

PRESS RELEASE

SEIZURE OF 5.618 KG COCAINE WORTH 60 CRORES AT CHENNAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TAMIL NADU

Pursuant to the vision of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi of a DRUG FREE INDIA (Nasha Mukht Bharat) and acting upon the directives of Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Narcotics Control Bureau has achieved significant success by effecting a seizure of 5.618 kg of Cocaine worth 60 Crores.

On 01.09.2025, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB Chennai) conducted a joint operation alongwith Air Intelligence Unit, Chennai Customs which resulted in the seizure of 5.618 kg of Cocaine at Chennai International Airport. Two Indian nationals- one resident of Bageshwar, UK (25 years old BA Graduate) and Chamba, HP (26 years old ITI pass) respectively, were apprehended during this operation while carrying the contraband brought on Ethiopian Airlines flight from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to Chennai in their baggage. The street value of the seized contraband which is high a grade cocaine is estimated to be atleast Rs 60 Crores in India. Cocaine is sold in retail in one gram sachets and one gram sachets cost anywhere between Rs.8000 to Rs.12000 depending on the level of adulteration in the cocaine.

It has been ascertained that these persons have made multiple trips from Addis Ababa to various airports in India for trafficking cocaine in the past few years.

Preliminary investigations also reveal that the apprehended individuals are part of a larger transnational drug syndicate involved in trafficking of cocaine from Ethiopia to India for further distribution in other parts of India from Delhi, where the distribution network is handled by a Nigerian national. Acting swiftly on these revelations, NCB has detained this Nigerian national in Delhi who was in India since 2023 on Medical VISA but was over staying since 2024 even after expiry of his VISA and also an Indian member (resident of Chamba District a 26 years old Graduate) of the syndicate from Mumbai. Even though the Nigerian national had come to India for Medical VISA for self treatment at Gleneagles HealthCity, Perumbakkam, Chennai and was overstaying, he was involving in drug trafficking and setting up a distribution channel of cocaine from Delhi. Investigation has further disclosed involvement of a person of Indian origin in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia who arranges the supply of cocaine and distribution of the profits among the syndicate members. Further investigations are underway to identify and apprehend all other members of this syndicate and to ascertain financial trail.

Considering the involvement of foreigners especially African nationals in illegal drug trafficking activities in India, NCB has collected the list of overstaying foreigners and shared the data with the States for appropriate action against the overstaying individuals under the Foreigners Act. This seizure exemplifies the NCB's commitment to successfully disrupt trans-national and drug networks to achieve the vision of DRUG FREE INDIA.

NCB seeks support of the citizens in this mission. Any person can confidentially share information related to drug trafficking by calling on MANAS- Toll Free Number-1933. The identity of the informer is kept secret.
