

Two arrested for smuggling gold at airport

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COIMBATORE: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials on Wednesday arrested two passengers for smuggling gold and seized about Rs 34.10 lakhs worth gold bars at Coimbatore International Airport. The duo smuggled gold from Sri Lanka to India.

Based on a tip off, the officials arrested passengers – M Muhammed Aleef, 28, a resident of Malappuram in Kerala and M Ansari, 38, a resident of Chennai on Tuesday night after Sri Lankan airlines reached the city airport.

The passengers had concealed about 20 pieces of gold inside an electronic iron box and three television sets that they carried along with their clothes.

Explaining that the gold is of 24 carat purity, the official said they weigh about 1100 grams and cost about Rs 3,100 per gram. The gold bars, iron box and the TV sets have been seized.

The preliminary investigation is on to find their accomplice, the official said, adding that no prior cases were registered against the accused.