational command structures, severing jail-based criminal networks, and insulating prison environments from further exploitation by organized crime syndicates.

1.

1. Detention of Jagdeep Singh @ Jaggu Bhagwanpuria

Detention Order Issued By: Joint Secretary, PITNDPS, Government of India

Date of Order: 21.03.2025

Place of Transfer: From High-Security Jail, Bathinda (Punjab) to Central Jail, Silchar (Assam)

Native District: Gurdaspur, Punjab

Jagdeep Singh, alias Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, is a habitual offender with multiple FIRs registered under the NDPS Act since 2012. Intelligence inputs confirmed his active role in trans-border narcotic trafficking despite being incarcerated. His criminal network facilitated the smuggling of heroin, opium, psychotropic substances, and illegal arms.

Notable Recoveries Associated with the Accused:

- 1.6 kg heroin (2023)
- 4 kg and 8 kg heroin (2015 cases)
- Arms and ammunition, including pistols and live cartridges
- Drug consignments up to 9.6 kg in various FIRs

His established linkages with international operatives in Canada, USA, and Pakistan warranted his relocation to disrupt the ecosystem facilitating continued criminal activity.

2.

2. Detention of Jahanara Begum and Associates

Names of Detained Accused: Jahanara Begum (Kingpin), Insan Laskar, Manuyara Bibi Seikh, Arjun Manna

Detention Order Date: 05.09.2024

Place of Transfer: From West Bengal to Jayprakash Narayan Central Jail, Hazaribagh (Jharkhand)

Detention Confirmed By: State Advisory Board, Jharkhand on 06.03.2025

Cases Registered Under: Cr. No. 19/2023 and 02/2024 by NCB, Kolkata; Cr. No. 03/2020 by Kolkata Police

The syndicate, led by Jahanara Begum, was found to be involved in repeated instances of trafficking heroin and ganja. Financial investigation revealed drug proceeds amounting to Rs. 46,06,731/-, along with a plot of land, which were subsequently frozen under the NDPS Act. The Freezing Order was confirmed by the Competent Authority, Kolkata, on 24.05.2024. Forfeiture proceedings are underway under Section 68A(2)(c).

3.

3. Detention of Akshay Chhabra and Jaspal Singh @ Goldy

Place of Transfer: From Punjab to Dibrugarh Central Jail (Assam)

Case Reference: NCB Cr. No. 79/2022/CZU

Initial Arrest: Akshay Chhabra apprehended at Jaipur International Airport on 24.11.2022

Investigations revealed that despite being lodged in jail, Akshay Chhabra and his associate Jaspal Singh @ Goldy continued to operate an international drug trafficking syndicate based in Ludhiana, Punjab.

Additional FIRs Post-Incarceration:

- 03 against Akshay Chhabra
- 01 against Jaspal Singh

Key Seizures in Cr. No. 79/2022/CZU:

- 40 kg heroin
- 0.557 kg opium
- 23.645 kg suspected narcotics powder
- 4 bottles of HCL, 31 live bullets, and 1 magazine
- 2 heroin processing units dismantled
- Freezing of assets valued at over Rs. 57 crore by NCB, Chandigarh Zonal Unit

4.

4. Detention of Balwinder Singh @ Billa Havellian

Date of Detention: 13.08.2024

Place of Transfer: Dibrugarh Central Jail (Assam)

Executed By: NCB in coordination with Punjab Police

Balwinder Singh @ Billa Havellian is a long-standing offender active since 1992, with deep-rooted connections to cross-border smuggling networks operating from Pakistan. His detention under the PITNDPS Act represents the first such action against a major drug trafficker in Punjab under this provision. His relocation to Dibrugarh is intended to sever logistical and communication links sustaining narcotics operations from within Punjab's prison system.

Conclusion

These coordinated actions mark a critical advancement in India's fight against narcotics trafficking and signify a proactive shift in enforcement strategy. The strategic relocation of key offenders under the PITNDPS Act is designed to:

- Disrupt jail-based command structures
- Prevent recidivism among habitual traffickers
- Curtail financial flows from drug proceeds
- Strengthen institutional integrity of correctional facilities

The Narcotics Control Bureau remains committed to undertaking sustained enforcement, financial disruption, and policy-level interventions to secure the country against the threats posed by organized narcotic syndicates.

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