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IMPORTED CIGARETTES WORTH RS 1.5 CRORE SEIZED

Ahmedabad Mirror | Aug 18, 2016, 02.00 AM IST

Imported cigarettes have a high demand in the country and smuggling them without paying taxes is an illegal but highly profitable venture. On Wednesday, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized a consignment of cigarettes worth Rs 1 crore hidden in a cargo of readymade garments at Mundra Port. The brands included Richman Super Slims, Marso Super Slims and Djarum Black which were being brought in from Jebel Ali port in Dubai.

The same day, the Value-Added Tax Department seized cigarettes, including foreign-made ones, worth Rs 50 lakh from Ashram Express. DRI officials carried out a raid after receiving a tip-off that foreign cigarettes were being smuggled into the country by a Maharashtra-based firm. The officials at Gandhidham examined the said container and found 16.2 lakh cigarettes, including strawberry- flavoured and clove-flavoured ones, hidden among bales of clothes.

VAT department officials also carried out a raid on Wednesday after getting information about a smuggled consignment on Ashram Express from Delhi. Confirming the news, Commissioner (Commercial Tax) P D Vaghela said, "The consignment had been booked by Shriji Couriers and ERC Logistics. It contained Four Square, Gudang Garam, Dunhill, Oskar Wine and chocolate-flavoured cigarettes." The consignment, which also contained zarda, was evaluated at Rs 50 lakh. Officials said they have issued notices to both companies to submit valid documents of the goods. Further investigation is in process.

Source: http://www.ahmedabadmirror.com/ahmedabad/others/Imported-cigarettes-worth-Rs-1-5-crore-seized/articleshow/53744786.cms