

Paris brand cigarettes worth Rs 60L recovered

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Bengaluru: Customs officials seized three lakh imported Paris brand cigarettes worth Rs 60 lakh brought by the Varanasi-Mysuru Express to KSR railway station.



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On Sunday at 1am, officials inspected the cargo which was unloaded from the train and being taken outside. They identified 10 suspicious parcels marked as M+. Detailed examination revealed 30 cartons contained foreign-made cigarettes though the content was mentioned as saris.

Probe is on trace the person who had sent the consignment.

In June, officials had seized 10 lakh cigarettes worth Rs 2 crore that were brought from Bangladesh and Myanmar to Bengaluru. The cigarettes were stored in three godowns in KR Market. A Bengaluru resident was taken into custody in connection with the case.

Customs officials had said the negligence in checking consignments raised doubts about the involvement of railway officials. The know-your-customer (KYC) details of the sender and recipient have to be collected, but railway officials seemed to have ignored this for a long time, they said.

In March, the commissioner's taskforce seized 1.1 lakh packs of Paris cigarettes worth Rs 6.5 lakh in Hyderabad. Officials said each packet contained 20 cigarettes. Dealers in India procure it for Rs 6 per packet and supply it to local traders at Rs 20, The same is sold to customers at Rs 50-75 per packet.

Foreign cigarettes are smuggled to evade high duties in India. Usually, these are sold in wholesale to pubs and on the outskirts of cities, said a source.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/paris-brand-cigarettes-worth-rs-60l-recovered/articleshow/70283923.cms>