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Rs 36 lakh worth gold and cigarettes seized at Chennai airport, 1 held

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CHENNAI: Customs officials at Chennai international airport on Saturday busted five smuggling attempts and seized nearly Rs 36 lakh worth of gold and cigarettes. One man was arrested.

Mohammed Gouse, 37, of Bhatkal in Karnataka, had arrived from Dubai by Emirates flight EK 542 and Absar Ali, 26, of Trichy, had arrived on EK 544. Acting on specific intelligence, officials intercepted the two passengers at the exit of the customs arrival hall. When questioned, officials found that they were nervous and evasive in their replies. The two men were searched as was their luggage. On examination, officials found they had concealed some rubbery material along with two gold ingots weighing 1.063kg valued at Rs 34.59 lakh. All the gold was seized under the

provisions of Customs Act 1962.

Ali was arrested on the basis of cumulative value of an earlier offence, which went above Rs 20 lakh.

The same day, three passengers, who had arrived from Dubai by IndiGo 6E 1344, were intercepted on suspicion of carrying cigarettes. When their baggage was examined, 72 cartons of Benson and Hedges cigarettes, valued at Rs 1.44 lakh were recovered.

The cartons were seized under Custom Act, 1962.