



Drug Monitoring Centre

MONTHLY REPORT



December 2021

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SOUTH ASIA (NEPAL, INDIA, AND BANGLADESH)

Drug seizures reported by South Asia

South Asia has become the transit region for drug trafficking from neighbouring South-East Asia ([link](#)). Despite of having solid national legislation and mechanisms to address drug trafficking still criminal matters related to drug smuggling cases is increasing day by day in South Asian countries. From the analysis of December 2021, significant drug smuggling cases were registered in India followed Bangladesh and Nepal. **Figure 1** represents the number of drug seizures reported in various South Asian countries.

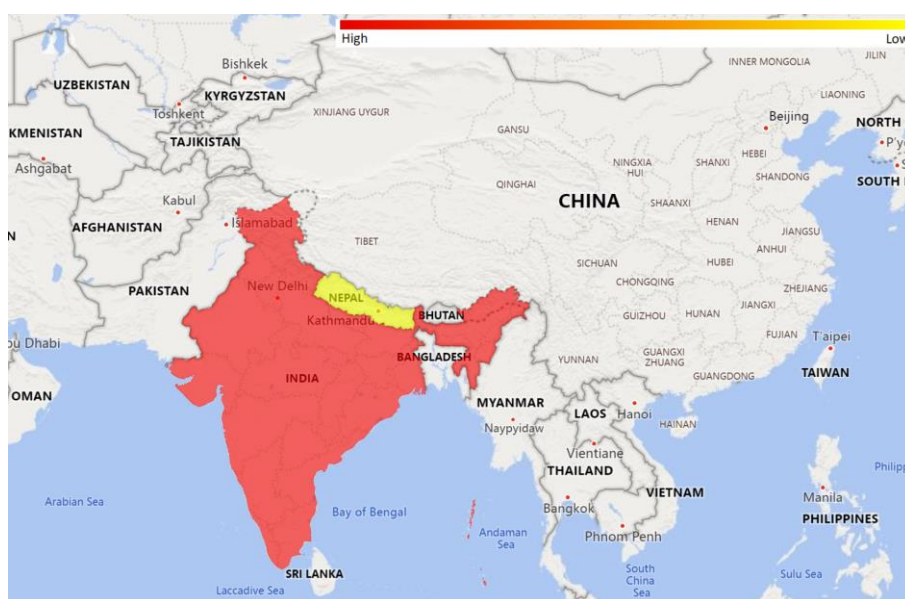


Figure 1: Map representing the number if drug seizure cases in South Asia

Additionally, **Table 1** represents the detail about the drug share and reported cases from the month of November 2021 across the 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	0.19		54,400		80				2
India	476.38		53	\$27	44				17
Nepal	0.00				5				2
Total	476.57		54,453	\$27	129				21

Country	Alpha-PVP	Amphetamine	Cannabis	Cocaine	Drug (undefined)	Ecstasy	Heroin	Methamphetamine	Opioids	Psychotropic
Bangladesh			0.078				0.110			
India		2.221	179.696	0.044	3.889	5.493	131.033	154.006		
Nepal							0.001			
Total weight (kg)		2.221	179.774	0.044	3.889	5.493	131.144	154.006		

Country	Alpha-PVP pills	Amphetamine pills	Cannabis pills	Cocaine pills	Drug (undefined) pills	Ecstasy pills	Heroin pills	Methamphetamine pills	Opioids pills	Psychotropic pills
Bangladesh								54400		
India			49		4					
Total pills			49		4			54400		

Drug seizure reported in Bangladesh

Worldwide, Yaba addiction is one of the fastest growing drug epidemics. In different South Asian countries, Yaba is recognized by different names. For example, in Bangladesh it is nick named as “crazy pill”, “Nazi speed” or “madness medicine” and in India it is known as “Bhul Bhulaiya”. While most Asian countries including India is hooked to cannabis and opium, neighbouring country Bangladesh is hooked to Yaba. Reports shows that, there are over 30 million users in Southeast Asia and Bangladesh alone has about 4.6 million regular users of Yaba (ref). Thus, Bangladesh is being simultaneously known as a transit and destination country for Yaba drug trafficking. Recently, Yaba craze among Bangladeshi youth seems to be the biggest problem and the number seems alarmingly increasing day by day. Because of porous borders, busy seaports and lucrative market, Bangladesh is obvious choice for trafficking among traffickers.

According to the data collected in December 2022, a total of 0.19 kgs of drugs and 54,400 methamphetamine pills has been seized in Bangladesh. A total of 80 people has been arrested for drug trafficking, of which 73 people were arrested in 24 hours during the anti-drug drive in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The “**Weight share**” and “**Pills share**” and “**Number of times a drug group seizure**” indicators respectively illustrated in **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**, shows clearly that Yaba or Methamphetamine pills is the most used drug followed by heroin and cannabis.

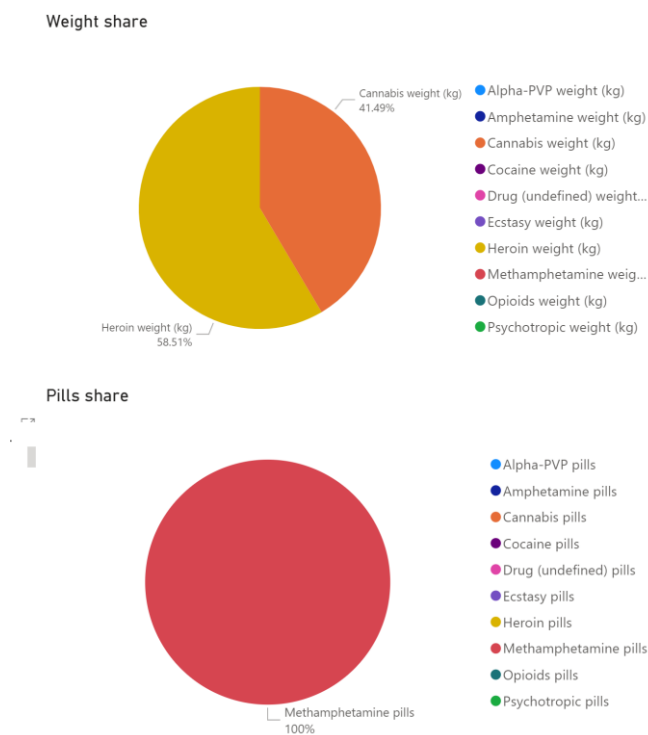


Figure 2: Weight share (%) and Pills share (%) seized in Bangladesh

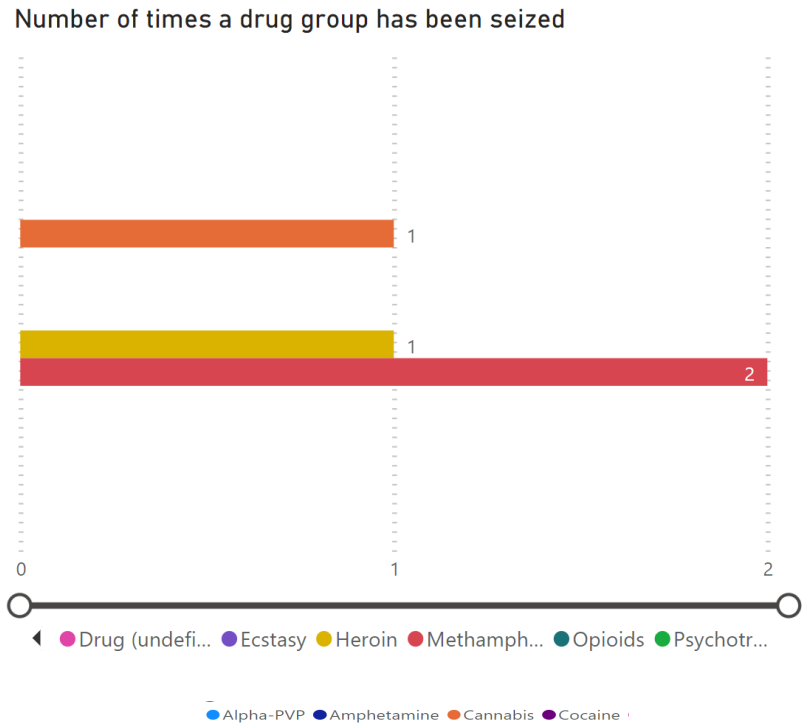


Figure 3: Number of times a drug group has been seized in Bangladesh

On December 12, seven youths were arrested at Pekua in Cox's Bazar with 50,000 pieces of Yaba or Methamphetamine pills. It is also believed to be one of the biggest seizures for Yaba pills. Figure 4 given below shows the arrested smugglers and drugs seized from them.



Figure 4: Arrested people with huge amount of Yaba in Cox's Bazar (Source: [The business standard](#))

Drug seizure reported in Nepal

Nepal shares porous borders with India and some parts of China which is the main resulting factor for free flow of goods and people. Further this open boarder is making the drug peddlers easier to smuggle drugs back and forth in the country. Likewise in the month of December, Nepal did not record much of drug smuggling as compared to November but still 5 people were arrested. Out of this 5 people, one of them is the popular rapper from Nepal who was caught consuming heroin. Compared to DMCs finding from November month, in December only 1 drug seizure took place which is illustrated in **Figure 5**. Heroin group was the only drug seized in Nepal.

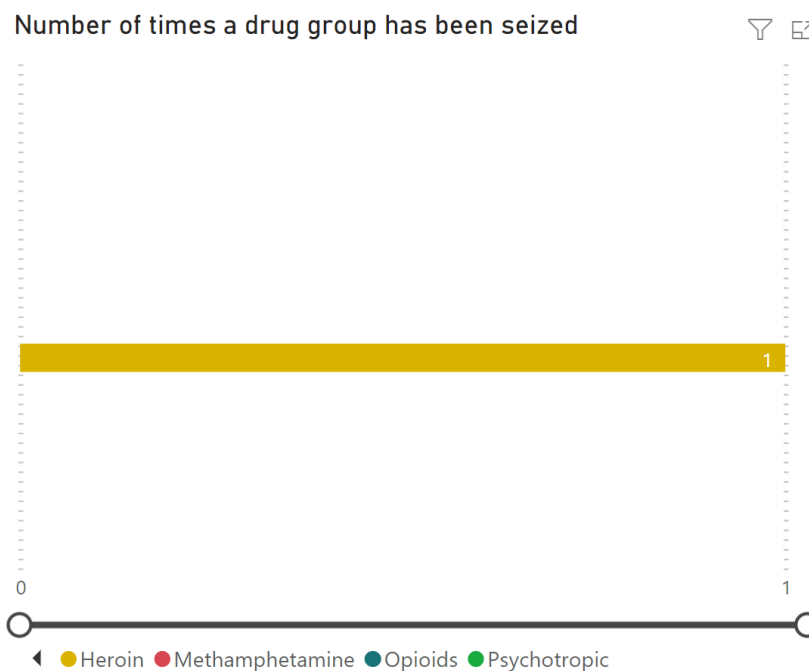


Figure 5: Number of times a drug group has been seized in Nepal

Drug seizure reported in 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 December 2021, a total of 476.57 kgs of drugs and 54,453 ecstasy pills has been seized in India, of which 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 ecstasy pills and heroin. The **“Weight and pill share”** and **“Number of times a drug group seizure”** indicators respectively illustrated in **Figure 6** and **Figure 7**, shows clearly that cannabis is the most used and frequently seized drug followed by methamphetamine and heroin.

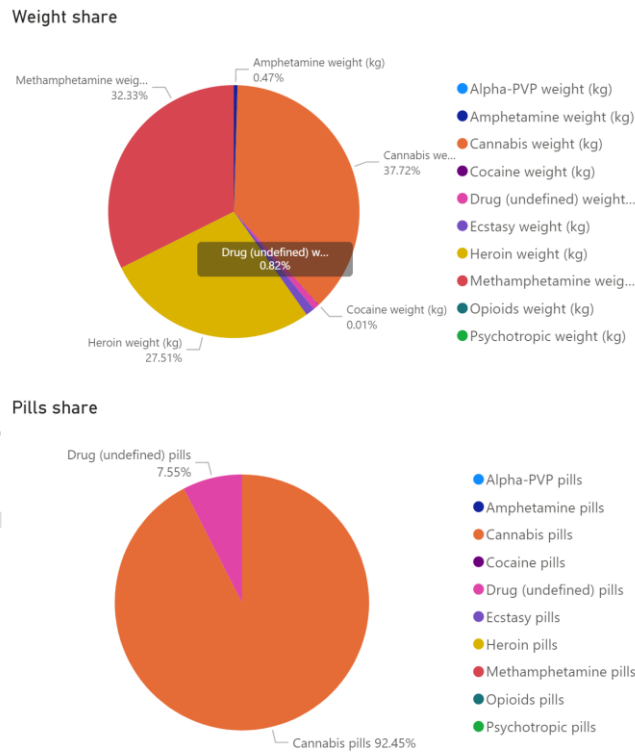


Figure 6: Weight and pill share (%) of seized drugs in India

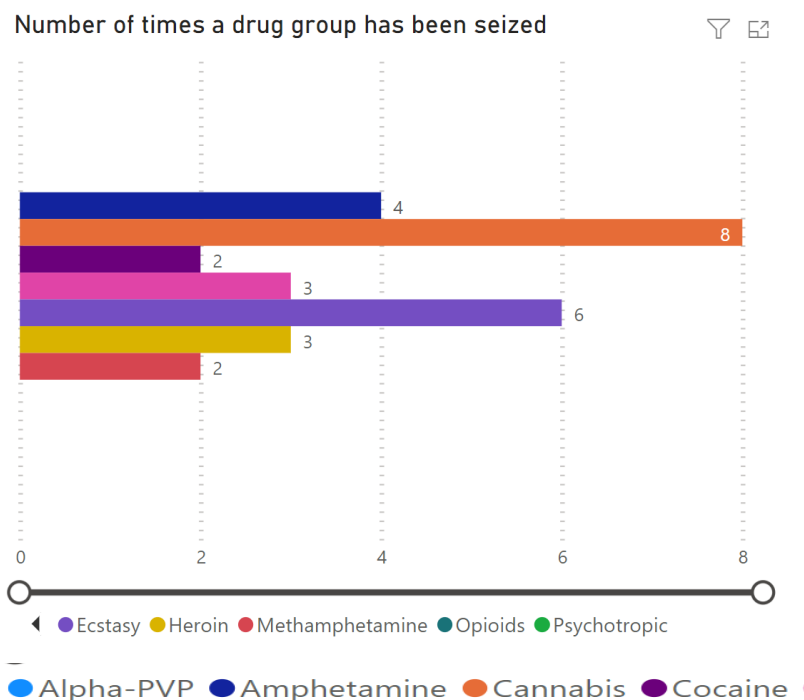


Figure 7: Number of times a drug group has been seized in India

Further, reports highlight that in December month, few women were involved in different drug trafficking cases in India. Among the arrested women, one of them was the former airhostess who was arrested with MDMA drugs worth Rs.10 lakhs concealed in diapers. Other two

women were arrested in New Year's Eve while supplying drugs in Goa. On the other hand, it was quite surprising to find out how one of the police informants along with his friends was arrested while planting drugs in Mumbai.

Additionally, despite the multiple operations by anti-drug authorities to snuff the drug business in India, still city's borders are becoming breeding grounds for the illegal trade for many foreign nations, with many African nationals, particularly Nigerians. Thus, in month of December foreign nationals i.e., from Myanmar, Pakistan and Nigeria have been arrested for smuggling huge amount of drugs in the country. Six Pakistani nationals was arrested with 77 kgs of heroin while he was trying to smuggle to India via sea route in Gujarat which is illustrated in **Figure 8**.



Figure 8: Pakistani fishing boat carrying drug arrested in Gujarat coast (Source: [The Hindu](#))

In Manipur district of India which is also border to Myanmar, a joint operation of Manipur police and Assam rifles personnel resulted in seizing heroin powder weighing approximately [54 kgs and 154 kg](#) of methamphetamine and arrested one dealer. The seized drugs along with the dealer is shown in **Figure 9**.



Figure 9: Arrested Myanmarrese dealer with seized drugs worth over Rs 500 crore (Source: [The Indian Express](#))