

## Smugglers arrested; drugs, WIN cigarettes, Godzilla coils, betel nuts seized in Manipur

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The arrest and seizure took place in different operations at different places, including Machi, Moltuk, Kakching and Senapati

**More than six men were arrested and large consignments of 55,500 WIN** cigarettes packets and 920 Godzilla coil packets were seized by the Assam Rifles personnel in various parts of Manipur on Friday-Saturday, according to sources.



The seizure took place in different operations at different places, including Machi, Moltuk, Kakching and Senapati, the IGAR (South) said in a release.

In Moltuk area on Saturday, 16,000 packets of WIN cigarettes were seized by the troops during a search operation in the area, said the IGAR (South) in the release.

The seized items, which were found hidden inside the vegetation, were handed over to Chandel police station, it added.

In Machi, in yet another incident on the same day, AR troops intercepted a vehicle but the occupants fled. As many as 2,500 packets of WIN cigarettes were found in the vehicle which were seized by the troops and handed over to Machi police station, the release added.

On Friday, AR troops intercepted three vehicles, a Tata 407 MN 01 4690, a Bolero pickup vehicle MN 01 AG 2069 and a Burmese bike (Liew) without number. On checking, they were found carrying 37,000 packets of WIN cigarettes and 920 packets of Godzilla coils without valid permit, the IGAR (South) said.

Following the seizure, four men were apprehended, the release said. It said the arrested were identified as D K Leithil, 45, Kh Mothil Maring, 50, and Kh Mephom, 33, all from Kampang Khullen and Mothil Angkhul, 31, of Choktong, Lamlong Khunou.

The four arrested along with all the items and vehicles were handed over to Machi Police Station, the IGAR (South) said added.

In Kakching on Friday, two men were arrested for transporting WIN cigarettes along the National Highway-102. At around 9:30 am, a commando team CDO unit, Kakching led by sub inspector Ksh Prakash Singh intercepted one Tata Super ACE bearing registration number MN02B-5298 (red in colour) in front of Sora Khunuda Ching Police Outpost along the NH-102, another release said.

The vehicle was driven by one Md Tarique Ahmed, 30, son of Md Siraj Ahamed of Lilong Haoreibi Leihakhong, along with Sayed Wahidur Rahaman, 49, son of Sayed Noor Rahaman of Lilong Turel Ahanbi Mathakyangbi Leikai, it added.

On checking the vehicle, 13, 500 cigarette boxes, packed in 27 boxes, were found concealed inside the vehicle covered by a red tarpaulin, it continued. On questioning, the driver stated that the items belonged to Sayed Noor Rahaman, it said.

The release further said that the items were seized and the duo were arrested by observing formalities and handed over to Custom office for further necessary legal action. Necessary action was also taken up against the arrested persons for breaking lockdown guidelines, it added.

In Moreh, a police commando team under the supervision of SP Tengenoupal Th Vikramjit arrested a man and seized drugs worth Rs 2 crore on Friday around 7.30 am. The team, on routine checking at Kondong Lairembe Check Post Chikim village, intercepted a white Wagon R car bearing Reg. No. MNO5A-7824 that was coming from Moreh towards Imphal.

On thorough checking of the car, the team found 5,000 pieces of WY tablets and 75 packets of brown sugar weighing 958 gms, approximately amounting to Rs. 2 crore in the international market along with one individual. The arrested individual has been identified as Thangjalet Khongsai, 49, son of (L)Thonglhun khongsai of Khenjang village of Chakpikarong sub division, presently staying at Moreh Ward No IX.

However, an individual who came with the arrested person fled. Moreh police and commando team are in search of the escapee. The arrested individual along with the seized drugs has been handed over to Moreh police for further legal process.

In Senapati on Thursday, the Assam Rifles seized a huge quantity of cigarettes and other contraband worth lakhs in two separate operations and saved the life of a snakebite victim, said a press release by IGAR (South). Seven people were apprehended in connection with smuggling of contraband in the two incidents, it said.

Troops of Assam Rifles moved to village Gamphazol in Senapati district and conducted checks, it stated.

During the check, a Maruti gypsy without number was stopped and on checking, 5500 packets of WIN cigarettes, dry betel nuts and other contraband items were found, the release said. It added that three people identified as Thongmang from Old Samtal, Tong Min Thang from Hengshi and Hai Milien from S Bongjoi were apprehended.

In another incident, during a joint operation with Molcham Police, 6000 packets of WIN cigarettes were seized, the release said. It said four bikes without numbers were stopped during a routine check and 6000 packets of WIN cigarettes worth lakhs were seized from the riders.

Those apprehended are identified as Jamkholin Baite, Michael Jamminthang, Dominie Lunsei Haokip and Jacob Jamkhapao, all residents of Molcham, it added.

**Source:** <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/imphal+free+press+new-epaper-impfrp/smugglers+arrested+drugs+win+cigarettes+godzilla+coils+betel+nuts+seized+in+manipur-newsid-n196133188>