

# Operation Namkeen

May 30, 2022

**In news-** The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 52 kg of cocaine valued at over Rs 500 crore from an import consignment at the Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district recently.

## **About Operation Namkeen-**

- The DRI launched "Operation Namkeen" and intercepted a consignment, declared to contain 1,000 bags of common salt having gross weight of 25 MT, which had been imported at Mundra port from Iran.
- Samples tested from some suspected bags confirmed the presence of cocaine.

## **About Cocaine-**

- Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant drug **made from the leaves of the coca plant native to South America.**
- People snort cocaine powder through the nose or rub it into their gums.
- Others dissolve the powder and inject it into the bloodstream, or inject a **combination of cocaine and heroin, called a Speedball.**
- Cocaine **increases levels of the natural chemical messenger dopamine in brain circuits** related to the control of movement and reward.
- Street dealers often mix it with things like cornstarch, talcum powder, or flour to increase profits.
- Short-term health effects of cocaine include extreme happiness and energy, mental alertness, hypersensitivity to sight, sound, and touch, irritability and *paranoia*—extreme and unreasonable distrust of others.
- Cocaine's effects appear almost immediately and

disappear within a few minutes to an hour and how long the effects last and how intense they are depend on the method of use.

- Studies have shown that **cocaine use speeds up HIV infection.**
- There is no specific medication that can reverse a cocaine overdose, however, management involves supportive care and depends on the symptoms present.