

## तिरुवनंतपुरम: एयरपोर्ट पर यात्री के पास से मिला 8.5 करोड़ का 25 किलो सोना

टाइम्स न्यूज नेटवर्क | May 14, 2019, 11.34 AM IST



फाइल फोटो

### तिरुवनंतपुरम

तिरुवनंतपुरम इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट पर साढ़े आठ करोड़ रुपये कीमत का पच्चीस किलो सोना जब्त किया गया है। सोमवार को यह कार्रवाई राजस्व खुफिया निदेशालय की ओर से की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि इतना ज्यादा सोना आज तक एयरपोर्ट पर कभी भी किसी यात्री से जब्त नहीं किया गया है।

यात्री का नाम सुनील है। वह तिरुमला का रहने वाला है। बताया जा रहा है कि वह मस्कट से ओमान एयर की फ्लाइट डब्ल्यूवाई-211 से सुबह लगभग साढ़े सात बजे त्रिवेंद्रम एयरपोर्ट पर पहुंचा था। खुफिया एजेंसियों को जानकारी मिली थी कि एक यात्री के पास अवैध सोने की भारी खेप है। डीआरआई की क्षेत्रीय यूनिट के अधिकारियों ने यहां यात्रियों की तलाशी शुरू की।

तलाशी के दौरान सुनील के पास दो हैंडबैग मिले। इन्हीं बैगों में सोना भरा था। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि बैग खंगालने पर उसके अंदर ऐल्युमिनियम फॉइल के दो पैकेट मिले। इन पैकेटों को खोला गया तो पता चला कि उसके अंदर सोने के बिस्किट रखे थे। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि सुनील के पास से कुल 25 सोने के बिस्किट जब्त किए गए। हर एक बिस्किट का वजन एक किलो था।

डीआरआई के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि एयरपोर्ट पर आज तक जितना भी सोना जब्त किया गया है यह बरामदगी सबसे ज्यादा है। सुनील यात्रा वीजा पर मस्कट गया था। अब इस बात की जानकारी की जा रही है कि फ्लाइट के केबिन के अंदर जितना वजन ले जाने की अनुमति है सुनील उससे ज्यादा वजन का सोना अंदर कैसे ले जा सका।

# DRI agents board flight, seize 25 kg of gold

## Smuggling surges ahead of marriage season

G. ANAND

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Agents of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Monday entered an international flight that had arrived here from Dubai and seized gold biscuits weighing 25 kg from the hand baggage of a passenger.

Investigators appeared to have flagged the "carrier" the moment he boarded the flight to Thiruvananthapuram from Dubai and arrested him immediately after his plane touched down at the international airport here.

Officials privy to the operation said the carrier had not attempted to conceal the contraband. He seemed confident that some contact of his paymasters at the airport here would help him pass the customs check-ups unchallenged.

### Racket's role

Investigators said the back-to-back seizures of gold in the past two weeks in Thiruvananthapuram pointed to

a well-entrenched racket abetted by airport insiders.

On April 30, the airport security had arrested a contract employee on the charge of attempting to take 10 kg of contraband gold out of the facility in his bag.

Officials said there had been a steep increase in gold smuggling in anticipation of a surge in jewellery sales during the Onam marriage season.

### Lucrative

Smuggling bullion into the country had turned appealingly lucrative after the Union government hiked the import duty on gold to tackle the country's yawning current account deficit in 2014.

The huge domestic demand for gold in Kerala had spawned a network of Gulf-based smuggling rings, which increasingly recruited women accompanying children as carriers because they did not match the established profile of smugglers.

The tax differential between the price of gold in India and abroad promised a profit of up to ₹3 lakh for every kg of bullion smuggled into the country.

## 25 KG GOLD HAUL

# Nabbed duo was on maiden mission?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
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THE Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) sources said they are in the initial stage of probe into the gold smuggling case and hence cannot reveal much.

"We've just begun the probe," said an officer. However, sources said the two had met in Dubai and were recruited to smuggle the gold to



Thiruvananthapuram.

Sereena is running a beauty salon in Dubai while Sunil had earlier worked in the KSRTC before leaving for the Emirate on long leave.

The DRI sources, who reckoned the carriers were first-timers and had no smuggling antecedents, said raids would follow the arrests.

"Neither ours nor the Customs database has any infor-

mation about them. So we think this was their first assignment," said DRI sources.

They added the two were assigned to hand over the gold to the gang which waited outside the airport. The pair are being questioned and their arrests will be recorded on Tuesday.

Lately, Thiruvananthapuram airport has seen a slew of gold seizures, with the seizure of 8 kg gold two weeks ago being the previous smuggling case.

## 25kg gold seized in largest ever haul at Trivandrum airport

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: In a major haul, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized gold worth Rs 8.5 crore from a passenger at Trivandrum International Airport on Monday. It is the highest-ever seizure of gold reported at the airport.

The passenger has been identified as Sunil, a native of Thirumala, who arrived from Muscat. He reached Trivandrum Airport in Oman Air flight WY 211 around 7.30am. Based on intelligence information, DRI regional unit officers intercepted the passenger on his arrival.

The gold was found in the two hand bags carried by the passenger. The gold in form of bars was covered in aluminium foil in two packets. There were a total of 25 gold biscuits, each weighing 1kg, in the packets.

"This is the highest quantity of gold seized at the airport. The passenger had gone to Muscat through visiting visa. Considering the permissible weight limit of cabin baggage in the flight, it is being investigated how the passenger took the bags inside the aircraft," said a DRI official.

A probe has been launched by DRI team under Customs Act.

In another incident, gold worth Rs 18 lakh was seized from four passengers who arrived at the airport from Malaysia last Thursday. The gold in compound paste form was concealed in the rectum of the passengers. Based on passenger profiling, the customs officers intercepted him and he confessed to the crime during interrogation.