

# Mumbai: 400kg of adulterated tea leaves seized

MUMBAI: After raiding two companies selling spurious paneer in Badlapur and Bhiwandi, Mumbai police have raided a godown in Sewree where tea was adulterated and supplied to various wholesalers in the city. Police have arrested the brothers who own the godown — Raju Abulzahar Shaikh and Rahul Abulzahar Shaikh — and seized 430kg of tea and spurious powder and colour from the godown.

Experts said that tea powder is mostly adulterated with powder of tamarind seeds, cashewnut peel, red ash, detergent powder and other material to bring flavour, but it could lead to health hazards. The adulterants commonly present in tea are exhausted tea leaves and colouring substances. The use of pre-used tea leaves and processed and coloured tea could put you at risk of liver disorders and other health issues. Due to increasing complaints, the Tea Board of India had recently issued advisories that chemical-coloured tea has become common in markets, prompting the board to spread awareness. Acting on a specific tip-off, the Sewree police along with the Food and Drugs Administrative officials on Sunday raided a makeshift godown at Ramgad slums and found 430kg of adulterated tea powder stored in gunny bags. The FDA officials inspected the gunny bags and found that the tea powder packed in the bags was adulterated and there were additives and colour powder to add taste. Police found several packets of additives, bill books, and weighing machines. "It appears that the accused used artificial colour and banned ingredients that are harmful for health," said M Saindre, senior inspector, Sewree police station. The accused have been booked under IPC sections 420 of cheating, 272 (adulteration of food or drink intended for sale), 273 of (sale of noxious food or drink) and various sections of Food safety and standards food and regulation act 2011. The accused have been sent to police custody. FDA officials have taken the samples and will send them to the forensic science laboratory to ascertain the presence of artificial colour and additives in the powder. Police said they will also call the company's clients from Navi Mumbai wholesale market where the accused supply the spurious tea powder.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/400kg-of-adulterated-tea-leaves-seized-2-arrested/articleshow/91605258.cms>