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# From gold bars strapped to thighs to diapers: How smugglers like Ranya Rao operate

FP Explainers • March 7, 2025, 13:35:22 IST



*Kannada actor Ranya Rao's smuggling case has put the spotlight on how gold is snuck into the country. Officials say she strapped 14 bars of the yellow metal to her thighs and also carried some in her belt. Before her, smugglers turned gold into a paste, hid it in baby diapers, and shoved capsules into their rectum*



*Kannada actor Ranya Rao made headlines when she was arrested for smuggling gold at Bengaluru's Kempegowda Airport. Image Courtesy: X*

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India loves its gold — the country is obsessed with the yellow metal.

And what better example of this than the gold smuggling case involving Kannada actor Ranya Rao? The 33-year-old has been arrested in one of the largest gold seizures at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport in recent years, after allegedly smuggling 14.8 kg of the precious metal from Dubai attached to her body.

The ensuing investigation has thrown a spotlight on gold smuggling in the country and the innovative and sneaky methods used by smugglers to avoid detection.

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## Ranya Rao's gold rush

On March 3, acting on a tip-off from sources, officials from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) arrested **Rao** from the airport. She was **nabbed** while she attempted to bypass security, carrying 14.8 kg of foreign-origin gold worth Rs 12.56 crore concealed inside a specially modified body-jacket.

Ensuing investigations reveal that 33-year-old Rao, who is the stepdaughter of senior IPS officer **Ramachandra Rao**, had travelled to Dubai an astonishing 30 times over the past year. According to an *India Today* report, on each trip, she allegedly smuggled kilos of gold into India, earning around Rs 12-13 lakh per trip.

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Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
10	10
20	10
30	10

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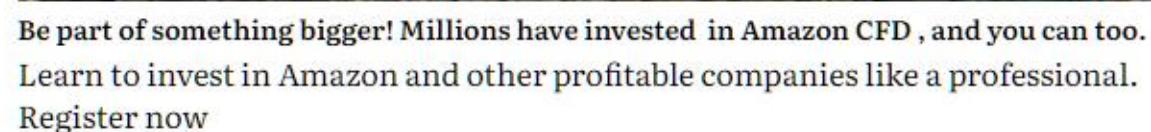
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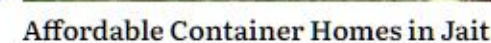


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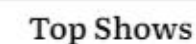


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20	10
30	10

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- Maximum Extra Sum Assured: ₹50,00,000/-
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Policy Term	Premium Policy Term
10	10
20	10
30	10

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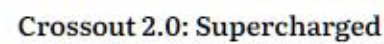
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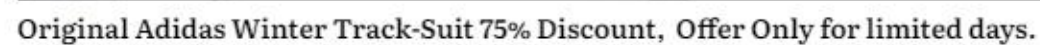




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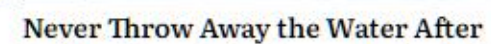
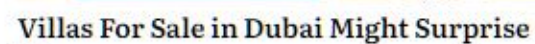
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Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
10	10
20	10
30	10

- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹100,000/-
- Maximum Basic Sum Assured: ₹10 Cr
- Maximum Cover Age: 65 years
- Maximum Entry Age: 55 years (up to policy term 30 years)

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Life Cover with attractive returns

Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
10	10
20	10
30	10

- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹100,000/-
- Maximum Basic Sum Assured: No limit
- Minimum Extra Age: 18 years
- Maximum Extra Age: 55 years (subject to policy term 30/35/40 years)

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Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
10	10
20	10
30	10

- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹100,000/-
- Maximum Basic Sum Assured: ₹500,000/-
- Maximum Cover Age: 65 years
- Maximum Entry Age: 55 years (subject to policy term 30 years)

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# Trump calls Sunita Williams 'woman with wild hair': Can astronauts cut hair in space?

Sayli Dhodapkar • March 7, 2025, 8:49:43 PM IST



*Trump calls Sunita Williams 'woman with wild hair': Can astronauts cut hair in space?*



*US President Donald Trump on Thursday commented on Sunita Williams's gravity-defying locks, calling her the "woman with the wild hair". Image courtesy: NASA*

Nine months in the orbit, an uncertain return date, and a malfunctioning spacecraft—yet what's catching everyone's attention? Sunita Williams' hair.

US President Donald Trump on Thursday commented on the astronaut's gravity-defying locks, calling her the "woman with the wild hair" while discussing her unexpectedly long stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Williams and fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore were supposed to return after



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Benefits  
go on.

Premium stops.

Life Cover with attractive returns

Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
10	10
15	15
20	18

- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹100,000\*
- Maximum Basic Sum Assured: ₹50 Lakhs
- Maximum Policy Age Limit: 65 years
- Maximum Entry Age: 40 years (subject to policy term 20/25 years)

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Now, as NASA scrambles to bring them home—possibly with help from [Elon Musk's SpaceX](#)—Trump's comment about William's hair has created a buzz, with many asking: How do astronauts, especially women with long hair, manage grooming in space? Let's dive into the science behind space haircuts.

But first, what did Trump say?

During a press conference in the Oval Office, US President Donald Trump was asked about the delayed return of astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore. In his response, he referred to Williams as the “woman with wild hair.”

“We have two astronauts that are stuck in space. I have asked Elon (Musk), I said, ‘Do me a favour. Can you get them out?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ He is preparing to

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# Trains stopped, passengers stranded: How unexploded World War II bomb caused travel chaos in Europe

FP Explainers • March 7, 2025, 8:28:20 PM IST

Trains stopped, passengers stranded: How unexploded World War II bomb caused travel chaos in Europe



Premium stops.

Benefits go on.

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Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
10	10
20	10
30	10

- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹50,00,000/-
- Maximum Basic Sum Assured: ₹5.00 Cr
- Minimum Extra Age Factor
- Maximum Extra Age Factor: 10 years

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Passengers wait inside the departure hall of a train station, France. Reuters/File Photo

Train services came to a standstill, leaving thousands of passengers stranded after a 500-kilogram World War II bomb was found near Paris' central Gare du Nord station.

This was one of the **biggest rail disruptions** in the French capital in recent years.

The incident affected commuter trains as well as national and international services, including Eurostar routes.

Authorities immediately set up a security perimeter, causing intercity and suburban lines from Gare du Nord to be suspended.

Notably, even decades after the war, bombs from the First and **Second World Wars** continue to be discovered across France.

But how was this bomb found, and what impact did it have on rail services? How are WWII bombs still being discovered across Europe and continuing to disrupt people's daily lives?

Let's take a look:

### Where and how was the bomb found?

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**Seba Sahle**  
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**Benefits go on.**



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Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
10	10
21	10
28	10

- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: \$25,000
- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: \$50,000
- Minimum Entry Age: 18 years
- Maximum term limit: 100 years (for policy over 50 years)

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## Jaishankar's security breach



# movement emerged in UK

FP Explainers • March 7, 2025, 8:15:24 PM IST



Jaishankar's security breach in London: How the Khalistan movement emerged in UK



EAM S Jaishankar's security was breached by a pro-Khalistan protester in the UK. File Photo/AP

India has strongly condemned the security breach of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar in London, calling on the United Kingdom to take strict action against the pro-Khalistan supporters involved in the event. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday (March 7) said that the incident reflects Britain's "indifference" to intimidation and threats by the Khalistani extremist forces.

During a press briefing, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has conveyed its "deep concern" to the UK authorities about the breach in Jaishankar's security by "UK-based separatist and extremist elements".

"There is a larger context to the incident. It brings out both the licence accorded to such forces, as well as indifference to their intimidation, threats, and other actions aimed at impeding our legitimate diplomatic activities in the UK," he said.

This is not the first time Khalistani supporters in the UK have expressed anti

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Policy Term	Premium Paying Term
10	10
21	10
25	10

- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹50,00,000/-
- Maximum Basic Sum Assured: ₹5.00 Cr
- Minimum Entry Age: 18 years
- Maximum Entry Age: 55 years (subject to policy term 25/20 years)

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"There is a larger context to the incident. It brings out both the licence accorded to such forces, as well as indifference to their intimidation, threats, and other actions aimed at impeding our legitimate diplomatic activities in the UK," he said.

This is not the first time Khalistani supporters in the UK have expressed anti-India sentiments. Let's take a look at the EAM's security breach incident and the history of the separatist movement there.

What happened?

A small group of pro-Khalistan protesters gathered outside the think tank Chatham House in London on Wednesday, where EAM S Jaishankar was speaking.

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