

DRI snags ₹2cr in mephedrone at Ankleshwar unit

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Ahmedabad: Working specific intelligence, teams of Surat and Vapi Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) raided an Ankleshwar-based chemicals manufacturing unit and seized mephedrone, a synthetic stimulant drug, along with raw material used in its preparation.

The total seizure is worth close to Rs 2 crore, said DRI officials.

DRI sources said that they had received specific information that Matrix Fine Chem was illegally manufacturing mephedrone, which has street names of meow meow, drone, white magic or M-Cat. Working on information, the joint teams carried out raid and found 2kg of powder/crystal of the substance from the factory whereas 8.3kg was in liquid form.

A case was filed under provisions of the NDPS Act against Dr. Sanket Patel, owner of the unit. Patel, a PhD in organic chemistry, was apprehended from his residence soon

get more details about demand and supply. "The 80.13kg propenyl chloride and 83 kg toluene used for manufacturing of mephedrone was also recovered and seized. The market value of seized drugs is more than Rs 2 crore. Patel was manufacturing the drug, which has a very high market value, under the garb of chemicals. In the past few years, meow meow is in high demand during parties," said a DRI official.

The official added that liquid mephedrone is soluble in water and can be taken orally or injected in veins. The effects of the drug are similar to methamphetamine and cocaine but has lesser potency.

In past three months, this is the third case from western India when DRI has busted the chemical units producing illegal psychotropic substances. Earlier, in two instances, the teams had found illegal production of Tramadol in Palghar in Maharashtra and Valsad. The seized substance was worth Rs 100 crore and five persons were arrested in the



The Ankleshwar-based chemicals manufacturing unit