



DRI seizes over 125,000 kg foreign-origin smuggled areca nuts and 41,000 kg poppy seeds worth around Rs. 20.31 crore in Assam and Mizoram in a crackdown on cross-border smuggling; four arrested

This is one of the largest seizure of smuggled areca nuts in North-East Region

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Continuing its sustained crackdown on cross-border smuggling, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), has seized 1,25,680 kg of foreign-origin areca nuts and 41,697 kg foreign-origin poppy seeds, collectively valued at approximately Rs. 20.31 crore, in two intelligence-led operations in Mizoram and Assam. Four persons have been arrested in connection with the transportation of the smuggled poppy seeds.

On 23-24.09.26, in a major intelligence led operation in Mizoram, DRI with the assistance of Customs Champhai, 14th Battalion Assam Rifles and Champhai Police, searched three godowns in and around Ruantlang village, Champhai District, located approximately 20 km from the Indo-Myanmar border. All the premises were found locked and unattended. The search of the premises resulted in the recovery of 1,25,680 kg suspected foreign-origin areca nuts valued at around Rs. 14 Crore and 25,440 kg of poppy seeds valued at Rs. 3.81 crore. Preliminary investigation indicated that the goods had been smuggled into India from Myanmar. The goods were seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.



Earlier on 22.09.26, based on specific intelligence regarding transportation of foreign-origin poppy seeds from the Mizoram border area towards Assam, DRI officers with the assistance of 38 Battalion Assam Rifles, intercepted two trucks near Lailapur, Silchar. Detailed examination and rummaging of the vehicles resulted in the recovery of 290 HDPE bags containing 16,257 kg foreign-origin poppy seeds. The bags bore markings indicative of foreign manufacture and trade, and the consignment was not accompanied by valid import documents. The poppy seeds, valued at approximately Rs 2.43 crore, along with the two vehicles, were seized under the Customs Act, 1962. Four persons involved in the transportation were arrested.

The seizure of foreign-origin smuggled areca nuts, one of the largest seizures of the commodity in recent years in the North-Eastern region of the country, is a significant achievement in DRI's efforts to curb cross-border smuggling.

Poppy seeds are classified as a "Restricted" item under the ITC (HS) Classification of the Foreign Trade Policy, with import permitted subject to specified conditions, including sourcing from designated countries and registration of import contracts with the Narcotics Commissioner, Gwalior.

The seizures highlight DRI's continued focus on intercepting smuggling networks operating through the vulnerable India-Myanmar border and preventing illicit entry of restricted and foreign-origin agricultural commodities into the country.

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