

Gold worth Rs 2.17 cr seized in Hyderabad

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DIRECTORATE OF Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials and a team of Hyderabad's South Zone Task Force on Wednesday uncovered a smuggling racket after intercepting 14 passengers returning from the Umrah pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia with 6.46 kg of gold, worth Rs 2.17 crore, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport.

Based on a tip-off, passengers who arrived on a Saudi Airlines flight from Jeddah were searched, said a DRI official. "The 14 passengers are residents of Hyderabad. Each of them was found to be carrying Foreign Marked Gold in the form of cut pieces, 24 carat bracelets and chains..." said the official.

"The modus operandi is that some agents pay for the trip for people who want to go to Umrah with the condition that while returning, they carry back gold handed over to them at Jeddah by other agents. If they come out without getting caught, local agents collect the gold from them. They are blackmailed by agents at Jeddah if they refuse to act as per the instructions of agents," the official said.

Police are questioning two agents who were suspected to be waiting for the 14 passengers, said officials.

हैदराबाद में 6.46 किलोग्राम सोना जब्त

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हैदराबाद, तीन जुलाई (भाषा) खाड़ी देश से 'उमरा' सम्पन्न कर स्वदेश लौटे 14 यात्रियों के पास से करीब 2.17 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य का छह किलोग्राम से अधिक सोना जब्त किया गया। राजस्व खुफिया निदेशालय (डीआरआई) ने बुधवार को यह जानकारी दी। डीआरआई की एक विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, यह सोना मंगलवार को तस्करी कर देश में लाया गया था। जो व्यक्ति छिपाकर यह सोना लाया था उसके पास इसके वैध आयात को साबित करने के लिये दस्तावेज नहीं थे। विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, करीब 6.46 किलोग्राम वजन और लगभग 2.17 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य के इस सोने को सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम, 1962 के तहत जब्त किया गया। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि सऊदी अरब में 'उमरा' पर जाने के इच्छुक, आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर लोगों को एजेंट उनकी यात्रा का खर्च वहन करने का लालच देते हैं और यात्रा से लौटने पर उन्हें अपने साथ सोना ले जाने को कहते हैं, जिसे एजेंट के निर्देश पर कोई ले लेता है। विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, ये 14 यात्री हैदराबाद के रहने वाले हैं जो जेद्दा से सऊदी एयरलाइन के विमान से दो जुलाई को यहां पहुंचे थे। सभी को हिरासत में ले लिया गया है।

Hyderabad police and DRI seize gold worth Rs 2.17 crore

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HYDERABAD: In a joint operation by Hyderabad police and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), 14 international passengers who came from Jeddah after completion of Umrah, were intercepted at RGI Airport on Tuesday late night and seized 6.46kg of alleged smuggled gold. Some travel agents blackmailed and forced these passengers to smuggle gold.

DRI officials said that each of the passenger was found to be carrying Foreign Marked Gold in the form of cut pieces or 24 carats kadas or 24 carats chains.

"These 14 passengers are residents of Hyderabad who had arrived by Saudi Airlines Flight No.SV-744 from Jeddah on Tuesday. The gold was concealed by these passengers and they did not have a supportive documents," DRI officials said in a press release. The worth of the seized gold is Rs 2.17 crore.

While explaining about the modus operandi, the officials said that some travel agents lured these poor people with a promise to help them visit Umrah at a discounted price.

"During their return journey, passengers were asked by these agents to carry gold and the metal will be collected by someone. The passengers were blackmailed by agents at Jeddah with consequences of either penalty or recovery of full charge of Umrah trip," DRI officials said in a press note.

6.46 kg smuggled gold seized in Hyderabad

Press Trust of India | Hyderabad July 03, 2019 Last Updated at 15:45 IST

Gold weighing over 6 kg and valued at Rs 2.17 crore was seized from 14 passengers who arrived here from a gulf nation after performing Umrah, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) said Wednesday.

According to a DRI release, the gold was smuggled into the country Tuesday by concealing "on person" and the accused did not have any documents to prove the legal import of the yellow metal.

The total weight of the foreign gold recovered and seized under Customs Act, 1962, is 6.46 kg worth around 2.17 crore, it said.

Explaining the modus operandi, the sleuths said the economically disadvantaged people who wanted to perform Umrah (pilgrimage) in Saudi Arabia were lured by agents, who sponsored their trip.

During the return journey, the passengers were asked to carry gold, which would be collected by someone on the instructions of the agents.

Gullible pilgrims were blackmailed by agents in Saudi Arabia with consequences of penalty or recovery of full charge of Umrah should they not act as per instructions.

The 14 passengers are residents of Hyderabad who had arrived by a Saudi Airlines Flight from Jeddah on July 2, the release said adding they were detained.

14 Umrah pilgrims caught with smuggled gold worth Rs 2.17 crore at Hyderabad airport

Based on specific intelligence, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence officials carried out the operation with active coordination and cooperation from the South Zone Task Force of Hyderabad police.

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Gold seized from Umrah pilgrims at Hyderabad airport. (Photo | EPS)

By Express News Service

HYDERABAD: In a huge catch, foreign marked gold weighing about 6.46 kg priced approximately around Rs 2.17 crore was seized at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad.

The gold was recovered from as many as 14 Umrah pilgrims returning from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia by flight number SV 744 on July 2.

Based on specific intelligence, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials carried out the operation with active coordination and cooperation from the South Zone Task Force of Hyderabad police.

On verification, each of the 14 passengers were found to be carrying Foreign Marked Gold in the form of cut pieces, 24kt kadas and 24kt chains. All of them are residents of Hyderabad, said officials.

These persons did not have any documents to prove the licit import of the said gold and were smuggling it into the country by concealing the same on person, added officials.

According to officials, poor persons who wish to go to Umrah in Saudi Arabia are lured by agents who sponsor their trip at a highly discounted price. While returning, these pilgrims are asked to carry gold. Later, the gold is collected by someone on the instructions of the agents. The pilgrims are further blackmailed by agents with dire consequences of penalty or recovery of full charge of Umrah if they do not act as per the instructions.