

Smuggled gold worth Rs 5.5 crore seized in Trichy

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TRICHY: Sleuths of the directorate of revenue intelligence (DRI), Chennai zone, seized Rs 5.5 crore worth gold bars and crude chains being smuggled from Sri Lanka to Chennai on Wednesday.

Acting on a specific intelligence that foreign origin gold was being smuggled to India from Sri Lanka and transported to Chennai by bus, DRI sleuths kept watch on vehicles heading to Chennai from south Tamil Nadu.

On Wednesday evening, the DRI team intercepted two passengers -- travelling in an omnibus from Madurai to Chennai -- at Boothakudi toll plaza near Trichy.

On checking their baggage, the DRI sleuths found a cloth belt and bag from them. On thorough search, officers found 17.83kg gold of foreign origin in the forms of bars and crude chains.

The two passengers confessed to have smuggled the gold from Sri Lanka through the sea route. Meanwhile, DRI sleuths were said to have apprehended the mastermind of the operation, who was the intended recipient, in Chennai.