

PRESS BRIEF

THE BIGGEST DRUG HAUL BY INDIAN COAST GUARD: APPREHENDS MAYANMARESE BOAT WITH 5500 KG DRUGS

New Delhi, 25 Nov 24: On 25 Nov 24, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) created history in the maritime domain in India by apprehending a Myanmar Fishing boat named "Soe Wai Yan Htoo" in Andaman seas which was carrying approx. 5500 kgs of prohibited drug Methamphetamine along with one portable Inmarsat Satellite phone.

In the recent past there has been a rise in detection / sighting of Rohingya boats/ Myanmar poachers in Andaman seas. The Andaman seas were kept under strict surveillance owing to recent inputs revealed during joint interrogation of apprehended poacher. The Indian Coast Guard Dornier aircraft whilst on reconnaissance sortie detected a boat which was operating in suspicious manner. The information was passed on to the Joint Operation Centre (JOC), which subsequently deployed an ICG Fast Patrol Vessel, ICG Ship Aruna Asaf Ali from Sri Vijaya Puram to intercept the suspicious Myanmar boat. The ICG ship despite prevailing rough sea conditions proceeded with best speed to intercept the suspicious Myanmar boat. The ICG Ship intercepted one fishing boat which did not match the characteristics of local Indian boat. As the boat was flying Myanmar Flag, it was shadowed till early morning of 24 Nov 24. ICG Ship Aruna Asaf Ali boarded the suspicious Myanmar boat for investigation at 0630 hrs on 24 Nov 24 when the boat was 08 nm off Barren Island in Indian Territorial waters and the joint interrogation was carried out. The six boat crew onboard boat were identified as Myanmar nationals. During rummaging of the boat, the boarding party detected approx. 5500 kgs of white crystalline compound onboard along with one portable Inmarsat Satellite phone. The white crystalline compound was anticipated to be contraband and hence boat was apprehended. Subsequently, the boat was brought to Sri Vijaya Puram for further investigation. ICG Ship Aruna Asaf Ali along with the apprehended boat entered Sri Vijaya Puram at 0500 hrs on 25 Nov 24.

This operation represents a monumental success in the fight against illegal drug trafficking and poaching in Indian waters. The seizure is the largest-ever drug haul by the Indian Coast Guard in maritime history, highlighting the growing threat of transnational maritime narcotics trade and the Coast Guard's commitment to safeguarding Indian territorial waters.