

Smugglers go via Hong Kong, get ₹5cr gold in electronic items

Mumbai: The Directorate Revenue of Intelligence (DRI) busted a major gold smuggling racket wherein the gang used to hide gold bars in power supply electronic devices. In a big seizure this year, DRI seized 18 kg of gold bars worth Rs 5.4 crore cleverly concealed inside electronic devices to avoid detection.

What has baffled the agency is that normally gold consignments are smuggled from UAE, particularly Dubai, but here the consignment sent through courier was re-routed from Dubai to



More than 350 gold pieces were found in 60 power supply devices

Hong Kong and then to Mumbai. In the past, smugglers have hidden gold in body parts, cigarettes, diapers and milk powder. Sources said each time a modus operandi is busted, gangs come up with new ways. Hiding gold bars can mislead agencies.

“On a tip-off, we detained a few suspicious cartons that had come in by Cathay Pacific Airlines from Hong Kong. We examined the device and found something fishy. We broke open one to find gold bars hidden in between as if they were copper parts,” said a source. There were in all 60 such power supply devices of which we found 360 pieces of gold bars hidden inside. The DRI and customs officials weighed them to find that it was 18 kg.

“We carried a history of the courier sent by the sender to find they have regularly sent equipment for two years,” said a source. The DRI is trying to track the consignee in Mumbai.

— S Ahmed Ali