

Missing link held in ₹50cr drug bust

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Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested a person from Chennai in a case of illegal manufacture of synthetic drugs like ketamine and methamphetamine.

The DRI said H Azad alias Thampi was a key link in the case, arranging raw materials required to make the drugs, and had been on the run for five months, since the seizure by the DRI of 253 kg of ketamine and 12 kg of methamphetamine worth Rs 50 crore from factories and godowns in Koparkhairane and Taloja in August.

DRI officials said the significance of Thampi's arrest lay in his being the one who procured raw material from Faridabad and trans-

ported it to Rasayani in Raigad district for manufacture of the synthetic drugs. The drugs were illegally shipped to Malaysia.

The gang used to manufacture ketamine in the plant at Rasayani and the finished product would be smuggled out in export cargo by falsely declaring it as detergent powder or chemical powder.

DRI officials are searching for three foreigners, Jack, Mark and John, who they said used to facilitate the export by declaring the contraband as a chemical.

"The arrest of Azad will help us gather more details on those foreign nationals who used to run the racket. We hope he will also throw light on the financiers," an official said.