

Fake scotch supply ring busted, 2 held

Raj Shekhar | TNN | Updated: May 6, 2015, 08:20 IST



NEW DELHI: Your favourite brand of scotch could be a fake just a mix of cheap whisky and chemicals. Worse, you can't even detect it by its cap or the label.

The crime branch of Delhi Police has recently unearthed a racket, which used to sell Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) in the bottles of

premium brands. The bottle caps were imported from China and the "scotch" was prepared at a Delhi unit, police said.

The end product was sold off to retailers or bulk buyers at discounted rates. The retailers, however, charged the customers, the same as the original scotch.

While two of the gang members have been arrested, police have seized more than a hundred imported caps of Glenlivet, Glenfiddich, Chivas Regal, Blue/Black/Red Label, Ballantine's, Vat 69, apart from bottles of Absolut vodka.

Police have also recovered a consignment of the spurious liquor. A source said three cartons of Black Label and a carton of Absolut vodka had been seized.

Joint commissioner of police (crime) Ravindra Yadav confirmed the arrests.

"Our investigation is at an initial stage. A team led by additional CP Ashok Chand and ACP KPS Malhotra is trying to unearth the source of the racket," he said.

According to the cops, the arrested duo are Maan Singh and Chandra Pal. They were produced in the court of chief metropolitan magistrate, Ashish Aggarwal.

Explaining its modus operandi, a source said the gang was working in tandem with scrap dealers and retailers. The scrap dealers would collect used bottles of original scotch and expensive vodka from five-star hotels and individuals. They were instructed to keep these bottles safely.

The bottles were then brought to the unit and cleaned with a chemical so that they looked new. After this, the crooks filled the bottles with Indian made whisky or vodka and added chemical agents and glucose to make the taste similar to that of the original scotch or vodka. Finally, the bottlers were corked using a machine.

Once the consignments were ready, Chandra Pal used his network of caterers and wine shop owners to dispose them of. According to a source, the interrogation of the accused had revealed that the liquor bottles were mostly supplied to parties held at farmhouses. Even bootleggers used to sell them to late-night customers, who could not differentiate between the original and a fake. The caterers would also

sell the spurious booze at marriage functions.

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that's why in olden days people use to brew their own liquors, if govt can not stop such things then open the policy to make the alcohol at homes !!!

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The cops are now looking for a Kolkata-based source who supplied these bottle caps to the gang. Police suspect he has imported a major chunk of the caps from China and supplied them to crooks in other cities as well. A team led by DCP Bhisham Singh has been asked to trail this importer.

The cops have also informed the excise officials and other authorities so that a crackdown can be launched against the gang. Additional commissioner Chand said that people should be careful while buying liquor as spurious alcohol like the ones seized could be injurious to health and can lead to complications.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Fake-scotch-supply-ring-busted-2-held/articleshow/47169413.cms>