

Indore customs seizes 35k counterfeit cigarettes from airport

Jan 14, 2025

Indore: Foiling an attempt to smuggle counterfeit cigarettes, Indore Customs Commissionerate seized 35,000 counterfeit cigarette sticks, amounting to 175 packets, from a passenger arriving from Sharjah at the Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport.

Acting on intelligence, the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of the Indore Customs department intercepted a passenger upon arrival. A thorough search of both check-in and hand baggage of the passenger revealed the extensive haul of 35,000 fake cigarettes.

According to the Customs department, preliminary examinations indicate that the recovered items are counterfeit and were illegally produced outside of India.

"Prima facie examination of the recovered cigarette packets shows that an Indian brand produced by ITC has been misused. Preliminary examination suggests that the recovered cigarettes were counterfeit and were illegally produced from outside India," said an official from the Customs department.

An official from the Indore Customs department said that the practice of smuggling counterfeit cigarettes under Indian brand names has become increasingly common, posing significant losses to domestic manufacturers and the govt's revenue.

This operation follows a similar bust on September 26, 2024, when Indore Customs officers seized 30,000 counterfeit cigarettes at the Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport under the Customs Act of 1962, with infringements of Intellectual Property Rights confirmed by the brand's right holders.

In the current financial year 2024-25, the Indore Customs department has reported seizures of foreign currency valued at Rs 26 lakh, cash worth Rs 24 lakh, as well as foreign-origin gold, iPhones, and laptops among other valuable items at the Indore airport.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/indore-customs-seizes-35k-counterfeit-cigarettes-from-airport/articleshow/117214428.cms#:~:text=Indore%3A%20Foiling%20an%20attempt%20to,Devi%20Ahilyabai%20Holkar%20International%20Airport>