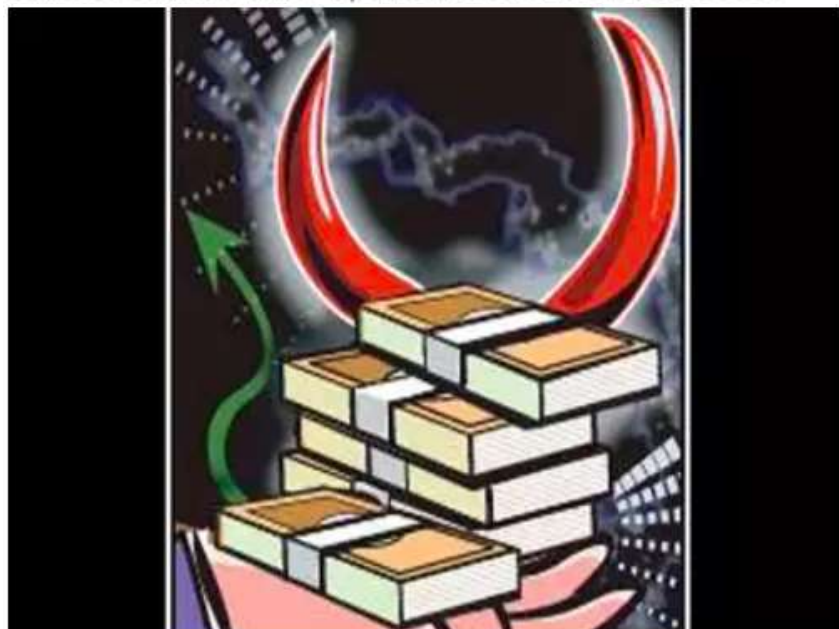


Bhavnagar man ran counterfeit notes racket from Kolkata jail

NEWS / CITY NEWS / AHMEDABAD NEWS / BHAVNAGAR MAN RAN COUNTERFEIT NOTES RACKET FROM KOLKATA JAIL
Sarfaraz Shaikh | TNN | Updated: Oct 25, 2018, 05:39 IST



Picture for representational purpose only

AHMEDABAD: Suresh Lathidariya, a man from Gujarat incarcerated in a Kolkata jail, has emerged as the mastermind of a fake Indian currency notes (FICN) racket that was recently busted by Gujarat ATS.

Lathidariya has been running the racket from jail with help from a local contact, who is believed to have supplied

counterfeit Rs 2,000 and Rs 500 notes to Sanjay Devaliya of Junagadh at Farakka railway station in West Bengal.

Devaliya was arrested by Gujarat ATS in Junagadh with high-quality counterfeit notes with a face value of Rs 1.52 lakh. ATS sources said from Devaliya's interrogation it emerged that Lathidariya was the kingpin of the racket. He had been nabbed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Kolkata on January 1, 2017 with counterfeit currency notes.

"According to Devaliya, Lathidara, a native of Bhavnagar and a resident of Surat, is his handler. Lathidara, through a local contact, who has also been identified by Gujarat ATS, made the delivery of Rs 1.52 lakh counterfeit notes in exchange for Rs 40,000 in original currency," said a top ATS official.

Senior ATS sources said they will seek custody of Lathidariya on a transfer warrant in four days. "He has been named by Devaliya and needs to be interrogated. We suspect the Rs 1.52 lakh cache was part of a large consignment which we suspect was smuggled from Pakistan to West Bengal through elements in Bangladesh.

Counterfeits could have been printed in Pakistan with ISI help

Gujarat ATS said the counterfeit notes seized from Devaliya were printed in Pakistan. "This consignment was the highest quality counterfeits seized since demonetization. We are worried about how these elements are improving their counterfeits of our currency gradually. The notes seized have a security thread and a watermark. These are printed in Pakistan and are smuggled to India with help from the Pakistani spy agency ISI," said a Gujarat ATS official.

Lathidariya involved in FICN since 2008

ATS officials said Suresh Lathidariya is believed to be in the business of fake Indian currency notes (FICN) since 2008 and has been arrested several times. "We will get the names of suspects involved in the smuggling of FICN to India from Pakistan and will identify the Pakistani operatives involved. We can learn a great deal from Lathidariya once he is in our custody," added an ATS official.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/bhavnagar-man-ran-counterfeit-notes-racket-from-kolkata-jail/articleshow/66354918.cms>