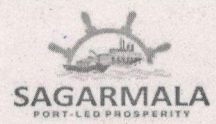




विशाखपट्टणम पोर्ट प्राधिकरण
यातायात विभाग
अम्बेडकर भवन, पोर्ट क्षेत्र,
विशाखपट्टणम - 530035 (आ.प्र.)

VISAKHAPATNAM PORT AUTHORITY
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
Ambedkar Bhavan, Port Area,
Visakhapatnam - 530035 (A.P)



To

No. ITRA/SHP/Maritime

Dt: 01.10.2025

All Stake Holders/Port Users

CIRCULAR NO- 1263

Sir

Sub: Maritime Security Standard Operating Procedure -02/2024 Reg
Ref: Joint Secretary (MS-IP), National Security Council Secretariat (Maritime Security Wing) letter dated 04.07.2025.

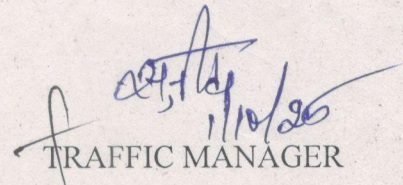
It is hereby informed to all Port Users/Stakeholders that the National Security Council Secretariat (Maritime Security Wing) has forwarded the "Maritime Security Standard Operating Procedure-02/2024."

The details are as follows:

1. Maritime Security Standard Operating Procedures, Vol. 02/2024 dated 26.09.2024 on "Inter-Agency Coordination for Anti-Smuggling Operations in the Maritime Zone of India (MZI)" have been formulated through inter-agency and inter-ministerial consultations. A copy of the SOP is enclosed herewith for reference and necessary action.
2. The objective of the SOP is to enhance inter-agency, inter-departmental, and inter-ministerial coordination to plan and progress anti-smuggling operations in the MZI, particularly with regard to contraband goods including NDPS, sensitive cargo, and any other goods prohibited under laws enacted by the Government of India (Gol).

All Port Users/Stakeholders are requested to give wide publicity to the enclosed SOP and ensure adherence to the guidelines.

Encl: As above


TRAFFIC MANAGER

C/- P.S to Chairperson for favor of information of Chairperson.

C/- P.S to Dy. Chairperson for favor of information of Dy. Chairperson

C/- Secretary for favor of information

C/- Dy. Conservator for favor of information

C/- Jt. Director (R&P) for information and request to place the circular in Port Website

C/- President, Visakhapatnam Steam Ship Agents Association for information please. (vsaa2001@gmail.com)

C/- President, Visakhapatnam Stevedores Association, for information please. (vstevedoresassociation@gmail.com)

C/- President, Visakhapatnam Customs Brokers Association, for information please. (info@vcba.com)

C/- Shipping Asst. (Traffic Department), to circulate the above to Trade through e-mail.

सभी पत्र सचिव, भारत सरकार,
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय, को उनके
नाम पर नहीं बल्कि पद के पते पर भेजे जाने चाहिए।
All communications should be addressed to the
Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry
of Ports, Shipping and Waterways by title NOT
by name.

RESTRICTED

भारत सरकार
Government of India
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
परिवहन भवन/Transport Bhawan
1, संसद मार्ग / 1, Parliament Street
नई दिल्ली / 110001 - New Delhi-110001

ST-16011/21/2019-MA-Part(2) (C.N.365737)

Dated: 04.07.2025

To

(i) Directorate General of Shipping,
Beta Building, 9th Floor, i-Think Techno campus,
Kanjur Marg (East), Mumbai-400042
[Kind Attn.: Capt Nitin Mukesh, Dy. NA, DGS]

(ii) All Major Ports Authorities

Sub: Maritime Security Standard Operating Procedure -02/2024

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of NSCS' ID Note No. 14/49/2024/NSCS(CS)-NMSC dated 07.10.2024 (copy enclosed) regarding Maritime Security Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)-02/2024 dated 26.09.2024 on 'Inter-Agency Coordination for Anti-Smuggling Operations in Maritime Zones of India (MZI) for information and taking necessary action.

Im/De/ Cist
D

भवदीय,

सुमित नंदन
04/07/2025

(सुमित नंदन)

अवर सचिव, भारत सरकार

दूरभाष: 23356711

ईमेल: usma-psw@gov.in

soma2-ship@gov.in

Encl: As above.

Copy to:- Ports Wing for information and taking necessary action.

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National Security Council Secretariat
(Maritime Security Wing)

Sardar Patel Bhawan
Sansad Marg
New Delhi – 110001

MARITIME SECURITY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE – 02/2024

1. Maritime Security Standard Operating Procedures, Vol 02/2024 dated 26 September 2024 on '*Inter-Agency Coordination for Anti-Smuggling Operations in MZI*', formulated through inter-agency/ inter-ministerial consultation, is enclosed.
2. The SOP aims to enhance inter-agency, inter-department and inter-ministerial coordination to plan and progress anti-smuggling operations in the MZI with respect to contraband goods including NDPS and Sensitive Cargo, or any such goods prohibited under any law enacted by the Government of India (Gol).
3. It is requested that the SOP be given wide publicity for implementation. Further, any discrepancy, inconsistency and/or necessity to update the SOP may please be intimated to Maritime Security Wing, NSCS.

(TVN Prasanna)
R Adm
Joint Secretary (MS-IP)
011-23451325

Encl:- As above

As per Distribution List

NSCS ID: 14/49/2024/NSCS(CS)-NMSC

Date: 07 October 2024

Distribution List

Ser	Addressee
External	
1.	Gen Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, CDS & Secy DMA

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT



सत्यमेव जयते

MARITIME SECURITY – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE 02/ 24 (26 SEP 24)

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION FOR
ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS IN MZI

NATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY COORDINATOR
MARITIME SECURITY WING

MARITIME SECURITY – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

MS-SOP 02/24: Inter-Agency Coordination for Anti-Smuggling Operations in Maritime Zones of India

This SOP aims to enhance inter-agency, inter-department and inter-ministerial coordination to plan and progress anti-smuggling operations in the MZI with respect to contraband goods including NDPS and Sensitive Cargo, or any such goods prohibited under any law enacted by the Government of India (GoI).

Any discrepancy, inconsistency and/or necessity to update the SOP is to be intimated to Maritime Security Wing, NSCS.

MARITIME SECURITY – STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Aim. Maritime Security – Standard Operating Procedures, promulgated on an as required basis by NSCS/ NMSC, aim to put in place a common procedural framework to ease inter-ministerial/ inter-agency coordination and streamline operational, administrative and communication processes, where required, for optimal utilisation of resources and synergised effort towards a maritime initiative or contingency.

Disclaimer. Maritime Security – Standard Operating Procedures, in no way, supersede the statutory provisions and executive directives issued by concerned Administrative Ministry/ Department. In case of any inconsistency, the statutory provisions and executive directives of the concerned Ministry/ Department shall prevail.

2

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION FOR ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS IN MARITIME ZONES OF INDIA

READY RECKONER

Appendices

<u>Item</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
List of References	Appendix
List of Abbreviations	Appendix
Relevant Departments/ Agencies and Points of Contact	Appendix
Mandates of concerned Departments/ Agencies	Appendix 1
Classification of Agencies	Appendix 1

Involved Agencies

Designated Agency (DA)



- Primary agency designated to deal with and prevent smuggling of Contraband Goods, NDPS and/ or Sensitive Cargo through parent statutes such as Customs Act 1962, NDPS Act 1985, etc.
- Has jurisdiction over the Scene of Crime to prosecute
- These agencies in MZI include Customs, DRI, NCB, CB, NIA, ANTF etc.

Authorised Agency (AA)



- Agency having jurisdiction over the location of Scene of Crime but not over scene of Crime to prosecute.
- Authorised/ empowered for limited purposes under the law or through various gazette notifications issued from time to time.
- These agencies in MZI include CG, BSF, CRPF, Police in certain areas etc.

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**Support
Agency (SA)**

- Agency which has not been delegated the authority or empowered by law but whose assistance can be sought by DA or AA for a specific operation.
- These agencies in MZI include IN, CISF, IB, DoF, DAE, DRDO, NTRO, WCCB, etc.

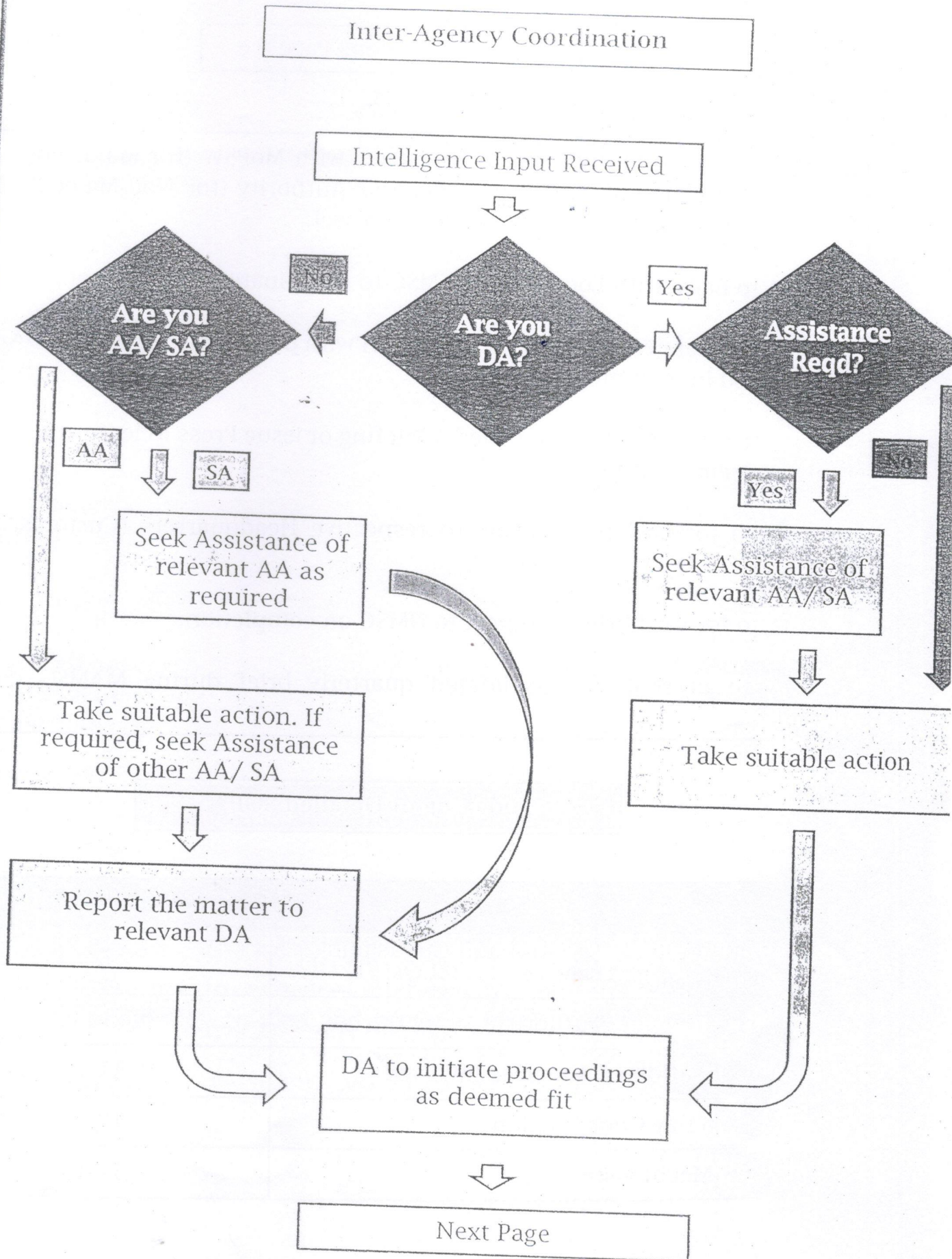
Jurisdiction and Authority**Customs Areas***

- For all cases of smuggling including NDPS covered under NDPS Act 1985, Customs/ DRI may lead as DA. *Authority - Customs Act, 1962.*
- NCB may lead as DA for cases under NDPS Act, 1985.
- AAs/ SAs to hand over cases including chance encounters by IN and CG in Internal Waters to Customs/ DRI.
- CG is empowered under all Central Acts and is the primary AA in MZI. *Authority - GoI SRO 16E of 2019.*

**Other than
Customs Areas**

- NCB is DA for cases under NDPS Act 1985 and DRI is DA for all other items.
- AAs may take actions independently and hand over cases (including chance encounters by CG in Internal Waters) to concerned DA.
- CG is empowered under all Central Acts and is the primary AA in MZI.
- SAs to hand over cases (including chance encounters by IN in MZI and Internal Waters) to concerned DA.

* As per Customs Act 1962, Customs Area means "the area of a customs station or a warehouse and includes any area in which imported goods or exported goods are ordinarily kept before clearance by Customs Authorities".



From Previous Page



- DA to liaise through Parent Ministries with MoPSW (for Major Ports) and with MHA through State Maritime Boards/ Authority (for Non-Major Ports) to provide berthing assistance for detained vessel.
- DA to liaise with Local Police/ SMSC to coordinate local requirements.
- DA to arrange for a Joint Interrogation with participation of other DA/ AA/ SA involved in operations.
- DA to call for coordinated Media Briefing or issue Press Release at a suitable time, as deemed appropriate.
- DA to forward final report to respective Headquarters (Customs/ DRI/ NCB).
- DA to forward brief of report to NMSC on completion.
- DA to present a consolidated quarterly brief during MAMSG (Policy) Meetings.

Indexing of Detailed SOP

Ser	Content	Pages
1.	Prohibited Items, Contraband Goods and Sensitive Cargo	6-9
2.	Jurisdiction and Authority	9-11
3.	Categorisation of Agencies Involved	11-12
4.	Inter-Agency Coordination	12-14
5.	Review Mechanism	14-15

DETAILED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

References

1. List of guiding documents referred is placed at *Appendix A* and list of abbreviations used is placed at *Appendix B*.

Introduction

2. India, with a coastline of 11,098.81 Km (covering 9 Coastal States and Union Territories) and 1389 islands (1298 Offshore and 91 Inshore), lies astride the main sea routes connecting Africa, Europe, Middle East and South Asia with South East Asia, East Asia and Australia. The vast coastline and its proximity to various shipping routes make India vulnerable to smuggling of contraband goods including Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) and Sensitive Cargo to/ from and within its territory through maritime route.
3. To counter, deter and mitigate smuggling of contraband goods, various Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies (MLEAs) in consultation with Intelligence Agencies (IA) have been routinely conducting anti-smuggling operations both on land (inland areas and land-water interfaces such as coastline, ports, fishing harbours, etc) and at Sea in the Maritime Zones of India (MZI) as per respective mandates assigned vide parent statutes/ administrative orders.
4. The list of relevant departments and agencies along with their Points of Contact is placed at *Appendix C* and their mandate is placed at *Appendix D*.

Aim

5. This SOP aims to enhance inter-agency, inter-department and inter-ministerial coordination to plan and progress anti-smuggling operations in the MZI with respect to contraband goods including NDPS and Sensitive Cargo, or any such goods prohibited under any law enacted by the Government of India (GoI).

Prohibited Items, Contraband Goods and Sensitive Cargo

6. Import and export of goods is regulated through the Foreign Trade Policy issued by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce.

The import and export of goods and their handling is permitted only in the sea ports and places, as notified by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), under the provisions of Section 7 of Customs Act, 1962.

7. In addition to Foreign Trade Policy, certain items are also prohibited or restricted for import or/and export under various other laws, such as Customs Act 1962, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 (NDPS Act, 1985), Environment (Protection) Act 1986, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Indian Trade and Merchandise Marks Act 1956, Arms Act 1959, etc.

8. To illustrate, under Section 11 of Customs Act, 1962, the Central Government has the power to issue Notification under which export or import of any goods can be declared as "**prohibited**". The prohibition can either be absolute or conditional. The purposes for which a notification under Section 11 of Customs Act 1962 can be issued include maintenance of the security of India, prevention of smuggling, prevention of any shortage of goods in the country, conservation of Foreign Exchange and safeguarding balance of payments etc.

9. There are also certain goods which can be imported or exported only by certain specified agencies or subject to certain conditions as prescribed in the relevant Act/law. The violation of the relevant provision of these Acts read with relevant provisions of Section 111 or Section 113 of the Customs Act, 1962 renders such goods liable for confiscation at the time of import and export respectively.

10. An illustrative list of goods which are prone to smuggling are as follows:-

- (a) Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Precursor Chemicals and Controlled Substances as covered under NDPS Act, 1985.
- (b) Items as specified in Special Chemicals, Organisms, Material Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET) List.
- (c) Fire Arms and Explosives.
- (d) Fake Indian Currency Notes and Foreign Currency.
- (e) Gold and silver in all forms including jewellery.
- (f) Precious and Semi-precious Stones.
- (g) Antiquities and Art Treasures.
- (h) Wildlife and Wildlife products.
- (j) Cigarettes, Tobacco and Tobacco products.

11. For the purpose of this SOP, Contraband Goods and Sensitive Cargo are defined as follows:-

(a) **Contraband**. Any item which is prohibited by law for import or/and export. Any reference to 'contraband' will be covered by and limited to Section 2(33) of the Customs Act, 1962 which defines prohibited goods as follows:-

"Any goods, the import or export of which is subject to any prohibition under this Act or any other law for the time being in force but does not include any such goods in respect of which the conditions subject to which the goods are permitted to be imported or exported have been complied with."

(b) **Narcotic Drug**. As defined under Section 2(xiv) of the NDPS Act, 1985, Narcotic Drug means "coca leaf, cannabis (hemp), opium, poppy straw and includes all manufactured drugs".

(c) **Psychotropic Substance**. As defined under Section 2(xxiii) of the NDPS Act, 1985, psychotropic substance means "any substance, natural or synthetic, or any natural material or any salt or preparation of such substance or material included in the list of psychotropic substances specified in the Schedule of the said Act".

(d) **Sensitive Cargo**.

(i) The items notified under the SCOMET List (as provided under Foreign Trade Policy) and those specified or linked in the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005 and the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000 fall in the category of 'Sensitive Cargo'.

(ii) Sensitive Cargo would also include items covered under any international convention on non-proliferation or multilateral non-proliferation export control regime to which India is a signatory/member. The import (as the case maybe) or export of such items is regulated under relevant laws and can be done only after fulfilling the criteria, as applicable for import (as the case maybe) or export of such items.

(iii) While the term "Sensitive Cargo" has not been defined in the Customs Act, 1962, an equivalent term "specified goods or services or technology" has been defined in the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

(iv) An illustrative list of Sensitive Cargo is as follows:-

- Chemical, Nuclear and Biological Weapons and their related Materials, Equipment and Technology specified under the SCOMET List.
- Military items/ munitions under the SCOMET List.
- Fissile materials and equipment.
- Electronic waste.
- Hazardous waste.
- Hazardous chemicals and pesticides.

12. The increasing coastal marine traffic including motorised/ mechanised/ traditional boats and expanding inland waterways transport when considered against extensive land-based policing, provide an alternate route for smuggling of goods within India including to/ from island territories. These goods would also transit through the MZI just as any other goods for import/export and are to be treated as contraband goods/ sensitive cargo as above.

Jurisdiction and Authority

13. The jurisdiction of Indian Customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) extends to whole of India, including Indian Customs Waters as defined under Section 1 read with Section 2(28) of the Customs Act 1962. The DRI/ Customs are first line of agencies in Customs Areas notified under the Customs Act, 1962 for all kinds of smuggling of goods/ contrabands including Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Precursor Chemicals and Controlled Substances as covered under NDPS Act, 1985.

14. As per the Customs Act Indian Customs Waters mean "*the waters extending into the sea up to the limit of Exclusive Economic Zone under Section 7 of the MZI Act, 1976 and includes any bay, gulf, harbour, creek or tidal river*". Customs Area means "*the area of a customs station or a warehouse and includes any area in which imported goods or exported goods are ordinarily kept before clearance by Customs Authorities*".