

INDIAN COAST GUARD IN A DARING OPERATION APPREHENDS SRI LANKAN BOAT 'SHENAYA DUWA' WITH HEROIN AND WEAPON ALONGWITH 06 SRI LANKAN CREW

26 Nov 2020, Tamil Nadu Coast. Indian Coast Guard received information from intelligence agencies regarding an illegal consignment of narcotic drugs (Heroin) being transhipped through a Sri Lankan boat in India through sea route. ICG deployed 05 ships to carry out extensive search for the suspected boat. Two ICG aircraft were also continuously deployed to augment sea-air coordinated search. Post extensive well planned search in the area, since 17 Nov 2020, suspicious Sri Lankan boat was identified south of Thoothukudi on 24 Nov 20. Indian Coast Guard Ship Vaibhav carried out boarding on the suspected vessel at about 10 NM off Kanyakumari in the evening of 24 Nov 20.

Search of the suspicious boat revealed 99 packets of heroin, 20 boxes of synthetic drugs, five 9 mm pistols and a thuraya satellite phone set. The drugs and weapons were unearthed since hidden in an unapproachable location in the boat. **The cost of the entire narcotics catch is approx Rs.1000 crore in the international market.** During initial investigation, the crew members revealed that the drugs were transferred onto Sri Lankan vessel 'Shenaya Duwa' on the high seas by a Pakistani dhow from Karachi. The drugs were meant to be sent to western countries and Australia. The suspected Sri Lankan vessel entered Tuticorin harbour 0640 h under escort of ICGS Vaibhav. The joint interrogation of the apprehended 06 crew members is being undertaken at Tuticorin by all security agencies. Indian Coast Guard is committed to thwart any attempt to smuggle contraband, drug and weapon into our country.

