

# DRI seizes 3 lakh sticks of smuggled foreign-origin cigarettes worth ₹45 lakh in UP's Gorakhpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Gorakhpur

The DRI has seized 3,00,000 sticks of foreign-origin cigarettes worth around ₹45 lakh that were being smuggled from Myanmar into India and transported from Assam to Uttar Pradesh concealed inside a truck, officials said on Sunday.

Acting on specific intelligence inputs about a large consignment of smuggled cigarettes being transported under the cover of bamboo cuts, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officers mounted surveillance on National Highway-27 in Gorakhpur and monitored suspected vehicles coming from Assam, an official statement said.

After maintaining vigil for nearly 12 hours, officials intercepted a suspected truck in the early hours of May 23.

A detailed search of the vehicle revealed it was carrying 9.42 metric tonnes of bamboo cuts. Officials said that a specially fabricated secret cavity had been created behind the driver's cabin using welded steel partitions.

During inspection of the concealed



space, officers recovered 30 cartons containing 3,00,000 sticks of foreign-origin cigarettes of the brand "ESSE Lights Super Slim", the statement said.

The consignment was seized under Section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962, and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003. Further

investigation is underway, officials said.

Officials also said that with this seizure, the DRI has confiscated a total of 15,32,000 sticks of smuggled foreign-origin cigarettes, valued at approximately ₹2.32 crore, in various cases across Uttar Pradesh over the past eight months.

## DRI seizes smuggled foreign cigarettes worth Rs 45 lakh in Gorakhpur

**May 25, 2026** Lucknow: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 3 lakh sticks of smuggled foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 45 lakh concealed inside a truck in Gorakhpur, officials said on Saturday. Acting on specific intelligence inputs that a large consignment of cigarettes smuggled from Myanmar into India was being transported from Assam to Uttar Pradesh, DRI officers mounted surveillance along National Highway 27 in Gorakhpur. After nearly 12 hours of vigil, officials intercepted a suspected truck in the early hours of Saturday.



During a detailed search, officers found that the truck was carrying 9.42 metric tonnes of bamboo cuts. However, a hidden cavity had been specially built behind the driver's cabin using welded steel partitions.

Inside the concealed compartment, officers recovered 30 cartons containing 3,00,000 sticks of foreign-origin cigarettes of the brand "ESSE Lights Super Slim".

According to DRI, the consignment was seized under provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003. With the latest operation, DRI has seized a total of 15,32,000 sticks of smuggled foreign-origin cigarettes worth Rs 2.32 crore in different cases across Uttar Pradesh over the last eight months..

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