

Imported cigarettes worth ₹15L seized

HT Correspondent

■ chandigarh@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: The UT vigilance officials on Saturday carried out three surprise raids in different parts of the city and seized imported cigarettes worth ₹15 lakh from Industrial Area here on Saturday.

Probing officials said they received secret information about selling of duplicate imported cigarettes to the general public in the city. The cigarette packing didn't have any pictorial warning nor was the maximum retail price (MRP) printed on them.

Deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Deepak Yadav said, "At the raids conducted at plot number 653, Phase 1, Industrial Area, Sector 22 and at a booth in Sector 38, approximately 1,45,000 cigarettes of imported brands like Black, Dunhill, Gudang Garam, Marlboro, Pine, Mond, Benson & Hedges were recovered."

The contraband was handed

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over to concerned police officials for further action under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (COPTA) Act, 2003. Roshan of Industrial Area Phase 1, Nagpal of Sector 22 and Dammy of Sector 38 were issued challans by the vigilance, Yadav said.

Meanwhile, a vigilance enquiry was initiated to probe how the imported cigarettes were brought here and how were they being sold without MRP.

Superintendent of police (SP) Niharika Bhatt said, "We are trying to trace the suppliers who were delivering the packets without any statutory warning. Moreover, GST wasn't paid on the cigarettes."