

12 passengers detained with gold inside body cavity at Lucknow airport

TNN | Feb 25, 2024

LUCKNOW: On Saturday, outside terminal one (T1) of Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (CCSIA), alert cops detained 12 passengers hiding gold inside their body cavity. Interestingly, these dozen suspects were among 19 passengers who were detained by customs sleuths on the same morning with Rs 1.40 crore worth cigarettes and pan masala at the airport while they were attempting to smuggle the consignment inside the country.



According to sources, all the accused are couriers of smuggling cartel and hail from Tanda area of Rampur district.

Speaking to TOI, Jag Prasad the sub-inspector of airport police outpost said, “Following a tip-off we had detained a total of 14 suspects outside T1 who came to Lucknow from Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. During questioning, 12 admitted to having gold concealed in their body cavity either by swallowing the gold paste concealed in capsule form or hiding the capsule in their rectum.”

“We also came to know that these suspects were earlier detained by air customs sleuths inside the airport for attempting to smuggle large quantities of cigarette and pan masala. We handed over 12 passengers back to customs,” said SI, who last year in the month of October had caught a passenger and his two handlers outside T1 with 1.60 kg of gold.

According to sources, eight suspects landed from IndiGo flight 6E 94 which came from Abu Dhabi and 11 from Sharjah in another IndiGo 6E 1424.

Devendra Kumar, the assistant commissioner air customs at CCSIA said, “Based on the profiling, we had intercepted the suspect passengers inside the airport, and seized a total of 3,356 cigarettes and 44 packets of pan masala from their luggage which was worth Rs 98.76 lakh. Furthermore, we also seized Rs 40.40 lakh worth cigarettes.”

“Later, when local police on the suspicion of gold smuggling brought back 12 passengers back to us, one passenger took out 374 grams of gold paste worth Rs 20.19 lakh from his body cavity (rectum). We also seized 30 grams of gold from two more passengers who had swallowed 15 grams each of gold paste concealed in capsule form. The remaining nine passengers have been provided food and water, to excrete out the gold hidden in their body. It will take three-four days before all gold is recovered,” he said.

However, Devendra alleged that each suspect was also carrying Rs 90,000 to Rs 1 lakh cash before they were cleared from T1 from air customs, but the cash was not found when they were handed back to customs by cops.

Meanwhile speaking to TOI, Gaurav Chandel the additional commissioner of Lucknow customs said, “Current technology available with customs is not reliable to detect gold

inside the human body. We often depend on human intelligence and profiling of passengers to detain him or her as a suspect for smuggling gold. The matter of 12 passengers is still under investigation.”

Chandel added, "We are going to write to the passport issuing authority, and also to local police of Rampur district about these suspects who were caught smuggling. These men are habitual offenders who are part of a smuggling cartel."

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/12-passengers-detained-with-gold-inside-body-cavity-at-lucknow-airport/articleshow/107990178.cms>