

DRI unit traces ganja haul back to kingpin in AP

By [Ujjawala Nayudu](#), Pune Mirror | Jun 3, 2019, 06.00 AM IST



The contraband material had been loaded into a truck with a special cavity and transported into Pune from Yavatmal; REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

City man running beer store, baker, also held in connection with case

Investigation following the seizure of a big ganja consignment by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in Pune has led to a man in the city with alleged links with a kingpin in Andhra Pradesh (AP). The Pune man got a truck driven to Yavatmal to collect the consignment for its alleged sale in the city.

DRI had seized 149 packets containing 835 kilograms of ganja, worth almost Rs 2 crore, from the truck on May 22. This is the first big case of narcotics seizure by DRI after its unit opened in Pune and biggest case recorded across the state in last six months.

DRI arrested five persons in the case including the main accused Gundu Patil, his accomplice Ilyabaksh Babanmiya Munde and Naseer Gafoor Pathan. The truck driver was identified as Amit Bidkar while his cleaner is known to be Deepak.

A senior DRI official told Mirror, Patil has been operating as a key link for ganja supply in Pune. He was running the network from Andhra Pradesh through a kingpin who has been supplying the contraband material from the Maoist belt. Patil's modus operandi was to get bigger consignments delivered and earn while the ganja that entered the city further got distributed among smaller agents."

Patil, who is a resident of Nanded City in Pune, runs a beer shop, while his accomplice Ilyabaksh runs a bakery. Naseer was their driver.

The trio was found in an Innova moving with the consignment loaded onto an accompanying truck when they were intercepted by DRI. Interestingly, Patil and his aides were not just the receivers but they got the truck driven from Pune to Yavatmal to get the consignment. The delivery of this consignment was important for Patil and others and hence they drove to Yavatmal along with the truck.

The truck, which is in possession of the DRI, has been specially designed to transport narcotics. It started from Pune on May 21 and reached Yavatmal to collect the consignment. Patil and his aides were following the truck to and fro in their private car. They were apprehended near Manchar in Pimple Gaon.

The officer said, “The truck had a special cavity designed inside the concrete floor to hide the consignment. The truck has registration from Andhra Pradesh and has been found receiving and supplying ganja and other contraband in it.

The cavity has been designed in such a spot where it has missed check posts and eyes of various authorities in the last few years.” The DRI is scrutinising the call records of the accused to get more details on other persons involved in the alleged nexus.

The Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad police have identified a few spots under their respective jurisdictions where ganja was allegedly sold. The DRI is working with both the police departments to zero in on these spots and catch hold of the local hands in the network.

Two days back, the customs department seized ganja worth Rs 5 lakh and arrested three Pune residents from Khadki. In two other cases, the DRI seized ganja worth Rs 2 crore near Nagpur and Rs 25 crore in Mumbai this week.