



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
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PRESS NOTE

BASED ON GENERAL INTELLIGENCE THAT GOLD IS BEING SMUGGLED INTO THE COUNTRY, OFFICERS OF THE AIR INTELLIGENCE UNIT (AIU) OF CHENNAI AIRPORT MAINTAINED STRICT VIGIL ON PASSENGERS ARRIVING FROM SENSITIVE AIRPORTS. ON 21.03.2011, WHILE KEEPING SURVEILLANCE OVER THE PASSENGERS WHO HAD ARRIVED FROM RIYADH BY SAUDI AIRLINES FLIGHT NO. SV 0768, THE OFFICERS INTERCEPTED ONE PASSENGER BY NAME SHAIK NAZIR AHMED, HOLDER OF INDIAN PASSPORT, ON A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT HE MIGHT BE CARRYING GOLD. THE PASSENGER WAS SPECIFICALLY QUESTIONED WHETHER HE WAS CARRYING GOLD OR ANY OTHER CONTRABAND FOR WHICH HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE. AS HE WAS FOUND TO BE NERVOUS, HIS BAGGAGE WAS SUBJECT TO DETAILED EXAMINATION WHICH RESULTED IN THE RECOVERY OF GOLD COINS , GOLD BITS AND GOLD JEWELLERY TOTALLY WEIGHING 1084 GMS KEPT CONCEALED IN SOME OF THE USED CLOTHES IN HIS BAGGAGE. THE GOLD AND JEWELLERY WERE KEPT WRAPPED WITH A BLACK ADHESIVE TAPE AND CARBON PAPER TO AVOID CUSTOMS DETECTION. THE SAID GOLD TOTALLY WEIGHING 1084 GMS AND VALUED AT RS. 21,33,331/- WAS SEIZED BY THE AIU OFFICERS AND THE PASSENGER HAS BEEN ARRESTED UNDER CUSTOMS ACT, 1962 READ WITH THE FOREIGN TRADE (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT 1992. FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS IN PROGRESS.

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