

DRI seizes 5.5kg gold worth Rs. 2.1 crore from seven passengers in Indore

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INDORE: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on Saturday arrested seven persons and recovered 5.5kg gold, worth Rs. 2.1 crore in the local market, being smuggled from Dubai to Mumbai.

The accused had converted the gold into paste form and filled in capsules – some concealed on the body, some were swallowed and recovered from the recta.

The DRI's Indore zonal unit intercepted the passengers, including a woman, all from Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra, at the Indore airport. They had brought approximately 5.5 Kg of Gold from Dubai having Rs. 2.1 Cr. of local market value, DRI sources said.

It's second biggest catch by Indore DRI after October, 2018 in which 6 Kg of smuggled gold was seized, they added.

Smuggled gold from Dubai was brought in the form of powdery paste by these passengers. It is first seizure after inception of international flight from Dubai to Indore, in July 2019.

These passengers are frequent flyers on international route, and finally the racket was busted at Indore. Some of them are habitual offenders, DRI sources said.

To hide the yellow metal, the accused chemically treated the gold and converted it in paste form. It was concealed in the body. Gold in paste form was also hidden in body clothing's/undergarments, they said.

The accused had arrived on Air India Flight No. 904 (Dubai to Indore) and were having onward tickets were for Mumbai, by morning Indigo flight. Sources said once this smuggled gold enters in domestic market, it is sold without bills while evading GST.

Searches are going on to trace out further links. All seven accused will be arrested under Customs Act 1962, further investigation is underway.