



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Peruntholaiyar Kamarajar"

NCB Advisory on Maldives' New Anti-Narcotics Laws

Published On: 25-04-2026

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has issued an advisory for Indian citizens travelling to the Maldives, warning them about the country's newly strengthened anti-narcotics laws that impose stringent penalties including life imprisonment and even the death penalty for drug-related offences.



Background and Context?

The Maldives has recently amended its Drugs Act (effective 2026) to adopt a zero-tolerance approach toward narcotics offences, significantly increasing penalties for both trafficking and possession. These stricter provisions have been introduced amid rising concerns over drug trafficking in the region. The advisory follows recent instances of foreign nationals, including Indians, being arrested under these laws.

Key Highlights of the NCB Advisory

The NCB has urged Indian travellers to exercise extreme caution while visiting the Maldives.

Key advisories include:

Avoid carrying bags, parcels, or items for others, especially strangers

Be cautious at airports, ports, and transit points

Ensure complete awareness of contents of personal luggage

Strictly avoid possession of any prohibited substances, even in small quantities

The advisory emphasizes that individuals may unknowingly become drug couriers, leading to severe legal consequences.

Nature of Stringent Penalties

Under the amended Maldivian drug laws:

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: 044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833

Possession of even small quantities can attract strict punishment

Life imprisonment is applicable for serious offences

Death penalty may be imposed in cases of large-scale drug trafficking (subject to judicial confirmation)

This reflects one of the harshest anti-drug legal regimes globally, with a strong deterrence approach.

About Narcotics Control Bureau(NCB):

Established: 1986

Under: Ministry of Home Affairs

Director General: Anurag Garg

Objective: Combat drug trafficking and abuse in India

Works under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985

Coordinates with international agencies for drug law enforcement

Significance for India and International Travel

Highlights the need for legal awareness during foreign travel

Reflects India's proactive approach in protecting citizens abroad

Strengthens efforts against cross-border drug trafficking networks

Promotes responsible tourism and compliance with international laws

Additional Important Facts:

Maldives is a popular tourist destination for Indians, increasing relevance of such advisories

The country's laws treat possession and trafficking with equal seriousness in some cases

Linked to global anti-drug efforts under:

UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988

India's NDPS Act also prescribes strict penalties, including rigorous imprisonment and fines

Drug trafficking routes in the Indian Ocean region are a growing concern for regional security

Challenges and Concerns

Lack of awareness among travellers about foreign legal systems

Risk of unintentional involvement in drug trafficking

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

Need for stronger international cooperation and information dissemination

Conclusion

The NCB advisory underscores the importance of strict compliance with foreign laws, especially in countries like the Maldives with stringent anti-narcotics regulations. It reflects a broader effort to curb drug trafficking while ensuring the safety and legal protection of Indian citizens abroad.