

## **DRI team probes Perumbavoor man**

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Kochi: A Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) team from Mumbai conducted investigations in Ernakulam as part of a probe into the alleged smuggling of more than 200kg of gold valued at Rs 60 crore by a gang headed by Perumbavoor native Nisar Aliyar, concealing it inside imported metal scrap in a container cleared on March 26.

Most of the gold was recovered by DRI and the seizure of over 100kg of the metal from Mumbai has been hailed as one of the biggest gold seizure in the country. According to sources, the DRI officials who are checking the assets of Aliyar, a Dubai-based businessman, conducted inspections at various spots at Perumbavoor.

Sources said that, DRI Mumbai team had arrested several persons from Maharashtra and Gujarat for involvement in the smuggling. As much as 75kg of gold was seized from three persons — Shoeb Zarodarwala, Abdul Ahed Zarodarwala and Shaikh Abdul Ahad.

They admitted to DRI that the gold was part of the smuggled gold received from Aliyar, who owned several business establishments in Perumbavoor. Tuesday's inspections were for further evidence-collection, it is learnt.

Based on their statements, Nisar Aliyar and two others, Aaquil Fruitwala and Manoj Jain, were traced and they admitted their complicity in the smuggling of gold, DRI sources stated. Sources, said that DRI is also on the lookout for some Keralites who are suspected to be part of the gang headed by Aliyar. Some of them are based in UAE.

Investigations conducted thus far indicate that the syndicate has been smuggling gold into India, mainly from Dubai, since 2016.

# DRI team probing Kerala link behind seizure of 200 kg gold in Mumbai

*A DRI Mumbai team had arrested eight persons from Maharashtra and Gujarat, who allegedly smuggled gold as metal scrap.*



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By [Express News Service](#)

KOCHI: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) team from Mumbai is stationed in Kochi as part of the investigation into the seizure of over 200 kg gold from a gang headed by a Perumbavoor native in Mumbai last week. The DRI team has been checking the assets owned by Nazir Aliyar, a Dubai based businessman who is suspected to be the kingpin of the gold smuggling racket.

According to sources, the DRI Mumbai team had arrested eight persons from Maharashtra and Gujarat, who allegedly smuggled gold as metal scrap. “During the investigation, it was revealed the gang was headed by a Nazir Aliyar who owns several business establishments in Perumbavoor. The team from Mumbai checked the houses and business establishments of Aliyar in Perumbavoor on Monday and Tuesday,” an officer said.

The DRI is also on the search for some Keralites suspected to be part of the gang headed by Aliyar. Some of them are based in the UAE. “Apart from the DRI Mumbai unit, an investigation into gold smuggling by the gang through Kerala is also being checked by the DRI unit in Kochi,” an officer said.

## Hot on pursuit

The DRI team has been checking the assets owned by Nazir Aliyar, the suspected kingpin of the gold smuggling racket.

The DRI is also on the search for some Keralites suspected to be part of the gang headed by Aliyar.