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3 held for smuggling foreign cigarettes worth ₹3.07 crore

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LUCKNOW : A team of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested three people for smuggling foreign made cigarettes worth ₹3.07 crore, near Chinhat area here on Saturday.

The accused indentified as Najibul, Prakash and Najeeb were smuggling the cigarettes hidden inside a consignment of natural rubber which they were carrying in two trucks. The trucks had registration number of Jammu and Kashmir and DRI officials are trying to track them.

The arrest was made following an intelligence input.

A DRI spokesperson said that cigarettes with brand name of Paris, Win and Gudang were smuggled in the country through the international border with the neighbouring Myanmar. The accused then carried it to their hideout where they were packaged inside cavities made in rubber stacks and loaded into the trucks.

The cigarettes, according to DRI officials, were being taken for distribution in the national capital region and other big cities of the state. DRI officials are interrogating the accused about their modus operandi. Officials are also trying to connect the dots of the chain of the smuggling racket including the people that smuggle it in the country, ways it is transported and people who manage its sale in India.

“Our focus will also be on the exchange of money in the process,” said the DRI spokesperson.