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AIR INTELLIGENCE UNIT, ANNA INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL,  
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F.No. O.S. 181/2011- AIO.

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PRESS NOTE

On the night intervening 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Officers of the Air Intelligence Unit of Customs intercepted a passenger by name Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Aliyar who was bound for Kuala Lumpur by Jet Airways Flight No.9W0032/3.3.2011 based on a specific intelligence input by the Narcotics Control Bureau, Chennai that the passenger would be carrying Narcotic Drugs.

The passenger was carrying one piece of checked-in baggage and one hand baggage. Upon examination of the checked-in baggage, it was found to contain 61 packets of HANS chewing tobacco, each of which indicated that it contained 30 pouches of the tobacco. The pouches were examined carefully and some pouches were found to be heavier than others. All the pouches were cut open, and 422 pouches were found to contain a polythene packet each. Each of these packets was found to contain an identical-looking white crystalline/powdery substance. The white powder was put together and weighed and found to totally weigh 6.9kgs. Indications are that the powder could be metamphetamine or ephedrine. Value of the seized substance would therefore be around Rs.6.9 lakhs in India and Rs.69 lakhs overseas. Samples of the powder are sent for chemical analysis. The other pouches contained chewing tobacco totally weighing 13kgs. As the passenger had no document to show the nature or legality of export of the white powder and as he attempted to smuggle the same out of the country by way of ingenious concealment, the white powdery/crystalline substance was seized under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 read with the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. The chewing tobacco, the packing material used as well as the travel documents of the passenger have been seized. The passenger has been arrested and remanded. Further investigation is in progress.

In another case, a passenger named Rajesh was intercepted upon arrival from Singapore by Air India Flight AI347/14.3.2011 by Officers of the Air Intelligence Unit as he was attempting to pass through the Green Channel and his baggage was subject to detailed examination. He was found to be carrying 400 nos. of live ornamental turtles. As the import of such turtles require clearance from Wild Life authorities and as the passenger was not in possession of any such permit, the same were seized for further action.

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