

## Smuggling of gold from HK: Bizman held

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**Mumbai:** A businessman from Surat was arrested on Sunday for allegedly being a part of a smuggling gang that used to conceal gold in electronic gadgets and smuggled them into India through cargo. Directorate of revenue intelligence (DRI) officials arrested Mahesh Popatbhai Italia after Khawaja Moinuddin Shaikh, who was arrested earlier in this case, spilled the beans on Italia. DRI officials are also scouting for his brother, Rajesh, a key conduit in the racket.

“It appears that the two brothers would clear the gold from the cargo and ferry it to Surat where they sold it to various jewellers. It’s a big racket. We have identified some of them who will be arrested soon,” said a source.

The case pertains to a recent seizure of 18 kg of gold that had come from Dubai via Hong Kong last week at the Sahar cargo through courier. DRI officials said that 360 pieces of gold hidden between copper parts were found in cartons that had come in from Hong Kong.

DRI officials said that an NRI from Dubai, Abdullah, seems to be the brain behind the racket. While Abdullah used to send the cargo with gold concealed in electronic switches and relays, Khawaja, a Sahar resident, used to clear the cargo and hand over gold to Mahesh and Rajesh Italia from Surat.