

PRESS NOTE

Sub: DRI seizes 23.1 kg of gold smuggled into India from Sri Lanka seized at Egmore Railway Station on Thursday – four persons arrested

In the latest of a series of seizures, the sleuths acted on specific intelligence that a syndicate was smuggling gold from Sri Lanka into India by boat, and that certain persons would be reaching Chennai with the smuggled gold by the Rameswaram – Chennai Sethu Express on Thursday morning. Officers kept surveillance at Chennai Egmore Railway Station, and when the train arrived on Thursday morning and passengers started to disembark, they spotted a group of four passengers walking with an awkward gait towards the exit. On intercepting and questioning them, the passengers admitted that they had gold bars concealed around their waist in specially designed pouches. Detailed examination of the pouches revealed that the quartet had totally brought 123 gold bars, totally weighing 23.1 kilograms. The passengers admitted that the gold bars had been smuggled into India from Sri Lanka, and that the gold bars had been given to them by certain persons based in Ramanathapuram, with instructions to deliver at Chennai for a commission. All four have been arrested.

On February 21st, DRI had seized 19.27 kg of smuggled gold from two persons on a motorcycle near Jegathapattinam (a coastal village near Mimisal in Tamil Nadu), and arrested the two persons. The duo had received the gold in the middle of the night, from a boatman near the coast.

In the first week of February, DRI had seized 11 kg of gold smuggled into India through the Tiruchirapalli Airport. The gold had been concealed in the smoking room of the airport arrival hall, and was retrieved by a housekeeping staff of the airport who would use his employee pass to escape customs unnoticed and hand it over to other gang members for transporting it to Chennai. An entire chain of gang members was arrested, including air passengers who smuggled in the gold, the housekeeping attendant who retrieved it, the organizer in Trichy, gang members who transported it, and a merchant in Chennai who was to eventually receive the smuggled gold.