

Kerala youth arrested for smuggling gold

COIMBATORE, JULY 04, 2018 07:55 IST



The gold bars weighing 3.67 kg seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence from a passenger at the Coimbatore International Airport on Sunday

24 bars totally weighing 3.67 kg were concealed in a steel roller

Sleuths of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have arrested a youth from Kerala at the Coimbatore International Airport for smuggling 3.67 kg of gold. The gold bars, 24 of them, were stuffed into the cavity of a steel roller along with fine Arabian sand.

The seized gold is valued at ₹1.15 crore. The passenger, M. Amalraj (25) of Ernakulam, had arrived at Coimbatore airport on Sunday morning from Sharjah on an Air Arabia flight. He was intercepted by DRI sleuths at the airport, based on specific information. DRI officials found that the passenger was carrying a mild steel roller weighing 13.6 kg in his checked-in luggage. Though the steel roller of 100 mm diameter appeared to be a solid single piece of metal, it weighed oddly, raising suspicion among the officials. They took it to a lathe for further examination.

According to the officials, sand oozed from the roller when a hole was drilled into it. The roller was cut open and the gold bars taken out.

DRI sources said the youth was acting as a carrier and had travelled abroad four times in the recent past. One trip was through Coimbatore airport. He was arrested and remanded in judicial custody for 15 days.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Man arrested for smuggling gold from Sharjah

TNN | Jul 4, 2018, 05.48 AM IST

COIMBATORE: A 24-year-old MBA graduate from Kerala has been arrested at the city airport for smuggling gold worth Rs 1.15 crore into the country from Sharjah.

M Amalraj, of Ernakulam in Kerala, was lodged at the Coimbatore Central Prison under judicial custody on Tuesday.

According to an official source, officials attached to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had caught Amalraj four days ago when he flew down to the city from Sharjah by Air Arabia airlines.

He was found carrying a single piece of steel roller, which he said was moulded and weighed about 13.6kg. The passenger told officials that it was part of a steel rolling mill and he had brought it to get it polished and some other job work done. Taking him for a potential carrier, DRI officials, however, detained him and seized the steel roller from him.

After a detailed examination at a lathe workshop, officials retrieved 24 gold bars that were concealed in the steel roller. DRI officials then registered a case against Amalraj under Section 135 of Customs Act and produced him before the chief judicial magistrate court here on Tuesday. The court remanded him in judicial custody. Later, Amalraj was lodged at the Coimbatore Central Prison.

The source said Amalraj was employed with a private firm in Ernakulam. “He was approached by some smugglers a few weeks ago and offered a hefty pay. We have launched a manhunt for the mastermind,” the source said.