



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
AIR INTELLIGENCE UNIT
ANNA INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL, CHENNAI AIRPORT, CHENNAI-600 027.
PHONE: 2256 0213, 22560246 FAX : 2256 0376

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PRESS NOTE

SEIZURE OF
SILVER COINS BELONGING TO PRE INDEPENDENCE ERA
AND MEMORY CARDS AT CHENNAI AIRPORT

On 12.01.2011, the Officers of Air Intelligence Unit, Chennai Airport, while maintaining surveillance in the vital areas at the Airport, received a tip off from the Airport Authority Personnel and noticed a red colour polythene bag kept hidden in the dustbin kept inside the gents toilet situated at the Immigration Hall in the Arrival Hall of the Anna International Airport, Chennai.

On open and examination of the said polythene bag, it was found to contain five packets wrapped with adhesive tapes and newspaper. Out of the five, two packets were found very heavy and identical and on examination of the same, four rolls in each packet, containing 100 nos. of silver colour coins in each roll and thus totally 800 nos. of silver colour coins of one rupee denomination belonging to pre-independence era, were recovered from the said two packets. On examination of the remaining three packets, they were found to contain Micro SD 2GB Memory Cards which on counting were found to be 15, 120 in number. The silver colour coins were later examined and valued by an Expert who certified the coins as Silver and

valued at Rs.4,37,370/- and the Memory Cards were valued at Rs.34,02,000/- .

As the above said silver coins and memory cards did not accompany any valid documents to prove their licit import and were attempted to be smuggled into India clandestinely, they were seized under a Mahazar for action under the Customs Act, 1962. The total value of the seized goods is Rs.38,39,370/-

Investigation regarding persons involved in the attempted smuggling is in progress.

R. Periasami
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(R. PERIASAMI)
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
(AIRPORT)