

Lockdown sees a spike in illicit liquor trade in Gurugram

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Bagish Jha | TNN | Updated: Apr 15, 2020, 10:20 IST



Representative image

GURUGRAM: The state government's decision to prohibit sale of liquor during the lockdown has led to an increase in illegal transportation of alcohol. Gurugram police have registered 20 FIRs and arrested 27 people for the crime since the lockdown was implemented and have recovered large quantities of Indian-made foreign liquor

(IMFL) and country-made liquor.

Bootleggers are carrying small quantities of liquor at a time, which they try to pass along with essential items, police said.

According to police, while other crimes have come down, illegal transportation of liquor has surged during the lockdown.

"We have recovered thousands of bottles of liquor and arrested around 27 people since March 22, when the nation-wide lockdown was announced," Gurugram police spokesperson Subhash Boken said.

Meanwhile, state excise officials are concerned about the sharp decline in revenue due to the closure of liquor shops and have argued for their opening.

"The excise department contributes over Rs 7,000 crore to the state exchequer. Closing of liquor shops is causing huge losses to the exchequer," an excise officer told TOI.

Police, on the other hand, said opening liquor shops will defeat the purpose of the lockdown.

"People will come out of their houses for buying liquor, and it may compromise the benefits of the lockdown," a police officer said, urging people to stay at home.

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