

DRI seizes 39 containers carrying 1,115 metric tonne worth of goods around 9 crore of Pakistan-origin under 'Operation Deep Manifest'; one arrested

Post Pahalgam terror attacks, Government of India banned import of Pakistani-origin goods routed through third countries, primarily via Dubai, UAE

Import of Pakistani-origin goods routed through third countries is in blatant violation of import policy conditions and prohibitions on direct or indirect import or transit of such goods

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In a significant enforcement action, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) launched an operation codenamed "*Operation Deep Manifest*", targeting the illegal import of Pakistani-origin goods routed through third countries, primarily via Dubai, UAE. The operation has thus far led to the **seizure of 39 containers carrying 1,115 metric tonne of goods valued at approximately ₹9 crore**, in blatant violation of import policy conditions and prohibitions imposed by the Government on direct or indirect import or transit of Pakistani-origin goods. One of the partners of an importing firm has been arrested on 26.06.2025.

Following the Pahalgam terror attacks, the Government had imposed a comprehensive ban, effective May 2, 2025, on the direct or indirect import or transit of goods originating in or exported from Pakistan. Previously, such goods were subject to 200% customs duty. Despite these stringent measures, some importers attempt to bypass the Government policy by misdeclaring the origin of goods and by manipulating the related shipping documents.

In two separate cases, these consignments were seized at Nhava Sheva port. The consignments of dry dates were falsely declared as UAE-origin, masking their Pakistani origin. However, investigations revealed that these goods actually originated from Pakistan and were merely transshipped via Dubai for import into India.

Investigations revealed that the goods were initially transported from Pakistan to Dubai on one set of containers and vessels, and subsequently transferred to another set of containers and vessels bound for India. Further examination of goods and analysis of documents gathered during investigations conducted so far uncovered cargo movement trails from Karachi port, Pakistan, and transshipments at Jabel Ali port, Dubai – *en route* to Indian ports. Furthermore, money transfers/financial linkages with Pakistani entities were traced, raising serious concerns about illicit financial flows. The entire *modus operandi* was orchestrated through a complex web of transactions involving Pakistani and UAE nationals, aimed at obscuring the true origin of the goods, namely Pakistan.

In the context of "Operation Sindoor" and the prevailing heightened security environment, DRI intensified its

vigil, through augmented intelligence gathering and data analytics, for targeting of consignments emanating from Pakistan. This proactive surveillance resulted in high-value seizures.

In the light of prevailing regional and global security threats, “*Operation Deep Manifest*” exemplifies DRI’s steadfast commitment to upholding Government’s policy, customs and other relevant laws; safeguarding national and economic security of country; and preventing the misuse of trade channels for import of Pakistani-origin goods. Through strategic intelligence, targeted enforcement, and inter-agency coordination, DRI continues to play a pivotal role in securing India's economic frontiers.

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