

PAK ISI SPONSORED COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY CIRCULATION

By B Srinivasulu, SP, Intelligence, Hyderabad

The 'D' Company (Mafia Gang of Dawood Ibrahim) is transporting fake Indian currency notes mostly of Rs.500/- and Rs.1000/- denominations directly from Dubai to Hyderabad. This counterfeit currency is printed on security paper either in Pakistan or its friendly countries and transported to India via UAE. It is very difficult to distinguish it with original Indian currency. The fake currency is brand new and it is similar to the one, which was released latest by the Reserve Bank of India. The quality of this currency is much better than that of the scanned currency, normally contrived by the perpetrators by using scanners and computers.

Hyderabad has become a transit point for receiving consignments of counterfeit currency from UAE (Dubai) and dispatch to various places in the country. The fake currency is offered to various people throughout India at 1:2 ratio of original currency to counterfeit currency. The underworld is funding subversive & sabotage activities against India with these ill-gotten gains.

One Aftab Bhatki N/o Mumbai, settled in Dubai with the help of Babu Gaithan N/o Barkas, Hyderabad residing in Dubai are organizing the circulation of Indian fake currency from Dubai to Hyderabad. Babu Gaithan through his contacts in Hyderabad, developed channels for circulating fake currency. The operators in Dubai are transporting the fake Indian currency in regular flights through bona-fide passengers. Also sometimes they have sent the persons for this purpose only.

Many labourers from Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Kadapa districts etc., are going to Dubai in search of livelihood and return to India to visit their families. The fake currency operators in Dubai select such passengers, who are in need of money to purchase return ticket to India and arrange a ticket to them to India for carrying their luggage. They show a suitcase that apparently contains perfumes and clothes, but underneath the suitcase they conceal fake currency wrapped in carbon papers. This gives an impression to the passenger that the suitcase contains household articles like perfumes,

clothes etc. They are also sending photo albums packed neatly with Indian fake currency notes and sealed with polythene paper.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES BETWEEN ORIGINAL AND ISI SPONSORED COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY

Sl. No.	Original Currency	Counterfeit currency
1.	Silver Bromide thread with RBI marks in Hindi and English are prominent.	The security thread (silver coated) and the logo, "RBI" in English and Hindi are hazy.
2.	Three watermarks on each note i.e., (i) Ashoka Pillar or Gandhiji's caricature (ii) Denomination and (iii) R.B.I. are prominent	Not prominent
3.	Sprinkled blue dots all over the note, when seen in UV light.	Sprinkled dots not visible, when seen in UV light.
4.	The digits "500"(denomination), super imposed on the right side, when seen horizontally	The super imposed"500" digits not visible when seen horizontally

FINDINGS OF RBI OFFICIALS, WHO EXAMINED THE PAK-ISI SPONSORED COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY

1. The Series prefix and distinctive numbers are smaller in size
2. Alignment of Series prefix and distinctive numbers is not in line when carefully examined
3. Thick lettering has been used for printing the issuing authority's name i.e., 'Reserve Bank of India' and guarantee and promise clauses
4. Continuity of Security Thread is not maintained
5. Alignment of the register on the left hand side of the watermark is not proper
6. Watermark at the left hand side bears a thicker effigy of Mahatma Gandhi and the eyes and spectacles in the effigy are thicker in size

7. Intaglio printing is absent
8. The optical fibre marks are present when exposed to UV lamp but these are very few when compared to genuine notes
9. Security thread does not glow under UV lamp
10. The paper used for the purpose seems to have been made of wood pulp

Measures to prevent ISI sponsored fake currency transportation by air from Dubai to Hyderabad.

- The law enforcing agencies, such as Customs, Immigration and Airport Security authorities are to be sensitised at Hyderabad Airport.
- Though it is a time consuming process, a thorough scrutiny of the luggage has to be done like opening of the baggage, checking of all the articles etc.,
- More care should be taken while checking the baggage of passengers who hail from Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Kadapa, who went to UAE to work as labourers.
- Identifying and keeping a watch over frequent travellers to U.A.E.
- Customs and immigration staff can use the profiles and photos of the entire known underworld accused involved in fake currency circulation from all over the country and prepare database and utilize the same to identify suspects.

ISI SPONSORED FAKE CURRENCY RACKETS BUSTED IN HYDERABAD DURING 2001, 2002 & 2003

- In the last three years, four cases of fake currency circulation sponsored by ISI have come to notice in which (18) persons were arrested and counterfeit currency worth about Rs. 36 lakhs was recovered.

- All the above accused were working as agents to the main accused Aftab Bhatki N/o Mumbai and Babu Gaithan N/o Hyderabad both residents of Dubai, who owe allegiance to the underworld don Dawood Ibrahim and circulating fake Indian currency printed in Pakistan with active connivance of ISI to destabilise the Indian economy by creating inflation.

INVESTIGATION OF FAKE CURRENCY CASES

- Preparing, acquiring or circulating fake currency knowingly is an offence. Such persons are usually prosecuted under sections 120-B, 420 and 489-A, B, C, D IPC.
- Mere possession of fake currency is not an offence.
- Seized fake currency should be sent to Security Printing Press, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, to ascertain whether it is fake or not.

In case of ISI sponsored counterfeit currency:

- The provisions of the A.P. Control of Organised Crime Act have to be applied if an accused has already been charge sheeted in at least two cases of counterfeit currency.
- This would allow (i) the confession of the accused, recorded as per the Act – to be used as evidence against the conspirators (typically members of the Mafia, who are hand in glove with Pak ISI) and (ii) the investigating agency to intercept the telephone calls between the accused and present it as evidence in the court of law.
- Call abstracts of the Telephones/Cell phones used by the arrested accused have to be collected from the respective operators, to utilize the same as corroborative evidence and in case of ISD calls, the necessary data has to be obtained from VSNL, Mumbai.
- Efforts have to be made for extradition of the accused, who stay in foreign countries through INTERPOL, for which CBI is the liaison authority. As such, extradition needs strong evidence against the accused; efforts should be made to secure an “approver” from the arrested accused.