

86L cigarettes worth 15 cr seized at Nhava Sheva

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Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted an illegal cigarette smuggling racket and has seized as many as 86,30,000 sticks of cigarettes valued at approximately Rs 14.67 crore.

Most of these cigarettes are of Indian brands which are believed to have been copied in Asian countries and smuggled into India. This could be a new trend to pump duplicate cigarettes of Indian brands into India, said sources.

Acting on the specific intelligence the DRI officials intercepted a 40-feet container that had arrived at the container freight station (CFS) of Nhava Sheva port on December 4. Upon examination it was learnt that the cargo was mis declared as trolley bags, whereas, the container was packed with imported cigarettes. It is suspected that these cigarettes were meant to be pilfered but DRI's timely intervention thwarted the crime. Officials said they are now looking for the importer and the person whose import export code (IEC) was used to import the contraband.

This is the second biggest seizure this year. In October the DRI had seized two containers full of imported cigarettes worth Rs 11 crore which were mis-declared as fresh fruits, mushrooms and lotus.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/86l-cigarettes-worth-15-cr-seized-at-nhava-sheva/articleshow/105871387.cms>