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DRI BULLETIN



अभय कुमार श्रीवास्तव, भा.रा.से.
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सत्यमेव जयते

महानिदेशक
राजस्व आसूचना निदेशालय

Director General
Directorate of
Revenue Intelligence

Foreword

A concise and focused supplementary half-yearly report—the DRI Bulletin (April–September 2024)—was released on 4th December 2024 during the DRI Founding Day celebrations. This was published alongside the Annual Smuggling in India Report 2024, providing an overview of key highlights and evolving trends in smuggling activities across India during the first half of the financial year 2024–25.

It gives me great pleasure to present the second issue of the Half-Yearly Bulletin of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), covering the period from October 2024 to March 2025. This edition stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment and pursuit of excellence demonstrated by DRI officers in protecting the economic frontiers of our nation. The period under review was marked by significant enforcement actions, intelligence-led operations, and policy initiatives aimed at strengthening the integrity of India's trade and travel ecosystem. The following pages highlight key developments and reinforce DRI's continued role as the country's premier agency in combating commercial fraud, smuggling, narcotic drugs menace, ecological offences and financial crimes.

While a full-fledged Smuggling in India Report 2025 is under preparation—an invaluable reference for Customs administrations, intelligence agencies, law enforcement authorities, policymakers, and researchers—this half-yearly bulletin serves as a timely resource. In an age of swift and constant information flow, it serves to bridge the ever-widening information gap.

This issue also coincides with a historic milestone: the inauguration of the newly constructed building of DRI Headquarters. This state-of-the-art facility symbolizes the evolution and growth of the organization and reaffirms our commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and inter-agency coordination.

As we enter this new chapter with renewed determination and modern infrastructure, I encourage all officers and stakeholders to use this bulletin as a tool for analysis, coordination, and strategic planning. We reaffirm our unwavering dedication to the principles of integrity, vigilance, excellence, and pledge to uphold these values with utmost commitment in our service to the nation.



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Customs and Global Security

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) is India's apex agency for combating smuggling and Customs-related economic offences. It plays a key role in enforcing Customs laws by detecting smuggling of contraband such as gold, narcotics, arms, counterfeit currency, and wildlife products. DRI also investigates evasion of Customs duties, trade-based money laundering, and misuse of export-import incentive schemes and free trade agreements as well as violations of various regulatory requirements, including those related to

safety, security and health of citizens. It uses advanced data analytics and field intelligence to identify high-risk consignments and coordinates with Customs field formations and other law enforcement agencies for interdiction.

DRI also contributes significantly to global security through international cooperation. It acts as the nodal agency for Customs

cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO), and engages with foreign enforcement agencies for intelligence sharing and joint operations. It plays an active role in multilateral enforcement initiatives under platforms like WCO and its Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) e.g., Operation SESHU, Mekong Dragon, TENTACLE, DEMETER etc. Additionally, DRI monitors trade in dual-use goods to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It also promotes best practices in Customs enforcement.





Foreign Currency

1. Foreign currency seized at Kolkata Airport

Based on specific intelligence developed by DRI, surveillance was mounted at various locations in Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCBI) Airport, Kolkata. In the early hours of 19.12.2024, six individuals were intercepted, at different points before they could board SpiceJet flight SG-83 to Bangkok. A search of the intercepted persons and their cabin baggage resulted in the recovery of USD 1,46,200 (1,462 notes of 100 USD denomination), with an equivalent market value of ₹1.43 crore. All six individuals were arrested, and the recovered foreign currency was seized.

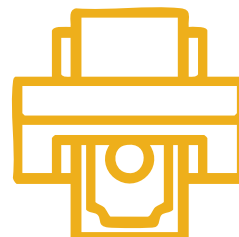
2. Foreign currency seized at Chandigarh Airport

An intelligence was developed by DRI that two Indian nationals, who were scheduled to travel to Dubai from Chandigarh on 09.10.2024, would be smuggling foreign currency from India. Accordingly, passengers were intercepted by a team of officers of DRI which resulted in recovery of foreign currency of different denominations having value of ₹ 5.08 crore hidden in check-in baggage and the same was seized.

3. Foreign currency seized at Bengaluru Airport

DRI intercepted four persons, who were scheduled to travel from Bengaluru to Dubai on 30.12.2024 in Indigo Airlines. While examining check-in luggage and hand baggage, nothing was found. On careful opening of the hand baggage, the officers found foreign and Indian currency hidden inside the false bottom to avoid detection. The officers recovered currency notes worth ₹1.70 crore.

Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) – Cracking of Counterfeit Printing Facilities



■ Seizure of Security Paper at New Courier Terminal, Delhi

On 24.01.2025, the Delhi Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate seized a consignment containing 203 sheets of high-quality paper embedded with security threads and bearing inscriptions such as 'RBI' and 'Bharat'. Given the serious implications for economic security, the case was taken over by the DRI on 03.02.2025 for further investigation.

■ Nationwide Crackdown on FICN Operations

DRI arrested two individuals—identified as the actual importers of the counterfeit currency paper—from Ghazipur district (Uttar Pradesh) and Bengaluru (Karnataka). The intended recipient was apprehended in Rajasthan on 09.02.2025 who confessed to previous purchase of such paper for the purpose of printing fake Indian currency notes. A search of his residence in Bhiwani district (Haryana) led to the recovery of a printer and partially printed counterfeit currency notes.

Further, in Thane district (Maharashtra), two more individuals were apprehended with incriminating evidence such as Photoshop files with templates of ₹500 currency notes, security-threaded paper, and other counterfeiting materials. These cases were handed over to the respective state police forces for further action under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

■ **Pan-India Search Operations and Facility Bust in Mumbai**

Following an in-depth analysis of past consignments from the same source, DRI identified last-mile delivery addresses and, in coordination with courier partners, launched simultaneous search operations at 11 premises across multiple states. At one such location in Vikhroli West, Mumbai, DRI uncovered a full-fledged FICN printing facility. Items seized included counterfeit notes in denominations of ₹50 and ₹100, printers, laptops, pen drives, watermark-embedded butter paper, and other related tools. The accused was arrested, and all materials were handed over to the jurisdictional police under BNS, 2023.

■ **DRI investigations led to the discovery of similar FICN counterfeit printing setups in other states:**

- Ahmednagar and Kolhapur districts (Maharashtra)
- West Godavari district (Andhra Pradesh)
- Khagaria district (Bihar)
- Rohtak district (Haryana)

Each of these locations housed equipment and restricted security materials used for producing counterfeit currency. Based on DRI complaints, five individuals were arrested, and all contraband was seized by jurisdictional police authorities for further investigation under BNS, 2023.



Narcotic Drugs

■ Cocaine

Recent trends in seizures indicate two primary routes of cocaine smuggling into India—one originating from Brazil, and the other from Ethiopia, Nigeria, and other African countries. Over the past six months, smuggling has been consistently detected along these routes. Both Indians and foreign nationals have been apprehended as carriers, with cocaine often being

transported through body ingestion. Each trip typically involves the smuggling of approximately 800 to 1,200 grams of cocaine.



The DRI registered eight cases of this modus operandi at Mumbai and Delhi airports, where passengers were found carrying ingested cocaine capsules, ranging from 600 to 1,500 grams. Additionally, two cases were detected at Mumbai Airport in which cocaine was ingested in liquid form.

■ Significant seizures of Cocaine

- On 13.12.2024, DRI recovered 3.78 kg of cocaine concealed in the sidewalls of empty handbags from a foreign national at Bengaluru Airport.
- On 22.11.2024, 3.49 kg of cocaine was seized from a male passenger traveling from Sierra Leone via Nairobi.
- A case was booked where narcotics were transported from Bhutan through Siliguri, West Bengal to New Delhi and Bihar. DRI officers in Muzaffarpur intercepted a car on 13.11.2024. A search revealed 4.2 kg of cocaine hidden in two transparent plastic bags inside a trolley bag.



■ Hydroponic Weed

Hydroponic weed, a highly potent variant of cannabis, is grown in controlled environments without soil, allowing precise control over nutrients and lighting. This method yields quick harvests and significantly higher THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) content—ranging from 15% to over 30%, compared to around 5% in traditional cannabis. The result is a stronger psychoactive effect, increasing the risk of addiction and mental health issues, especially among youth.

The profitability of hydroponic weed and other drugs could fuel organized crime, with possibility of proceeds being diverted to terror financing, money laundering, and human trafficking—posing serious national security risks.



Between October 2024 and March 2025, DRI in coordination with various Airport Intelligence Units booked around 40 cases seizing 270 kg of hydroponic weed nationwide.

■ Synthetic Drugs

Traditionally, opium and heroin were the primary illicit drugs smuggled into India due to its proximity to the Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent. However, there has been a sharp rise in the smuggling of synthetic drugs—particularly methamphetamine from Myanmar—in recent years, with the trend continuing in 2024-25.

Vulnerable regions include Moreh and Churachandpur in Manipur and Zokhawthar in Mizoram, owing to thick forests, rugged terrain, and porous borders. Intelligence indicates that the Northeastern states are also being used as transit corridors to Bangladesh. Additionally, smuggled methamphetamine is reaching various parts of India.

Production and trafficking of methamphetamine have grown in recent times. It is less labour-intensive to produce and has become cheaper due to increased supply. DRI has booked several cases involving synthetic ATS drugs in the Northeast region, where concealment methods include custom made cavities in vehicle roofs,

engine compartments, and built-in truck platforms. Two-wheelers have also been used in hilly terrain.

Notable cases

- On 25.12.2024, DRI intercepted a truck near Khanapara, Guwahati, recovering 26 kg of orange methamphetamine tablets concealed in a cavity beneath the driver's cabin roof.
- On 19.01.2025, DRI intercepted a truck in Cachar District, Assam, and seized 29.8 kg of orange methamphetamine tablets hidden in a platform made of wooden planks below the chassis.





■ Hashish

DRI intercepted two crew members of a Motor Sailing Vessel at Tuticorin Old Port, based on intelligence about smuggling hashish oil to the Maldives. DRI recovered 12 polypropylene bags containing 12.14 kg of hashish oil valued at ₹13.2 crore. Two-wheelers used for transportation were also seized, and four individuals were arrested.

In another case, intelligence developed by DRI indicated that a tugboat towing a barge of rock boulders from Tuticorin Old Port was smuggling hashish oil mid-sea enroute to the Maldives. On 05.03.2025, the Indian Coast Guard intercepted the boat and escorted it to Tuticorin New Harbour. Officers recovered 29 packets totalling 29.95 kg of hashish oil, valued at ₹32.94 crore. Three individuals were arrested.

■ Heroin

On 13.12.2024, DRI intercepted a truck and car near Guwahati. A total of 274 soap cases containing heroin, weighing 3.18 kg and valued at ₹6.09 crore, were seized from a custom-built cavity in the truck. Five individuals were arrested.

■ Laboratory Busts

Case 1 – Seizure of 51.95 kg of liquid Mephedrone valued at ₹78 crore

Acting on specific intelligence, DRI conducted a search at an under-construction building in Pachpaoli, Nagpur. A small, fully equipped laboratory was discovered, where Mephedrone was being clandestinely manufactured. The team recovered 51.95 kg of liquid Mephedrone, along with raw materials and equipment. Four individuals, including the syndicate mastermind, were arrested.

Case 2 – Seizure of Mephedrone from a factory in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh

DRI conducted a raid at the factory premises of M/s. Meghnagar Pharmachem Pvt. Ltd. Based on test results, 112.79 kg Mephedrone was seized (36.11 kg in powder form and 76.68 kg in liquid form), along with all raw materials and apparatus. The Director and three associates were arrested.



Gold

■ Air Route

The traditional modus operandi of gold smuggling into India remains prevalent. On 03.03.2025, DRI intercepted an Indian female passenger arriving from Dubai at Bengaluru Airport. Upon inspection, 14.2 kg of gold bars were found ingeniously concealed on her person. The contraband, valued at ₹12.56 crore, was seized and the passenger was arrested. Follow-up investigations led to the recovery of gold jewellery worth ₹2.06 crore, Indian currency amounting to ₹2.67 crore, and the arrest of two additional individuals involved in the smuggling network.

A new modus operandi has also emerged, involving foreign nationals smuggling gold into India in high quantities.

■ Salient Cases

- On 25.01.2025, acting on specific intelligence, two Turkish nationals travelling from Dubai to Mumbai were intercepted. A personal search revealed 16 kg gold ingeniously concealed inside the socks worn by the individuals.
- On 06.03.2025, two foreign nationals (one from the UAE and the other from Oman) were intercepted at Mumbai Airport. A total of 21 kg gold was recovered from them, concealed inside waist belts worn beneath their shirts.
- In another case, three Iranian nationals travelling from Dubai to Mumbai were intercepted on 14.02.2025. Two of them were found to have concealed 7.14 kg gold under their clothing, acting at the behest of the third passenger.

■ Coastal Route

Gold smuggled from Sri Lanka via the sea route through the Thondi coast in Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu, was being transported by a person on a bus to Madurai. The individual was intercepted on 13.11.2024, and a search led to the recovery of 15 rectangular pieces of crude gold, weighing a total of 5.54 kg of 24-carat purity.

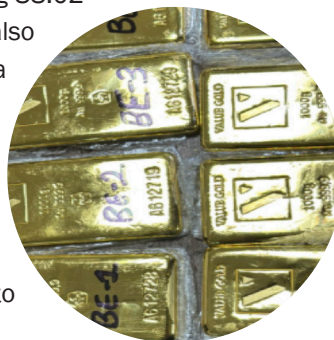


■ Land Route

On 12.12.2024, DRI officers intercepted five individuals travelling in a car near Ghurni More, Krishnanagar (Nadia District), West Bengal. Search of the vehicle and passengers led to the recovery of 28 foreign-origin gold biscuits/bars/strips weighing a total of 7.58 kg. All five individuals confirmed that the gold had been smuggled by them into India from Bangladesh for delivery in Kolkata.

■ Town Seizure in Ahmedabad

Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officers, in collaboration with the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), conducted a search operation at a residential flat in Paldi, Ahmedabad, on 17.03.2025 & 18.03.2025. The search resulted in the recovery of a massive haul of gold bars weighing 88.02 kg, valued at ₹79.83 crore. The operation also uncovered 10 luxury watches, including a diamond-studded Patek Philippe, a Jacob & Co. timepiece, and a Franck Muller watch; jewellery weighing 19.79 kg studded with diamonds and other precious/semi-precious stones; one mobile phone; and cash amounting to ₹1.37 crore. The total market value of the seized items amounts to ₹109.34 crore.



Environment

Environmental crimes, including the smuggling of endangered wildlife, precious timber, restricted chemicals, hazardous wastes, including e-waste pose a grave threat to India's biodiversity and ecological balance. These illicit activities not only deplete natural resources but also finance transnational criminal networks. As a key enforcement agency, DRI plays a vital role in combating environmental smuggling through intelligence-led operations and coordinated efforts with domestic and international partners.

■ Red Sanders

Red Sanders continue to be smuggled out of the country through concealment and misdeclaration in export documentation. During this period, two seizures were made in and around Chennai, resulting in the confiscation of 8.51 MT of Red Sanders logs.

On 03.01.2025, a Chennai-based syndicate attempted to illegally export Red Sanders logs via Chennai Sea Port. DRI officers intercepted a vehicle en-route and seized the contraband. The logs were concealed under M-sand (manufactured sand). A total of 5.5 MT of Red Sanders, valued at ₹2.77 crore, was seized.



■ Elephant Tusks

The illegal trade in elephant tusks, driven by the demand for ivory, remains a severe threat to elephant population. This form of trafficking fuels organized crime and undermines conservation efforts. Elephants are listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), according them the highest level of protection. Despite these legal frameworks, black markets persist due to high profit margins.

DRI made three major seizures in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam involving a total of seven elephant tusks weighing 50.15 kg and four molars weighing 6.8 kg.



■ Turtles and Pangolins

India hosts a diverse array of turtle species, including the Indian flapshell turtle, Indian roofed turtle, and Olive Ridley turtle. Despite legal protections, these species face threats from habitat loss, pollution, and illegal trade for meat, pets, and traditional medicine—particularly in Southeast Asian markets.



Due to DRI's vigilance, attempts to smuggle the following species were thwarted:

- 8 Red-Eared Slider Turtles
- 71 Indian Softshell Turtles
- 1,448 Indian Flapshell Turtles
- 481 Indian Roofed Turtles

Additionally, two live Indian Pangolins, a Schedule-I protected species, were rescued and the perpetrators were arrested.

■ Indian Red Sand Boa (*Eryx johnii*)

Based on specific intelligences, 3 cases of *Eryx johnii*, that is commonly known as Red Sand Boa, a protected animal under Sl. No. 1 of Part-C of Schedule-I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, were booked by DRI during December 2024 and January 2025 in Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The *Eryx johnii* was seized as per Section 50(1)(c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, and case was handed over to forest department for further action at their end.



■ Corals

Corals are essential to marine biodiversity, forming reefs that support ecosystems and protect coastlines. However, coral smuggling driven by demand for jewellery, decorative items, and traditional medicine poses a serious threat to marine environments. Despite protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, illegal trade persists.



During this period, DRI seized:

- 195 kg of Stony Corals
- 16.45 kg of Dead Black Corals
- 0.28 kg of Dead Soft Corals

■ Sea Cucumber

DRI mounted a surveillance and intercepted three Indian nationals on 05.10.2024 at the premises of a hotel in Cochin and three cartons weighing around 103 kg of Sea Cucumber (single branched marine organisms found on the seafloor) were found in their possession. On detailed enquiry, they admitted that they had procured the same from Lakshadweep and had brought it to Cochin for sale. As the collection, possession and trade of Sea Cucumber is prohibited under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 they were handed over to the Kerala Forest Department along with three cartons of Sea Cucumber for further necessary action.



■ Ambergris (Sperm Whale Vomit)

Ambergris is a waxy substance produced in the digestive system of sperm whales, often found floating in the ocean or washed ashore, and historically used in perfumery as a fixative and in some traditional medicines. Sperm Whale is listed in Schedule-II (High Protection) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and therefore, ambergris is not a free commodity for trade and commerce.



Based on specific information, a person involved in trading of Ambergris was followed by DRI officers on 29.03.2025. A waxy substance weighing 2.91 kg, believed to be ambergris, was found. On testing the substance with the 'hot needle test', it gave positive result for ambergris. After the initial seizure proceedings,

the seized ambergris was handed over to the Forest Department.

Commercial fraud

■ Misclassification and Trade-Based Money Laundering

Commercial fraud perpetrators continue to focus on evasion of customs duties through misclassification or misdeclaration, often involving the wrongful availment of exemptions or avoidance of applicable import tariffs. Recent cases also reflect the growing use of customs-related predicate offences in money laundering, particularly through undervaluation or overvaluation of imports and exports.

In a significant case of trade-based money laundering (TBML), DRI detected overvaluation of electronic goods declared at ₹756 crore, while the actual market value was estimated at only ₹11 crore. The goods were imported for warehousing to avoid customs duty, with no intention of domestic clearance. The consignment was seized.

Another major operation unearthed a modus operandi involving misclassification of textile imports within a Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) in Chennai. Multiple containers were examined, revealing duty evasion amounting to ₹50 crore, including undervaluation of imports and violations of DGFT import policy restrictions.

In a separate case, misclassification of imported food supplements such as iron supplements, postbiotic solutions, and whey protein resulted in a duty evasion of approximately ₹50 crore.

Additionally, a case involving misclassification of sports shoes to unjustly avail benefits under the India-ASEAN FTA led to a detection of duty evasion of about ₹25 crore, with ₹18 crore voluntary payment.



■ Luxury cars

Information developed by DRI, revealed that high-end luxury cars have been imported by various importers by way of undervaluation to the extent of 40% to 50% by mis-declaring the assessable value at the port of import to evade the applicable Customs Duties. A total of 15 Luxury Cars viz Hummer EV, Cadillac Escalade, Rolls Royce, Lexus, Toyota Land Cruiser & Lincoln Navigator were imported by use of this modus operandi, by importers based in Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore & Delhi with an estimated duty evasion of ₹30 crore approximately.



■ Misdeclared Imports - Poppy Seeds and Betul Nut

In February, 2025, a specific intelligence was generated that a particular firm was importing raw Areca Nuts (CTH-080280), by mis-declaring the same as roasted Areca Nuts (CTH-20081920). Investigation revealed that mis-declaration was done to circumvent Minimum Import Price (MIP) and Tariff Value applicable for the assessment of the said goods, along with evasion of Customs duty to the tune of ₹6.75 crore (on the basis of tariff value), leviable on the said goods, by misusing the provisions of India-ASEAN FTA.



On 29.01.2025, DRI intercepted two containers at Kolkata Port declared as "Mix colour soap cuts and chips." Examination revealed undeclared cargo:

- 27.55 MT of poppy seeds worth ₹5.47 crore
- 27.34 MT of betel nut worth ₹1.53 crore



IPR, Health and Safety

■ Counterfeit Cigarettes

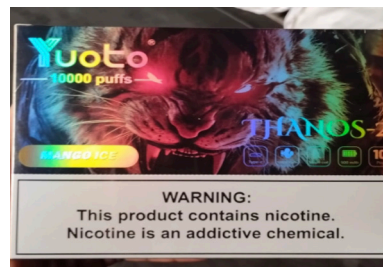
The illicit cigarette trade poses serious public health risks, has connections to criminal syndicates, and significantly impacts government revenue. Smuggling routes often include the porous India-Myanmar border and maritime routes utilized by syndicates based in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Free Trade Warehousing Zones in the Middle East have emerged as key transit hubs, with shipments rerouted to India via Dubai.

Recent seizures include:

- 55 lakh sticks of "Kings Gold Flake Honey Dew" at Chennai Port, mis-declared as "Face Veneer Sheets (Parawood)," valued at ₹9.35 crore. The case involved IPR infringement.
- 1.03 crore sticks of low-quality cigarettes valued at ₹2.57 crore at SEZ Visakhapatnam. The modus involved diversion of imported cigarettes and substitution with the low-quality cigarettes.
- 71.4 lakh sticks of "Gold Flake Honeydew Smooth" declared as Baby Diapers at Kolkata Port, valued at ₹12.14 crore. The modus involved diversion from Nepal-bound transshipment containers and included IPR violations.

■ E-Cigarettes

The smuggling of e-cigarettes has increased significantly. DRI seized 3.53 lakh units from Air Cargo Terminals, Foreign Post Offices, Sea Port and areas outside Customs control. These operations occurred across Delhi NCR, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.



■ Cosmetics

In January 2025, DRI intercepted a live consignment of misdeclared cosmetic products. The goods lacked valid CDSCO licenses and MRP labels, violating the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules and Packaged Commodities Rules. Items valued at approximately ₹32 lakhs were seized.

■ Courier Misdeclaration

In December 2024, DRI intercepted a courier consignment from Dubai at the New Courier Terminal, Delhi. Declared as clothing, it actually contained: 1,590 old and used laptops, 15 drones, 358 gaming consoles and 1,366 cosmetic items.

The goods, with an estimated market value of ₹4.13 crore, were imported in violation of India's Foreign Trade Policy, Electronics and IT Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2021, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and were subsequently seized.



International Cooperation

In a globalized economy, the enforcement of laws across international borders face significant challenges due to transnational crimes such as smuggling, drug trafficking, and environmental offences. These crimes are often interlinked with money laundering and pose serious threats to national security. Effective international cooperation has therefore become essential. This involves timely exchange of information, collaboration with global agencies, and the establishment of mutual assistance agreements.

International instruments such as Nairobi Convention 1977, Revised Kyoto Convention (2008), the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (2013), and the World Customs Organization's SAFE Framework of Standards (2021) underscore the critical importance of customs cooperation in promoting security while facilitating legitimate trade. Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements (CMAAs) play a key role by enhancing intelligence sharing, enabling risk-based analysis, and strengthening enforcement efforts across jurisdictions.

These global frameworks have guided Indian Customs in aligning with international best practices, thereby reinforcing trade facilitation and bolstering efforts to combat cross-border crimes.

■ Bilateral and Multilateral Instruments

In line with the DRI's mandate to support CBIC in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, significant progress was made in the area of customs-related intelligence and information exchange.

The Agreements were signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria and Spain on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters was signed during the review period. DRI contributed critical inputs on investigative requests and international engagements, including preparations for the high-level visit of the President of the European Commission and the College of Commissioners between October 2024 and March 2025.



The participants at the 9th Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting held on 04.12.2024 at New Delhi.



Discussion on Agenda Points during the First Joint Russia-India Working Group on Enforcement of Customs Laws held on 04.12.2024.

On the sidelines of the 67th DRI Founding Day celebrations held on 04.12.2024, two key international events were hosted:

- The first meeting of the Joint India–Russia Working Group (JWG) on Enforcement of Customs Laws.
- The 9th Regional Customs Enforcement Meeting (RCEM), which saw the participation of 22 delegates from 13 countries and two international organizations.

These engagements underscore India's commitment to strengthening global partnerships in customs enforcement.

■ Joint Enforcement Operations

DRI has continued its strategic collaboration with international agencies such as the WCO, RILO and UNODC. These partnerships are instrumental in participating in intelligence-driven global enforcement operations.

DRI actively contributed to several such operations during the reporting period, the details of which are outlined below:

SL. NO.	NAME OF OPERATION	SCOPE	SPONSOR
1	Operation Mekong Dragon VI	Illicit trafficking of drugs and drug precursor chemicals	UNODC
2	Operation DEMETER X	Cross-border movement of waste, as well as targeting of illegal waste shipments from waste producing regions and countries to destination countries around the world	UNODC
3	TENTACLE Asia Pacific III	Disrupt laundering networks, share intelligence, collaborate and disseminate findings targeting the smuggled currency, gems and precious metals, and other contraband items.	WCO
4	Operation THUNDER	Targeting illegal waste and ozone depleting substances shipments	WCO
5	Operation PRAESIDIO III	Fight against illicit wildlife trade	WCO

■ International Seminars and Workshops

DRI officials participated in several international meetings, seminars and workshops which helped in capacity building and learning detailed below:

SL. NO.	ORGANIZATION	NAME OF TRAINING/ MEETING/ OPERATION/ CONFERENCE	PLACE	Country
1	Hong Kong Customs & Excise Department	Regional Conference on Combating Illicit Cigarettes	Hong Kong	China
2	Singapore Customs	12th Joint Industry Outreach Seminar on Strategic Trade Management	Singapore	Singapore
3	Australia Group (AG)	Australia Group 2025 Inter-sessional meeting	Bucharest	Romania
4	WCO	WCO Asia Pacific Region Illicit Tobacco Initiative	Hong Kong	China
5	WCO	WCO's regional workshop of CEN Applications for Asia-Pacific region	Malacca	Malaysia
6	INCB	Joint Workshop on Disrupting Falsified, Substandard, Unauthorized Illicitly Sourced Pharmaceutical Trafficking	Dubai	UAE
7	INTERPOL	INTERPOL Environmental Crime for attending Exotic Species Trafficking case Coordination Meeting	Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok	Malaysia / Thailand
8	WCO	Hot Zone Prioritization Forum	Sofia	Bulgaria
9	WCO	GIIS Meeting	Brussels	Bulgaria
10	WCO	New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Task Force Meeting	Vancouver	Canada

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