DRI seizes 148 kg alprazolam intermediate and over 1,046 kg raw materials and chemicals in clandestine drug manufacturing laboratory bust in Delhi; one arrested

Illicit laboratory operating under the guise of a computer shop unearthed in Ghazipur, New Delhi; Officials dismantle complete manufacturing setup

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In a significant crackdown on clandestine manufacturing of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in India, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), busted an illicit laboratory manufacturing Alprazolam at Ghazipur, New Delhi, during 15–16 November 2026.

In an intelligence led operation, DRI officers searched a premises which was deceptively operating under the façade of a computer shop. The search revealed a fully functional clandestine laboratory equipped with reaction apparatus, a water chiller, a vacuum exhaust machine and other equipment used in the manufacturing process.

The operation resulted in the recovery of **148 kg Alprazolam intermediate in solid and liquid form**, along with approximately **1,046 kg raw materials and chemicals and 188 litres additional chemicals/liquids** used in the manufacturing process. The laboratory equipment and associated materials were also seized under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.



The person operating the clandestine laboratory was arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985.

Alprazolam is a benzodiazepine-class psychotropic substance, commonly marketed under brand names such as Xanax, Alprax etc. It is a prescription medicine used primarily for the treatment of anxiety and panic disorders. However, its misuse, dependence potential and diversion into illicit channels pose significant public health concerns. Alprazolam is a notified psychotropic substance under the NDPS Act, 1985, and its unauthorised manufacture, possession, sale and distribution attract penal provisions of the Act.

This operation follows DRI's recent busting of a major clandestine synthetic drug manufacturing laboratory in Jalaun district, Uttar Pradesh, on 29 October 2026, with operational assistance from UP ATS. The operation had resulted in the seizure of approximately 1,100 kg of drugs and precursor chemicals, along with manufacturing equipment, and the arrest of two persons.

The busting of the clandestine laboratory in Delhi within weeks of the Jalaun operation underscores DRI's intensified focus on identifying and dismantling illicit drug manufacturing facilities, removing substantial quantities of intermediate materials and precursor chemicals from the illicit supply chain, and disrupting the networks sustaining such operations.

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