

Madhya Pradesh police seize fake notes 'worth Rs 80,000'

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P Naveen | TNN | Sep 23, 2018, 17:28 IST



BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh police have seized 40 counterfeit notes of Rs 2000 denomination from a man in MP's Gwalior district.

Police say, it was difficult to distinguish fake notes from the authentic ones and they are believed to have international links and the counterfeits are suspected to have originated in Bangladesh.

The accused has been identified as Sonu Sharma, resident of Morena. Police had inputs that this youth was moving around in the bus stand area trying to make purchases using fake currencies.

When he was chased and arrested, police found 40 notes with Rs 2000 denominations having a face value of Rs 80,000 from his possession. During interrogation he told police that he used to buy these counterfeit currencies from West Bengal and try to use it in city and rural areas around Gwalior. Sharma has also named a person in Malda who was providing him these currencies. Both have been booked under various sections. Team would be dispatched to various places. MPATS, NIA and STF is also being informed.

According to sources, features replicated this time are the watermark, Ashoka Pillar emblem, the letters 'Rs 2000' on the left, the guarantee clause with the RBI governor's signature and the denomination number in Devanagari on the front. In the earlier seizures it was found that eight features had been replicated.

This is the second major seizure in Gwalior post demonetisation. Gwalior police had arrested two persons with fake, but 'fine quality' currency notes with a face value of Rs 2,000 in 2017 also. As many as 16 security features of the new currencies were replicated in fakes in that case. It is only poor paper quality and failure to achieve exact pink hue, which is helping their detection.

According to central investigating agency officials, unlike in past when FICN were produced in Pakistan and then routed through Bangladesh, this time the fakes are being produced in Bangladesh using Bangladeshi stamp paper.

The currencies seized in Dabra last year were brought from West Bengal area at 2:1 ratio (Rs 50000 genuine for Rs 1lakh fake). Accused have been identified as Virendra Sharma and Harendra Sharma, residents of Morena.

Police are not sure if the two cases have any links. Reports prepared by the Bengal CID shows the counterfeiters seem to have targeted the Rs 2000 notes – that "saw a higher circulation in the market than the new look Rs 500."

Reports accessed by TOI Kolkata bureau from monthly Criminal Intelligence Gazette published in the CID website show there were as many as 15 cases of FICN seizure in November, nine of them after the demonetization drive. In December, there were 14 seizures of fake currency. In November, the seizure stood at face value worth Rs 12, 21,500. In December, seizure was of face value worth about Rs 3,70,000.

It is now clear fakes are being produced in Bangladesh using Bangladeshi stamp paper – unlike routing them through Pakistan – we are waiting for more leads to establish the terror angle, claimed a central agency sleuth.

A study by investigators and experts at Nasik and Salboni of the new Rs 2000 seized notes revealed at least 11 of the 17 security features in the new Rs 2,000 notes had been successfully incorporated in the fakes. They included the transparent area, watermark, Ashoka Pillar emblem, the letters 'Rs 2000' on the left, the guarantee clause with the RBI governor's signature and the denomination number in Devanagari on the front. Besides, the seized notes had the water mark and a crackling sound, similar to genuine currency, said officials.

"It is the paper quality and the failure to bring the exact pinkish colour on the note that is still helping us differentiate between the two," claimed a source.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhopal/madhya-pradesh-police-seize-fake-notes-worth-rs-80000/articleshow/65923006.cms>