

Operation Deep Manifest

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Operation Deep Manifest: Cracking Down on Illicit Pakistani Imports

Context:

India has adopted a **zero-tolerance approach** towards economic relations with Pakistan, especially in the backdrop of terrorism-related incidents. After the **Pahalgam terror attacks**, India imposed a complete ban on imports of **Pakistani-origin goods**. To enforce this ban and safeguard national and economic security, the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** launched '**Operation Deep Manifest**' to crack down on goods being routed through third countries like the UAE.

About Operation Deep Manifest:

- **Launched by:** Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
 - **Nature of Operation:** Targeted enforcement action.
 - **Purpose:** To identify, intercept, and seize **Pakistani-origin goods** entering India via **third countries**, primarily **the UAE**.
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Reason for the Operation:

- Following the **Pahalgam terror attacks**, India imposed a **complete ban** on **direct and indirect imports** of goods from Pakistan.
- The ban came into effect on **May 2, 2025**, replacing the earlier **200% customs duty** on Pakistani imports.

- The operation is aimed at enforcing this **zero-tolerance policy** and protecting national security through **economic disengagement**.
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Key Seizure Details:

- **39 containers** were seized at **Nhava Sheva Port** (Jawaharlal Nehru Port).
 - The containers held **1,115 metric tonnes** of goods.
 - The **estimated value** of the seized consignment was **₹9 crore**.
 - The goods were **dry dates, falsely declared** as originating from the **UAE**.
 - Upon investigation, the goods were traced back to **Karachi, Pakistan**, routed via **Dubai**.
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Modus Operandi:

- Importers **misdeclared the country of origin** of goods.
 - **Jebel Ali Port** in **Dubai, UAE** was used as a **transshipment hub** to disguise the goods' actual origin.
 - **Shipping documents and financial trails** were manipulated to hide links with **Pakistani entities**.
 - The operation uncovered **illicit financial flows**, indicating deeper **economic linkages** behind the smuggling route.
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Significance of the Operation:

- The operation demonstrates India's **firm stance** on restricting trade with nations linked to terrorism.
- Reflects **enhanced enforcement efforts** by DRI following **Operation Sindoor**.

- **DRI is now using advanced tools like data analytics and intelligence monitoring** to track and prevent smuggling.
 - Reinforces India's broader commitment to **economic security, border control, and counter-terrorism strategy**.
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About Jebel Ali Port:

- Located in **Dubai, UAE**, **Jebel Ali Port** is the **largest port in the Middle East** and among the **world's busiest ports**.
- Frequently used as a **transshipment hub**, making it vulnerable to misuse for **illicit routing of banned goods**.



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