

Mumbai Airport: Gold and electronic items worth Rs 1.79 crore seized; one arrested

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Mumbai: Customs officials carried out a major operation at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and seized gold, electronic items, and cigarettes worth around Rs 1.79 crore that were being smuggled illegally.

One passenger has been arrested in connection with the case, officials said on Sunday.

The smuggling attempt was detected during checks on passengers who arrived from Dubai on May 1 and 2.

Details of the operation

During the inspection, officials recovered electronic items, including iPhones worth Rs 84.37 lakh, along with cosmetics and foreign cigarettes from two passengers who arrived on an Emirates flight from Dubai.

Gold found in aircraft toilet

In another operation, during checks on a SpiceJet flight, eight packets wrapped in brown tape were found concealed inside the commode of the rear aircraft lavatory. The packets were found to contain 695 grams of raw gold (24 carat) worth Rs 95.32 lakh.

One passenger who arrived on the SpiceJet flight has been arrested in connection with the smuggling attempt. Officials said the accused had hidden the gold in the aircraft toilet to evade customs checks.

Mumbai airport has increasingly become a hotspot for smuggling activities, prompting the customs department to further tighten surveillance.

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