

OIO No:290 /ADC/SRV/O&A/2024-25  
F. No: VIII/10-215/SVPIA-A/O&A/HQ/24-25



प्रधान आयुक्त का कार्यालय, सीमा शुल्क, अहमदाबाद

“सीमाशुल्कभवन”, पहलीमंजिल, पुरानेहाईकोर्टकेसामने, नवरंगपुरा, अहमदाबाद - 380009.

दूरभाष: (079) 2754 4630, E-mail: [cus-ahmd-adj@gov.in](mailto:cus-ahmd-adj@gov.in), फैक्स: (079) 2754 2343

DIN: 20250371MN000000F969

**PREAMBLE**

A	फाइलसंख्या/ File No.	:	VIII/10-215/SVPIA-A/O&A/HQ/24-25
B	कारणबताओनोटिससंख्या-तारीख / Show Cause Notice No. and Date	:	VIII/10-215/SVPIA-A/O&A/HQ/24-25 dated 09.09.2024
C	मूलआदेशसंख्या/ Order-In-Original No.	:	290/ADC/SRV/O&A/2024-25
D	आदेशतिथि/ Date of Order-In-Original	:	21.03.2025
E	जारीकरनेकीतारीख/ Date of Issue	:	21.03.2025
F	द्वारापारित/ Passed By	:	Shree Ram Vishnoi, Additional Commissioner, Customs, Ahmedabad
G	आयातककानामऔरपता / Name and Address of Importer / Passenger	:	Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar, Kurnwadi, Varkute Malwadi, Satara, Pin: 415509
(1)	यह प्रति उन व्यक्तियों के उपयोग के लिए निःशुल्क प्रदान की जाती है जिन्हें यह जारी की गयी है।		
(2)	कोई भी व्यक्ति इस आदेश से स्वयं को असंतुष्ट पाता है तो वह इस आदेश के विरुद्ध अपील इस आदेश की प्राप्ति की तारीख के 60 दिनों के भीतर आयुक्त कार्यालय, सीमा शुल्क अपील)चौथी मंज़िल, हुडको भवन, ईश्वर भुवन मार्ग, नवरंगपुरा, अहमदाबाद में कर सकता है।		
(3)	अपील के साथ केवल पांच (5.00) रुपये का न्यायालय शुल्क टिकिट लगा होना चाहिए और इसके साथ होना चाहिए:		
(i)	अपील की एक प्रति और;		
(ii)	इस प्रति या इस आदेश की कोई प्रति के साथ केवल पांच (5.00) रुपये का न्यायालय शुल्क टिकिट लगा होना चाहिए।		
(4)	इस आदेश के विरुद्ध अपील करने इच्छुक व्यक्ति को 7.5 % (अधिकतम 10 करोड़) शुल्क अदा करना होगा जहां शुल्क या ड्यूटी और जुर्माना विवाद में है या जुर्माना जहां इस तरह की दंड विवाद में है और अपील के साथ इस तरह के भुगतान का प्रमाण पेश करने में असफल रहने पर सीमा शुल्क अधिनियम, 1962 की धारा 129 के प्रावधानों का अनुपालन नहीं करने के लिए अपील को खारिज कर दिया जायेगा।		

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**Brief facts of the case:**

Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar (hereinafter referred to as the said “passenger/Noticee”), residing at Kurnwadi, Varkute Malwadi, Satara, Pin: 415509, Maharashtra, India, holding an Indian Passport Number No.B7752392 arrived from Thai Airways Flight No. TG-343 Seat No. 45K from Bangkok to Ahmedabad at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA), Terminal-2, Ahmedabad. On the basis of specific input the passenger who arrived at Terminal 2 of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPI), Ahmedabad, was intercepted by the DRI/Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) officers, SVPI Airport, Customs, Ahmedabad, under Panchnama proceedings dated 19-20.04.2024 in presence of two independent witnesses for passenger’s personal search and examination of his baggages.

**02.** The AIU Officers identified Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar by his passport No. B7752392 and his boarding pass bearing Seat No. 45K, after he had crossed the Green Channel at the SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad. In the presence of the panchas, the AIU Officers asked Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar if he has anything to declare to the Customs, to which he denied. The officers offered their personal search to the passenger, but the passenger politely denied and submitted that he is having full trust on the officers. The AIU officer informed the passenger that he along with accompanied officers would be conducting his personal search and detailed examination of his baggage. The AIU officer asked the passenger to walk through the Door Frame Metal Detector (DFMD) machine; prior to passing through the said DFMD, the passenger was asked to remove all the metallic objects he is wearing on his body/clothes. The passenger, readily removed the metallic substances from his body/clothes such as mobile, purse etc. and keeps it on the tray placed on the table. Further, the AIU Officer asked him to pass through the Door Frame Metal Detector (DFMD) machine and while he passes through the DFMD Machine, no beep sound was heard indicating that nothing dutiable/objectionable/metallic substance on his body/clothes is there. Thereafter the AIU officers scan all the baggage in the X-ray machine but nothing suspicious is observed by the AIU officers. Thereafter, the said passenger, the

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Panchas and the officers of AIU move to the AIU Office located opposite Belt No.2 of the Arrival Hall, Terminal-2, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad.

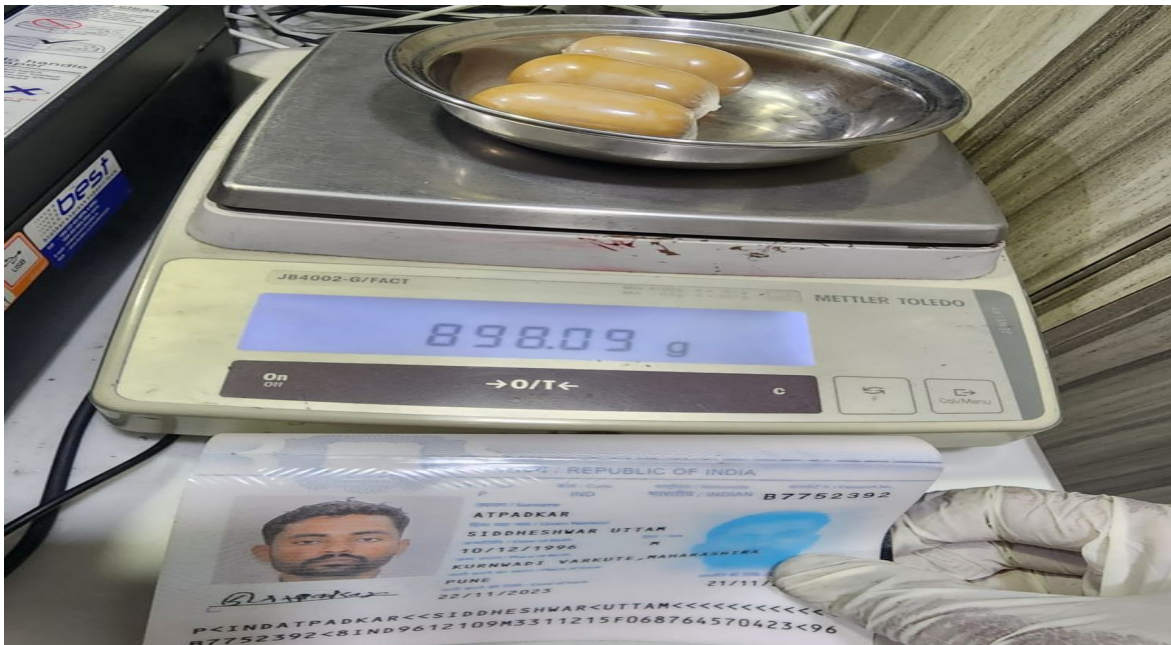
**03.** The Officers, in presence of the panchas, asked the passenger whether he has concealed any substance in his body, to which he replied in negative. After thorough interrogation by the officers, in presence of the panchas, the passenger did not confess that he is carrying any high valued dutiable goods. Then, the Customs officers seated him in the office and the officers offered the said passenger water and tea. Thereafter, the officers informed the panchas that they have reasonable belief that the said passenger carried some high valued dutiable goods by way of concealed in his body parts and once again the said passenger was asked whether he concealed any high valued dutiable goods in his body parts. Further, on sustained interrogation, the passenger confessed that he is carrying high valued dutiable goods viz. 3 capsules covered with white tape (total **898.090 grams**) of gold paste. The passenger was taken to the washroom opposite belt no.1 of the Arrival hall, Terminal 2 by the Officer, where he took out all the 3 capsules covered with white tape and handed over to the Customs officers.

**04.** The officer then informed the panchas that they need to contact Shri Soni Kartikey Vasantrai, a Government Approved Valuer so as to confirm the contents of the gold paste covered with White tape . Accordingly, the officers telephonically contacted Shri Soni Kartikey Vasantrai and requested him to come to the office of the Air Intelligence Unit, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad for testing and valuation purpose. In reply, the Government Approved Valuer informed the officers that the testing of the material is possible only at his workshop as gold has to be extracted from semi-solid paste form by melting it and also informs the address of his workshop.

**05.** Thereafter, the AIU Officers, along with the passenger and the panchas left the Airport premises in a government vehicle and reached at the premises of the Government Approved Valuer located at 301, Golden Signature, B/h Ratnam Complex, C.G.Road, Ahmedabad-380006. On reaching the above referred premises, the officers introduced the panchas, as well as the passenger to one person namely Mr. Soni Kartikey Vasantrai, Government Approved Valuer. Mr. Soni Kartikey Vasantrai, asked the officers in presence of panchas that he would do the examination of the gold paste covered with with white tape. The valuer

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started the detailed examination of the gold paste that was recovered from Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar . After weighing the said capsules of gold paste on his weighing scale, Shri. Soni provided detailed primary verification report of semi solid substance and informed that the weight of the semi solid substance mixture of gold paste and chemicals covered with white tape has a Gross weight of **898.090 grams**. The photograph of the same is as:-



**06.** Thereafter, the Government approved valuer led the Officers, panchas and the passenger to the furnace, which is located inside his business premises. Then, Mr. Kartikey Vasantrai Soni started the process of converting the semi solid material concealed in a packet covered with white tape into solid gold. The covering of the packets was removed and semi solid substance consisting of Gold and Chemical mix was obtained which was put into the furnace and upon heating, the semi solid substance turned into mixture of gold like material weighing **789.830 grams**. The photograph of the same is as:

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**07.** The said substance consisting of gold was tested by the valuer for the gold component by putting in the furnace, heated and taken out of furnace, and poured in a bar shaped plate and after cooling for some time, it became yellow coloured solid metal in form of a bar. After completion of the procedure, Government Approved Valuer informed that 01 Gold bar weighing 789.830 grams having purity 999.0/24 Kt. derived from 898.090 grams paste found in 3 capsules wrapped in the white tape. After testing the said derived bar, the Government Approved Valuer confirmed that it is pure gold and Shri Soni Kartikey Vasantrai issued a Certificate, vide Certificate No.75/2024-25 dated 20.04.2024, wherein it is certified that the gold bar is having purity 999.0/24kt, weighing 789.830 grams having Market Value of Rs.60,10,606/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Ten Thousand Six Hundred Six only) and having tariff value of Rs. 51,52,946/- (Fifty One lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six only). The value of the gold bar has been calculated as per the Notification No.29/2024-Customs (N.T.) dated 15.04.2024 (gold) and Notification No. 30/2024-Customs (N.T.) dated 18.04.2024 (exchange rate).

**08.** Then, the Officers, panchas and the passenger came back to the SVPI Airport in a Government Vehicle, after the proceedings of the extraction of gold at the workshop, along with the extracted gold bar on 20.04.2024. Thereafter, the officers in the presence of the panchas asked the passenger, Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar, to produce the documents in his possession and he produced the below mentioned documents:

1. Copy of Stamped pages of Passport No.B7752392 issued at Pune on 22.11.2023 valid up to 21.11.2033.

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2. Boarding pass of Thai Airlines Flight No.TG343 from Bangkok to Ahmedabad dated 19.04.2024 having seat No.45K.

3. Copy of Adhar Card.

The officers in presence of panchas and passenger carried out scrutiny of the documents of the passenger, and found that Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar, aged 28 years (DOB-10.12.1996) More, holding Indian Passport No.B7752392 issued on 22.11.2023 and his address as per Passport is Kurnwadi, Varkute Malwadi, Satara, Maharashtra, India.

**09.** The copies of travelling documents and identity proof documents mentioned above taken into possession by the Customs officers for further investigation and the panchas as well as the passenger put their dated signatures on copies of all the above-mentioned travelling documents and the passenger manifest, as a token of having seen and agreed to the same.

**10.** The AIU Officers informed the panchas as well as the passenger, that the recovered 01 gold bars is of 24Kt. with purity 999.0 total weighing 789.830 grams having Market Value of Rs.60,10,606/-(Rupees Sixty Lakhs Ten Thousand Six Hundred Six only) and having tariff value of Rs. 51,52,946/- (Fifty One lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six only). The said passenger had attempted to smuggle gold into India with an intent to evade payment of Customs duty which is a clear violation of the provisions of Customs Act, 1962. Thus, the officers informed that they have a reasonable belief that the aforesaid Gold attempted to be smuggled by the passenger was liable for confiscation as per the provisions of Customs Act, 1962, hence the aforesaid Gold was placed under seizure, vide Seizure Memo dated 20.04.2024, under Section 110 (1) & (3) of the Customs Act, 1962.

**11.** A Statement of Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar , Kurnwadi, Varkute Malwadi, Satara, Pin: 415509, Maharashtra, India, holding an Indian Passport Number B7752392 was recorded under Section 108 of the Customs Act, 1962 before the Superintendent (AIU), Customs, SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad on 20.04.2024, wherein he explained as under:

- i. That the name, age and address stated above are true and correct. He is engaged in trading of clothes and can understand Hindi and Marathi very well.
- ii. That there are 5 members in my family comprising of his parents, two brothers and that he is unmarried. His father is a farmer by



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profession and that he and his father are the earning members of the family.

- iii. That he is Graduate in Psychology.
- iv. That his monthly income is Rs.10,000/- approx
- v. That he is also engaged in dairy related work at home with 02 Cows. That this is his Second visit abroad i.e. Bangkok. That he came in contact with a person at his native who suggested him to work as carrier of Gold from Bangkok. That his Passport has been issued on 22.11.2023 and valid upto 21.11.2033. Thereafter, he planned to visit Thailand that is Bangkok on 17.04.2024 and boarded flight of Thai Airways from Mumbai and reached Bangkok on 13.04.2024 itself. On reaching Bangkok, in a hotel in Bangkok on 19.04.2024 an unknown person to him came and handed over three capsules containing chemical mix gold in paste form covered in white coloured rubber. The unknown person explained him the process of inserting the capsules in rectum and accordingly he inserted three capsules given to him in his body i.e. in rectum. He was told that a person would contact him at the SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad on my arrival. He also stated that he was not given any contact details of the person who would contact him at the Airport, in Ahmedabad. He was also told that in lieu carrying the Gold capsules in rectum he will be paid a sum of Rs.20,000/- per trip. His flight tickets from Mumbai to Bangkok and from Bangkok to Ahmedabad were booked by someone who is not known to him, Accordingly, he took flight from Bangkok to Ahmedabad in Flight No. TG 343 of Thai Airlines on 19.04.2024. He also stated that this is his first attempt of smuggling of Gold capsules in the form of Gold paste by way of concealment in rectum
- vi. That the Gold was required to be delivered at Ahmedabad and accordingly the broker has booked my ticket for Ahmedabad from Bangkok
- vii. That probably that unknown person who had handed over the gold paste mixed with chemicals at Bangkok to him had purchased the Gold paste in the form of Gold Capsules hence he does not have any purchase bill. He also states that no purchase bill was handed over to him at Bangkok by the owner of the Gold capsules.

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- viii. That he does not have any property anywhere in India. Also that he does not have any bank account in his name or in his family members name.
- ix. That in greed of earning quick money he opted this illegal smuggling of Gold by way of concealment in the rectum though he was fully aware that smuggling of gold without payment of Custom duty is an offence. He was in possession of the Gold paste in the form of Gold capsules concealed in rectum but did not make any declarations in this regard to evade the Custom duty. That he opted for green channel so that I can smuggle the gold without paying custom duty
- x. That he is aware that bringing dutiable/prohibited/restricted goods without declaration and without payment of duty is an offence but not much in detail.

**12.** The above said gold bar with a net weight of 789.830 grams having Market Value of Rs.60,10,606/-(Rupees Sixty Lakhs Ten Thousand Six Hundred Six only) and having tariff value of Rs. 51,52,946/- (Fifty-One lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six only) recovered from the said passenger which were attempted to be smuggled into India with an intent to evade payment of Customs duty by concealing gold wrapped in White tape containing gold in semi solid paste form in his rectum, was in clear violation of the provisions of Customs Act, 1962. Thus, on a reasonable belief that the Gold bar totally weighing 789.830 Grams which were attempted to be smuggled by Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar , are liable for confiscation under the provisions of Section 111 of the Customs Act, 1962. Hence, the above said gold bar weighing 789.830 grams was placed under seizure under the provision of Section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962, vide Seizure Memo Order dated 20.04.2024, issued from F.No.VIII/10-12/AIU/A/2024-25, under Section 110 (1) & (3) of Customs Act, 1962.

**13.** In terms of Board's Circulars No. 28/2015-Customs issued from F.No.394/68/2013-Cus (AS) dtd. 23/10/2015 and 27/2015-Cus issued from F.No. 394/68/2013-Cus.(AS) dtd. 23/10/2015 the prosecution and the decision to arrest may be considered in cases involving outright smuggling of high value goods such as precious metal, restricted items or prohibited items where the value of the goods involved is Rs.50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) or more. Since the Market value of gold items weighing 789.830 grams, was more than Rs.50,00,000/-, in this case, the said passenger **Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar**, was arrested under



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Section 104 of the Customs Act, 1962, vide Arrest Memo issued vide F.No.GEN/INV/SMLG/GOLD/175/2024-AIU SVPI AIRPT.

**14.** The provisions of Section 104 (6) & (7) of the Customs Act, 1962 is reproduced as under:-

*“(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of [(6) Criminal Procedure, 1973, (2 of 1974) an offence punishable under section 135 relating to —*

- (a) evasion or attempted evasion of duty exceeding fifty lakh rupees; or*
- (b) prohibited goods notified under section 11 which are also notified under sub-clause (C) of clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 135; or*
- (c) import or export of any goods which have not been declared in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the market price of which exceeds one crore rupees; or*
- (d) Fraudulently availing of or attempt to avail of drawback or any exemption from duty provided under this Act, if the amount of drawback or exemption from duty exceeds fifty lakh rupees, shall be non-bailable.*

*(7) Save as otherwise provided in sub-section (6), all other offences under this Act shall be bailable.]”*

From the above, it is clear that cases other than those mentioned in 104 (6) are bailable offences. In the instant case the value of the concealed Gold smuggled by **Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar**, totally weighing 789.830 grams market value of Rs. 60,10,606/- which is more than Rs.50,00,000/-. Therefore, the offence committed by the above passenger is bailable offence.

**15.** Further, in terms of para 3.2 of Circular No.38/2013-Cus dtd.17/9/2013, a Customs officer (arresting officer) is bound to release a person on bail for offences categorized as bailable under the Customs Act, 1962. Thus, release on bail is required to be offered to a person arrested in respect of bailable offence and bail bond accepted for bailable offence. The passenger was granted bail vide Bail Bond of Rs.79000/- (Rupees Seventy Nine Thousand) issued vide F.No.GEN/INV/SMLG/GOLD/175/2024-AIU SVPI AIRPT dated 21.04.2024.

## 16. **RELEVANT LEGAL PROVISIONS:**

### **A. THE CUSTOMS ACT, 1962:**

**I) Section 2 - Definitions.**—*In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—*

(22) “goods” includes—

- (a) vessels, aircrafts and vehicles;
- (b) stores;
- (c) baggage;
- (d) currency and negotiable instruments; and
- (d) any other kind of movable property;

(3) “baggage” includes unaccompanied baggage but does not include motor vehicles;

(33) “prohibited goods” means any goods the import or export of which is subject to any prohibition under this Act or any other law for the time being in force but does not include any such goods in respect of which the conditions subject to which the goods are permitted to be imported or exported have been complied with;

(39) “smuggling”, in relation to any goods, means any act or omission which will render such goods liable to confiscation under section 111 or section 113;”

**II) Section 11A – Definitions** -*In this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires,*

(a) “illegal import” means the import of any goods in contravention of the provisions of this Act or any other law for the time being in force;”

**III) “Section 77 – Declaration by owner of baggage.**—*The owner of any baggage shall, for the purpose of clearing it, make a declaration of its contents to the proper officer.”*

**IV) “Section 110 – Seizure of goods, documents and things.**—(1) *If the proper officer has reason to believe that any goods are liable to confiscation under this Act, he may seize such goods:”*

**V) “Section 111 – Confiscation of improperly imported goods, etc.**—*The following goods brought from a place outside India shall be liable to confiscation:-*

(d) *any goods which are imported or attempted to be imported or are brought within the Indian customs waters for the purpose of being imported, contrary to any prohibition imposed by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force;*

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- (f) *any dutiable or prohibited goods required to be mentioned under the regulations in an arrival manifest or import manifest or import report which are not so mentioned;*
- (i) *any dutiable or prohibited goods found concealed in any manner in any package either before or after the unloading thereof;*
- (j) *any dutiable or prohibited goods removed or attempted to be removed from a customs area or a warehouse without the permission of the proper officer or contrary to the terms of such permission;*
- (l) *any dutiable or prohibited goods which are not included or are in excess of those included in the entry made under this Act, or in the case of baggage in the declaration made under section 77;*
- (m) *any goods which do not correspond in respect of value or in any other particular with the entry made under this Act or in the case of baggage with the declaration made under section 77 in respect thereof, or in the case of goods under transshipment, with the declaration for transshipment referred to in the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 54;”*

**VI) “Section 112 – Penalty for improper importation of goods, etc.–**  
*Any person,-*

- (a) *who, in relation to any goods, does or omits to do any act which act or omission would render such goods liable to confiscation under Section 111, or abets the doing or omission of such an act, or*
- (b) *who acquires possession of or is in any way concerned in carrying, removing, depositing, harboring, keeping, concealing, selling or purchasing or in any manner dealing with any goods which he know or has reason to believe are liable to confiscation under Section 111,*  
*shall be liable to penalty.*

**B. THE FOREIGN TRADE (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1992;**

**I) “Section 3(2) -** *The Central Government may also, by Order published in the Official Gazette, make provision for prohibiting, restricting or otherwise regulating, in all cases or in specified classes of cases and subject to such exceptions, if any, as may be made by or under the Order, the import or export of goods or services or technology.”*

**II) “Section 3(3) -** *All goods to which any Order under sub-section (2) applies shall be deemed to be goods the import or export of which has been prohibited under section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) and all the provisions of that Act shall have effect accordingly.”*

**III) “Section 11(1) -** *No export or import shall be made by any person except in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the rules and orders made thereunder and the foreign trade policy for the time being in force.”*

**C. THE CUSTOMS BAGGAGE DECLARATIONS REGULATIONS, 2013:**

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**I) Regulation 3 (as amended)** - *All passengers who come to India and having anything to declare or are carrying dutiable or prohibited goods shall declare their accompanied baggage in the prescribed form.*

**Contravention and violation of laws:**

**17.** It therefore appears that:

- (a) The passenger Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar had dealt with and actively indulged himself in the instant case of smuggling of gold into India. The passenger had improperly imported gold bar weighing 789.830 grams having Market Value of Rs.60,10,606/-(Rupees Sixty Lakhs Ten Thousand Six Hundred Six only) and having tariff value of Rs. 51,52,946/- (Fifty One lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six only) by concealing the same. The said gold was concealed in in his rectum in 3 capsules wrapped in white tape in semi solid paste form and was not declared to the Customs. The passenger opted green channel to exit the Airport with deliberate intention to evade the payment of Customs Duty and fraudulently circumventing the restrictions and prohibitions imposed under the Customs Act, 1962 and other allied Acts, Rules and Regulations. Therefore, the improperly imported gold bar weighing 789.830 Grams of gold bar of purity 999.0/24 Kt., by the passenger, by way of concealment in 3 capsules wrapped in white tape containing gold in semi solid paste form in his rectum, without declaring it to the Customs on arrival in India cannot be treated as bonafide household goods or personal effects. The passenger has thus contravened the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 and Section 11(1) of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.
- (b) By not declaring the value, quantity and description of the goods imported by him, the said passenger violated the provision of Baggage Rules, 2016, read with the Section 77 of the Customs Act, 1962 read with Regulation 3 of Customs Baggage Declaration Regulations, 2013.
- (c) The improperly imported gold bar by the passenger, Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar , in 3 capsules wrapped in white tape, found concealed in his rectum, in form of semi solid paste

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without declaring it to the Customs is thus liable for confiscation under Section 111(d), 111(f), 111(i), 111(j), 111(l) and 111(m) read with Section 2 (22), (33), (39) of the Customs Act, 1962 and further read in conjunction with Section 11(3) of Customs Act, 1962.

- (d)** Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar , by his above-described acts of omission and commission on his part has rendered himself liable to penalty under Section 112 of the Customs Act, 1962.
- (e)** As per Section 123 of Customs Act 1962, the burden of proving that the gold bar weighing 789.830 grams having Market Value of Rs.60,10,606/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Ten Thousand Six Hundred Six only) and having tariff value of Rs. 51,52,946/- (Fifty One lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six only) which was concealed in 3 capsules wrapped in white tape containing gold in semi solid paste form in his rectum by the passenger, without declaring it to the Customs, are not smuggled goods, is upon the passenger and noticee, Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar .

**18.** Accordingly, a Show Cause Notice was issued to, Shri. Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar, residing at Kurnwadi, Varkute Malwadi, Satara, Pin: 415509, Maharashtra, India, holding an Indian Passport Number No. B7752392, calling upon him to show cause in writing to the Additional Commissioner of Customs, having his Office located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 'Custom House' Building, Near All India Radio, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380 009, as to why: -

- (i)** The One Gold Bars total weighing 789.830 grams (derived from 898.090 Gram semi solid gold paste) having purity 999.0/24 Kt. and having Market Value of Rs.60,10,606/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Ten Thousand Six Hundred Six only) and having tariff value of Rs. 51,52,946/- (Fifty One lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six only) which was concealed in 03 capsules wrapped in White tape containing gold in semi solid paste form in his rectum placed under seizure under panchnama proceedings dated 20.04.2024 and Seizure Memo Order dated 20.04.2024, should not be confiscated under the provision of Section 111(d), 111(f), 111(i), 111(j), 111(l) and 111(m) of the Customs Act, 1962;

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- (ii) Penalty should not be imposed upon the passenger, under Section 112 of the Customs Act, 1962, for the omissions and commissions mentioned hereinabove.

**Defense reply and record of personal hearing:**

**19.** The noticee has not submitted any written submission to the Show Cause Notice issued to him.

**20.** The noticee was given opportunity for personal hearing on 07.02.2025, 18.02.2025 & 28.02.2025 but he failed to appear and represent his case. In the instant case, the noticee has been granted sufficient opportunity of being heard in person for three times but he failed to appear. In view of above, it is obvious that the Noticee is not bothered about the ongoing adjudication proceedings and he do not have anything to say in his defense. I am of the opinion that sufficient opportunities have been offered to the Noticee in keeping with the principle of natural justice and there is no prudence in keeping the matter in abeyance indefinitely.

**20.1** Before, proceeding further, I would like to mention that Hon'ble Supreme Court, High Courts and Tribunals have held, in several judgments/decision, that ex-parte decision will not amount to violation of principles of Natural Justice.

In support of the same, I rely upon some the relevant judgments/orders which are as under-

**a)** The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of JETHMAL Versus UNION OF INDIA reported in 1999 (110) E.L.T. 379 (S.C.), the Hon'ble Court has observed as under;

*"7. Our attention was also drawn to a recent decision of this Court in A.K. Kripak v. Union of India - 1969 (2) SCC 340, where some of the rules of natural justice were formulated in Paragraph 20 of the judgment. One of these is the well known principle of audi alteram partem and it was argued that an ex parte hearing without notice violated this rule. In our opinion this rule can have no application to the facts of this case where the appellant was asked not only to send a written reply but to inform the Collector whether he wished to be heard in person or through a representative. If no reply was given or no intimation was sent to the Collector that a personal hearing was desired, the Collector would be justified in thinking that the persons notified did not desire to appear before him when the case was to be considered and could not be blamed*

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*if he were to proceed on the material before him on the basis of the allegations in the show cause notice. Clearly he could not compel appearance before him and giving a further notice in a case like this that the matter would be dealt with on a certain day would be an ideal formality.”*

**b).** Hon’ble High Court of Kerala in the case of UNITED OIL MILLS Vs. COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS & C. EX., COCHIN reported in 2000 (124) E.L.T. 53 (Ker.), the Hon’ble Court has observed that;

*Natural justice - Petitioner given full opportunity before Collector to produce all evidence on which he intends to rely but petitioner not prayed for any opportunity to adduce further evidence - Principles of natural justice not violated.*

**c)** Hon’ble High Court of Calcutta in the case of KUMAR JAGDISH CH. SINHA Vs. COLLECTOR OF CENTRAL EXCISE, CALCUTTA reported in 2000 (124) E.L.T. 118 (Cal.) in Civil Rule No. 128 (W) of 1961, decided on 13-9-1963, the Hon’ble court has observed that;

*Natural justice - Show cause notice - Hearing - Demand - Principles of natural justice not violated when, before making the levy under Rule 9 of Central Excise Rules, 1944, the Noticee was issued a show cause notice, his reply considered, and he was also given a personal hearing in support of his reply - Section 33 of Central Excises & Salt Act, 1944. - It has been established both in England and in India [vide N.P.T. Co. v. N.S.T. Co. (1957) S.C.R. 98 (106)], that there is no universal code of natural justice and that the nature of hearing required would depend, inter alia, upon the provisions of the statute and the rules made there under which govern the constitution of a particular body. It has also been established that where the relevant statute is silent, what is required is a minimal level of hearing, namely, that the statutory authority must ‘act in good faith and fairly listen to both sides’ [Board of Education v. Rice, (1911) A.C. 179] and, “deal with the question referred to them without bias, and give to each of the parties the opportunity of adequately presenting the case” [Local Govt. Board v. Arlidge, (1915) A.C. 120 (132)]. [para 16]*

**d)** Hon’ble High Court of Delhi in the case of SAKETH INDIA LIMITED Vs. UNION OF INDIA reported in 2002 (143) E.L.T. 274 (Del.). The Hon’ble Court has observed that:



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*Natural justice - Ex parte order by DGFT - EXIM Policy - Proper opportunity given to appellant to reply to show cause notice issued by Addl. DGFT and to make oral submissions, if any, but opportunity not availed by appellant - Principles of natural justice not violated by Additional DGFT in passing ex parte order - Para 2.8(c) of Export-Import Policy 1992-97 - Section 5 of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.*

e) The Hon'ble CESTAT, Mumbai in the case of GOPINATH CHEM TECH. LTD Vs. COMMISSIONER OF CENTRAL EXCISE, AHMEDABAD-II reported in 2004 (171) E.L.T. 412 (Tri. - Mumbai), the Hon'ble CESTAT has observed that;

*Natural justice - Personal hearing fixed by lower authorities but not attended by appellant and reasons for not attending also not explained - Appellant cannot now demand another hearing - Principles of natural justice not violated. [para 5]*

f). The Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand in W.P.(T) No. 1617 of 2023 in case of Rajeev Kumar Vs. The Principal Commissioner of Central Goods and Service Tax & The Additional Commissioner of Central GST & CX, 5A Central Revenue Building, Main Road, Ranchi pronounced on 12.09.2023 wherein Hon'ble Court has held that

*"Accordingly, we are of the considered opinion that no error has been committed by the adjudicating authority in passing the impugned Order-in-Original, inasmuch as, enough opportunities were provided to the petitioner by issuing SCN and also fixing date of personal hearing for four times; but the petitioner did not respond to either of them.*

*8. Having regard to the aforesaid discussions and admitted position with regard to non-submission of reply to the SCN, we failed to appreciate the contention of the petitioner that principle of natural justice has not been complied in the instant case. Since there is efficacious alternative remedy provided in the Act itself, we hold that the instant writ application is not maintainable.*

*9. As a result, the instant application stands dismissed. Pending I.A., if any, is also closed."*

## **Discussion and Findings:**

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**21.** I have carefully gone through the facts of the case. Though, sufficient opportunity for filing reply and personal hearing had been given, the Noticee has not come forward to file his reply/ submissions or to appear for the personal hearing opportunities offered to him. The adjudication proceedings cannot wait until the Noticee makes it convenient to file his submissions and appear for the personal hearing. I, therefore, take up the case for adjudication ex-parte, on the basis of evidences available on record.

**22.**In the instant case, I find that the main issue to be decided is whether the **789.830** grams of gold bar, derived from semi solid gold paste in 03 Capsules containing gold and chemical mix in semi-solid paste concealed in rectum having **tariff value of Rs.51,52,946/- (Rupees Fifty One lakhs Fifty Two thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Six Only)** and Market Value of **Rs.60,10,606/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Ten thousand Six Hundred Six Only)**, seized vide Seizure Memo/ Order under Panchnama proceedings both dated 20.04.2024 , on a reasonable belief that the same is liable for confiscation under Section 111 of the Customs Act, 1962 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') or not; and whether the noticee is liable for penal action under the provisions of Section 112 of the Act.

**23.** I find that the panchnama dated 20.04.2024 clearly draws out the fact that the noticee, who arrived from Bangkok in Thai Airways Flight No. TG343 was intercepted by the DRI & Air Intelligent Unit (AIU) officers, SVP International Airport, Customs, Ahmedabad on the basis of specific Intelligence, when he was trying to exit through green channel of the Arrival Hall of Terminal 2 of SVPI Airport, without making any declaration to the Customs. While the noticee passed through the Door Frame Metal Detector (DFMD) Machine no beep sound was heard which indicated there was no objectionable/dutiable substance on his body/clothes. The officers again asked the said passenger if he is having anything dutiable which is required to be declared to the Customs to which the noticee denied. After thorough interrogation by the officers, Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar confessed that he was carrying 03 Capsules each covered with White tape containing gold paste and chemical mix in semi-solid paste form, inside his rectum. The noticee handed over the 03 Capsules containing gold paste covered with White tape after returned from washroom. It is on record that the noticee had admitted that he was carrying the capsules containing gold in paste form concealed in his rectum, with intent to smuggle into India without declaring before Customs Officers. It is also on record that Government approved Valuer had tested and converted said capsules in Gold Bar with certification that the gold was of 24 kt and 999.0 purity, weighing 789.830 Grams. The Tariff Value of said gold

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bar weighing 789.830 grams having purity 999.0/24 Kt. derived from 898.090 grams of 03 Capsules containing semi solid paste consisting of gold and chemical mix concealed in rectum, having Tariff value of Rs. **51,52,946/-** and market Value of **Rs. 60,10,606/-** which was placed under seizure under Panchnama dated 20.04.2024, in the presence of the noticee and independent panch witnesses.

**24.** I also find that the passenger/noticee had neither questioned the manner of the panchnama proceedings at the material time nor controverted the facts detailed in the panchnama during the course of recording of his statement. Every procedure conducted during the panchnama by the Officers, was well documented and made in the presence of the panchas as well as the passenger/noticee. In fact, in his statement dated 20.04.2024, he has clearly admitted that he had travelled from Bangkok to Ahmedabad by Flight No. TG343 dated 19.04.2024 carrying gold paste in form of capsule concealed in his rectum; that he had intentionally not declared the substance containing foreign origin gold before the Customs authorities as he wanted to clear the same illicitly and evade payment of customs duty; that he was aware that smuggling of gold without payment of customs duty is an offence under the Customs law and thereby, violated provisions of Customs Act and the Baggage Rules, 2016. In his statement, he submitted that he went Bangkok to carry the gold and the gold was not purchased by him and was given by some unknown person to carry the same to India and for that he would receive Rs. 20,000/-.

**25.** I find that the noticee has clearly accepted that he had not declared the gold in paste form concealed in his rectum, to the Customs authorities. It is clear case of non-declaration with intent to smuggle the gold. Accordingly, there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the passenger had failed to declare the foreign origin gold before the Customs Authorities on his arrival at SVP International Airport, Ahmedabad. In the statement, he admitted that the gold was not purchased by him and some unknown person gave him the said gold in form of capsules at Bangkok and for carrying the said gold to India, will get an amount of Rs.20,000/-. I find that the noticee had gave his statement voluntarily under Section 108 of Customs Act, 1962. Therefore, it is a case of smuggling of gold without declaring in the aforesaid manner with intent to evade payment of Customs duty is conclusively proved. Thus, it is proved that passenger violated Section 77, Section 79 of the Customs Act for import/smuggling of gold which was not for bonafide use and thereby violated Rule 11 of the Foreign Trade Regulation Rules 1993, and para 2.26 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20. Further as per Section 123 of the Customs Act, 1962, gold is a notified item and when goods notified thereunder are seized under

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the Customs Act, 1962, on the reasonable belief that they are smuggled goods, the burden to prove that they are not smuggled, shall be on the person from whose possession the goods have been seized.

**26.** From the facts discussed above, it is evident that the passenger/noticee had brought gold of 24 kt having 999.0 purity weighing 789.830 gms., retrieved from the gold paste in form of capsules concealed by the noticee in his rectum, while arriving from Bangkok to Ahmedabad, with an intention to smuggle and remove the same without payment of Customs duty, thereby rendering the gold weighing 789.830 gms, seized under panchnama dated 20.04.2024 liable for confiscation, under the provisions of Sections 111(d), 111(f), 111(i), 111(j), 111(l) and 111(m) of the Customs Act, 1962. By secreting the gold in form of capsules having gold and chemical mix concealed in his rectum and not declaring the same before the Customs, it is established that the passenger/noticee had a clear intention to smuggle the gold clandestinely with the deliberate intention to evade payment of customs duty. The commission of above act made the impugned goods fall within the ambit of 'smuggling' as defined under Section 2(39) of the Act.

**27.** It is seen that for the purpose of customs clearance of arriving passengers, a two-channel system is adopted i.e Green Channel for passengers not having dutiable goods and Red Channel for passengers having dutiable goods and all passengers have to ensure to file correct declaration of their baggage. I find that the Noticee had not filed the baggage declaration form and had not declared the said gold which was in his possession, as envisaged under Section 77 of the Act read with the Baggage Rules and Regulation 3 of Customs Baggage Declaration Regulations, 2013 as amended and he was tried to exit through Green Channel which shows that the noticee was trying to evade the payment of eligible customs duty. I also find that the definition of "eligible passenger" is provided under Notification No. 50/2017- Customs New Delhi, the 30th June, 2017 wherein it is mentioned as - "eligible passenger" means a passenger of Indian origin or a passenger holding a valid passport, issued under the Passports Act, 1967 (15 of 1967), who is coming to India after a period of not less than six months of stay abroad; and short visits, if any, made by the eligible passenger during the aforesaid period of six months shall be ignored if the total duration of stay on such visits does not exceed thirty days. I find that the noticee has not declared the gold before customs authority. It is also observed that the imports were also for non-bonafide purposes. Therefore, the said improperly imported gold weighing 789.830 grams concealed by him, without declaring to the Customs on arrival in India cannot be

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treated as bonafide household goods or personal effects. The noticee has thus contravened the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 and Section 11(1) of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

**28.** It, is therefore, proved that by the above acts of contravention, the passenger/noticee has rendered gold of 24 kt having 999.0 purity weighing 789.830 gms., retrieved from gold paste concealed in rectum in form of capsules, having total Tariff Value of Rs.51,52,946/- and market Value of Rs.60,10,606/-, seized vide Seizure Memo/Order under the Panchnama proceedings both dated 20.04.2024 liable to confiscation under the provisions of Sections 111(d), 111(f), 111(i), 111(j), 111(l) and 111(m) of the Customs Act, 1962. By using the modus of concealing the gold in rectum and without declaring to the Customs on arrival in India, it is observed that the passenger/noticee was fully aware that the import of said goods is offending in nature. It is therefore very clear that he has knowingly carried the gold and failed to declare the same to the Customs on his arrival at the Airport. It is seen that he has involved himself in carrying, keeping, concealing and dealing with the impugned goods in a manner which he knew or had reasons to believe that the same were liable to confiscation under the Act. It, is therefore, proved beyond doubt that the passenger has committed an offence of the nature described in Section 112 of Customs Act, 1962 making him liable for penalty under Section 112 of the Customs Act, 1962.

**29.** I find that the passenger/noticee has confessed of carrying gold of 24 kt having 999.0 purity, weighing 789.830 grams and attempted to remove the said gold by concealing the gold in his rectum and attempted to remove the said gold from the Customs Airport without declaring it to the Customs Authorities violating the para 2.26 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 and Section 11(1) of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 read with Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 further read in conjunction with Section 11(3) of Customs Act, 1962 and the relevant provisions of Baggage Rules, 2016 and Customs Baggage Declaration Regulations, 2013. As per Section 2(33) "prohibited goods" means any goods the import or export of which is subject to any prohibition under this Act or any other law for the time being in force but does not include any such goods in respect of which the conditions subject to which the goods are permitted to be imported or exported have been complied with. The improperly imported gold by the passenger without following the due process of law and without adhering to the conditions and

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procedures of import have thus acquired the nature of being prohibited goods in view of Section 2(33) of the Act.

**30.** It is quite clear from the above discussions that the gold was concealed and not declared to the Customs with the sole intention to evade payment of Customs duty. The records before me shows that the passenger/noticee did not choose to declare the prohibited/dutiable goods and opted for green channel customs clearance after arriving from foreign destination with the willful intention to smuggle the impugned goods. One Gold Bar weighing 789.830 grams of 24Kt./ 999.0 purity, having total Market Value of the recovered gold bar Rs.60,10,606/- and Tariff Value Rs.51,52,946/- retrieved from the gold paste concealed in rectum, were placed under seizure vide panchnama dated 20.04.2024. The passenger/noticee has clearly admitted that despite having knowledge that the goods had to be declared and such import is an offence under the Act and Rules and Regulations made thereunder, he attempted to remove the gold by concealing in the rectum and by deliberately not declaring the same on his arrival at airport with the willful intention to smuggle the impugned gold into India. I therefore, find that the passenger/noticee has committed an offence of the nature described in Section 112(a) of Customs Act, 1962 making him liable for penalty under provisions of Section 112 of the Customs Act, 1962.

**31.** I further find that gold is not on the list of prohibited items but import of the same is controlled. The view taken by the **Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Om Prakash Bhatia** however in very clear terms lay down the principle that if importation and exportation of goods are subject to certain prescribed conditions, which are to be fulfilled before or after clearance of goods, non-fulfillment of such conditions would make the goods fall within the ambit of 'prohibited goods'. This makes the gold seized in the present case "prohibited goods" as the passenger trying to smuggle the same was not eligible passenger to bring or import gold into India in baggage. The gold was recovered in a manner concealed in rectum in form of capsules and kept undeclared with an intention to smuggle the same and evade payment of customs duty. By using this modus, it is proved that the goods are offending in nature and therefore prohibited on its importation. Here, conditions are not fulfilled by the passenger.

**32.** In view of the above discussions, I hold that the gold weighing 789.830 grams of 24Kt./999.0 purity, retrieved from gold and chemical paste concealed in rectum in form of capsules and undeclared by the passenger/noticee with an intention to clear the same illicitly from Customs Airport and to evade payment of

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Customs duty, are liable for absolute confiscation. Further, it becomes very clear that the gold was carried to India by the noticee in concealed manner for extraneous consideration. In the instant case, ***I am therefore, not inclined to use my discretion to give an option to redeem the gold on payment of redemption fine, as envisaged under Section 125 of the Act.***

33. In the case of ***Samynathan Murugesan [ 2009 (247) ELT 21 (Mad)]***, the ***Hon'ble High Court upheld the absolute confiscation, ordered by the adjudicating authority, in similar facts and circumstances. Further, in the said case of smuggling of gold, the High Court of Madras has ruled that as the goods were prohibited and there was concealment, the Commissioner's order for absolute confiscation was upheld.***

34. Further I find that in a case decided by the ***Hon'ble High Court of Madras reported at 2016-TIOL-1664-HC-MAD-CUSin respect of Malabar Diamond Gallery Pvt Ltd***, the Court while holding gold jewellery as prohibited goods under Section 2(33) of the Customs Act, 1962 had recorded that "restriction" also means prohibition. In Para 89 of the order, it was recorded as under;

"89. While considering a prayer for provisional release, pending adjudication, whether all the above can wholly be ignored by the authorities, enjoined with a duty, to enforce the statutory provisions, rules and notifications, in letter and spirit, in consonance with the objects and intention of the Legislature, imposing prohibitions/restrictions under the Customs Act, 1962 or under any other law, for the time being in force, we are of the view that all the authorities are bound to follow the same, wherever, prohibition or restriction is imposed, and when the word, "restriction", also means prohibition, as held by the Hon'ble Apex Court in Om Prakash Bhatia's case (cited supra)."

35. The ***Hon'ble High Court of Madras in the matter of Commissioner of Customs (AIR), Chennai-I Vs. P. Sinnasamy [2016 (344) E.L.T. 1154 (Mad.)]*** has held-

*Tribunal had arrogated powers of adjudicating authority by directing authority to release gold by exercising option in favour of respondent - Tribunal had overlooked categorical finding of adjudicating authority that respondent had deliberately attempted to smuggle 2548.3 grams of gold, by concealing and without declaration of Customs for monetary consideration - Adjudicating authority had given reasons for confiscation of gold while allowing redemption of other goods on payment of fine - Discretion exercised by*



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*authority to deny release, is in accordance with law - Interference by Tribunal is against law and unjustified –*

*Redemption fine - Option - Confiscation of smuggled gold - Redemption cannot be allowed, as a matter of right - Discretion conferred on adjudicating authority to decide - Not open to Tribunal to issue any positive directions to adjudicating authority to exercise option in favour of redemption.*

**36.** In [2019 (370) E.L.T. 1743 (G.O.I.)], before the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, [Department of Revenue - Revisionary Authority]; Ms. Mallika Arya, Additional Secretary in Abdul Kalam Ammangod Kunhamu vide Order No. 17/2019-Cus., dated 7-10-2019 in F. No.375/06/B/2017-RA stated that it is observed that C.B.I. & C. had issued instruction vide Letter F. No. 495/5/92-Cus. VI, dated 10-5-1993 wherein it has been instructed that “in respect of gold seized for non-declaration, no option to redeem the same on redemption fine under Section 125 of the Customs Act, 1962 should be given except in very trivial cases where the adjudicating authority is satisfied that there was no concealment of the gold in question”.

**37.** The Hon’ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of Rameshwar Tiwari Vs. Union of India (2024) 17 Centax 261 (Del.) has held-

*"23. There is no merit in the contention of learned counsel for the Petitioner that he was not aware of the gold. Petitioner was carrying the packet containing gold. The gold items were concealed inside two pieces of Medicine Sachets which were kept inside a Multi coloured zipper jute bag further kept in the Black coloured zipper hand bag that was carried by the Petitioner. The manner of concealing the gold clearly establishes knowledge of the Petitioner that the goods were liable to be confiscated under section 111 of the Act. The Adjudicating Authority has rightly held that the manner of concealment revealed his knowledge about the prohibited nature of the goods and proved his guilt knowledge/mens-rea."*

*24.....*

*25.....*

*"26. The Supreme Court of India in State of Maharashtra v. Natwarlal Damodardas Soni [1980] 4 SCC 669/1983 (13) E.L.T. 1620 (SC)/1979 taxmann.com 58 (SC) **has held that smuggling particularly of gold, into India affects the public economy and financial stability of the country.**"*

**38.** Given the facts of the present case before me and the judgements and rulings cited above, I find that the manner of concealment, in this case clearly shows that the noticee had attempted to smuggle the seized gold to avoid detection by the Customs Authorities. Further, no evidence has been produced to

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prove licit import of the seized gold bars. I find that the gold was not purchased by the noticee and same was admitted in his voluntary statement tendered to Customs Officers. Therefore, the noticee has failed to discharge the burden placed on him in terms of Section 123. Further, from the SCN, Panchnama and Statement, I find that the manner of concealment of the gold is **ingenious** in nature, as the noticee concealed the gold in his rectum with intention to smuggle the same into India and evade payment of customs duty. Therefore, the gold weighing 789.830 grams of 24Kt./999.0 purity in form of gold bar, derived from the gold and chemical paste concealed in rectum in form of capsules is therefore, liable to be **confiscated absolutely. I therefore hold in unequivocal terms that the gold weighing 789.830 grams of 24Kt./999.0 purity, placed under seizure would be liable to absolute confiscation under Section 111(d), 111(f), 111(i), 111(j), 111(l) & 111(m) of the Act.**

39. I further find that the passenger had involved himself in the act of smuggling of gold weighing 789.830 grams of 24Kt./999.0 purity, retrieved from gold and chemical paste concealed in rectum in form of capsules. Further, it is fact that the passenger/noticee has travelled with gold weighing 789.830 grams of 24Kt./999.0 purity, retrieved from paste concealed in his rectum from Bangkok to Ahmedabad despite his knowledge and belief that the gold carried by him is an offence under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and the Regulations made thereunder. Thus, it is clear that the passenger has concerned himself with carrying, removing, keeping, concealing and dealing with the smuggled gold which he knew or had reason to believe that the same are liable for confiscation under Section 111 of the Customs Act, 1962. Therefore, I find that the passenger/noticee is liable for penal action under Sections 112 of the Customs Act, 1962 and I hold accordingly.

40. Accordingly, I pass the following Order:

### **O R D E R**

- i.) I order **absolute confiscation** of the One Gold Bar weighing **789.830 grams** having Market Value at **Rs.60,10,606/-** (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Ten thousand Six Hundred Six only) and Tariff Value is **Rs.51,52,946/-** (Rupees Fifty One lakhs Fifty Two thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Six only) derived from semi solid gold paste in three capsules wrapped in White tape concealed in rectum by the passenger/noticee Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar and placed under seizure under panchnama dated 20.04.2024 and seizure memo order dated 20.04.2024 under Section 111(d), 111(f), 111(i), 111(j), 111(l) & 111(m) of the Customs Act, 1962;

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ii.) I impose a penalty of **Rs. 15,00,000/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only) on Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar under the provisions of Section 112(a)(i) and Section 112(b)(i) of the Customs Act 1962.

**41.** Accordingly, the Show Cause Notice No. VIII/10-215/SVPIA-A/O&A/HQ/24-25 dated 09.09.2024 stands disposed of.

**(Shree Ram Vishnoi)**  
Additional Commissioner  
Customs, Ahmedabad

F. No. VIII/10-215/SVPIA-A/O&A/HQ/24-25

Date:21.03.2025

DIN: 20250371MN000000F969

By SPEED POST A.D.

To,  
Shri Siddheshwar Uttam Atpadkar,  
Kurnwadi, Varkute Malwadi, Satara,  
Pin: 415509, Maharashtra, India

Copy to :-

1. The Principal Commissioner of Customs, Ahmedabad (Kind Attn: RRA Section)
2. The Deputy Commissioner of Customs (AIU), SVPIA, Ahmedabad.
3. The Deputy Commissioner of Customs, SVPIA, Ahmedabad.
4. The Deputy Commissioner of Customs (Task Force), Ahmedabad.
5. The System In-Charge, Customs, HQ., Ahmedabad for uploading on the official web-site i.e. <http://www.ahmedabadcustoms.gov.in>.
6. Guard File.