PRESS RELEASE

In a major bust, smuggled Cigarettes worth Rs. 25 Lakhs were seized during simultaneous raids conducted across Bengaluru City on Thursday. After gathering reliable intelligence, the Customs Officers conducted the surprise raids in a total of 13 places and seized 63 varieties of Cigarettes of foreign origin which were smuggled from more than 09 countries across the globe.

02. High Customs duties on imported Cigarettes and their increasing demand due to cheaper rate as compared to locally manufactured Cigarettes on which high Central Excise levied is the main reason for making smuggling lucrative.

03. Besides not paying the duty, the Cigarette packs did not have the statutory Pictorial warning on them which amounted to violation of The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade & Commerce, Production, Supply & Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTP Act, 2003).

Further investigations are on.

(K.V. GANESH PRASAD)

Joint Commissioner (Prev.)