

## Black Cocaine

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The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) recently arrested a Bolivian woman from Mumbai airport for allegedly carrying black cocaine.



[Ref: Wion]

- Black cocaine is **regular cocaine**, which is typically white in colour, with an **additional substance** that makes it black in colour.
- It is a **mixture of regular cocaine** base with **various substances to camouflage typical appearance** (e.g. charcoal).
  - The **additional activated carbon** may sufficiently **absorb trace odours** to make the mixture **undetectable by drug-sniffing dogs** at check points.
- The **pure cocaine** base is then **recovered** from the mixture by extraction **using common organic solvents** such as **methylene chloride or acetone**.
- A second process is required to convert the cocaine base into powdered cocaine hydrochloride.