

Fake 'imported' booze bottling plant busted

Clara Lewis | TNN | Updated: Dec 3, 2016, 09:11 IST



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HIGHLIGHTS

- These bottles may be just cheap liquor with a dash of the original —bottled in a chawl in Charni Road.
- Since April, the department has registered 15 cases for sale of adulterated alcohol in Mumbai.

MUMBAI: This festive season, beware of contacts who promise to get you high-end foreign liquor at “reasonable” rates. These bottles may be just cheap liquor with a dash of the original—bottled in a chawl in Charni Road.

The excise department raided a chawl, Moghul House, on N M Joshi Marg, late on Thursday and found cheap Indian Manufactured Foreign Liquor being filled in empty bottles of expensive brands. They arrested four persons and recovered 563 empty bottles of Chivas Regal, Blue Label, Glenfiddich, Black n White, Jack Daniel’s, Grey Goose, Absolut, etc.

Tanaji Salunkhe, excise superintendent, Thane division, who led the raid, said those who consume these discounted bottles are not connoisseurs.

“These bottles are sold at a 50-60% discount. A Johnny Walker Red Label is, for instance, sold for Rs 1,800-1,900 when its MRP is Rs 3,200. Johnny Walker Blue Label MRP is Rs 31,000, but here it is sold for Rs 18,000 to Rs 19,000,” he said.

Excise commissioner V Radha, who took over the department three months ago, has been pushing the department to crack down on the source of illicit liquor. “The consumption of such spurious liquor is harmful to health. This being the festive season, there is a huge demand for liquor especially in the last week of December,” she said.

A similar raid in Pune yielded 42 bottles of Black Label, Chivas Regal, etc.

“An empty bottle of an expensive brand sells for as much as Rs 800. The final bogus product, including the packaging, is so similar to the original one that one can’t tell the difference,” she said.

Salunkhe said these adulterated bottles are not sold at authorised shops. “The entire market works over telephone. There are people who claim to have contacts in the ports, customs, etc and offer to get an expensive liquor bottle for half the price,” he said.

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In the NM Joshi Marg bottling plant case, four persons—Biju Gangadhar Tiya (33), Atishkumar Mohandas (25), Sumit Behel (26) and Tarvinder Singh (31)— have been arrested. The kingpin, Chandra Shankaran Kakkateel, is absconding. There are five earlier cases registered against him.

Since April, the department has registered 15 cases for sale of adulterated alcohol in the city.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Fake-imported-booze-bottling-plant-busted/articleshow/55761323.cms>