



**Drug
Monitoring
Centre**

MONTHLY REPORT

DRUG MONITORING CENTRE (DMC)

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DRUG MONITORING CENTRE (DMC)

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Introduction

Based in Lausanne, Switzerland DMC is a global centre aiming at researching and analysis of different aspects of drugs and narcotics including, Addiction; Education; Prevention; Harm Reduction; and Drug Policy. Monthly Reports are essential parts of DMC's mission. Although small in size, as an ambitious and growing platform DMC is consistently enlarging its areas of focus and including more countries and regions under consideration and analysis. The current report (November 2021) addresses the drugs and narcotics circulation in Turkey; France; North America: Canada and the US; and South of Asia: Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

Note: Representations with the mention [Own elaboration] refers to representations developed by the author of this report, based on facts and figures listed in DMC home page under *Facts and Figures* section (<https://drugmonitoringcentre.org/>).

France

France has been conducting a vast nationwide campaign against drug consumption and trafficking resulting the seizure of almost 2 tons (1.894 tons) and 270,000 pills of drugs. During the 67 interventions, 149 people have been arrested, and a certain amount of cash equivalent to \$332,137 has been confiscated. The seizure of cannabis plants is in rise in France. 5 major seizures took place during the month of November in which a total of 336 cannabis plants have been seized. **Table 1** summarizes information on drug seizures and drug related events reported in France in November 2021.

Table 1: Aggregated Information on drug seizures and related disasters reported in France

France	Total seized drug weight (kg)	Total seized drug pill (#)	Total Cash converted in \$	Total Number of arrests	Total Number arrested Under-aged (< 18)	Total Number of injuries	Total Number of deaths	Total Number of facts
Total	1,894	270,000	332,137	149				67

The map below (Figure 1) shows drug seizures reported in different regions of France. According to DMC's analysis, more drug trafficking cases were reported in ile-de-France region (Paris and surrounding cities), which can be seen from the map in Figure 1. It's interesting to notice that on the "Nouvelle-Aquitaine" region (southwestern), no fact has been reported in November while it was during the previous months one of the most impacted.

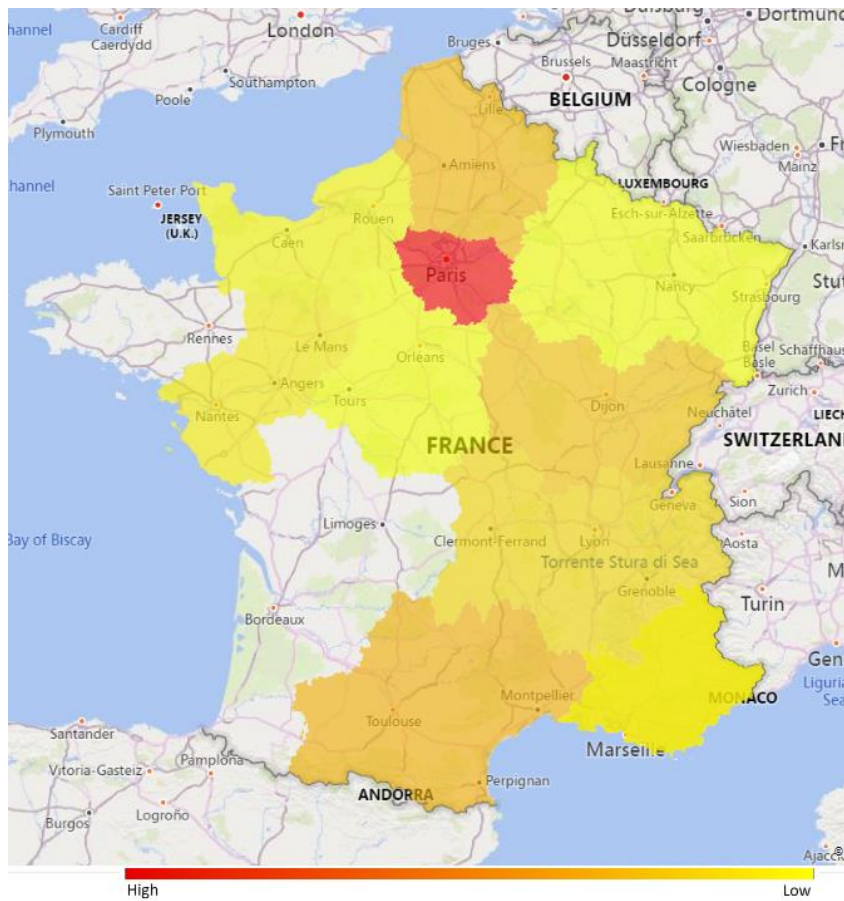


Figure 1: Map representing the number of drug seizures in various parts of France

Table 2 showcases the various drug groups seized in France. In November 2021 a significant seizure of cannabis was reported in the country: 1.7 tons of cannabis and more than 270,000 ecstasy pills.

Table 2: Total drug weight (kg) and the total number of pills seized France

France	Alpha-PVP	Amphetamine	Cannabis	Cocaine	Drug (undefined)	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Psychotropic
Weight (kg)		0.150	1,663	135		57	39			
Pills (#)						270,000				

The “Number of seizures share”, “Weight share” and “Pills share “indicators respectively illustrated on **Figure 2**, **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**, shows that cannabis is the most used drug in the country followed by cocaine.

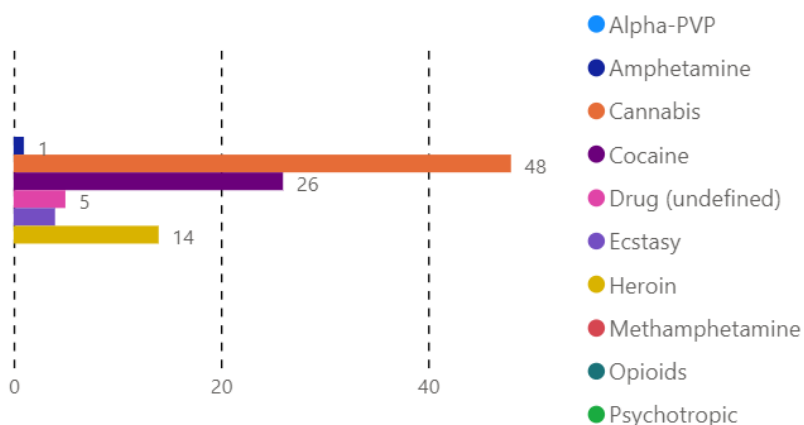


Figure 2: Number of seizures share (%) of seized drugs in France

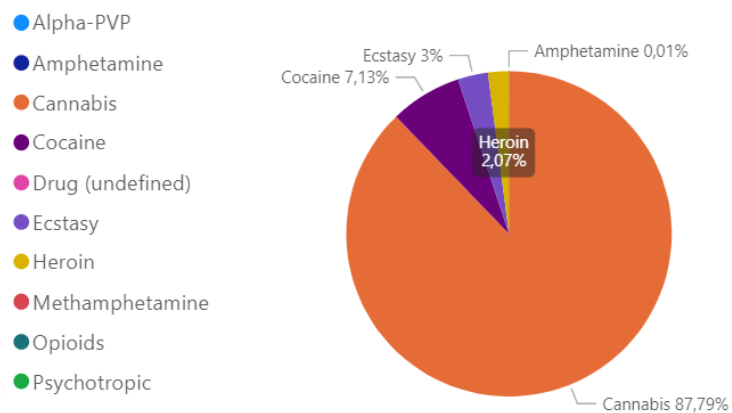


Figure 3: Weight share (%) of seized drugs France

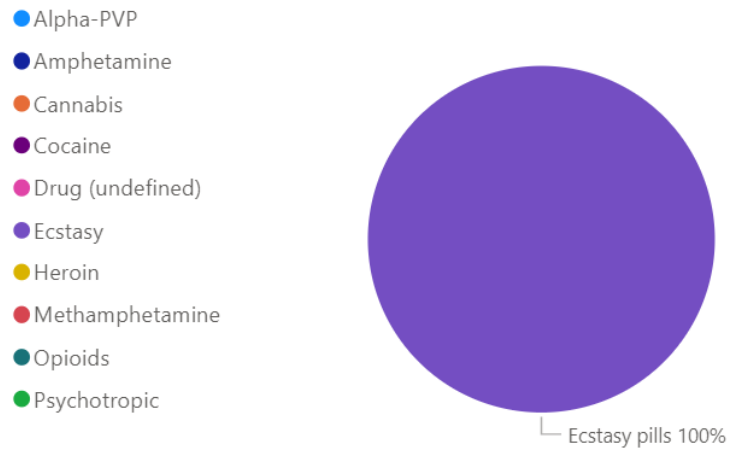


Figure 4: Pills share (%) of seized drugs France

Major seizures reported in France

[On November 15](#), four dealers, including a woman, were arrested after the seizure of 592 kg of cannabis worth around \$5 million. The suspects are considered as members of the drug trafficking network active between Turin (Italy) and Grenoble area of France. The seized drugs are shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5: Cannabis seized from Grenoble area, France (Source: ActuGrenoble)

In Île-de-France region, as a result of 6-month of intensive investigation, 6 peoples from a wide trafficking network have been arrested on [November 27](#), and 127 kg of cocaine have been seized from them. This network connected metropolitan France to overseas and South America. Figure 6 given below shows the Cocaine packages seized.



Figure 6: Cocaine seized in Île-de-France, France (Source: Prefecturedepolice)

Drug Seizures in North America

North America is a substantial producer of drugs and the world's largest consumer. As such, it is both a producer and a recipient for drug trafficking into the region. Cannabis and cocaine are the most widely used drugs in the region and although heroin is not as common as these drugs it is the most commonly injected drug in both the USA and Canada.



Figure 1: Map representing the number of drug seizure cases in North America

Canada

As seen in table 1 below, November in Canada saw 218 (kg) of drugs seized and 350 pills of illegal drugs seized, from our media analysis. The number of drug related arrests totaled 92. The map below (Figure 2) shows that the highest concentration of incidents occurred in the province of Ontario.



Figure 2: Map representing the number of drug seizure cases in Canada

Country	Total seized drug weight (kg)	Total seized portions	Total seized drug pill (#)	Total Cash converted in \$	Total Number of arrests	Total Number arrested Under-aged (< 18)	Total Number of injuries	Total Number of deaths	Total Number of facts
Canada	218.89		350		92				28

Table 1: Drug related arrests and incidents reported in Canada

Referring to Table 2 and Figures 3 and 4, the largest share of illegal drugs seized was cannabis with over 207kg seized, accounting for nearly the entire weight share (94.82%). The next largest share was ecstasy with 2.88% and over 6 kg seized.

Table 2: Drug seizures by weight (kg) reported in Canada

Country	Alpha-PVP	Amphetamine	Cannabis	Cocaine	Drug (undefined)	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Psychotropic
Canada			207.560	1.424		6.300	0.040	0.916	2.648	
Total weight (kg)			207.560	1.424		6.300	0.040	0.916	2.648	

The “**Weight share**” and “**Number of seizures share**” are respectively illustrated on Figure 3 and Figure 4 shows clearly that cannabis is the most used drug, followed by ecstasy, then cocaine. The most frequent drug to be seized was opioids followed by cocaine.

Weight share

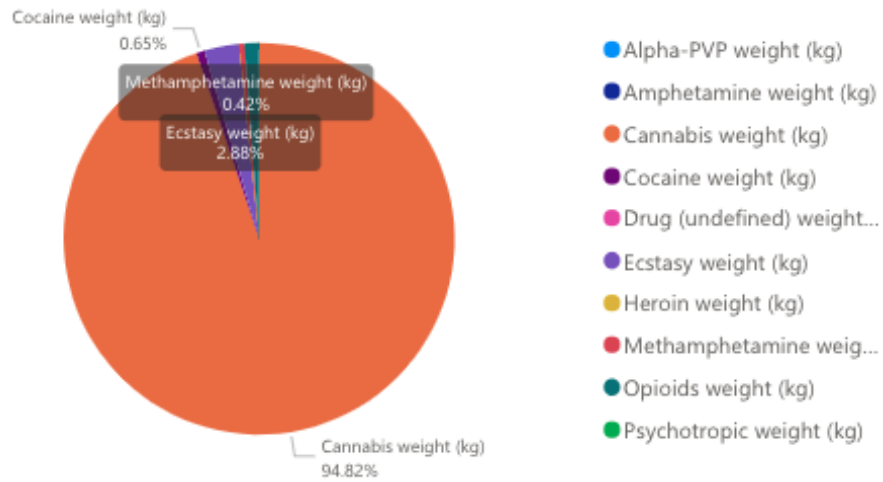


Figure 3: Weight share (%) of seized drugs Canada

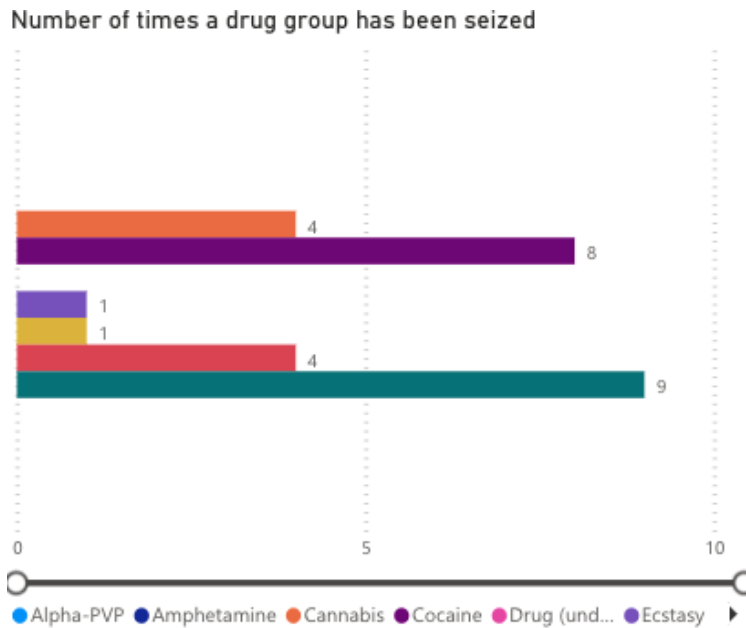


Figure 4: Number of seizures by drug type in Canada

Major seizures reported in Canada

The largest drug bust this month was located in the province of Ontario. The Ontario Police Department arrested two suspects in relation to drug trafficking within the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Drugs and money were seized by police. [Approximately 339 grams of suspected cocaine, 76 grams of suspected methamphetamine and a large amount of assorted cannabis edibles, 1.43 kg.](#)

USA

November in the United States saw a total of 1,323.94 (kg) of drugs seized, referring to table 3 below. 17,625 portions and 13,477 pills of illegal drugs were also seized. The number of drug related arrests totaled 251 and incidents 53. Based on a figure 5 below, California was the state responsible for the highest frequency of drug seizures for the month of November.

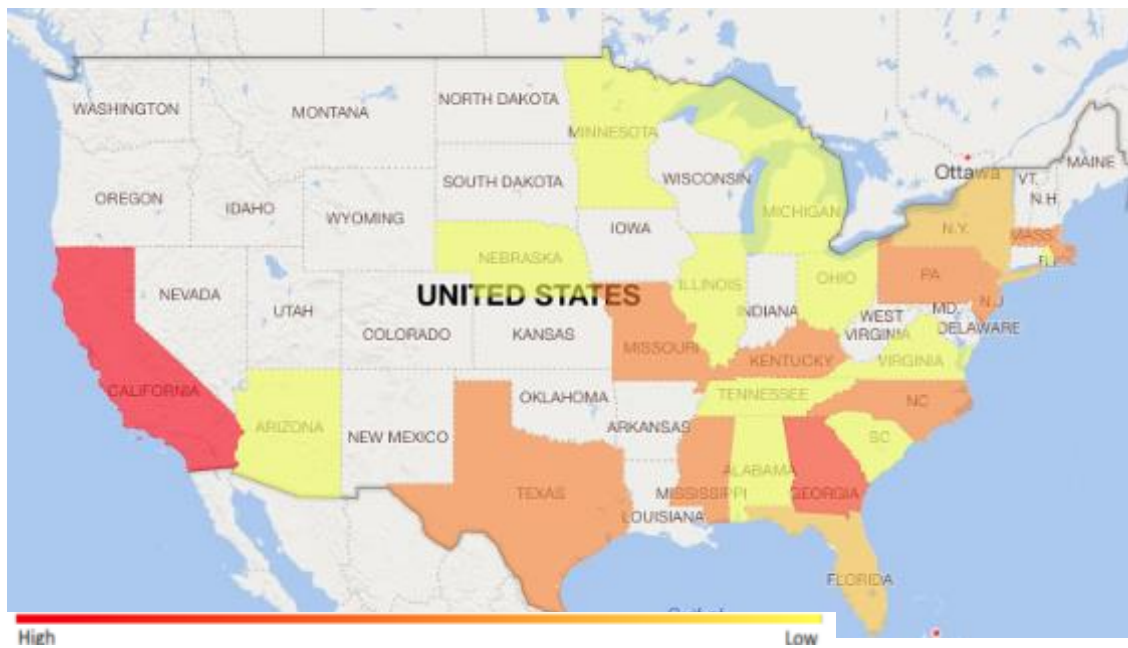


Figure 5: Map representing the number of drug seizure cases in USA

Country	Total seized drug weight (kg)	Total seized portions	Total seized drug pill (#)	Total Cash converted in \$	Total Number of arrests	Total Number arrested Under-aged (< 18)	Total Number of injuries	Total Number of deaths	Total Number of facts
USA	1,323.94	17625	13,477		251				53

Table 3: Drug related arrests and incidents reported in USA

The drug seized in the highest quantity in the US was illegal cannabis. Table 4 and Figures 6,7,8: 1,247 kg of cannabis was seized accounting for 94% of the illegal drugs seized and almost the entire weight share. Nearly all pills seized were opioids with 99% share. And the most frequent drug to be seized was cocaine followed by cannabis.

Country	Alpha-PVP	Amphetamine	Cannabis	Cocaine	Drug (undefined)	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Psychotropic
USA			1247.287	16.279		0.539	6.198	19.010	34.630	

Table 4: Drug seizures by weight (kg) reported in USA

Country	Alpha-PVP pills	Amphetamine pills	Cannabis pills	Cocaine pills	Drug (undefined) pills	Ecstasy pills	Heroin pills	Methamphetamine pills	Opioids pills	Psychotropic pills
USA						77			13400	

Table 5: Drugs seized in pill form reported in USA

Weight share

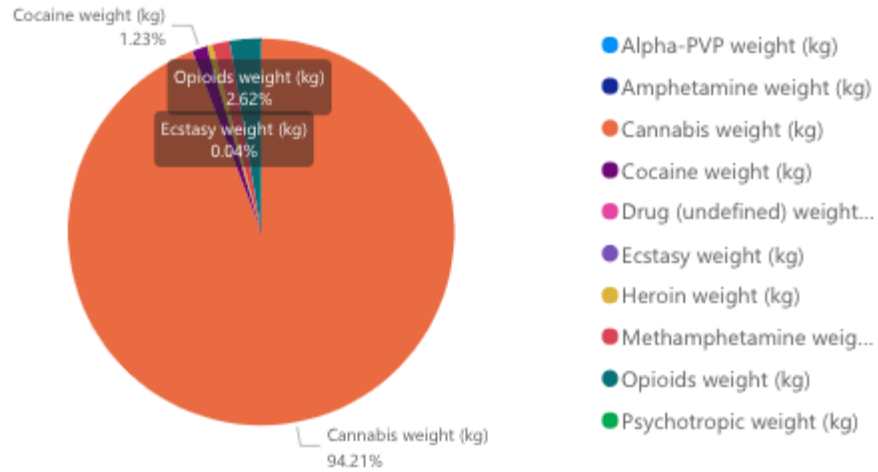


Figure 6: Weight share (%) of seized drugs USA

Pills share

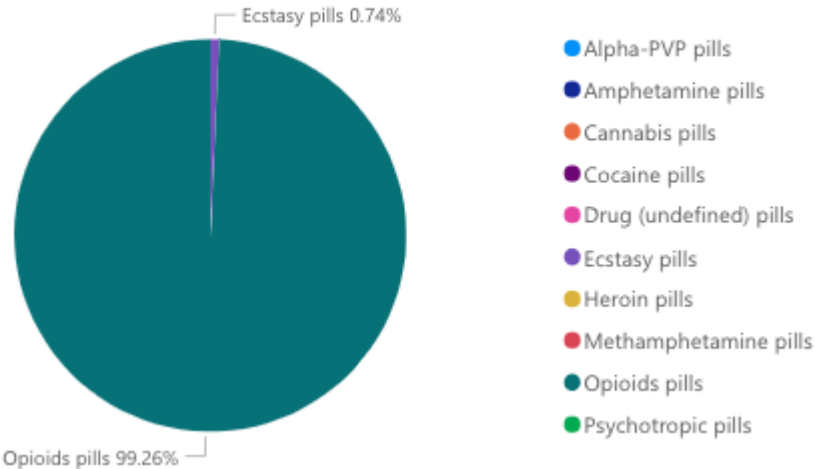


Figure 7: Pill share (%) of seized drugs USA

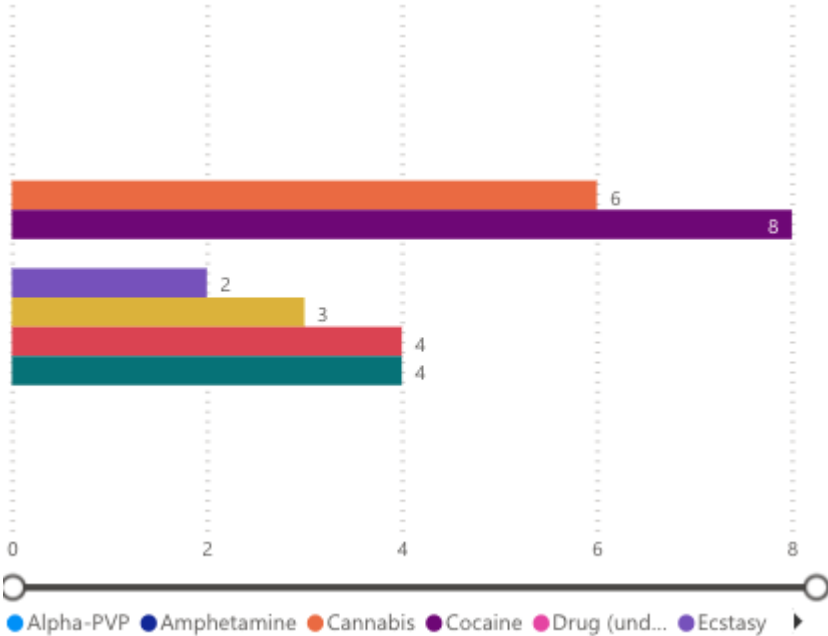


Figure 8: Number of seizures share (%) of seized drugs in USA

Major seizures reported in USA

After a nine-month sting operation, [police in St. Petersburg, Florida arrested 21 persons after officers seized 127 pounds of marijuana](#), eight pounds of powder cocaine, over half a pound of fentanyl, and seven guns. Investigators estimate the group was distributing \$80,000 to \$120,000 of marijuana weekly, not including the cocaine and fentanyl.

Turkey

Turkey is a logistic coordination for transnational opium traffickers. Majority of the opium and opium-based narcotics that are distributed to Europe pass through Turkish borders. In addition to its connecting role, Turkey has major internal drug trafficking problem internally. Cannabis and cannabis based synthetic drugs are known to be the main narcotics both in terms of consumption and illicit trade inside the country

According to data collected in November 2021, there have been 28 drug seizures reported in Turkey, of which 60 people have been arrested for drug trafficking. During these drug seizure operations, 99572 kg of cannabis and 12324 psychotropic drugs were seized in Turkey. Table 1 summarizes information on drug seizures and other related disasters reported in Turkey in November 2021.

Table 1: Aggregated Information on drug seizures and related disasters reported in Turkey

	Total seized drug weight (kg)	Total seized portions	Total seized drug pill (#)	Total Cash converted in \$	Total Number of arrests	Total Number arrested Under-aged (< 18)	Total Number of injuries	Total Number of deaths	Total Number of facts
Turkey	242.27		398		60				28

The map below shows summary of drug seizures reported in various cities in Turkey. According to DMC’s analysis, more drug trafficking cases were reported in the city of Samsun and Izmir.

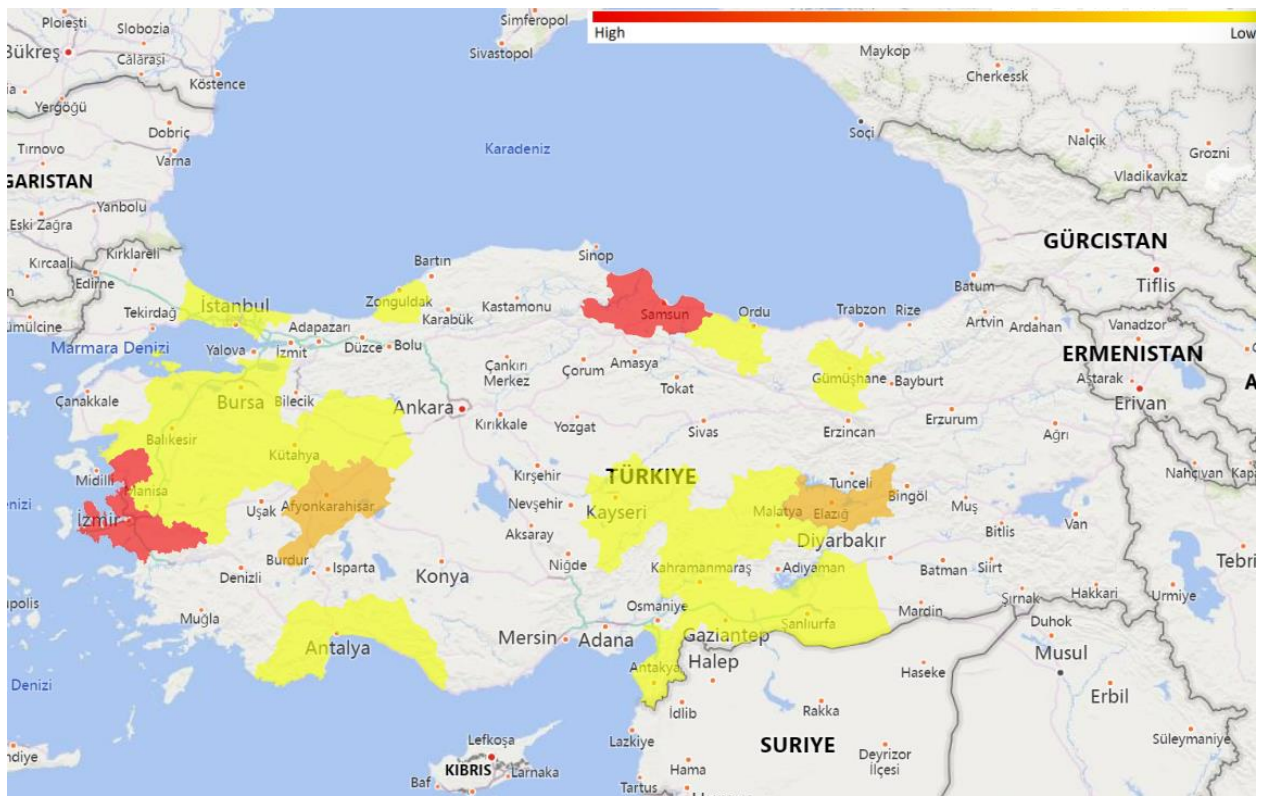


Figure 1: Map representing the number of drug seizures in various parts of Turkey

Table 2, given below, in December 2021, the Turkish media reported higher illicit trafficking and seizure of the cannabis group of drugs and psychotropic drugs than any other drug group. In addition to the illegal drugs, police seized weapons in many of the anti-narcotics operations.

Table 2: Total drug weight (kg) and the total number of pills seized in Turkey

Country	Alpha-PVP	Amphetamine	Cannabis	Cocaine	Drug (undefined)	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Psychotropic
Turkey			99.572		0.480		0.100	18.880		123.240

The “Number of seizures share”, “Weight share” and “Pills share “indicators respectively illustrated on Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4, shows clearly that in December 2021, Cannabis is the most used drug, followed by Psychotropic drugs, then Methamphetamine.

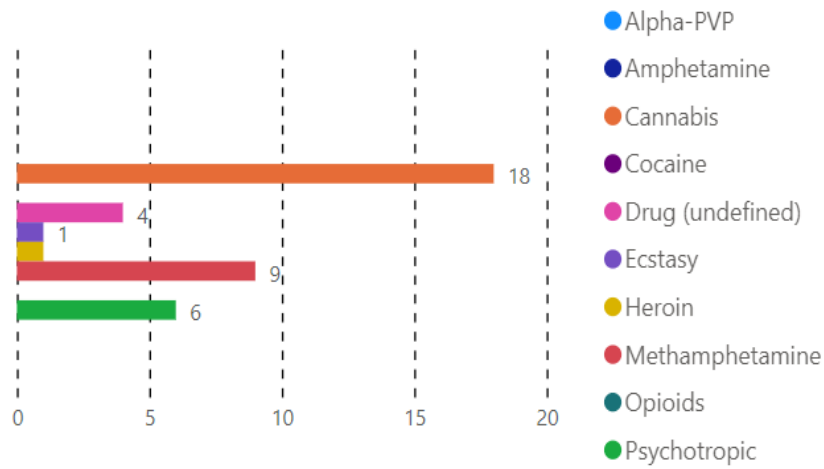


Figure 2: Number of seizures share (%) of seized drugs in Turkey

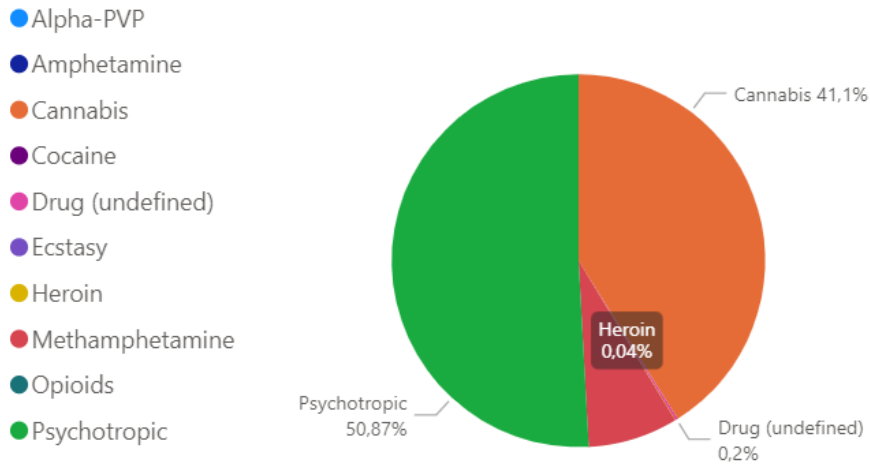


Figure 3: Weight share (%) of seized drugs Turkey

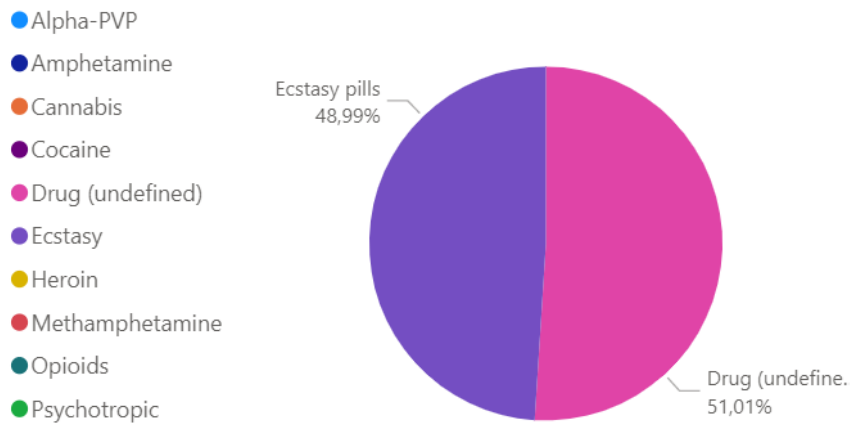


Figure 4: Pills share (%) of seized drugs Turkey

Major seizures reported in Turkey

On November 2, [42 kilograms of cannabis were](#) seized arrested in Hilvan district of Sanliurfa province. The suspect was reportedly a soldier in the Turkish Armed Forces. The detainee confessed that he carried the narcotics on the purpose of selling them for 200.000 Turkish Liras. Also, he confessed the name of the buyer. The gendarmes reportedly arrested the buyer in his home at Hilvan district.



Figure 5: 42 Kilograms of cannabis seized from Hilvan District, Sanliurfa

Drug seizures reported by South Asia

[South Asia has become the transit region](#) for drug trafficking from the neighboring region namely South-East Asia. Despite solid national legislation and mechanisms to address drug trafficking criminal activities in general and drug trafficking in particular has been in rise in South Asian countries. From the analysis of November 2021, significant drug smuggling cases were registered in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Figure 1 represents the number of drug seizures reported in various South Asian countries.

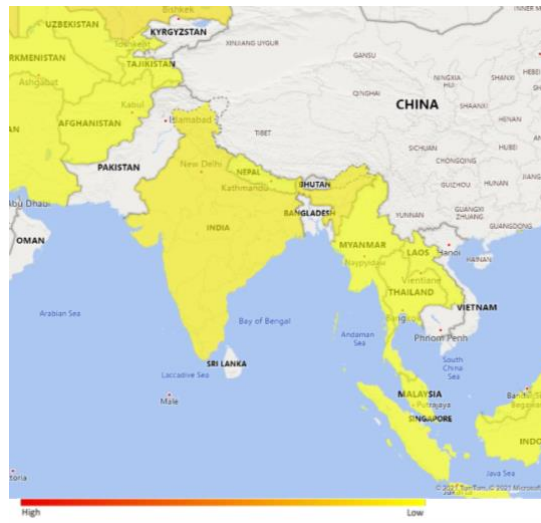


Figure 1: Map representing the frequency of drug seizure cases in South Asia

Additionally, Table 1 represents details of drug share and reported cases from the month of November 2021 across above mentioned countries.

Table 1: Aggregated information on drug seizures and related disasters reported in Nepal, India and Bangladesh

Country	Total seized drug weight (kg)	Total seized portions	Total seized drug pill (#)	Total Cash converted in \$	Total Number of arrests	Total Number arrested Under-aged (< 18)	Total Number of injuries	Total Number of deaths	Total Number of facts
Bangladesh		100			3				2
India	2,202.81		26	\$2,065	44				16
Nepal	802.85		737		8				2
Total	3,005.66	100	763	\$2,065	55				20

Country	Alpha-PVP	Amphetamine	Cannabis	Cocaine	Drug (undefined)	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Psychotropic
India		0.244	1421.439	0.198	0.224	5.688	275.620	7.000	492.400	
Nepal			2.850		800.000					
Total weight (kg)		0.244	1424.289	0.198	800.224	5.688	275.620	7.000	492.400	

Country	Alpha-PVP pills	Amphetamine pills	Cannabis pills	Cocaine pills	Drug (undefined) pills	Ecstasy pills	Heroin pills	Methamphetamine pills	Opioids pills	Psychotropic pills
India						26				
Nepal					737					
Total pills					737	26				

The “Weight share” and “Pills share” for the three South Asian countries of Nepal, India and Bangladesh indicators are illustrated in Figure 2 and it clearly shows that drug undefined pills are the most used drugs followed by cannabis, opioids, and heroin.

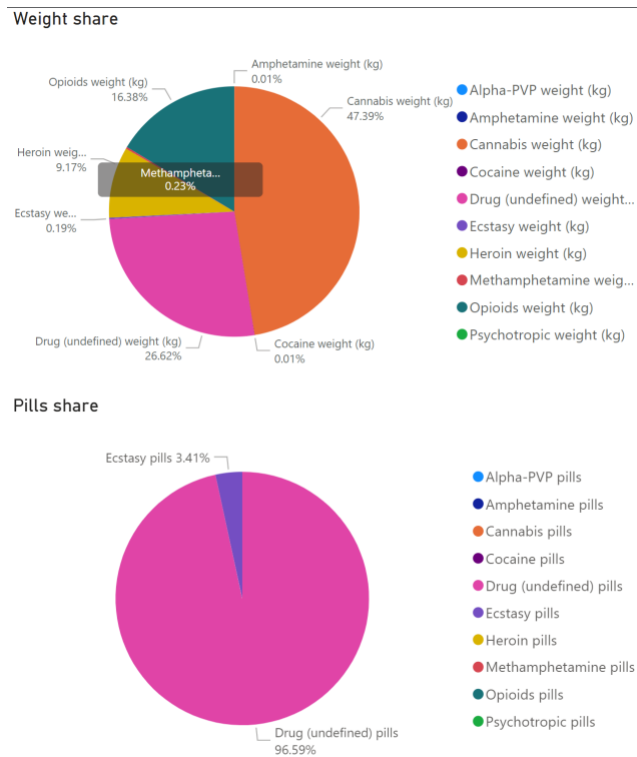


Figure 2: Weight share (%) and Pills share (%) seized in Nepal, India and Bangladesh

Drug seizure reported in Nepal

Nepal is becoming the transit hub for drug peddlers. It shares porous borders with India and some parts of China, and the resulting free flow of goods and people is making the drug peddlers easier to smuggle drugs back and forth. Thus, in the month of November eight foreign nationals were arrested and huge number of drugs i.e., 802. 85 kg were seized from the foreigners. Cannabis is by far the most common drug being seized or smuggled from and through Nepal, however significant quantities of other drugs such as heroin, opium, cocaine have also been seized. **Figure 3** represents the number of drug seizures reported in different parts of Nepal. Reports indicate that the drugs were mostly seized in capital and eastern part of Nepal.

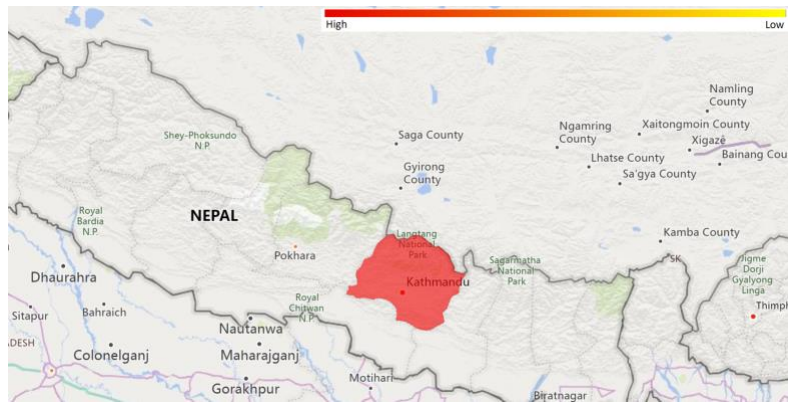


Figure 3: Map representing the number of drug seizures cases in Nepal

In the month of November, undefined pharmaceutical drugs have been seized twice in Nepal i.e., a total of 737 pills followed by cannabis as illustrated in **Figure 4**.

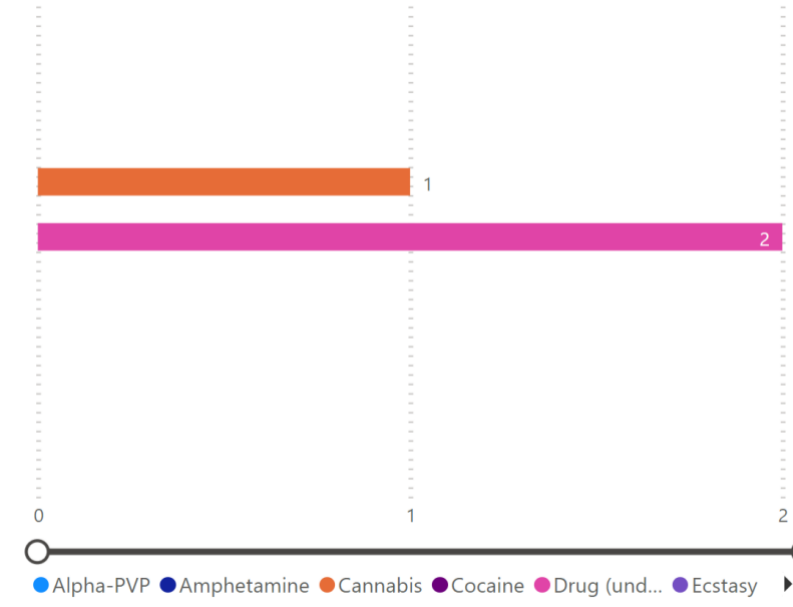


Figure 4: Number of times a drug group has been seized in Nepal

Drug seizure reported in Bangladesh

Bangladesh having porous borders with India and Myanmar makes it a transit country for drugs trafficking back and forth in the country. [The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC) recent report shows a significant increase in production as well as the consumption of cannabis and opium are traditional in Bangladesh.

On November 19, one dealer was sentenced imprisonment and fined for stocking and selling illegal drugs in Bangladesh. **Figure 5** given below shows the arrested drug dealer.



Figure 5: Drug dealer arrested in Bangladesh (Source: [newage](#)).

The map shown in **Figure 6** illustrates the drug seizures in provinces of Bangladesh.

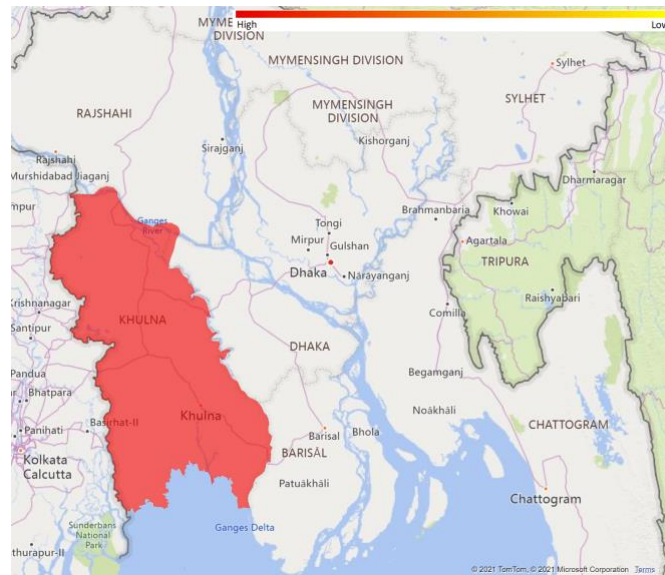


Figure 6: Map representing the reported drug seizures in parts of Bangladesh

Compared to DMCs finding from October 2021, in November only 1 drug seizure took place which is illustrated in **Figure 7**. The Amphetamine group was the only drug seized in Bangladesh. 100 blotters of DOB - a new drug named as DOB, ‘which is hallucinating, extremely dangerous and life threatening’ has been seized leading to raiding of several residential houses in Bangladesh. Most of the time its mentioned huge number of drugs has been seized without really mentioning the exact amount of the drugs.

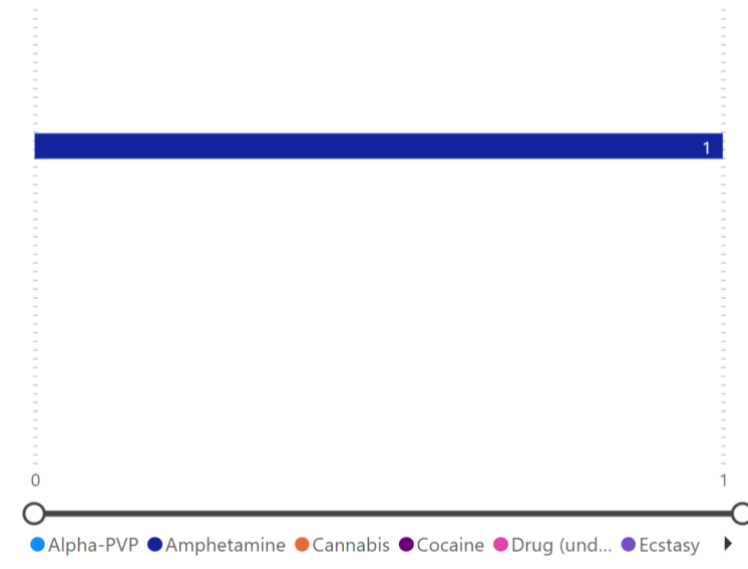


Figure 7: Number of times a drug group has been seized in Bangladesh

India

Despite the tight restrictions and check points in ports, India is emerging as the primary transit point for drug smugglers via sea route. According to the data collected in November 2021, a total of 2,202.81 kg of drugs and 26 ecstasy pills has been seized and 44 people have been arrested for drug trafficking. During this drug seizure operations cannabis was found to be the most frequently seized drugs followed by heroin and ecstasy pills. The “**Weight share**” and “**Number of times a drug group seizure**” indicators respectively illustrated in **Figure 8** and **Figure 9**, shows clearly that cannabis is the most used drug followed by opioids and heroin.

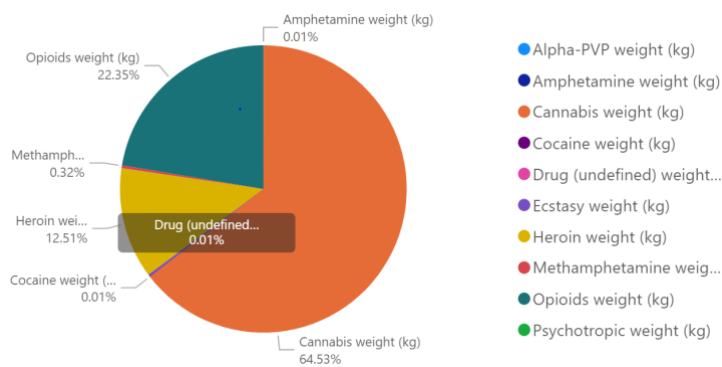


Figure 8: Weight share (%) of seized drugs in India

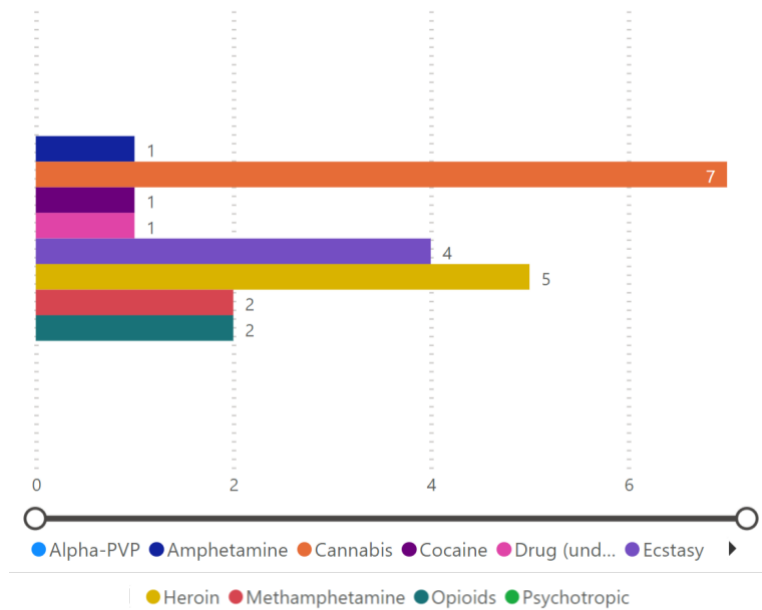


Figure 9: Number of times a drug group has been seized in India

The map in **Figure 10** shows a summary of drug seizures in various cities in India. Furthermore, the map reflects that most of the cases were reported either in the coastal area or around the border cities.

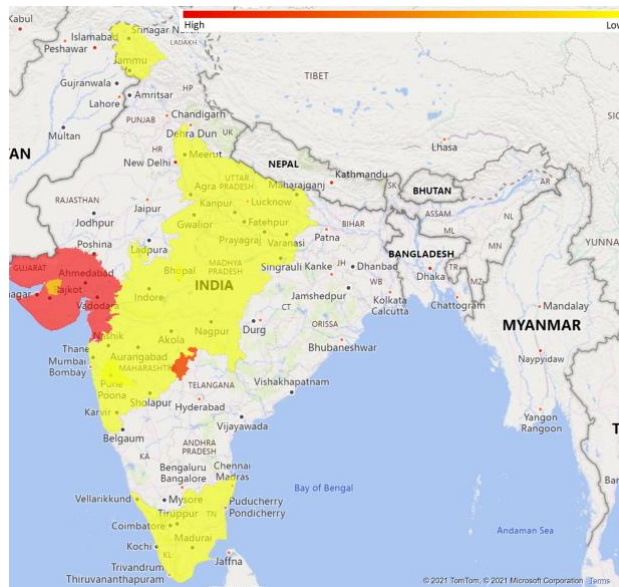


Figure 10: Map representing the reported drug seizures in various parts of India

In a Uttar Pradesh district of India which is also border to Nepal, a joint operation of the police and special task force resulted in seizing 60 kg of cannabis and arresting of 3 dealers. The seized cannabis from Uttar Pradesh (Shahjahanpur) is shown in **Figure 11**.



Figure 11: Arrested people and cannabis seized in Shahjahanpur (Source: [The times of India](#))

Further to this, in November, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) have busted 3 gangs in Southern states of India seizing banned narcotics and 212 kg of ganja (cannabis) and arrested 6 persons. **Figure 12** given below shows the seized ganja (cannabis) from Southern states of India. Additionally, [NCB in India stated](#) that several vehicles carrying those drugs have been confiscated by the police forces.



Figure 12: Ganja seized from Southern states (Source: [The Indian express](#))