

DRI cracks down fraudulent exports scam worth Rs 150 crore

(Dated : 06.04.2018)

HIGHLIGHTS

Exporters declared exports using 'personal hand-carry export procedure' to UAE.

They diverted the consignments to the domestic market by manipulating the procedure.

The father and son duo were arrested at Kolkata Airport before boarding separate flights.



Image for Representation.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a racket of fraudulent diversion of exports worth Rs 150 crore that weighed more than 500 kg.

The agency is investigating gold jewellery exporters who declared exports using 'personal hand-carry export procedure' to United Arab Emirates (UAE) and diverted the consignments to the domestic market by manipulating the procedure.

The scam got exposed after the arrest of the duo (father and son) at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata on April 4, 2018, by the DRI officials.

The son was intercepted while boarding a flight to Dubai, his father was de-boarded from a flight destined to Hyderabad.

During the probe, it was found that the duo had filed their documents at Customs Air Cargo Complex, Kolkata for export by hand carriage, gold bangles weighing 54 kgs, to be carried to Dubai by his son.

Before entering immigration and security check, the son took the goods meant for export to an entry gate of the airport where his father was waiting for the goods to be handed over to him for diversion.

The father then booked the two metal boxes containing gold bangles through domestic cargo, ready for transfer to Hyderabad.

On suspicion, the DRI officials acted in the nick of time and intercepted the two as they were about to board their respective flights.

They also retrieved the two metal boxes containing gold.

Surprisingly, the father was found to be travelling to Hyderabad from Kolkata on a ticket that was in the name of his son.

After interrogation, both of them admitted to having diverted gold bangles and chains in similar fashion in the past through Kolkata as well as Hyderabad airports.

A DRI source said, "Another associate of the two involved are being examined by DRI, and he also admitted that he was involved in diverting gold jewellery meant for export."

The officer said, "He used to send cash to his Dubai based contacts through hawala channels and received money in his Indian bank accounts, as export proceeded.

"He sold primary gold purchased from nominated agencies in the domestic market instead of making gold jewellery for export." officer added.

All the three involved have been arrested under Section 104 of the Customs Act, 1962 on April 6.