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PRESS RELEASE

GST Evasion through Rs 1170 crore of fake invoicing in metal scrap trade.

Crores of rupees worth of tax evasion detected by the State GST Department in a series of searches titled "Operation Palm Tree" conducted across the state. A joint operation conducted by the State GST Intelligence/ Enforcement Divisions has started today (23.05.2024) from early morning. Searches continue at the residences and business establishments of tax evaders. This operation, which is conducted at various locations across the state, is the largest such operation in this sector in Kerala. Tax evasion cartels operate by taking fake registrations using ID cards collected from migrant workers on the pretence of providing employment and from other individuals.

Based on preliminary information, it was found that GST registrations taken in the name of 148 individuals across the state resulted in a tax loss of Rs 209 crore through fraudulent transactions of Rs 1170 crore.

Earlier, an all-India drive was conducted nationwide to take action against fake billing. Stringent action is being taken against such tax evasion in Kerala too.

Investigation and strict action against such tax evasion cartels will continue.

23/05/24



**Sd/-
Commissioner
State GST Department**