

Gold, cigarettes, saffron seized at airport

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Chennai: Customs officials on Tuesday detected three cases of smuggling at Chennai international airport from passengers. Gold worth Rs 27.3 lakh, imported cigarettes, Iranian saffron and laptops worth Rs 6.34 lakh were seized in the process.

In the first case, upon examining the check-in baggage of Ahamed Basha Shaik, 46, a passenger from Riyadh via Muscat by Oman Air flight WY- 0251, a door handle was found in which 12 gold cut bits weighing 580gm worth Rs 19 lakh were concealed. It was seized under the Customs Act 1962.

In the second case, Fathima Asmiya Mohamed Asmi, 36, who arrived from Colombo by Srilankan Airlines Flight UL-125, was apprehended. As she was evasive in her replies she was thoroughly examined. She accepted that she had concealed four gold cut bits in her rectum which were forcefully ejected out. The gold weighing 200gm was valued at Rs 6.5 lakh. It was seized under the Customs Act 1962.

In the third case, the check-in baggage of Mohamed Basith Mohamed Gani, 19, who had arrived from Sharjah by flight Air Arabia G9 0471, was taken up for examination which resulted in the recovery of 10 cartons of Gudang Garam cigarettes, 25 cartons of 555 State Express Cigarettes valued at Rs 74,000, 2.2kg of Iranian Grade-I saffron of Behrang and Termes brand valued at Rs 5 lakh, 12 assorted old and used laptops valued at Rs 60,000 and two gold cut bits weighing 56gm of 24K purity valued at Rs 1.8 lakh.

Customs officials said further investigations are on.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/gold-cigarettes-saffron-seized-at-airport/articleshow/67051021.cms>