

Customs seize smuggled cigarettes worth Rs 63 lakh

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HYDERABAD: Customs officials of Vijayawada on Saturday seized ₹63 lakh worth of smuggled foreign cigarettes were seized at Vishakapatnam railway station.

The smuggled cigarettes were concealed and carried in 22 cartons through railway parcel service. After receipt of information about smuggling of foreign brand cigarettes into Visakhapatnam in Samata Express, officials kept surveillance and seized 22 bags in two consignments, which came from Hazrat Nizamuddin.

“A close examination of polythene sacks resulted in the seizure of 5,40,000 Paris brand cigarettes packed in 2,700 cartons and 1,92,000 Gold Stag cigarettes packed in 960 cartons. We seized them under the Customs Act, 1962. Smuggling cigarettes is a lucrative business for black marketers to make profit as they avoid payment of customs duty,” officials said.

They said the smuggled cigarettes do not have a pictorial warning on them which is mandatory.

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