



Guj man booked for ₹8k-cr GST fraud in 4 yrs

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Pune: A case of criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery was registered on Friday night with the Koregaon Park police against eight people, including mastermind Asraf Ibrahim Kalawadiya (50) from Surat, for allegedly registering 246 bogus firms in 13 states to run an organised crime syndicate to forge documents and evade GST ranging from Rs5,000 to Rs8,000 crore.

The incident occurred between September 2018 and March 2024. The Goods and

Services Tax (GST) department lodged the case.

Kalawadiya is in judicial custody at the Yerawada Central Prison following his arrest by DGGI, Pune zonal unit, on March 13, 2024. His seven aides

and others are on the run. The tax evasion fraud came to light after the GST identified Pathan Enterprises, a bogus non-existing firm at Shiv Chaitanya Colony in Shewalewadi of Hadapsar, for evading tax of Rs20.25 crore.

“GST officials found that

the cellphone number and the email address used for registering Pathan Enterprises with them were used to register multiple bogus firms, but none of them paid taxes ranging from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs

246 BOGUS FIRMS FORMED TO SKIRT TAX

8,000 crore for the above-mentioned period,” said senior intelligence officer Rishi Prakash from the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Pune zonal unit.

Senior inspector Runal Mulla of the Koregaon Park police said, “We conducted a

preliminary inquiry into the complainant registered an FIR post-verification. We have transferred the investigations to the Economic Offences Wing.”

Prakash, the complainant in the tax evasion case, said, “Pathan Enterprises was registered in the name of Pathan Shabbir Khan Anwar Khan. His PAN card helped the investigators in tracing his address to in Bhavnagar in Gujarat. Khan told investigators that he was an autorickshaw driver and claimed to be clueless about the enterprises run in his name.”