

2,350kg of gutka seized in Coimbatore

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(Representative image)

COIMBATORE: The Coimbatore rural police seized 2,350kg of banned gutka products, worth over Rs 13.72 lakh, from a warehouse at Chettipalayam near Annur on Tuesday night.

The police arrested the owner of the warehouse and were on the lookout for two other accused involved in the illegal sales.

The accused have been identified as warehouse owner K Santhakumar, 38, Patturajan of Ganapathy and Thanga Singh of Saravanampatty.

“Based on a tip-off, a team lead by Annur inspector Venkatesan carried out a raid at the warehouse on Tuesday night and found several bundles of banned gutka products,” said a police office.

The police seized over 18 different varieties of gutka products. They seized a car and two-wheeler too.

After seizing the banned products, the officials called up Santhakumar and started their investigations into the matter. It is only during the course of investigations that the involvement of two others had come to light, the official said, adding that the warehouse had been taken on rent by other two accused to store their grocery items.

The warehouse had been rented only four months and only grocery items had been stored at the placed until recently, the official said. It was only a couple of days ago that gutka and pan masala loads from neighbouring states had reached here, he said.

“We believe that the duo who are yet to be arrested are the wholesale dealer of the banned items. After security was tightened to prevent illegal transfer, the accused have changed their locations,” the official said, adding that further details would be known only after their arrest.

The police registered a case under the sections 7 and 2(ii) of The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003, 328 (Theft) read with 120(b) (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/2350kg-of-gutka-seized-in-coimbatore/articleshow/65967474.cms>