



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
AIR INTELLIGENCE UNIT

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PRESS NOTE

Based on intelligence that Gold is being smuggled into the country, the Customs Officers of the Anna International Airport, Chennai, maintained strict vigil on passengers arriving from sensitive airports. On 9.03.2011, while keeping surveillance on the passengers arriving from Colombo by 9W 0251, intercepted five passengers (Srilankan Nationals) namely Shri Seiyad faizam Mohamed, Shri Abdul Hameed Mohamed Rafeek, Shri Imtiyas Mohamed, Shri Mohammed Ansar and Shri Navshad, proceeding through Customs Green Channel. The personal search of the said five passengers yielded in recovery of 5 no's of CRUDE 24-CARAT GOLD BANGLES coated with white substance to disguise the same, totally weighing 759.5 GRAMS valued at Rs. 15,97,228/- (MV) . The said gold was seized for further action under the Customs Act, 1962.

On 11.03.2011, the Officers of Customs Air Intelligence Unit, Chennai Airport, while maintaining surveillance in the Arrival Hall of Anna International Airport over passengers who had arrived from Bangkok by Thai air flight TG 337, intercepted three passengers namely Shri Naghrajn shankar, Shri Jothirmani Dinesh and Raju venugopal. Examination of their checked-in baggages resulted in recovery of 60 nos. of ornamental fishes packed in polythene covers filled with oxygen and water from each passenger. The total value of 180 fishes was estimated to be Rs.90,000/- in the local market. Import of Live Ornamental Fishes requires a license from DGFT and clearance from Animal Quarantine Department. As there were no valid documents for the above imports, the 180 Nos of Ornamental fishes were confiscated under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 read with the Livestock Importation (Amendment) Act, 2001. The fishes were ordered to be re-exported to the country of origin through the carrier Airline, Air India. The passengers involved in the seizure have been penalized.

R. Periasami
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