DRI busts wildlife smuggling racket at Trichy Airport; 45 live reptiles recovered; 2 arrested

Intelligence-led operation in coordination with Trichy Airport Customs seizes sedated reptiles concealed in food packets carried by passengers arriving from Bangkok via Colombo

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The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), in a coordinated operation with the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU), Trichy, has foiled an attempt to smuggle **45 live reptiles** into India through Trichy International Airport. Acting on specific intelligence, officers of DRI intercepted two Indian passengers arriving from Bangkok via Colombo on 26 October 2026. A systematic examination of their baggage led to the recovery of live wildlife concealed in 27 food packets, with the animals found in a sedated condition.







The recovered reptiles comprised **23 Corn Snakes, 16 Ball Pythons, 5 Argentine Black and White Tegus and 1 Snow White Iguana**. The reptiles were seized, and the two passengers were arrested by AIU, Trichy, under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. The wildlife was recovered during the examination of the passengers' baggage and handed over to AIU, Trichy, for further necessary action.

This successful interception underscores DRI's commitment to combating wildlife trafficking through intelligence-led enforcement and close coordination with Customs authorities to prevent the illegal movement of wildlife into the country.

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