



**Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Directorate of Revenue Intelligence**

Press Note

DRI seizes 100 kg smuggled gold within 48 hours

In a major crackdown on organized crime syndicates involved in Smuggling of Gold into India, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has, in a spate of operations in last 48 hours conducted across the country at New Delhi, Siliguri, Bengaluru, Chennai and Madurai seized more than **100 kgs of smuggled Gold**. These seizures are part of the continued crackdown by DRI on Gold Smuggling and consequent leakage of Government revenue, black economy as well as Foreign Exchange illicitly taken out of the country to make payments for such illegal import.

In a major operation conducted on **26.10.18**, the officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) recovered and seized **55kgs of gold bars (55 pieces)**, smuggled from neighbouring countries into India through land border. Smuggled gold was seized from the possession of two persons travelling by a vehicle near Siliguri in the evening of 26th October.

The smuggled gold bars were concealed in a specially prepared cavity under the driver's seat of the intercepted vehicle. The gold bars, each of which weighs one kilogram, have distinct Chinese and Australian foreign origin markings. All the gold bars are of 99.99% purity. The gold bars were supposed to be delivered by the accused persons to a recipient at Siliguri for its onward transportation.

Both the apprehended persons have been arrested under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

In another operation conducted on **27.10.2018** in New Delhi, 03 persons were intercepted by DRI at New Delhi Railway station carrying **34 kgs of smuggled gold** (34 one kg bar). This consignment is also suspected to have been smuggled into India through the land border with the neighboring

countries. In this operation one foreign national was also arrested. The smuggled gold was found to be of Chinese and Swiss origin.

In four other operations across the country in past 48 hours, DRI seized another **13 kg gold** smuggled into India on flights arriving at Chennai, Bengaluru, Madurai and Indore airports from Colombo and Singapore. In 03 out of these 04 cases, gold was concealed under the life jacket pouch and hollow pipe under the aircraft seats.

There have been series of major seizures in past few weeks by DRI including seizures of gold smuggled into India across land borders with China, Myanmar, Bhutan and on flights arriving from Dubai and Bangkok. This has been accompanied with series of seizures of high value foreign currency being smuggled out of the country.

Gold and foreign currency smuggling seems to be peaking due to the forthcoming festive season resulting in high demand for gold in India.