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By: **Express News Service**

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The crew members of the boat have been arrested.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) seized 86 kg of suspected heroin worth Rs 602 crore from a Pakistani boat, which was on its way to Sri Lanka via Tamil Nadu, off the Porbandar coast in Gujarat and arrested 14 crew members on Sunday.

The drugs were seized during a joint ICG operation with the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) during which the Indian side opened fire injuring one of the crew members.

According to an official release, ATS Superintendent of Police KK Patel received information that Haji Aslam alias Babu Balock, a drug operative from Pakistan, would be sending a boat named 'Alraza' from the Karachi harbour to deliver narcotic substances like heroin and methamphetamine in the intervening night of April 25 and 26 near the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) off Porbandar. "The said contraband would be delivered to a dhow from [Tamil Nadu](#) to be further delivered to Sri Lanka-based drug operatives," the release stated.

Later, the joint team of Gujarat ATS and ICG identified a suspicious vessel in the Indian waters 180 nautical miles off Porbandar. “The Indian Coast Guard and Gujarat ATS team that had tried to board the vessel for checking was obstructed by the crew of the suspect boat and to restrain the crew and to stop the fleeing, firepower was used in which one member of the crew of the vessel sustained injuries,” the ATS stated.

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Indian Coast Guard ship Rajratan (left) sails ahead of a seized Pakistani boat. (PTI)

A search on the suspect fishing boat, which was carrying 14 crew members — all Pakistan nationals, revealed contraband material. This is the biggest Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance seizure in the country during the current Lok Sabha Elections, said the official statement.

All the 14 accused are residents of Lasbela in Pakistan’s Balochistan. The master of the boat, 62-year-old Nazir Hussain [Azam Khan](#) who suffered the bullet injury, was evacuated for further medical care. He has been operated upon and is currently stable.

Meanwhile, the boat and its crew members are being brought to Porbandar for further probe.

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