

Gold, cigarettes worth Rs 4.8 crore seized at Coimbatore airport

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COIMBATORE: Sleuths of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 6.2 kilograms of gold, foreign cigarettes, a mobile phone and a drone worth Rs 4.8 crore from passengers at the airport here last Saturday. About 5.2kg of the seized gold was in paste form.



DRI had received a tip-off about smuggling to be carried out by a gang based in Sharjah through the Coimbatore airport a few weeks ago. Since then, a team led by deputy director G Satish was on alert.

On Saturday morning, the personnel identified 15 passengers, natives of Kasaragod in Kerala, Chennai and Trichy, who had landed in an Air Arabia flight from Sharjah. “Even after completing immigration and custom formalities, they appeared nervous. We searched them and recovered about six kilograms of gold in paste form and a crude gold chain weighing one kilogram hidden in undergarments and rectum,” an official said. “Most of the gold was in past form to dodge metal detectors and X-ray machines at the airport.”

Apart from the gold, the passengers were carrying foreign cigarettes worth Rs 1.03 crore, an iPhone and a drone worth Rs 53 lakh. “We extracted 24K gold weighing 5,200 grams from the paste, which along with the gold chain, is valued at Rs 3.26 crore.”

Eleven passengers, who smuggled goods worth more than Rs 20 lakh, were arrested under the Customs Act, 1962.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/gold-cigarettes-worth-rs-4-8-crore-seized/articleshow/79330493.cms>