

## Anti-evasion squad of CGST seizes 72L cigarettes worth over 3.6 crore



Vijayawada: In a major haul, the anti-evasion squad of Guntur CGST Commissionerate seized 72.3 lakh cigarettes worth over 3.61 crore from two vehicles on the NH-16 in Nellore and near Santhamaguluru of Bapatla district on December 5 and 6. The team intercepted two vehicles, who were found to be carrying substantial quantity of Indian origin cigarettes.

The first vehicle intercepted near Nellore was found to be transporting 33.3 lakh sticks of cigarettes belonging to brands such as Gold Step Filter, Gold Vimal Filter, and Paris, all packed in poly bags. The second vehicle, which was intercepted near Santhamaguluru, was carrying 39 lakh sticks of the same brands. The drivers of the two vehicles failed to produce the necessary documents to indicate payment of applicable duties to the government. CGST officials said the seized cigarette packs lacked essential markings, including manufacturer details, manufacturing date and expiry date, raising suspicions about the legality of the transportation. The anti-evasion officers seized the entire consignment of cigarettes, after indications that they were being transported unlawfully. Investigation into the matter is currently underway. Guntur CGST commissionerate has seized cigarettes worth 4.88 crore in the last three months.

Source:

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