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# Flow of Drugs into the Country: A Cause of Concern

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## ABSTRACT

*There has been continuous flow of drugs into the country and there have been massive seizures during the first two months of Financial Year 2022-23, particularly by the DRI, ICG, Gujarat ATS and the NCB. These empowered departments have been extremely successful in preventing the inflow of drugs into the country. This does not diminish the role of the other empowered departments, particularly the Customs manning the FPO, International Airports, International Courier Terminals, Air Cargo Complexes – both Export and Import.*

*The ever-expanding drug market has made more people to join different ranks to the already burgeoning force by roping more people under the net of drug abuse by unscrupulous persons forming part of the drug syndicate for the monetary gains using the lucrative illegal business. This illegal business has become more organized than ever before because of huge money involved.*

*This article explores the flow of drugs into the country, the seizures effected and the trends noticed.*

1. The ever-expanding drug market has made more people to join different ranks to the already burgeoning force by roping more people under the net of drug abuse by unscrupulous persons forming part of the drug syndicate for the monetary gains using the lucrative illegal business. This illegal business has become more organized than ever before because of huge money involved. The surge in the seizures in the recent past, particularly in April, 2022 and May, 2022 primarily led by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Indian Coast Guard, Narcotics Control Bureau, the Customs, not in any particular order, is a clear pointer to this fact. This does not diminish the role of other empowered organisations like the Police, Border Security Force, the National Investigation Agency, the Shashtra Seema Bal, etc. Suffice it to state at this juncture that there is no stoppage of flow of drugs attempted to be illicitly trafficked using all the possible routes available – land, maritime, Foreign Post Office, Courier (domestic as well as international), passenger route & baggage route and air cargo.

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**2.** To take the matter further, esteemed readers may note that the combined efforts of both the Indian Coast Guard and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence against the successful smashing of illicit drug trafficking through the maritime route bore fruit - this time off the coast of Lakshadweep<sup>1</sup> on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. This has been a massive blow to the drug syndicates inasmuch as there has been a seizure of 218 kilograms of high quality heroin.

**2.1** It is not the first time that the interception by the Indian Coast Guard has taken place off the coast of Lakshadweep. The Indian Coast Guard had, in fact on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 successfully averted a major drug transshipment in the Lakshadweep Sea<sup>2</sup> by intercepting three Sri Lankan ships.

**2.2** On an earlier occasion in November, 2020, (which started on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2020)<sup>3</sup> the Indian Coast Guard had seized a major drug consignment originating from Pakistan in a Sri Lankan boat in the high seas south of Tuticorin (now Thoothukudi), Tamil Nadu. The drugs were transferred onto the Sri Lankan vessel “Shenaya Duwa” on the high seas by a Pakistani dhow from Karachi. A total of 99 packets of heroin, 20 small boxes of synthetic drugs, five 9 mm pistols and a Thuraya satellite phone set were found in the empty fuel tank on board.

**3.** Esteemed readers may note that India is sandwiched between the Golden Crescent on the north-west and Golden Triangle on the north-east frontier. The Golden Crescent region comprises Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. With the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan and consequent change of Government in Afghanistan, it has become a routine feature to push the drugs (read mainly heroin) into the country as this activity has become the single source of income for the fighting forces (militia run Government) there.

**3.1** The increase in illicit drug trafficking using novel *modus operandi* can be primarily attributed to the Golden Crescent (read Afghanistan) and Golden Triangle (read Myanmar) as the conditions there are favourable for illicit drug traffickers. It is a common knowledge that the bulk of the illicit opium production takes place in Afghanistan where there is no rule of law or democracy. Taliban, being a militia, controls the production and by doing so, it is able to sustain itself. Afghanistan does not have a flourishing economy and its citizens are deprived of the basic amenities. The country is more divided than ever before and that too into different tribes, who control different parts of the country. On account of the American withdrawal and no foreign aid forthcoming to save the collapsing economy, normal citizens have nothing to look for from the Taliban Militia (which is of course called the Government). The need of the hour is to have trade which would fetch money, which cannot be conducted in view of the prevailing conditions. Hence, illicit opium cultivation has become a staple diet for most of the

Afghans and consequently the country has become more dependent on the drug trade than ever before.

**3.1.1** On the north-eastern front, we find that Myanmar is the source of methamphetamine (*inter alia* known as Yaba) tablets, seized in huge numbers by various empowered organisations in the North-East. Myanmar, ruled by Military Junta, has mobile labs functioning across the border with India and continues to pump in Yaba tablets into the country through the drug syndicates operating across the border which, on successfully reaching the desired destination in the North-East, are then despatched to various other places through various ways based on requirement.

**4** Recent huge seizures indicate that unscrupulous importers/persons have entered into criminal conspiracy to indulge in illicit drug trafficking through ingenuous concealment and some of the *modus operandi* put in place require to be carefully studied to understand the manner of concealment by the empowered officers and the dissemination thereof to thwart the drug syndicate's efforts to push the drugs into the Indian market.

**5** To begin with, we look at the scenario at the International Airports. Esteemed readers may note that the cases at the International Airports are mainly booked by DRI/ Customs or by the NCB. A reference to the manner of booking of cases at the International Airport is necessary at this juncture. The seizures effected can be broadly classified into two: one where there is specific information or intelligence pertaining to illicit drug trafficking and where there is compliance of Section 42 of the NDPS Act, 1985 and the other is chance recovery i.e. when the Customs Officer posted at an International Airport has information with reference to the contraband (gold, watches, silver, foreign currency, fake India counterfeit note, etc. falling under the Customs Act, 1962) but in addition to one or in combination of the contraband, finds drugs falling under the ambit of the NDPS Act, 1985.

**5.1** At the International Airports, two different *modus operandi* are put to use by the international passengers arriving into the country or exiting out of the country. The passengers ingest drugs (usually heroin or cocaine) in capsules (also called pellets) to deceive the empowered officers and later on the capsules/pellets are ejected and this method, referred to as the "*swallow method*" has the attendant risk to such passengers i.e. bursting of the capsules/pellets in intestines of the carrier-passengers. If such type of passengers when identified, if offered even a glass of water, or a cup of tea/coffee or a packet of biscuits, they would simply refuse it. The intake of anything, particularly liquid would be dangerous. That would itself act as a clue to the Customs Officers. Furthermore, because the ingestion had taken

prior to boarding the flight and the time limit being essential, such passengers, when intercepted, would instantly opt for medical help. During interrogation, such passengers would be uncomfortable during interrogation and would display signs of dizziness. Such intercepted persons would have to be got medically examined instantly to rule out of the possibility of concealment in the body in the interest of the Officer and in the interest of the passenger. It is required to be noted at this stage that there is no provision for x-ray of the person under the NDPS Act, 1985 in contrast to the provisions of section 103 of the Customs Act, 1962. The second method is called the “*concealment method*.” In this method the drug is concealed in specially made cavities, false bottoms in the baggage – hand carry baggage or checked-in baggage. Such concealments are very intricate in nature and cannot be detected in a normal course of checking, until they are put to X-ray. The Customs Officers also put the Canine (Dog) Squad to proper use at vantage points for checking.

**6** The proliferation of illicit trafficking of drugs can be seen during April 2022 and May 2022 and this illicit drug trafficking has kept the empowered officers on the toes as there have been seizures involving huge quantities.

**6.1** With the lifting of restrictions on air travel and restoration of near-normalcy situation on air travel, we see an increase in the footfall in the international airports. Consequently, there has been a spurt in the seizures, particularly at the International Airports, which has become a transit point for further distribution of the illicitly trafficked drugs.

**7** The Financial Year 2022-23 started with a bang with the Customs Officers at IGI Airport, New Delhi seizing 5.85 kilograms<sup>4</sup> of cocaine on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - one of the biggest seizures at any Indian airport at the material time point of time. This record seizure was quickly superseded by another massive seizure of 8 kilograms<sup>5</sup> of cocaine in two cases of Cocaine seizures at the Hyderabad International Airport in a late-night swoop on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 by the officers of DRI.

**7.1** In “*swallow case*”, on account of the difficulty in detection, there happens to be a surge in this category, as is evident from the fact that the Air Customs Officer at IGI Airport, New Delhi, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022, detained a Tanzanian passenger on suspicions of having ingested narcotic substances. The Tanzanian passenger ejected 59 pellets of white power under medical supervision, which resulted in recovery of 702 grams<sup>6</sup> of Cocaine. On the heels of this case, the Air Customs Officer at IGI Airport, New Delhi, in quick succession, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022, detained a Ugandan passenger on suspicions of having ingested narcotic substances. The Ugandan passenger ejected 69 pellets under medical supervision, which resulted in recovery

of 762 grams<sup>7</sup> of Cocaine. In a joint operation conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 between the Hyderabad Customs and the DRI, a Tanzanian national, who arrived at Hyderabad Airport from Johannesburg *via* Dubai was intercepted and 79 ingested capsules with 1.157 kilograms of cocaine was recovered, through medical procedure and was seized<sup>8</sup>. In relentless pursuit to combat the fight against inflow of drugs and blow to drug syndicate, the Air Customs Officer, IGI Airport, New Delhi, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022, intercepted two Ugandan lady passengers from whom cocaine, collectively weighing 1.85 kilograms approximately was recovered under medical supervision.<sup>9</sup>

**7.1.1** Use of baggage route to smuggle/illicit traffic cocaine was witnessed in the case booked on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 by Air Customs Officer, IGI Airport, New Delhi against a Ugandan national which led to the recovery and seizure of 1.877 kilograms of Cocaine concealed in 210 buttons of 5 kurtas stitched randomly<sup>10</sup>.

**7.1.2** Heroin did not take a back seat, during the period under reference, with a number of “*swallow case*” reported. Ingestion of Heroin witnessed a rise as is evident from the “*swallow case*” involving 940 grams<sup>11</sup> in 80 capsules of Heroin booked by Air Customs Officer, Chennai on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 against a Ugandan National who arrived from Sharjah. Within a space of 9 days, another case, based on a specific intelligence, led to interception of a passenger on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 who had arrived from Sharjah resulting in seizure of 794.64 grams of heroin from 63 capsules.<sup>12</sup> To take the matter further, we find that a Tanzanian national involved in a “*swallow case*”, from whom 108 capsules with 1389.10 grams of heroin was seized<sup>13</sup>.

Based on profiling of the passengers, the Air Intelligence Unit attached to Hyderabad International Airport, intercepted a South African woman passenger, aged 26 years, who had arrived from Johannesburg *via* Doha and on examination of the checked-in baggage, brownish white powder was found concealed in five ladies’ handbags and two file folders which on testing was found to be heroin.<sup>14</sup> The seizure of 18 kilograms of heroin, from the checked-in baggage of a Kenyan passenger, New Delhi was effected on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022.<sup>15</sup>

**7.1.3** The use of Air Cargo Complex for illicit drug trafficking is not new to the Customs Officer. The Customs Officers of Chennai Customs Air Cargo Intelligence Unit, acting on a specific information, seized 49.2 kilogram of Pseudoephedrine, a controlled substance, concealed inside paper board packing material from a UAE bound export consignment.<sup>16</sup> In yet another crackdown by the officers attached to the Airport Special Cargo Commissionerate at the International Customs Courier terminal, Mumbai on the basis of an intelligence that a courier package originating from America contained narcotics drugs, a watch was kept by the officers. The technique of “*controlled delivery*” was to effective use in this case as is evident

from the following. The package was intercepted and 910 grams<sup>17</sup> of Marijuana originating in California was found concealed in an Air Purifier. Furtherance to the intelligence developed and with the help data analytics, the said officers intercepted three more parcels originating from North America during 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2022. Intensive search of the parcels led to recovery of high-quality hydroponics marijuana weighing 27.478 kilograms. During the dummy/controlled delivery, it was found that the person receiving the parcel was sending it to another address, where the residents would call another person to collect the package. The third person who came to collect the package was found to be the mastermind of the operation. During the course of search at the residence of the mastermind, another 20 kilograms of marijuana, 120 grams of hashish and some other narcotics substances were found. In the entire operation, using the controlled delivery route, three persons were arrested.

**7.1.4** Foreign Post Office (FPO) is another mode like the air passenger route to indulge in illicit drug trafficking. The Customs Officers attached to FPO, Chennai booked a case involving 32 MDMA tablets and 419 grams of Ganja from the postal parcels<sup>18</sup>. On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Bangalore City Customs seized 950 grams of Cannabis from FPO, Bengaluru.<sup>19</sup>

**7.1.4.1** Looking at the exploitation of the ease of doing business, put in various customs formation, including at the international courier terminal, by unscrupulous persons, a case of illegal export of ephedrine, another popular controlled substance, concealed in Ready Made Garments through the International Courier, was booked and the controlled substance was seized on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 which led to the exporter being arrested<sup>20</sup>. In a far reaching action, the Customs Officers of Mumbai Zone-III seized 27.5 kilograms (approximately) of marijuana being smuggled from the United States of America through courier. Subsequent investigations led to the mastermind being identified and search of his house yielded more than 20 kilograms of marijuana & more than 120 grams of Hashish.<sup>21</sup> On this route, we further see that acting on a specific intelligence, the Customs Officers of Chennai Air Customs effected a seizure, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022, of 920 grams of Meth crystals, which was found duly concealed in a wooden box kept at the bottom of a courier parcel<sup>22</sup>.

**7.1.4.2** The seizure of 2.5 kilograms of contraband in Foreign Post Office, New Delhi suspected to be heroin was effected on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022.<sup>23</sup>

**8.** The illicit drug trafficking through the FPO, Courier and Air Passenger/Baggage route is always limited in nature and cannot meet the demand of the drug syndicates. Hence, the drug syndicates take other routes for bulk delivery.

**9.** The information regarding booking of cases by the NCB and its Zonal Units during the

period under reference, available on the public domain, reveals that all the Units have booked cases covering narcotic drugs, psychotropic & controlled substances and the *modus operandi* adopted is mentioned against them, wherever necessary. It may be seen, the NCB has been successful in booking cases at the Airport, courier terminal, inter-state movement, etc.

<b>Date</b>	<b>NCB Unit</b>	<b>Seizure of the substance</b>	<b>Mode of concealment/Remarks</b>
06.04.2022	Jodhpur	3.035 kilograms of Heroin	
06.04.2022	Chandigarh	10,000 Tramadol tablets	From a courier parcel sent to a courier office, from fake Ludhiana address.
06.04.2022	Delhi	5.19 kilograms of Heroin	Concealed in false cavity
06.04.2022	Guwahati	4601.78 kilograms of Ganja	Concealed in natural rubber
09.04.2022	Amritsar	2.3 kilograms of Charas	
09.04.2022	Ahmedabad	168 grams of Mephedrone (MD)	
09.04.2022	Ahmedabad	150 kilograms of Poppy Husk/straw	
09.04.2022	Kolkata	Buprenorphine Injections Alprazolam tablets Phensydl cough syrups Diazepam injection Pentazocine lactate Injection (in huge quantities)	Unearthing of drug diversion



12.04.2022	Mumbai	3.980 kilograms of Heroin	South African national at the CSI Airport, Mumbai
12.04.2022	Delhi	1.34 kilograms of Cocaine	Swallow case at IGI Airport, New Delhi
12.04.2022	Hyderabad	4.956 kilograms of Pseudoephedrine	Inside 10 plastic zipbags - each zipbag with foam headrests`
12.04.2022	Guwahati	1.045 kilograms of Heroin	Concealed in false cavity
12.04.2022	Patna	538 kilograms of Ganja	
12.04.2022	Chandigarh	1.290 kilograms of opium from car	
13.04.2022	Bangalore	3.176 kilograms of Charas and hashish	Busted an international drug racket in Bengaluru with links to Nepal.
13.04.2022	Mumbai	508 grams of Tramadol	Concealed in Thread Rolls
14.04.2022	Jodhpur	155.5 kilograms of Poppy Straw	
14.04.2022	Indore	169 kilograms of Ganja	
25.04.2022	Patna	100.1 kilograms of Ganja	Inter-state drug network busted
24.04.2022	Chennai	184 grams of Methamphetamine	Chennai Airport
25.04.2022	Lucknow	2400 kilograms of Ganja	Concealed in aluminium sheets
26.04.2022	Indore	34.7 kilograms of poppy-	Concealed in plastic bags

		straw	
01.05.2022	Chennai	3.2 kilograms of heroin	Concealed in cavity in car
05.05.2022	Bhubaneswar	506 kilograms of Ganja	Inter-state drug network busted
15.05.2022	Mumbai	1.7 kilograms of Hydroponic weed	From two suspected packets arrived from the USA
19.05.2022	Patna	204 kilograms of Ganja	Hid in mineral truck
20.05.2022	Imphal	28.694 kilograms of Opium	Concealed in SUV cavity.
22.05.2022	Mumbai	8640 bottle of Codeine-based Cough Syrup	Seizure in Bhiwandi, Thane from a Bolero Pickup
23.05.2022	Mumbai	970 grams of Amphetamine	Parcel headed to New Zealand and contraband hidden in ash tray
24.5.2022	Delhi	750 grams of Heroin	Concealed in Plastic folder from Courier destined for Delhi from Johannesburg, South Africa

**9** The aforesaid cases booked by all the empowered departments did damage to the supply chain and decreased the availability in the market. Nevertheless, it can be seen that these are not huge quantities.

**9.1** A study of the cases booked using other routes (i.e. maritime routes, use of containers, etc.) involving huge quantities and novel *modus operandi*, reveal that during the period under reference, the DRI, ICG, Gujarat ATS, NCB, have been very active in liaising amongst themselves in booking a number of cases, causing disruption in the supply chain. Equally important is to note the *modus operandi* adopted by the drug syndicate in pushing the illegal trade.

**9.1.1** In a joint operation by the Gujarat ATS and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022, the officers of DRI booked a case involving 205.6 kilograms<sup>24</sup> of heroin through nearly 17 odd containers at Kandla Port by smuggling into India, wherein the consignment declared as gypsum powder (which resembles heroin in colour but not by smell

and other features) was moved from Afghanistan to Iran by land and then shipped from Bandar Abbas port in Iran to India (Kandla port) by a firm identified as M/s Balaji Traders.

**9.1.2** In another bust by the Gujarat ATS and DRI on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022<sup>25</sup>, the drug syndicate used a *modus operandi* of soaking the threads (yarns) in a solution containing Heroin which were then dried, made into bales and packed in bags and shipped with normal bales of thread. The examination of the container, having gross weight of 9760 kilograms containing 100 jumbo bags, four suspicious bags having a total weight of 395 kilograms showed the presence of opiate derivative/Heroin in the field testing done by the Regional Forensic Science Laboratory.

**9.1.3** Moving further, we find that acting on a specific intelligence that two large boats carrying huge quantities of drugs were *en route* to India from the Arabian Sea towards Gujarat or Mumbai, an operation was launched the NCB in collaboration with the Indian Navy to track these boats in the high seas. In an unparalleled operation conducted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in association with the Indian Navy, 800 kilograms of drugs was seized from a vessel. The NCB found 525 kilograms of very high-quality hashish and 234 kilograms of Methamphetamine<sup>26</sup>. Readers may note that the Indian Navy was roped in for the first time and it is also required to be noted that the Indian Navy is not an empowered department under the NDPS Act, 1985.

**9.1.4** The lure of money attracts people from all walks of life and there is no exception to this as can be seen from another major drug haul by the NCB, which led to the arrest of 22 persons<sup>27</sup> which included software engineers, financial analyst, an MBA graduate and one NCB personnel for running a pan-India drug trafficking network that used the 'darknet' and crypto currency to courier narcotics. Three major markets *viz.* 'DNM India', 'Dread' and 'The Orient Express' – functioning on the '*darknet*' were identified in the operation in several states including Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam, Punjab, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Rajasthan. The persons using 'darknet' sourced the drugs from the USA, the UK, the Netherlands and Poland using International Courier services and Foreign Post Office.

**9.1.5** In continuing with the fight against the inflow, the NCB, DZU had on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 seized 50 kilograms<sup>28</sup> of high-quality heroin, 47 kilograms suspected narcotics, 30 lakh drug money in cash, counting machines and other incriminating materials from a residential premises in Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi.

**9.1.5.1** In a follow up action to the Shaheen Bagh case, the NCB and Gujarat ATS seized 35 kilograms of heroin after busting an Afghanistan-India narcotics smuggling ring operating

from Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district<sup>29</sup>. Based on a tip-off about the syndicate shared by the Gujarat ATS following which the two agencies intercepted two Muzaffarnagar residents in Delhi and about 1 kilogram of heroin was recovered from their vehicle. Following this, a cache of 34 kilograms of heroin and 2.75 kilograms of acetic anhydride (a controlled substance used to “*manufacture*” heroin) was recovered from a store house in Muzaffarnagar. It has been reported by the NCB that “*They (drug traffickers) have been smuggling goods to India through maritime and land border route wherein heroin was concealed. The narcotics was later extracted from those goods by the Indian counterparts with the help of Afghan mules in the Muzaffarnagar store house*”

**9.1.6** Continuing its crackdown on the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) unearthed yet another novel *modus operandi* and effected seizure of 62 kilograms<sup>30</sup> of Heroin on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 after interdicting an air cargo consignment. This is one of the biggest seizures of Heroin till date through courier/cargo/air passenger modes in India.

**9.1.7** The DRI, in an operation code-named “*BLACK & WHITE*” seized 55 kilograms<sup>31</sup> of Heroin from an imported cargo consignment, declared to contain 320 “Trolley Bags”, which arrived from Entebbe in Uganda at the Air Cargo Complex, Near IGI Airport, New Delhi. The Heroin was concealed inside the hollow metal tubes in 126 trolley bags.

**9.7.1** In a swift follow up operations, to the above listed case, in Punjab and Haryana, the same led to another seizure of 7 kilograms<sup>32</sup> of Heroin along with Rs. 50,00,000/- in cash.

**9.7.2** In another massive blow to the drug syndicate, the officers of DRI, in another operation code named “*Op Namkeen*” effected seizure from an import consignment declared to contain 1,000 bags of common salt imported at Mundra port from Iran, which on examination from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 led to the recovery of 52 kilograms of cocaine<sup>33</sup>.

**9.7.2** At this juncture, it is essential to note that the drug syndicates have been using different substances i.e. gypsum powder, common salt to camouflage the substances to indulge in illicit drug trafficking

**9.7.3** The hot pursuit to contain the inflow of drugs into the country can be witnessed in another pan-India bust of drug syndicate by the NCB with the arrest of eight persons and seizure of about 34.89 kilograms of high quality heroin, which started on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 with the interception of two Zimbabwean women passengers who landed in Bengaluru International Airport (KIA) and this led to seizure of seven kilograms of heroin from them. Interrogation of the international woman passengers revealed that a Nigerian was behind the network and was

identified as the "kingpin" of the network and other operatives residing in Delhi and Itarsi (Madhya Pradesh). A sum of Rs. 5,80,000, in cash, was also seized during the operation.<sup>34</sup>

**10** On an analysis of the seizure figures, as stated herein above, esteemed readers may note that the Heroin, Opium, Cocaine, Ganja, Poppy Straw, Codeine-based Cough Syrup, Charas, Methamphetamine tablet, Amphetamine, Tramadol tablet, Ephedrine, Pseudoephedrine and of course cash have been seized. Even diversion of the psychotropic substances by the licensed chemist have been detected.

**11** The irresistible conclusion that can be drawn is that there is a massive inflow of drugs into the country resulting in massive seizures and busting of drug syndicates involved in illicit drug trafficking. It follows from the seizures that there is consumption and the consumption has seen a sharp rise in the recent past. But for the seizures by the empowered departments, the seized quantity would have become part of the supply chain, resulting in the generation of black money, fuelling further demand and entrapment of new persons for consumption.

**11.1** At this stage, readers may note that there has been shift in the nationality of the passengers, at the International Airports, involved in the illicit drug trafficking and the Nigerian nationals have taken a back seat and are operating & orchestrating the illicit drug trafficking from the behind the scene.

**12** While the role of foreigners is definitely to be noted, what is required to be noted is the role of the female foreigners from the African continent taking a lead in this illegal trade, which has been duly supported by other foreigners residing in India and orchestrating the ballooning trade. The steady shift of citizens of Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Angola & South Africa taking the lead and the Nigerians in the backstage orchestrating the entire activity is to be taken note of by the empowered departments seriously. In the same breadth, the role of Indian citizens to illegally export through various means is also required to be taken note of.

**13** What is worrisome is that but for the massive seizures, the same would have percolated down the line. Does this translate to mean that there has been massive spurt in the consumption level in every part of the country? If the answer to this question is in the affirmative, it is high time that the entire machinery is geared up to face the challenges that the country is facing on account of the massive inflow by containing demand. Youth of the country should be sensitized about the lurking dangers to get trapped into vicious circle of sale, purchase, dealing, consumption, etc not only to them but also to their family and to the society and country as a whole. The sooner the youth of the country learn this, the better it would be for them as well as their family and the country.

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