



भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
वित्त मंत्रालय (राजस्व विभाग)  
Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)  
राजस्व आसूचना निदेशालय  
**DIRECTORATE OF REVENUE INTELLIGENCE**  
**Chennai Zonal Unit**

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**PRESS NOTE**

**CHENNAI AND TUTICORIN DRI IN A SIMULTANEOUS OPERATION ONCE AGAIN STRIKES BY SEIZING 32.249 KG OF GOLD SMUGGLED FROM SRI LANKA THROUGH COASTAL TAMIL NADU AND BEING BROUGHT TO CHENNAI – REG.**

Based on intelligence, DRI officers once again seized gold in a three quick actions in a span of less than 24 hours seizing, total of 32.249 kilograms of gold of foreign origin, smuggled into India by sea and being transported to Chennai.

**Interception of suspect persons:**

1. On Tuesday evening, the officers kept surveillance at various points Chennai, and identified a person riding a two-wheeler and had received a heavy, suspicious-looking package in one of the by-lanes. The officers apprehended the receiver of the contraband, which he admitted to contain gold smuggled from Sri Lanka. On detailed examination, the gold was found to weigh 12.149 kg.
2. On Wednesday morning, the officers again kept watch on a “mansion” (budget lodge) at north Chennai, where a suspicious transaction was expected to occur. The officers apprehended a person coming out of the mansion with a heavy packet in a “Pothis” shopping bag, who admitted to having received another 12 kgs of smuggled gold from a lady who had travelled overnight from Tuticorin by bus, carrying the smuggled gold. Both the lady passenger and the intermediary were apprehended. The person who delivered the 12 kg of gold to the person on the two-wheeler, also admitted to having delivered gold the previous evening to the person already apprehended by DRI.
3. Late on Tuesday night, officers of DRI, Tuticorin and Trichy have conducted a thorough and painstaking search of a private bus moving from Ramnad district to Chennai, on suspicion that smuggled gold was being carried by one of the

passengers. The suspect and his baggage were quickly identified, and officers recovered 8.1 kg of gold from the passenger.

In the three operations, totally **32.249 kg of gold, valued at Rs. 10.215 crore**, has been seized. Totally six persons were apprehended and all of them, in their voluntary statements, admitted that they knowingly transported the smuggled gold to Chennai for a monetary consideration, and that the gold had been smuggled from Sri Lanka through coastal Tamil Nadu.

**The six persons have been arrested by DRI under the provisions of the Customs Act. Further investigation is in progress.**



**Vulnerable Coastal areas for smuggling of Gold** - The areas most vulnerable to smuggling are the stretches from Tuticorin to Rameswaram and from Rameswaram to Vedaranyam. It is suspected that the smuggling occurs by using country boats and small fishing boats.

Apart from enforcement measures such as seizures and arrests, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has also taken up the issues of smuggling and other customs matters at the policy level with Sri Lankan Authorities. Both the administrations had firmly resolved to combat smuggling, and Sri Lanka Customs and the Sri Lankan Navy have also stepped up efforts to curb smuggling of gold, narcotics, and other contraband.

Accordingly, in April, 2018, Sri Lanka increased the rate of import duty of gold to 15% (from the earlier rate of 10%), in an attempted move to curb smuggling.