



National Investigation Agency
Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India



NIA FILES 6TH SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGESHEET AGAINST 4 IN SALAYA PORT PAK DRUG SMUGGLING CASE

24 ACCUSED ARRESTED SO FAR, 9 STILL ABSCONDING, INCLUDING WANTED ITALY, PAK & AUSTRALIA BASED CRIMINALS

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed its 6th Supplementary Chargesheet in the case relating to seizure of 500 kgs of heroin, being smuggled from Pakistan into India, at Salaya Port in Gujarat.

Four accused have been charge-sheeted today in the NIA Special Court, Ahmedabad, under IPC, NDPS Act, and UA(P) Act. A total of 24 persons have been arrested so far in the case and a hunt is on for the remaining 9 accused who are currently absconding.

The absconders include wanted Italy-based one of India's most wanted drug smuggler-trafficker Simranjeet Singh Sandhu, Pakistan-based wanted accused Hajisaab @ Bhaijaan, Nabi Baksh and Australia based Tanvir Singh Bedi. NIA has managed to trace the linkages of the arrested accused to these wanted criminals.

The case had exposed a huge criminal conspiracy to smuggle illicit drugs into India from Pakistan via the sea route. The consignment was being further smuggled to Punjab through Delhi, where it was brought from Gujarat after landing at the Port there. The accused were involved in smuggling, transportation, storage, purification and distribution of illicit drugs.

All the four accused charge-sheeted today, namely Harminder Singh @ Romi Randhawa, Manjit Singh @ Manna, Kuldeep Singh and Malkit Singh, are residents of Punjab. NIA investigations have revealed that they had played a pivotal role in transporting, purifying and distributing the drug in various places across Punjab, and used the drug proceeds to raise and use funds for carrying out activities relating to terror and crime. They had acted on the directions of the wanted accused.

As per NIA investigations, Harminder Singh and Manjit Singh had taken warehouses/residential houses on rent in Ludhiana, Punjab, for storage of the smuggled drugs/heroin at the behest of Australia-based wanted accused Tanvir Singh Bedi. Kuldeep Singh, alongwith accused Malkit Singh, had aided another accused, Sukhbir Singh @ Happy, in piloting/escorting heroin/drug purification chemical laden vehicles multiple times from New Delhi/Karnal/Kurukshetra to Ludhiana and Amritsar to avoid raising suspicion and police checks, as the Bolero vehicle (on which Kuldeep was employed as a driver by the Gurudwara) was registered in the name of a Gurudwara in Fatehgarh Sahib district(Punjab).

The case was originally registered by ATS Gujarat on 12th August 2018, following the seizure of heroin from one of the accused, Aziz Abdul Bhagad, who had pilfered 5 kg of the heroin from a 100 kg heroin consignment smuggled into India from Pakistan. He had concealed this 5 kg heroin in a pit near his village in Gujarat, leading to his eventual arrest.

Considering the national security ramifications international linkages, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, had transferred the case to NIA on 29th June 2020.

