



Source:- [www.india.com](http://www.india.com)  
Date:- 07.02.2019

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Agencies](#)

Mumbai, Feb 7 (PTI) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized smuggled foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 17 crore at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), and four persons have been

---

## Foreign cigarettes worth Rs 17 crore seized by DRI, four held

---

Published: February 7, 2019 4:06 PM IST

By [PTI FeedsEmail](#)

Mumbai, Feb 7 (PTI) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized smuggled foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 17 crore at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), and four persons have been held in this connection, an official said Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DRI's Mumbai unit intercepted a 40-foot container from Dubai, which was on its way to an Inland Container Depot (ICD) at a godown in Navi Mumbai on Tuesday, the official said.

“Around 650 master cartons containing the cigarettes were found kept in the container. The cigarettes were being replaced with the declared cargo of wash basins,” he added.

The replacement cargo was also found stored at the godown, where the wash basins were marked with ‘Made in China’, he said.

“During the investigation, it came to light that these wash basins were domestically procured from a shop in Navi Mumbai and the ‘Made in China’ markings were intended to mislead the Customs officials into thinking that the goods was imported,” he said.

The syndicate had adopted a modus operandi as per which they would replace the container with declared cargo on the way to the ICD by breaking open the seal and later fixing it with a duplicate seal, the official said.

“The mastermind, an Indian national based out of Cyprus has been apprehended and three others have been arrested in this connection,” the official said, adding that further investigation was on.

*This is published unedited from the PTI feed.*

## Rs17-crore imported cigarettes seized in Navi Mumbai, 2 held

Acting on specific inputs, DRI officials intercepted a 40-foot container at a godown in Taloja, in Navi Mumbai, on Tuesday.

MUMBAI Updated: Feb 07, 2019 08:08 IST



Vijay Kumar Yadav  
Hindustan Times



Cigarettes worth ₹17 crore were seized.(HT Photo)

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized smuggled, foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 17 crore on February 5 and arrested two people involved in a cigarette-smuggling racket. According to DRI officials, this is one of the largest cigarette seizures in recent times.

Acting on specific inputs, DRI officials intercepted a 40-foot container at a godown in Taloja, in Navi Mumbai, on Tuesday. The container was from Dubai and its destination was Aurangabad inland container depot (ICD).

Inside, 650 master cartons were recovered, containing clove cigarettes of the Indonesian brand Gudang Garam.

When the DRI team raided the godown, the cigarettes were being replaced with declared cargo. The market value of the seized cigarettes is estimated at Rs 17 crore. Gudang Garam is a popular brand among Indian smokers, according to the DRI. In October 2017, the agency seized Rs 6.92 crore worth Gudang Garam cigarettes. During the raid, officials arrested Ranjay Kumar and Rajeev Kumar, and detained two others for questioning. The accused were arrested under relevant sections of the Customs Act. The DRI officials are looking for another man, Manish, who is from Cyprus but is operating from Dubai. According to the DRI, he is the mastermind of the racket.

Explaining the modus operandi, a DRI official said the container containing the cigarettes came from Dubai where the smugglers took advantage of the free trade zone. It was to be offloaded at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Navi Mumbai and would then be transported by road to Aurangabad.

Before it reached the ICD in Aurangabad, where customs officers would check the seal and consignment, the syndicate would replace the smuggled cargo of cigarettes with cartons of wash basins, the declared imported cargo. Both the original broken seal and the duplicate seal were recovered from the premises, according to the DRI.

Although the wash basins were marked as 'Made in China', it was found that they were domestically procured in Navi Mumbai. The markings were intended to mislead customs officials into thinking the wash basins were imported. The accused told the DRI during interrogation that around two weeks ago, they'd carried out a 'trial run' by smuggling 45 cartons of cigarettes in the same way. When this was successful, the 650 master cartons were smuggled in.

## ₹17 crore imported cigarettes seized in Navi Mumbai, two arrested

Acting on a tip-off, DRI officials intercepted a 40-foot container at a godown in Taloja, in Navi Mumbai, on Tuesday.

MUMBAI Updated: Feb 07, 2019 00:52 IST

Hindustan Times



650 master cartons were recovered, containing clove cigarettes of the Indonesian brand Gudang Garam. (HT Photo)

**Mumbai** The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized smuggled, foreign-origin cigarettes worth ₹17 crore on February 5 and arrested two people involved in a cigarette-smuggling racket. According to DRI officials, this is one of the largest cigarette seizures in recent times.

Acting on a tip-off, DRI officials intercepted a 40-foot container at a godown in Taloja, in Navi Mumbai, on Tuesday. The container was from Dubai and its destination was Aurangabad inland container depot (ICD).

Inside, 650 master cartons were recovered, containing clove cigarettes of the Indonesian brand Gudang Garam.

When the DRI team raided the godown, the cigarettes were being replaced with declared cargo (wash basins). The market value of the seized cigarettes is estimated at ₹17 crore. Gudang Garam is a popular brand among Indian smokers, according to the DRI. In October 2017, the agency seized ₹6.92 crore worth Gudang Garam cigarettes. During the raid, officials arrested Ranjay Kumar and Rajeev Kumar, and detained two others for questioning. The accused were arrested under relevant sections of the Customs Act. The DRI officials are looking for another man, Manish, who is from Cyprus but is operating from Dubai. According to the DRI, he is the mastermind of the racket.

Explaining the modus operandi, a DRI official said the container containing the cigarettes came from Dubai where the smugglers took advantage of the free trade zone. It was to be offloaded at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Navi Mumbai and would then be transported by road to Aurangabad.

Before it reached the ICD in Aurangabad, where Customs officers would check the seal and consignment, the syndicate would replace the smuggled cargo of cigarettes with cartons of wash basins, the declared imported cargo. Both the original broken seal and the duplicate seal were recovered from the premises, according to the DRI.

Although the wash basins were marked as 'Made in China', it was found that they were domestically procured in Navi Mumbai. The markings were intended to mislead customs officials into thinking the wash basins were imported. The accused told the DRI during interrogation that around two weeks ago, they'd carried out a 'trial run' by smuggling 45 cartons of cigarettes in the same way. When this was successful, the 650 master cartons were smuggled in.