

Crime

## Ambulance carrying Rs 2.7 crore worth ganja intercepted in Andhra

DRI officials found cannabis (ganja) worth 1,813 kilograms packed in 361 brown coloured packets weighing approximately 5 kilos each.

[TNM Staff](#) Saturday, February 23, 2019 - 17:33



An ambulance carrying 1,813 kilograms of cannabis was intercepted by sleuths from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in Visakhapatnam on Friday. The seized narcotic is worth Rs 2,71,95,000 in the grey market, say officials.

The DRI officials nabbed the driver along with the vehicle based on a tip-off. The cannabis was being transported in an ambulance of the Force Traveller model and was heading towards Raipur in Chattisgarh. The vehicle was intercepted on the Sabbavaram-Pendurthi road on the Chennai Kolkata Highway in Andhra Pradesh.

Upon searching the vehicle, the officials found cannabis worth 1,813 kilograms packed in 361 brown coloured packets weighing approximately 5 kilograms each. Cannabis, also known as marijuana or ganja is classified as a narcotic drug under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

This haul by the DRI comes two days after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) unit in Hyderabad intercepted a truck at Rajendranagar carrying 1020 kilograms of cannabis. The contraband was concealed under 18 metric tons of coal powder in the truck coming from Visakhapatnam in AP.

The officials had to remove the coal powder using an earth mover to recover the cannabis. The 39-year-old truck driver who has since been arrested was moving the contraband to Zaheerabad in Telangana.

The NCB in Hyderabad has so far seized 4,557 kilograms of cannabis in 2018-19.

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## Ambulance being used to transport over 1,800 kgs of cannabis seized by DRI in Visakhapatnam

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The DRI said that the value of seized ganja in the grey market would be around Rs 2,71,95,000. A case has been registered in this regard and further investigation in the case is in progress.



1,813 kgs of cannabis | Photo Credit: ANI

**Visakhapatnam:** Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 1,813 kg cannabis of worth Rs 2.7 crore from an ambulance on Pendurthi Road in the district. DRI has also arrested the driver of the ambulance for illegally transporting cannabis.

Acting on a tip-off, the officers of Visakhapatnam's DRI Unit launched an operation in the early hours of Friday and intercepted a Force Traveller model ambulance coming from Sabbavaram towards Pendurthi on Sabbavaram–Pendurthi Road in Visakhapatnam district.

"During the search of the ambulance, the officers recovered 1,813 kg cannabis, also known as ganja or marijuana, a narcotic drug covered under NDPS Act, 1985.

"The cannabis was packed in 361 brown coloured packets weighing approximately 5 kg each, in the said ambulance. The contraband was said to be brought from the Agency area and was destined to Raipur in Chattisgarh," said DRI in a statement.

"The value of seized ganja in the grey market would be around Rs 2,71,95,000. The officers have also seized the said Force Ambulance, which has been used for the transport of the said contraband. One person, i.e., the driver found involved in the illegal transport of ganja in this case, has been apprehended," added the DRI.

A case has been registered in this regard and further investigation in the case is in progress.