

Business Standard

DRI busts syndicate of illegal exporters, arrests six

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The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested six people for involvement in illegal shipments to Bangladesh to avail undue export benefits, an official said here on Saturday.

The accused had prepared false documents, like purchase orders, invoices and procurement papers, and used them for filing shipping bills in Petrapole land customs station.

The forged shipping bills were processed for exports on paper only without presenting actual goods and vehicles supposed to be carrying the goods, the official said.

Investigation revealed that the syndicate provided false vehicle numbers on the shipping documents and had forged the stamp of Bangladesh customs to show that consignment crossed the border.

"Import Export Code of 10 such exporting firms were used in preparing 51 fraudulent shipping bills, wherein, goods like pan masala, two-wheeler and three-wheeler parts, motor parts and items eligible for higher GST refunds worth Rs 24 crore were shown to have been exported," a DRI official said.

It involved around Rs 12 crore export benefits, the official added.

"Sujit Swarnakar, Sajal Swarnakar, Dipankar Pal, Suvankar Pal, Arjun Adhikary and Prosenjit Das of Bongaon were arrested on Friday," the official said.

The agency had arrested three members of the syndicate in December 2018 who got the fraud executed through different Bongaon-based crooks.

The customs broker who had allowed his stamps to be used in the fraud was also arrested in January 2019.

Apart from these syndicate members, five customs officers have also come under the scanner for facilitating the fraud.

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