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# Gold seized by DRI in tissue dispenser at Goa airport

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VASCO/PANAJI: Officials of the directorate of revenue intelligence (DRI), Goa regional unit, foiled a smuggling attempt and seized around Rs 97 lakh worth of gold hidden in a tissue dispenser in the washroom of the Goa international airport at Dabolim.

A total of 26 bars of gold bound with black cellotape, totally weighing three kg and worth Rs 97 lakh, were seized under provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, said assistant director, DRI, Goa, Lector Mascarenhas.

An international passenger has been detained for inquiry and two washroom cleaners, who were posted on night duty, have been arrested to probe their role in the racket. The duo was working for a private agency engaged for housekeeping. The Goa regional unit of the DRI received information that an international passenger, arriving on an Oman Air flight at 7.45pm, would smuggle the gold. DRI sleuths kept a watch on passengers once they had disembarked the aircraft and screened them at the customs arrival, but found nothing. When the sleuths searched the washroom near the immigration area, they found the gold hidden in a tissue dispenser.