

Drug syndicate busted; 5 held

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The Special Cell of Delhi Police today claimed to have busted an interstate narcotic syndicate by arresting five of its alleged members including a 27-year-old woman in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area.

Special Cell also claimed to have recovered 18 kgs of fine quality of heroin and 15 kgs of Phenobarbital worth Rs 65 crore in the international market.

The accused were identified as Ram Avtar (72), Girdhari Lal (43 years), Sangita (27), Pankaj (38) and Indal Kumar Singh (20). According to police, they were arrested after the police received information about a woman drug peddler who was supposed to deliver a consignment near the Mother Dairy out-



let in Tilak Nagar. The woman, later identified as Sangita, was to deliver the drugs to Ram Avtar, who already had been involved in several cases of drug peddling and supply.

Following the arrests of Avtar and Sangita, other alleged members were arrested. Police also claimed to have recovered the drugs after Avtar confessed to have them in his possession. Police claimed that Avtar had purchased a flat in Delhi which was specially bought for the purpose of drug trade.

"Ram Avtar Rama kept the house exclusively for storing narcotic drugs and processing of heroin with the help of chemicals. The accused is an expert in processing and improvising of heroin with the help of his own crude researches. Modus operandi of Ram Avtar is to prepare heroin at low cost with the help of these chemicals like Alprazolam, Phenobarbital and by using less quantity of crude heroin and to sell this at the same rates to earn quick money," said a senior police official.

According to the officials, Avtar was the mastermind of the gang and has been in the trade for more than 30 years.

A case under NDPS Act was registered and further investigation is on to arrest other possible members of the gang.

Regulatory