

₹1.28 crore worth gold, cigarettes, iPhones seized

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The Air Intelligence Unit of the Customs Department seized gold, cigarettes, electronic goods, health supplements and iPhones worth ₹1.28 crore at Anna International Terminal, Chennai over the last few days.

In a release, Customs on Sunday stated that personnel at the International Airport had detected two cases of smuggling of gold, electronic goods and health supplement and 8 cases of gold smuggling on Friday.

On Saturday, Abdul Latheff, 36, and Mohamed Sifri, 32, both from Chennai, had arrived from Kuala Lumpur by Air Asia flight and were intercepted at the exit point. On a search, gold in the form of rubbery spread concealed in their person was found along with 2 gold cut bits

weighing 100 gms. On extraction, gold totally weighing 603 gms was recovered. Further, 21 old and used laptops, 1 used server, and 120 packets of Brazilian Catuaba health supplement were recovered from their checked in baggage. Similarly, on Friday, Customs personnel intercepted 8 Indian men passengers - 3 had arrived by Spicejet flight from Colombo and 5 from Dubai by Air India flight - at the exit point. On suspicion, officers conducted searches and found that they were carrying gold in rubbery form. On extraction, 2.5 kg gold valued at ₹91 lakh was recovered from them.

Besides gold, Turkish cigarettes, laptops and iPhones valued at ₹9 lakh were also seized from them. The personnel seized goods worth ₹1 crore under Customs Act 1962. Further investigation is under progress.