

**Public Relations Department, Chandigarh Administration**  
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**Press Release**

**Chandigarh, March 14:-** The two-pronged strategy of the Chandigarh Police, involving the setting up of the Special Crime Investigation Cell--a separate mechanism for effective collection and dissemination of intelligence---and quick and effective follow-up action to combat and contain drug trafficking, check trade in narcotics and nab the culprits, has paid rich dividends.

Tightening the noose of law around the criminals by the special cell has resulted in considerable decline in the number of cases, detected under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) in 2009 as compared to 2008. In 2008, the cell had detected 91 cases but in 2009, their number decreased to 71. All cases were worked out. Two Nigerians were arrested under the NDPS Act and 60 grams of cocaine worth Rs 50 lakh in the international market, was recovered from their possession, a spokesman of the Police Department said here today.

The Special Crime Investigation Cell had been set up to take on the drug mafia which had begun to spread its wings; and contain the drug trade which had started flourishing in the dark underbelly of Chandigarh. The operators enjoyed tacit support of local drug peddlers who were getting smarter by the day in covering their tracks.

"With the setting up of the cell whose staff has been given specialized training, the police have succeeded in tightening the noose around the criminals. Resultantly, the number of crimes under the NDPS Act; Gambling Act and Miscellaneous Act have declined in 2009 as compared to 2008," said Mr. S. S. Srivastava, SSP, Chandigarh, adding that the intelligence network was being further beefed up to rein in the drug mafia.

The cell succeeded in detecting six cases of illegal arms and seized one 7.5 mm pistol; one 7.65 mm automatic pistol make Heven Conn (Italy); two 7.65 mm pistol make Pijio (USA); two revolvers (Germany); one .32 bore revolver make Smith and Wesson; and one .32 bore pistol (Japan) along with cartridges worth Rs 32.50 lakh. Besides, cases registered under the local and special laws aggregated 556 (2009) against 605 (2008). The police worked out 548 cases (98.56 per cent),

The spokesman, however, admitted that there was slight increase in the number of cases under the Arms Act and the Excise Act in 2009. During the year, 12 cases were

**registered under the Arms Act and 245 under the Excise Act against seven and 234, respectively, in 2008. The police worked out all cases under the Arms Act and worked out 243 cases against 245 registered during 2009 (99.17 per cent).**