

DRI arrests Chinese national in major crackdown on gold smuggling

The Chinese national was arrested on Monday and is one of the key members of the syndicate that supplied the gold that was seized in October. The investigation is on and more arrests in the case are likely.

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In its continuing crackdown on smuggling of gold into India from China and Taiwan, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has arrested a Chinese national, believed to be one of the key masterminds of a notorious syndicate involved in smuggling of gold from Taiwan and Hong Kong into India, from Terminal-3 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Monday.

DRI had previously seized more than 21 kg of smuggled gold, valued at Rs 7.62 crore, in October this year from a flat in an upscale housing society in Delhi.

Two individuals, including a Taiwanese national and an Indian, who had come to take the delivery of the smuggled gold were arrested in the operation.

The Chinese national arrested on Monday is one of the key members of the syndicate that supplied the gold that was seized in October. The investigation is on and more arrests in the case are likely.

Initial investigations point to the involvement of two separate China-based and Taiwan-based syndicates involved in gold smuggling into India by concealing it in utensils and other household goods.

How the syndicate smuggled gold

The Taiwan-based syndicate concealed the gold in the 'Sediment Filters' of RO water purifiers which were then couriered from Taiwan to New Delhi and collected by members of the syndicate. The gold was then extracted from the sediment filter using the 're-melting process'. The gold so extracted was sold to Karol Bagh based jewellers in cash, who are also being investigated.



In a similar modus operandi detected in November last year, officers of DRI had detected a case of smuggling of gold into India from China by concealment in bag zippers and ash-trays. A total of 21 kg of gold was seized and 7 people including 4 Chinese nationals were arrested by DRI in that case.

There has been a spurt in the smuggling of gold into India from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The information available with DRI suggests that the smuggling syndicates are using the e-commerce platforms and the courier modes to smuggle gold into India by way of concealment in household and white goods.