

Kerala gold smuggling: DRI arrests one more woman

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Directorate of revenue intelligence (DRI) officials arrested another woman in the Rs 8.5 crore gold smuggling case at Trivandrum International Airport.

Vineetha Kumari, wife of advocate Bjiu Manohar, who was suspected to be part of the gang involved in gold smuggling, was arrested on Wednesday and remanded in judicial custody.

DRI officials are investigating the role of Vineetha, who is suspected to have smuggled gold from Middle East to the state earlier. She had made frequent trips to and from Middle East and the DRI suspects that those

trips had been for smuggling.

Sunil Kumar M, a resident of Thirumala and Sareena, a resident of Kazhakootam, were arrested in an attempt to smuggle 25kg gold, when they arrived in Oman Air flight from Muscat on Monday. DRI officials are also investigating into the previous cases of gold smuggling by Sunil and Sareena.

The probe into the smuggled gold that was seized on Monday by DRI officials led them to a gang involving lawyers. Advocates Biju and Vishu had allegedly entrusted Sunil with the task of smuggling the gold. Biju and Vishu went into hiding after the case was reported and are yet to be arrested. "We are looking into all possibilities of how Sunil and Sareena planned to take the gold outside the airport, under customs checking. It is suspected that more people are part of the gang," said a DRI official.