

# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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## **Gold worth Rs 2.1 cr seized from student**

At 7 kg, second biggest haul at local airport; had hidden the gold in iron; 20-year-old nabbed.

Sleuths of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) nabbed a 20-year-old student for gold smuggling and recovered around 7 kg of gold, worth Rs 2.1 crore, from his possession at the Chandigarh international airport here on Tuesday. This was the second biggest recovery of gold at the local airport.

The accused, Amandeep Singh, a resident of Bathinda, was travelling from Dubai. Sources said he was nabbed on a tip-off.

The accused had hidden the gold in two irons. He had changed the inner plates of the irons with nickel-coated gold. Both irons were functional. "The weight of each plate was 3.5 kg," said the sources.

The sources said the accused was a carrier and he had to deliver the booty to some unidentified person outside the airport in the Mohali area.

Customs sleuths had also nabbed a 26-year-old woman for gold smuggling and recovered 1,165 gm of gold, worth around Rs 35.50 lakh, from her possession here on Monday. The Delhi-based woman, Zeenat Khatoon, had come from Dubai, from where she had procured the gold.

### **Biggest seizure was made in January**

Tuesday's recovery was the second biggest at the local airport. The authorities had made the biggest seizure of the yellow metal in January this year when they recovered 8.164 kg of gold, worth Rs 2.26 crore, from an air passenger, who was coming from Dubai.

### **9th case since June 1**

This was the ninth case of gold smuggling detected by the authorities at the airport after its reopening on June 1.