

On 04.03.2018 DRI seizes 7.1 Metric Tonnes of Grade A Red Sanders valued at Rs 2.85 Crores – four persons arrested



Acting on specific intelligence, officers of DRI intercepted two containers which were attempted to be exported to Dubai Jebel Ali. The declaration on the Shipping Bill was 42 tonnes of Indian Yellow Maize through ICD Januri, Nashik.

Examination of one of the containers resulted in the recovery of 7.1 Metric Tonnes of Grade A Red Sanders valued at Rs 2.85 crores (illicit international market value) concealed behind bags of maize and cuddapah stone slabs. The other container was found to contain maize as declared.

The modus was that export containers carrying Foodgrains would be taken to an isolated factory outside Mumbai where the foodgrains would be partially destuffed and the Red Sanders concealed. For this, they had engaged an expert who would remove the rivets/clamps of the door handles of the containers without disturbing the Customs seal.

Four accused have been arrested and produced before the Judicial Magistrate for custody.

Red Sanders, *pterocarpus santalinus* is an endangered species found only in the Seshachalam forests of Andhra Pradesh. It is a protected flora covered under the CITES Convention and prohibited for export.