

● CRIME FILE

Fake passport racket busted

Mamta Todi | ENS
Chennai October 23

THE Chennai suburban police busted a travel agency allegedly engaged in issuing fake passports on Wednesday.

Police smelt the scam after Ravi (36), a resident of Ramanthapuram district, tried to board a flight to Toronto, Canada, with a fake passport and was caught by the immigration officials. They found that a page in the passport had been substituted.

Suburban Commissioner S R Jangid, then directed the Central Crime Branch team to probe into the issue. A team headed by ACP Navneet Krishnan, interrogated Ravi, who revealed that he had obtained the fake passport from Travel Passage Chennai Limited, an agency in Anna Nagar.

The agency was then raided and Rattineswaran, the owner, was arrested along with Vairav Sundaram and Abdul Wahid, his accomplices. The agency, which had been in business for six years, decided to make fast money, after being influenced by the

Police smelt a rat after a resident of Ramanthapuram district tried to board a flight to Toronto with a fake passport. He was caught by the immigration officials

owner's friend, Sundar. Police officials are now looking out for Sundar, who allegedly taught Rattineswaran the modus operandi for substituting passport pages.

"Visa officers don't necessarily scrutinise all the documents in detail, so as to identify whether they are fake or not," said police officials. Passport pages are made using a computer that makes ditto copies of original pages, which are then printed and substituted on the required pages. The agency also had fake rubber stamp seals.

Such fake passports are in

vogue amongst persons who had not qualified, for one reason or the other, from travelling abroad.

MAN FOUND DEAD: A 35-year-old man was found dead in Teynampet on Wednesday. Purushottam (35), a resident of Velachery was running a roti-making appliances shop on Cenotaph Road in Teynampet. On Wednesday night, he left for home with his friend Venkatesh on his two-wheeler. On Chittitranjan Road, he was intercepted by a car that did not carry any number plate.

Three unidentified persons stepped out of the car and sliced through Purushottam's body with their knives. However, Venkatesh was left unhurt and informed the police that Purushottam was killed with a previous enmity and not for gain. Teynampet police are interrogating Venkatesh for further information.

CREDIT CARD FRAUD: A 27-year-old man was arrested for allegedly using fake credit cards on Wednesday. T Senthuram of Madipakkam had hacked the details of credit cards of various countries, including the US.

On Tuesday, HDFC bank manager Dilip Kumar filed a complaint with Suburban Commissioner S R Jangid, stating that someone had misused a credit card issued by the bank. As per the complaint, an unidentified person had bought a cell phone worth Rs 25,000 from a shop at Madipakkam using the card. Dilip said he learnt about the misuse from the bank server.

A team, headed by A C Viraperumal, investigated the case and found that one more cell phone was bought using the card on the same day from Tambaram.

Further interrogations led the team to Senthuram, who confessed to have hacked details of credit cards from other countries, including the US, Ukraine and Ceylon. He had copied the data in an HDFC local card in Chennai. So, when the card was swiped, the bill was credited to the original account.

He later used the card to buy a cell phone worth Rs 2 lakh with the intention of reselling them online. Police are on the lookout for his accomplice Kumar.

For current & daily news on hologram, copyright, counterfeiting, trademark & patent contact us at +91-9818281116 or email at info@homai.org