

Raids on smuggled cigarettes is tip of the iceberg, says DRI

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Jaipur: A day after seizing foreign made cigarettes and garments worth Rs 77 lakh, sleuths of department of revenue intelligence (DRI) stated that Sunday's seizure is just a tip of the iceberg. They said smuggling of cigarettes and garments in Jaipur and other parts of Rajasthan is rampant. Officials stated that they are working on some clues they have got from the two arrested smugglers and are likely to unearth more such rackets in the coming days.

On Sunday sleuths seized foreign made cigarettes worth Rs 67 lakh which were smuggled into Jaipur and readymade garments worth Rs 10 lakh. Two persons dealing with the smuggled cigarettes and garments have been arrested by the team of DRI. The total evasion of customs duty is Rs 77 lakh. **“It was found that the cigarettes arrived in Jaipur via Guwahati (Assam) and entered into India via Myanmar. Foreign made cigarettes are not only popular among customers but also give heavy margin of profit to the sellers including retailers.** Many paan shops in Jaipur too keep these cigarettes and sell them to their trusted customers over the counters,” said a senior officer of DRI.

The authorities had seized 3.55 lakh sticks of cigarettes worth Rs 67 lakh. “We have got some concrete clues and are likely to bust similar rackets in the coming days. Since these cigarettes have no mentioning of statutory warning on ill-effects of cigarettes it is also a violation of COTPA Act.” Sleuths stated that since in the seizure of cigarettes there are no heavy penalties many people are involved in its smuggling. “They have no fear of seizure but yes strong case and further prosecution against them can become a deterrent,” the officer added.

Meanwhile, both the arrested accused Nitesh Jain and Ashish Gupta were produced before a local court on Monday. “Both of them have been sent to judicial custody,” said an officer. DRI had registered a case under appropriate sections of Customs Act and also COTPA Act.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/raids-on-smuggled-cigarettes-is-tip-of-the-iceberg-says-dri/articleshow/79614677.cms>