

DRI Mumbai Seizes 132 Containers of Smuggled Watermelon Seeds and Green Peas Worth ₹139 Crore; Importer Arrested

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The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Mumbai has unearthed a major smuggling racket involving restricted agricultural commodities at Nhava Sheva Port. Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officers intercepted 132 containers containing approximately 3,029 metric tonnes (MT) of goods that were misdeclared as 'Toor Dal/Pigeon Peas'.

Upon detailed examination, the consignments were found to contain 2,710 MT of watermelon seeds originating from Tanzania and Sudan, and 319 MT of green peas imported from Canada. The total value of the seized goods is estimated at approximately ₹139 crore.



Investigations revealed deliberate misdeclaration aimed at circumventing import restrictions imposed by the Government. Import of melon seeds has been restricted/prohibited post June 2024 in terms of DGFT Notification No. 05/2023 dated 05.04.2024. Similarly, imports of green peas are regulated under DGFT Notification No. 37/2015-20 dated 18.12.2019, which mandates a Minimum Import Price (MIP) of ₹200 per kg (CIF) and restricts imports exclusively through Kolkata Port.



The proprietor of the importing firm, identified as a key individual behind the organized smuggling operation, was arrested on April 19, 2026.

The DRI continues to intensify intelligence driven operations against the smuggling of restricted and prohibited goods. These efforts reaffirm its commitment to safeguarding the economic interests of the nation, ensuring fair competition for domestic producers, and enforcing compliance with import regulations.

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