

PRESS RELEASE



SEIZURE OF 17 KGS GANJA BY COAST GUARD HOVERCRAFT OFF FOURTH ISLAND RAMESHWARAM

MANDAPAM – 31 AUG 16. THE COAST GUARD IN A JOINT CO-ORDINATED OPERATION WITH CUSTOMS AND OTHER SECURITY AGENCIES MADE A SEIZURE OF 17.050 KGS OF GANJA OFF FOURTH ISLAND NEAR RAMESHWARAM.

ON RECEIPT OF INFORMATION REGARDING LIKELY TRANSHIPMENT OF CONTRABAND OFF FOURTH ISLAND COAST GUARD STATION MANDAPAM LAUNCHED COMBING OPERATION BY DEPLOYING HOVERCRAFT ACV H-190 ALONGWITH REPS OF CUSTOMS. THE HOVERCRAFT WAS BEACHED NEAR FOURTH ISLAND OFF RAMESHWARAM AND LAUNCHED SEARCH PARTY.

A THOROUGH RUMMAGING OF AREA NEAR FOURTH ISLAND OFF RAMESHWARAM RESULTED IN SEIZURE OF 17.050 KG OF GANJA CONTAINED IN 08 PACKETS BURIED UNDER SAND, WRAPPED IN BROWN PAPER AND COVERED WITH POLYTHENE BAGS. RUMMAGING OF THE ENTIRE AREA WAS UNDERTAKEN FOR FURTHER POSSIBILITY OF HIDING CONTRABAND AND PRESENCE OF PERSONNEL /BOAT IN THE AREA. HOWEVER NO BOAT / PERSON WAS SIGHTED.

THE HOVERCRAFT ON ARRIVAL AT MANDAPAM HANDED OVER THE SEIZED CONTRABAND TO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. IT IS SUSPECTED THAT THE CONTRABAND WAS SMUGGLED FROM ANDHRA PRADESH AND SAME WAS INTENDED TO BE FERRIED TO SRILANKA. HOWEVER DUE TO THE ENHANCE SECURITY MEASURES BY VARIOUS SECURITY AGENCIES, SMUGGLERS COULDN'T SUCCEED IN THEIR ULTERIOR MOTIVES. THE CONSIGNMENT WAS LIKELY TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE AGENTS ACROSS THE IMBL. THE DETAILED INVESTIGATION IS BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CUSTOMS, POLICE, NCB ETC.

THE INDIAN COAST GUARD STATION MANDAPAM IS IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH OTHER INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO PREVENT SUCH OCCURRENCE IN FUTURE. IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THE INDIAN COAST GUARD HAD SEIZED EARLIER 652 KG OF GANJA ON 16 JUN 15 NEAR LANDS END AT DHANUSHKODI.