

**IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF PANJAB & HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH**

Civil Misc. Application (CMA) No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2008

IN

C.W.P. No. 1257 of 2008

Hemant Goswami

...Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

....Respondents

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Note: The main case is fixed for 14<sup>th</sup> August 2008 before the Hon'ble Bench of the Hon'ble Chief Justice and His Companion Hon'ble Judge.

Chandigarh  
Date:18.07.2008

(A.P.S.Shergill)  
Advocate  
Counsel for the Petitioner

**Enrolment No. P-810/1993**

**IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF PANJAB & HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH**

CMA No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2008

IN

C.W.P. No. 1257 of 2008

Hemant Goswami

...Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

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Application under section 151 C.P.C. for grant of exemption from filing the certified copies of Annexures P-5 to P-11 and for placing on record Annexures P-5 to P-11 for the fair and proper adjudication of the main case.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:-

1. That the above mentioned civil miscellaneous application is being filed as a part of the main Civil Writ Petition already pending in this Hon'ble Court and is likely to succeed on the basis of grounds taken therein, Annexures P-5 to P-11 are necessary and have to be placed on record for the fair and proper adjudication of the main case.
2. That the certified copies of Annexures P-5 to P-11 are not readily available with the petitioners. However, true typed copies of Annexures P-5 to P-11 are being filed for the kind perusal of this Hon'ble Court. Hence, this application.

It is, therefore, respectfully prayed that this application may kindly be allowed and filing of the certified copies of Annexures P-5 to P-11 may kindly be dispensed with and Annexures P-5 to P-11 may kindly be placed on record in the interest of justice.

Chandigarh  
Date: 18.07.2008

(A.P.S.Shergill)  
Advocate  
Counsel for the Petitioner

**IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF PANJAB & HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH**

CMA No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2008

IN

C.W.P. No. 1257 of 2008

Hemant Goswami, aged 37 years, S/o Sh B. M. Goswami,  
Chairperson, Burning Brain Society, #3, Glass office,  
Shivalikview Business Arcade, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh 160017

.....Petitioner

Versus

1. Union of India through Secretary – Ministry of Home Affairs,  
North Block, Central Secretariat, New Delhi - 110 001
2. Chandigarh Administration through Home Secretary, UT  
Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh 160 009
3. Chandigarh Police through I.G. Police, Police Headquarters,  
Sector 9, Chandigarh 160 009
4. Central Bureau of Investigation, through DIG, CBI Complex,  
Sector 30, Chandigarh 160 020
5. Narcotics Control Bureau through its Zonal Director, H. No.  
80, Sector-2, Chandigarh.
6. Mr. Sudhanshu Srivastava, Indian Police Service, Senior  
Superintendent of Police Chandigarh, Police Headquarters,  
Sector-9, Chandigarh.

..... Respondents

Civil Miscellaneous application under Section 151 of the Civil Procedure Code is being filed in the light of new facts which have emerged about the nexus of Police with Drug mafia **SO AS TO REITERATE THE PRAYER** made in the original civil writ petition and **REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF** in C.W.P. No 1257 of 2008 wherein notices to all the respondents have already been issued on January 28, 2008 and they stand served, main case is fixed for 14-08-2008. In light of the new facts emerging, the relief sought in Para 22(v) and 22(vi) gains urgent significance to meet the interest of justice and to make sure that the guilty are brought to the book. No additional prayer is brought through this application and no additional relief is being sought.

Respectfully Showeth:-

1. That by way of the original writ petition the petitioner had brought in the fact(s) for the perusal of the Hon'ble Court that many senior enforcement officials/police officers omit to take credible action against drug-peddlers/drug mafia even in cases wherein specific information is provided to such enforcement officers, who by law are otherwise duty bound to take cognizance of all offences related to sale, supply, trade and distribution of any form of narcotics and/or psychotropic substances.

2. That in the month of July 2008, new facts in this regard emerged and that the respondent number 5 namely the "Narcotics Control Bureau" revealed that many top officials of the Chandigarh and Punjab Police have deep links and association with the drug-cartel and the illegal drug trade is being carried out in connivance with the police in the region. The revelation by the respondent number 5 was widely reported in regional and national media and some of the news-items mentioning the same are annexed as Annexure P-5 to P-11.
3. That despite having all the information and despite having all the power to register cases against police officials involved in the illegal drug and narcotics supply racket and/or to investigate further so as to bring all such police officers (having nexus with drug-mafia) to answer/face the law, nothing has been done in this regard. Respondent number 5 and 3 have omitted to adopt a lawful course of action and failed in their lawful duty.
4. That despite having the knowledge of such a serious issue of police and drug peddler nexus, which has already pushed the whole region on the path of self-destruction, the respondent number 5 has not shared the information in a credible and lawful manner with respondent number 1 to 4.
5. That the petitioner has been informed that many senior police officials (Including a SSP/DIG ranked official of Chandigarh) have been conducting unofficial meeting with the Zonal Director at Chandigarh of respondent number 5 with verbal requests to slow-down the investigation and to delete/expunge the list of senior officials from the list of police officials who have been found/alleged to be having links with the drug-mafia. The fact needs independent verification by a central agency like respondent number 4.

6. That in a press statement the respondent number 5 claimed to have passed the information about the names of the police officials to respondent number 3. However another press statement issued by respondent number 3 denied having received any such information. Such statements and dilly-dallying tactics gives enough indication that no credible action is likely to be taken for a serious crime as that of drug trade, which is a cognizable and non-bailable offence. The intention of the respondent number 3 to hush up the whole matter and save the senior officials.
7. Under such a circumstances there is every likelihood that the culprits may never be brought to the book and the facts initially brought in by the respondent number 5 be manipulated/pruned to save senior police officials.
8. Under such a circumstances it is also important that all the information available with respondent number 5 (and/or obtained by it through the Intelligence Bureau) be shared with respondent number 1 and 4 and may also be shared with the court (Even if it be in a sealed cover to be placed in the records of the Hon'ble Court).
9. Under the light of the above revelation the petitioner-applicant reiterates the original prayer made in Para 22(v) and 22(vi) of the Civil Writ Petition. The petitioner had in the writ petition specifically prayed that;
  - a. 22. (v) Writ, order or direction in the nature of Writ of Mandamus be issued, directing the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate all the possibilities of sinister designs and the nexus of drug mafia/drug peddlers with any

law enforcement agency and the criminals engaged in drug sales all over the region;

**b.** 22. (vi) Any other appropriate writ, order or direction this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of this present peculiar case be also kindly be made to meet the ends of justice and ensure rule, supremacy of law.

10. That under such a circumstances, the respondent number 4, namely the "Central Bureau of Investigation" is the best agency to investigate the matter in coordination with respondent number 1 to 3 and 5. Therefore is prayed that: Writ, order or direction in the nature of Writ of Mandamus be issued, directing the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate all the possibilities of sinister designs and the nexus of drug mafia/drug peddlers with any law enforcement agency and the criminals engaged in drug sales all over the region.

11. That the prayer made in para 9 and 10 is of utter urgency and any delay would prove fatal to the possibility of exposing the police-drug mafia nexus. An independent investigation by respondent number 4 in cooperation with other respondents is an urgent requirement to cleanse the system, free the region from the menace of drugs and again bring-in hope for the prosperity of the region.

It is , therefore ,respectfully prayed that filed in the light of new facts which have emerged about the nexus of Police with Drug mafia **SO AS TO REITERATE THE PRAYER** made in the original civil writ petition and **REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF** in C.W.P. No 1257 of 2008 wherein notices to all the respondents have already been issued on January 28, 2008 and

they stand served, main case is fixed for 14-08-2008. In light of the new facts emerging, the relief sought in Para 22(v) and 22(vi) gains urgent significance to meet the interest of justice and to make sure that the guilty are brought to the book. No additional prayer is brought through this application and no additional relief is being sought.

Note: Necessary Affidavit in support is attached herewith.

Place: Chandigarh

Date:-July 18, 2008

APPLICANT/PETITIONER

Through Counsel:-

(A. P. S. Shergill)

Advocates for the Petitioner



**IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF PANJAB & HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH**

CMA No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2008

IN

C.W.P. No. 1257 of 2008

Hemant Goswami, aged 37 years, S/o Sh B. M. Goswami,  
Chairperson, Burning Brain Society, #3, Glass office,  
Shivalikview Business Arcade, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh 160017

.....Petitioner

Versus

Union of India And Others. ..... Respondents

Affidavit of Hemant Goswami, aged 37 years, S/o Sh B. M.  
Goswami, Chairperson, Burning Brain Society, #3, Glass office,  
Shivalikview Business Arcade, Sector 17-E, Chandigarh 160017.

I, the above named deponent do hereby affirm and declare as under:-

1. That by way of the original writ petition the petitioner had brought in the fact(s) for the perusal of the Hon'ble Court that many senior enforcement officials/police officers omit to take credible action against drug-peddlers/drug mafia even in cases wherein specific information is provided to such enforcement officers, who by law are otherwise duty bound to take cognizance of all offences related to sale, supply, trade and distribution of any form of narcotics and/or psychotropic substances.
2. That in the month of July 2008, new facts in this regard emerged and that the respondent number 5 namely the "Narcotics Control Bureau" revealed that many top officials of the Chandigarh and Punjab Police have deep links and association with the drug-cartel and

the illegal drug trade is being carried out in connivance with the police in the region. The revelation by the respondent number 5 was widely reported in regional and national media and some of the news-items mentioning the same are annexed as Annexure P-5 to P-11.

3. That despite having all the information and despite having all the power to register cases against police officials involved in the illegal drug and narcotics supply racket and/or to investigate further so as to bring all such police officers (having nexus with drug-mafia) to answer/face the law, nothing has been done in this regard. Respondent number 5 and 3 have omitted to adopt a lawful course of action and failed in their lawful duty.

4. That despite having the knowledge of such a serious issue of police and drug peddler nexus, which has already pushed the whole region on the path of self-destruction, the respondent number 5 has not shared the information in a credible and lawful manner with respondent number 1 to 4.

5. That the petitioner has been informed that many senior police officials (Including a SSP/DIG ranked official of Chandigarh) have been conducting unofficial meeting with the Zonal Director at Chandigarh of respondent number 5 with verbal requests to slow-down the investigation and to delete/expunge the list of senior officials from the list of police officials who have been found/alleged to be having links with the drug-mafia. The fact needs independent verification by a central agency like respondent number 4.

6. That in a press statement the respondent number 5 claimed to have passed the information about the names of the police officials to respondent number 3. However another press statement issued by respondent number 3 denied having received any such information. Such statements and dilly-dallying tactics gives enough indication that

no credible action is likely to be taken for a serious crime as that of drug trade, which is a cognizable and non-bailable offence. The intention of the respondent number 3 to hush up the whole matter and save the senior officials.

7. Under such a circumstances there is every likelihood that the culprits may never be brought to the book and the facts initially brought in by the respondent number 5 be manipulated/pruned to save senior police officials.

8. Under such a circumstances it is also important that all the information available with respondent number 5 (and/or obtained by it through the Intelligence Bureau) be shared with respondent number 1 and 4 and may also be shared with the court (Even if it be in a sealed cover to be placed in the records of the Hon'ble Court).

9. Under the light of the above revelation the petitioner-applicant reiterates the original prayer made in Para 22(v) and 22(vi) of the Civil Writ Petition. The petitioner had in the writ petition specifically prayed that;

**a.** 22. (v) Writ, order or direction in the nature of Writ of Mandamus be issued, directing the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate all the possibilities of sinister designs and the nexus of drug mafia/drug peddlers with any law enforcement agency and the criminals engaged in drug sales all over the region;

**b.** 22. (vi) Any other appropriate writ, order or direction this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of this present peculiar case be also kindly be made to meet the ends of justice and ensure rule, supremacy of law.

10. That under such a circumstances, the respondent number 4, namely the "Central Bureau of Investigation" is the best agency to investigate the matter in coordination with respondent number 1 to 3 and 5. Therefore is prayed that: Writ, order or direction in the nature of Writ of Mandamus be issued, directing the Central Bureau of Investigation to investigate all the possibilities of sinister designs and the nexus of drug mafia/drug peddlers with any law enforcement agency and the criminals engaged in drug sales all over the region.

11. That the prayer made in para 9 and 10 is of utter urgency and any delay would prove fatal to the possibility of exposing the police-drug mafia nexus. An independent investigation by respondent number 4 in cooperation with other respondents is an urgent requirement to cleanse the system, free the region from the menace of drugs and again bring-in hope for the prosperity of the region.

Place: Chandigarh

Date:-July 18, 2008

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:-

Verified that the contents of paras No. 1 to 11 OF the above stated affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge. No part of it is false and nothing has been concealed therein.

Place: Chandigarh

Date:-July 18, 2008

DEPONENT

## **Annexure P-5**

AS REPORTED IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS, CHANDIGARH NEWSLINE

Web link at: <http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Drug-peddler-spills-beans-on-high-profile-addicts/334703/>

### **Drug peddler spills beans on high profile addicts**

**Express News Service**

**Posted online: Saturday , July 12, 2008 at 03:15:24**

**Updated: Saturday , July 12, 2008 at 03:15:24**

Chandigarh, July 11: After the arrest of a notorious drug peddler on Thursday, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Chandigarh Police now plan to inform several bureaucrats and politicians, the children of whom are reportedly drug addicts.

During interrogation, the arrested Raju reportedly named the children as his customers.

"Many children of politicians and bureaucrats have made headlines frequently for drug abuse. We plan to approach their parents and inform them of the matter. We believe most of the parents are unaware of their children abusing drugs," said Saji Mohan, NCB Director, Chandigarh Zone.

But he refused to divulge the names of the customers. "They are not the accused . Addiction is a psychiatric problem and needs treatment. Therefore, it is better to let the parents decide their fate," said Mohan.

On Thursday, Raju was arrested with 3.5 kilograms of heroin. NCB officials said Raju had been peddling drugs for the last 10 years. "He used to purchase heroin from local sources. The heroin seized from his possession may have been produced in Uttar Pradesh. Though he did not reveal any links with the international mafia, we are still investigating that angle," said an NCB official.

True Copy

Advocate

**Annexure P-6**

AS REPORTED IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS, CHANDIGARH NEWS LINE

Web link at: <http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Top-cops-involved-with-drug-peddler/334970/>

**'Top cops involved with drug peddler'**

**Express News Service**

**Posted online: Sunday , July 13, 2008 at 03:11:53**

**Updated: Sunday , July 13, 2008 at 03:11:53**

Chandigarh, July 12 Raju, the drug peddler, who was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Thursday had links with officials of the Chandigarh Police department and a nexus with officials of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and Inspector. Sources said there were more than 30 such officials working in connivance with the drug peddler.

"A few officers of the city police are involved in the racket. We are preparing a report and will submit it to the Chandigarh Police soon," NCB officials said.

According to sources, these officers used to get a monthly payment from Raju in return for providing shelter and a free hand to run the business.

The call details of Raju's mobile phone revealed that some serving officers were also involved in the case.

"Raju was in the business for the last 10 years and was running the racket right under the nose of the police. The officers had their hands behind the accused, or no peddler can survive for such a long time," they added.

Raju, a resident of Sector 51, was arrested with 3.5 kilogram of heroine and 1,000 gram of smack. He used to supply drugs to the children of bureaucrats and politicians.

The sources further added that he had been arrested thrice in the last two years on charges of smuggling. He was also the whistleblower who intimated the police regarding Sub-Inspector Ved Prakash, who was arrested by the CBI on charges of taking bribe.

True Copy

Advocate

**Annexure P-7**

REPORTED IN "THE TRIBUNE" JULY 14 2008

Web link at <http://www.tribuneindia.com/2008/20080715/cth1.htm#2>

**NCB Investigation**

**CBI men, too, shielding peddlers Mandeep Puri  
Tribune News Service**

**Chandigarh, July 14**

The ongoing investigation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in sale of drugs in the city has unearthed a rather dangerous nexus between peddlers and officials of not only the Chandigarh and Punjab police but also of the CBI.

The investigations, initiated following the arrest of the city's high society peddler, Harpal Singh alias Raju, an M.Phil student of Panjabi University, have revealed that there are about 30 major drug pushers active in the tricity. While at least 14 UT and Punjab police officials are allegedly giving them "protection", names of four CBI personnel have also come up during the investigations.

Admitting this, NCB director Saji Mohan said, "We have informed the senior officials of the UT and the Punjab Police about the involvement of their personnel in this racket". Refusing to go into the details of the investigations, Mohan said Harpal's arrest was part of a major operation, "Mission Tricity", launched by the bureau to crack down on major drug supply sources.

Indicating possibilities of more such crackdowns, Mohan said though so far no action was being initiated against the drug abusers, they had warned the parents of youngsters who were on the list of Harpal's regular customers. However, he added if they didn't mend their ways, they might face action.

Incidentally, UT SSP S S Srivastva said he had so far not received any intimation from the bureau. "We'll look into it as when it comes", he added.

Meanwhile, NCB sources say there are some senior officials involved in the racket. The call details of Harpal's phone had revealed that besides others, he was in touch with at least one DSP and two SIs of the Punjab Police.

True Copy

Advocate

REPORTED IN "THE TRIBUNE" JULY 12, 2008

Web link at <http://www.tribuneindia.com/2008/20080713/cth1.htm#2>

**Top cops, babus on peddler's list**

Call details of the accused reveal that he was in touch with bureaucrats. He was also supplying heroin to wards of some politicians and IAS officers

**Mandeep Puri**

**Tribune News Service**

**Chandigarh, July 12**

The arrest of Harpal Singh, alias Raju, a drug peddler, by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Thursday could blow the lid off the use of drugs by big shots of the city.

While investigations are still in progress, reports leaking out from the NCB office in Sector 2 indicate that the long list of Harpal's customers includes at least 60 police officials and bureaucrats, besides their kin.

Some city-based high-profile people are also on the list.

Harpal is an MPhil student of Panjabi University, Patiala.

NCB sources said he had given names of several policemen, including senior officials, who were reportedly "protecting" him. They were getting a cut from his earnings.

The call details of his phone revealed that he was constantly in touch with some bureaucrats of the UT police. If sources are to be believed, most of these cops stayed in southern sectors, where Harpal operated.

Sources claimed that Harpal was also supplying heroin to wards of some politicians and IAS officers. The NCB is verifying his claims.

**Though NCB officials say action will be initiated against such people, the general impression is that nothing will be done due to the high-profile connections.**

Harpal was operating at several "levels" and would peddle drugs at late night parties and discotheques in and around the city.

He said he took to this lucrative business recently as there was a huge demand for high quality drugs, specially heroin, among the rich and powerful residents of the city. NCB officials said he had been peddling drugs for the past couple of years and was supplying smack for Rs 800 per gm and cocaine for Rs 5,000.



He was a complainant in a case that led to the suspension of Ved Prakash, in charge of the Sector 61 police post. The CBI had caught Ved Prakash while he was taking a bribe of Rs 15,000 from Harpal.

On Thursday, he was arrested with 3.5 kg of heroin which was smuggled from UP and Rajasthan.

True Copy

Advocate

FROM HINDUSTAN TIME (CHANDIGARH EDITION)

Web link at:

[http://epaper.hindustantimes.com/artMailDisp.aspx?article=12\\_07\\_2008\\_161\\_011&typ=1&pub=722](http://epaper.hindustantimes.com/artMailDisp.aspx?article=12_07_2008_161_011&typ=1&pub=722)

**July 12, 2008**

**Accused spills beans - Local cops in drug web too?**

**NCB team to raid discotheques**

**Gurpreet Singh Chhina**

**Chandigarh**

THE ROLE of Chandigarh police officials has come under the scanner after Raju of Sector 52, from whom 3-kg heroin was seized yesterday, spilled the beans. During interrogation, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) got many cellphone numbers of police officials and sons of bureaucrats with whom the accused was in touch.

Harpal Singh alias Raju smacki, a student of M. Phil from Punjabi University, Patiala, named the son of Punjab Police AIG as his regular 'client' besides others from highprofile families. In fact, divulged sources, the AIG had recently threatened Raju when his son failed to break away from the habit of taking smack even his parents' persuasion.

Besides, after Raju's confession to have supplied drugs to various partygoers, the NCB team will raid discotheques now. Further, it will keep a check on whether the smoking zones in discotheques operated with proper permission.

Sources also revealed that most addicts either took drugs in cigarette or inhaled it through smoke and most discotheques had smoking zones.

NCB director Dr Saji Mohan said Raju was the main supplier and was himself a drug addict. He operated in the city and sold the contraband after diluting it, so that he could make more money. Kajheri village in Sector 52 was his main area of operation. He brought 'consignments' from UP, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab.

Mohan said, "We will soon start a drive on a large scale with the help of the police, PGI and other de-addiction centres to rehabilitate drug addicts... we will also contact parents of addicts whose names figure in the list given by Raju and help them." Police helped smugglers?

Raising a point, the NCB team has questioned why the local police always nabbed peddlers with small quantities of drugs, like 6 gm to 10 gm or just a little more. When arrested with less quantity of drugs, the accused got bail easily. The NCB team was surprised why they managed to recover 3 kg of heroin from the same city while the local cops failed to lay their hands on any major consignment.

had developed into a habit and then addiction, said the Narcotics Control Bureau. Raju then started supplying contraband to make money to take drugs.

Raju and Ompal, resident of UP, are in judicial custody.

Sources said Raju was instrumental in the arrest of Sub-Inspector Ved Parkash by the CBI with the bribe amount of Rs 15,000. The SI had threatened to implicate Raju in some drug case if he did not pay the bribe. The local police started fearing him after this and he continued in his activities unabated. He even started supplying cocaine.

The NCB said Raju started taking drugs during his days in Punjabi University after he came in touch with an African boy who provided him drugs. Initially, he started taking drugs to build his confidence while talking with girls. In no time, this had developed into a habit and then addiction, said the Narcotics control bureau. Raju then started supplying contraband to make money to take drugs. Raju and Ompal, a resident of UP, are in judicial custody.

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#### **POLICE HELPED SMUGGLERS?**

Raising a point, the NCB team has question why the local police always nabbed peddlers with small quantity of drugs, like 6mg to 10 mg or just a little more.

When arrested with small quantities of drugs, the accused got bail easily. The NCB team was surprised why they managed to recover 3 kg of Heroin from the same city while the local cops failed to lay their hands on any major consignment.

True Copy

Advocate

## **Annexure P-10**

FROM HINDUSTAN TIME (CHANDIGARH EDITION)

Web link at:

[http://epaper.hindustantimes.com/artMailDisp.aspx?article=14\\_07\\_20\\_08\\_164\\_007&typ=1&pub=722](http://epaper.hindustantimes.com/artMailDisp.aspx?article=14_07_20_08_164_007&typ=1&pub=722)

July 14, 2008

### **Shutting down the drug trade**

#### **City Comment**

Arresting one drug peddler, even a highly connected one, is small potatoes seen against the magnitude of drug sales and use. Despite extremely severe drug laws and apparently serious attempts at catching traffickers, the flow of narcotics into this country is increasing to such an extent that law enforcement is a mere mosquito on the rear end of an elephant

#### **Dona Suri**

LAST THURSDAY a drug peddler named Harpal Singh was arrested in the UT. This is hardly unusual, one sometimes reads of several drug peddler arrests in a single week. The interesting thing about Harpal Singh was that he walked around with a list of names in his pocket - some 60 police officials and bureaucrats and their friends and relations. He claims that the persons named are his buyers. The other interesting thing about Harpal Singh is that he was apprehended by officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau, an agency directly under the Central Government.

Harpal told the NCB interrogators that several policemen, including senior officers, were protecting him and getting a cut from his earnings. Few people would take a panga with the cops so this is a very brave thing for a drug peddler to say. As it is, he must be unpopular with some sections of the UT Police since he was the complainant in a case that led to the suspension of the SHO of the Sector 61 police post. The CBI had caught the cop while he was taking a bribe of Rs 15,000 from Harpal. Harpal Singh is now in judicial custody and one hopes that both the jail and the NCB officers are beyond the reach of powerful persons.

The customary comment on a case such as this would involve a lot of tut-tutting about the high and mighty and their children and their lifestyle, fat wallets and thin moral fibre, negligent parenting, decline of traditional Indian values, the trendiness of drugs etc. All this has

been written many times before, so with a passing nod to these sentiments, we move on to some other observations. To begin with, it is clear that arresting one drug peddler, even a highly connected one, is small potatoes seen against the magnitude of drug sales and drug use. Despite extremely severe drug laws and apparently serious attempts at catching traffickers, the flow of narcotics into the country is increasing to such an extent that law enforcement is a mere mosquito on the rear end of an elephant. But why so little success in keeping drugs out? Look at the drug trade as a business. The astronomical earning potential of this line of merchandise attracts entrepreneurs including well paid police officers sworn to uphold the law. The cost of growing, processing, transporting, retailing 10 grams of heroin would not exceed Rs 50 but the stuff sells for more than 10 times that amount. The difference between production cost and street price is the 'risk-cost' that the buyer pays to a whole string of people stretching from the peddler right back to the grower. It is impossible to suppress something that makes so much money. Not to defend drug dealing, but if drugs were decriminalized they would become cheap, which would in turn remove the profit motive for selling drugs, which would result in fewer drug peddlers.

However, it might not result in fewer drug users. That is a different matter. Many drug-users will never fall foul of the law and many have the money to support their habit with no pinch to their pockets so economically they 'get away with it'. However, no drug addict ever 'gets away' from damage to the body and damage to personal relationships. Nobody desires financial ruin, loss of self-respect, alienation from family, risking jail, or spending long periods in a detox clinic, just because drug-taking is their chosen lifestyle. Plenty of help is available for those who want to quit. Currently, the tricity area has dozens of de addiction clinics and counseling centers, both government and NGO-run, trying to help addicts.

Yet, the success rate for these programmes is extraordinarily low considering the effort and investment made. Most addicts have tried many times to stop yet at best they are able to lay off for short periods. Shaking the habit permanently is rare. In fact, most addicts become more addicted and want more and more as years pass.

As medical research goes deeper it is starting to look like addiction goes beyond bad personal choices, weak character, and anti-social attitudes or even enjoyment of a high. The world is full of people who have a drink now and then and people who at one time or another

have tried ganja or whatever, but they didn't become addicts. Addicts are people whose behaviour is impulsive/compulsive, they have lost control of their lives. That's why relapse rate is so high. It is now known that addiction has a physiological basis, involving neurotransmitters and hormones that affect our perception, cognition, expression and more importantly, they regulate and determine moods, emotions and motivations. Here is where addiction resides! We can pontificate endlessly about the role of increasing access to disposable incomes, influx of new cultural influences, breakdown of traditional social structures, and lax law enforcement, but the facts of both the drug business and drug consumption tell us that new approaches are needed to tackle both the supply side and the demand side of the problem. The solutions go far beyond the UT. They involve taking big money out of drug dealing and treating drug consumption medically.

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## **Annexure P-11**

FROM TIMES OF INDIA (CHANDIGARH EDITION)

Web link at:

<http://epaper.timesofindia.com/Repository/ml.asp?Ref=VE9JQ0cvMjAwOC8wNy8xNSNBcjAxOTA1&Mode=HTML&Locale=english-skin-custom>

**July 15, 2008**

### **NCB report gives dope on cops' 'support' to peddler**

#### **TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

Chandigarh: Exposing the alleged patronage provided by the Chandigarh Police to a notorious drug peddler, a shocking report by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) lists those cops who were working in tandem with Harpal Singh, alias Raju.

Throwing light on the Chandigarh Police's black sheep, the NCB report, which sources say has been handed over to UT officials, includes the names of seven personnel who were not only in regular touch with Raju, but also accepted 'monthly instalments' from him in connivance with their seniors.

NCB officials recently arrested Raju and one of his couriers with 3 kg indigenous heroin and a few grams smack. He was sent to judicial custody. The sources said officials had gathered information after a careful scrutiny of mobile phones that Raju used in the recent times. The NCB investigators also found names of two CBI officials in his contact list, but sources added the call records showed he did not have any significant conversation with them.

NCB director Saji Mohan confirmed that a list of names had been sent to the UT police for departmental action. However, UT SSP SS Srivastva said he had not received information but action would follow as soon as he got it.

Raju, a high-profile drug peddler of the Tricity, was active in southern sectors of the city. It has been learnt that he 'designed' the CBI trap against SI Ved Prakash, the in charge of Burail police post, to create terror amongst the cops. He allegedly gifted expensive items to one of the constables, who used to help him at police station-36.

"Other than this, he had fixed a deal of Rs 10,000 per month," said a source in NCB.

The bureau has reportedly also got the names of Punjab officials, including one DSP and three SIs - one posted as an SHO. Apart from these, many junior officers reportedly find a mention in the list.

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