

# Kolkata: DRI busts gold smuggling racket

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KOLKATA: A seizure near the Dankuni toll plaza on Tuesday night led the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials to bust a gold smuggling racket operating from Bangur. Based on the input the DRI arrested four persons and seized eight kg gold, about 74 Kg of silver jewellery and three kg of ganja worth Rs 3.31 crore.

The primary raid at Dankuni toll plaza came out with eight kgs of foreign origin gold worth Rs 2.7 crore and cash of Rs 24,000. The gold was smuggled from Bhutan and was to be delivered at Kolkata. Interrogation of the gold carrier led the DRI to two addresses at Salt Lake and Bangur Avenue—frontal office of the masterminds.

The organised mode of operation surprised the DRI officials. The mastermind has been running a well-coordinated network where he employed people in different verticals like finance and manpower. This well-oiled structured machinery enabled him to stay off the radar for past 5 years. According to sources, he had smuggled more than 360 kg gold worth over Rs 108 crore in past five years. To stay off the radar he used different routes connecting India with Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar.

# Smuggling Racket Busted In Bengal; Jewellery, Gold And Drugs Worth Rs. 3.31 Crore Seized

Investigations revealed that the mastermind runs a very well-coordinated corporate-type smuggling "organisation", with separate verticals or divisions handling finance and manpower (carriers of gold).

[Kolkata](#) | [Press Trust of India](#) | Updated: June 12, 2019 20:11 IST



The gold was smuggled from Bhutan and was to be delivered at Kolkata. (Representational)

## **Kolkata:**

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a "corporate-style" smuggling syndicate and seized eight kg of gold, about 74 kg of silver jewellery and three kg of narcotics from a bus on way to Kolkata from Siliguri, an official statement said today.

The total value of the seized items is Rs. 3.31 crore and six people have been arrested in the case, it said.

Among those arrested is the mastermind of the smuggling racket and his nephew. The two were involved in a series of cases in which about 360 kg of gold valued at more than Rs. 108 crore was seized over the past five years, the statement said.

Investigations further revealed that the mastermind runs a very well-coordinated corporate-type smuggling "organisation", with separate verticals or divisions handling finance and manpower (carriers of gold), it said.

This structure enabled the mastermind to remain incognito for the last five years or more, the DRI said.

The uncle-nephew pair was involved in ferrying huge quantities of smuggled gold from various bordering locations.

Based on inputs, a private bus, coming from Siliguri to Kolkata on Sunday, was intercepted at Dankuni toll plaza, the DRI said.

On search of the bus, eight kg of foreign origin gold, collectively valued at Rs. 2.71 crore, and Rs. 24,000 cash were seized.

"The gold was smuggled from Bhutan and was to be delivered at Kolkata," the DRI said in the statement. Markings on the gold biscuits showed their country of origin as China, it said.

Silver jewellery, including bangles, rings, earrings, pendants, necklace etc, weighing 73.86 kg, valued at Rs. 59 lakh, and Rs. 31,000 were also seized from three people, the statement said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the jewellery was smuggled into India through Bagdogra airport from Bangkok and cleared illegally, the probe agency said.

The search of the bus also led to the recovery of one unclaimed backpack containing about 3 kg of marijuana, which was seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Four people were arrested, the DRI said.

Preliminary investigation led the DRI to two addresses at Salt Lake and Bangur Avenue in search of two people said to be the masterminds of the attempted smuggling of gold.

During interrogation, one of the persons admitted to have arranged the purchase of the 8 kg gold from Bhutan and entrusted the same to the apprehended carrier for its delivery at Kolkata for a carrying charge of Rs. 6,000 per kg. His profit in the whole deal was supposed to be Rs. 50,000 per kg, the DRI said.

The gold was smuggled from different borders such as Indo-Bangladesh, Indo-Burma, Indo-Bhutan by employing various carriers and middlemen.



## DRI busts corporate-style smuggling racket in Bengal



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DH representation of jail

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a "corporate-style" smuggling syndicate and seized eight kgs of gold, about 74 kgs of silver jewellery and three kgs of narcotics from a bus plying from Siliguri to Kolkata, an official statement issued on Wednesday said.

The cumulative seizure value is Rs 3.31 crore and six persons have been arrested in the case, it said.

Among those arrested is the mastermind of this well-organised smuggling racket and his nephew. The two were involved in a series of cases in which about 360 kgs of gold valued at more than Rs 108 crore was seized over the past five years, the statement said.

Investigations further revealed that the mastermind runs a very well-coordinated corporate-type smuggling 'organisation', with separate verticals/divisions handling finance and manpower (carriers of gold), it said.

This structure enabled the mastermind to remain incognito for the last five years or more, the DRI said.

The uncle-nephew pair was involved in ferrying huge quantities of smuggled gold from various bordering locations.

Based on intelligence, a private bus, coming from Siliguri to Kolkata on Sunday, was intercepted at around 9.00 hours at Dankuni toll plaza, the DRI said.

On search of the bus, eight kgs of foreign origin gold, collectively valued at Rs 2.71 crore, and Rs 24,000 cash were seized from a person.

"The gold was smuggled from Bhutan and was to be delivered at Kolkata," the DRI said in the statement.

Markings on the gold biscuits showed their country of origin as China, it said.

Silver jewellery, including bangles, rings, earrings, pendants, necklace etc, weighing 73.86 kgs, valued at Rs 59 lakh, and Rs 31,000 were also seized from three other persons, the statement said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the jewellery was smuggled into India through Bagdogra airport from Bangkok and cleared illegally, the probe agency said.

The search of the bus also led to the recovery of one unclaimed backpack containing about 3 kgs ganja, which was seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

Preliminary investigation led the DRI to two addresses at Salt Lake and Bangur Avenue in search of two persons said to be the masterminds of the attempted smuggling of gold.

During interrogation, one of the persons admitted to have arranged the purchase of the 8 kgs gold from Bhutan and entrusted the same to the apprehended carrier for its delivery at Kolkata for a carrying charge of Rs 6,000 per kg.

His profit in the whole deal was supposed to be Rs 50,000 per kg, the DRI said.

The gold was smuggled from different borders such as Indo-Bangladesh, Indo-Burma, Indo-Bhutan by employing various carriers and middlemen.

During the last financial year, the DRI seized over 464 kgs of gold in 46 cases within the geographical precincts of West Bengal and Sikkim. The gold, which was smuggled from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan and even China, was valued at Rs 145.69 crore.

In the current financial year, 49.81 kgs of gold has been seized in less than 3 months. This includes the gold seized on Sunday.

## DRI busts gold smuggling racket, uncle-nephew duo arrested in Kolkata

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The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a "corporate type smuggling" racket and arrested a mastermind and his relative who were involved in many cases with the seizure of about 360 kg of gold worth over Rs 108 crore in the past five years, an official said on Wednesday.

Taking a cue from the seizure of 8 kg gold, about 74 kg of silver jewellery and 3 kg of ganja with a cumulative value of Rs 3.31 crore from a bus plying from Siliguri to Kolkata, the DRI sleuths arrested the "uncle-nephew duo" who were instrumental in successfully ferrying huge quantity of smuggled gold from various bordering locations.

"Four persons were arrested in the seizure of gold, silver and narcotics. Further investigations led to the apprehension of two more persons, including the mastermind and his relative, who were behind a series of cases in which about 360 kg gold valued at more than Rs 108 crore have been seized over the past five years," a DRI official said.

According to sources, the mastermind of the smuggling racket Ashok Jalan and his nephew Amit Jalan were allegedly involved in hawala transactions.

"Investigations revealed that the mastermind ran a very well-coordinated corporate type smuggling racket with separate verticals/divisions handling finance and manpower (carriers of gold). This structure enabled him to remain incognito for the last five years or more," the official said.

The gold was smuggled from Indo-Bangladesh, Indo-Burma and Indo-Bhutan borders by employing various carriers and middlemen.

During interrogation, one arrested person admitted to have arranged for the purchase of 8 kg gold from Bhutan and entrusted the same to an apprehended carrier for its delivery in Kolkata for a carrying charge of Rs 6,000 per kg. His profit in the whole deal was supposed to be Rs 50,000 per kg.

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