

THE  NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

Thursday, June, 07, 2018 12:41:41 AM

Air India staffer among 3 held for bid to smuggle gold in Hyderabad

Three persons, including an Air India employee, were arrested in different cases at the RGIA for possessing and carrying gold and foreign currency.



By Express News Service

HYDERABAD: Three persons, including an Air India employee, were arrested in different cases at the RGIA for possessing and carrying gold and foreign currency. Officials of the directorate of revenue intelligence seized foreign currency valuing Rs 71 lakh and gold bars weighing 1.4 kg from them. In the first case, the DRI officials detained two persons, including the airline's employee, for trying to smuggle gold illegally. A passenger, who arrived from Abu Dhabi by Etihad was found to be in possession of gold bars. He was supposed to hand over the same to the airline's employee.

“After getting down from the aircraft, the passenger entered the toilet section in the arrival immigration hall. A person, wearing the identity card of Air India, entered the toilet and received the smuggled gold from the passenger. 12 gold bars weighing 1,399 gm were found on him,” officials said.

In the second case, the DRI officials, acting on a tip-off, intercepted a passenger at the airport after he had cleared the immigration and security checks and was about to board Indigo flight 6E 1405 to Sharjah.

“On examination of his baggage, the officials found foreign currency of various middle-east nations and the USA. When questioned, the passenger said that the currency was obtained from unauthorised dealers. He alleged that it was being carried at the behest of someone for delivery in Sharjah.

Officials suspect that these smugglers operating from foreign soil and receivers in India communicate mostly on WhatsApp. The directorate of revenue intelligence sleuths, who nabbed the carriers, also believe that such kind of smuggling is not possible without assistance from airport insiders.