DRI seizes over 71 kg heroin being smuggled to Sri Lanka; two drug traffickers arrested in Chennai

Seizure is single largest in India during 2026

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In a major crackdown on international narcotics trafficking, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), has foiled an attempt to smuggle a massive consignment of **71.24 kg of heroin** to Sri Lanka through the coastal route. Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officers mounted intensive surveillance and launched a well-coordinated operation in Chennai during 17–18 November 2026, resulting in the seizure of the contraband and arrest of two persons. The seizure constitutes one of the largest single heroin seizures reported in the country during 2026, so far.



The intelligence indicated that a significant quantity of heroin was being transported from Chennai for onward smuggling to Sri Lanka through the coastal route. Acting swiftly, DRI officers intercepted the suspected vehicle along with an escort two-wheeler in Chennai.

A thorough examination of the vehicle led to the recovery of **69 packets containing an off-white powdery substance**. The total recovered quantity was **71.24 kg (gross weight)**, which was seized under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the consignment was intended to be smuggled into Sri Lanka through the coastal route, via Tiruchirappalli (Trichy), using Chennai as the transit point.

The two vehicles used for transporting the contraband were also seized. Two persons involved in the trafficking operation have been arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985, and remanded to judicial custody.

The seizure has thwarted a major attempt to push a substantial quantity of heroin into the international illicit drug market and underscores the importance of intelligence-led enforcement in disrupting cross-border narcotics trafficking networks.

This significant seizure follows DRI's recent interception of another major consignment of 137 kg of methamphetamine from a coastal village near Nagapattinam in Oct.2026, which was also suspected to be destined for smuggling to Sri Lanka. These successive operations underscore DRI's robust intelligence-gathering capabilities, sustained surveillance and operational preparedness to identify and interdict large consignments of contraband.

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