

## Police squad seizes 580 boxes of alcohol worth ₹20 lakh stored in private godown



Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: A squad led by deputy commissioner of police (zone-I) Nitin Bagate on Thursday raided a private godown where 580 boxes of alcohol, worth over Rs 20 lakh, were illegally stored. This is the second major action by Bagate, a 2018 batch IPS officer, in the past two days in the limits of MIDC Waluj police station. On Wednesday, an illegal LPG cylinder refilling plant was unearthed and 268 domestic cylinders were seized.

In the latest action, a police officer said one of the two accused has claimed about his closed proximity with a senior politician in the district. When contacted, Bagate said, "We received information from our sources about illegal storage of liquor at a private godown situated in Ranjangaon Shenpunji-based M-sector of MIDC. Accordingly, a team was formed for raiding the godown." The officer added, "Preliminary probe has revealed the accused had illegally stored the large amount of alcohol without any permission from the state authorities. By doing this they allegedly evaded taxes and excise duty."

Based on a complaint lodged by police constable Pratap Kawale, Atul Chakk (35) of Bajaj Nagar and godown owner Sanjay Kawde have been booked under relevant sections of the Maharashtra Prohibition Act. "As the sections applied in this case attract punishment below seven years of imprisonment, the accused will be issued notices asking them to cooperate in the ongoing investigation, and will be immediately released," the official said. MIDC Waluj inspector Avinash Aghav said the source of alcohol will be investigated as this amount of liquor has to be directly sourced from the manufacturer or a super stockist.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/police-seize-580-boxes-of-alcohol-worth-20-lakh-private-godown/articleshow/105460720.cms>