

WATCHLIST - Frauds this Week

HIGHLIGHTS

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2. COPS SEIZE ILLICIT LIQUOR WORTH OVER Rs 65,000 IN BHAYANDAR
3. JHARKHAND SCHOLARSHIP SCAM; FRAUD WENT ON UNCHECKED EVEN AS RED FLAGS WERE WAVED IN CENTRE AND STATE
4. ED SEIZES Rs 6 CRORE CASH AFTER RAIDS ON AHMEDABAD FIRM
5. DHUBRI POLICE BUST FAKE CERTIFICATES MAKING GANG, ARREST 2 IN ASSAM
6. THREE SPECIAL POLICE TEAMS TACKLE CYBER FRAUD IN SOUTH MUMBAI
7. BIHAR RESIDENT HELD FOR ONLINE FRAUD IN KULLU
8. CBI REGISTERS FRESH BANK FRAUD CASE AGAINST SIDDHI VINAYAK LOGISTICS IN NEW DELHI
9. 25 DEFAULTERS GET RECOVERY CERT IN KARNALA NAGARI SAHAKARI BANK FRAUD IN NAVI MUMBAI
10. GST OFFICERS UNEARTH TAX CREDIT RACKET WORTH Rs 1,278 CRORE IN DELHI

INTERNATIONAL

1. CBP TRUMPETS ONGOING OP AGAINST FAKE GOODS FROM CHINA
2. COUNTERFEIT JUUL E-CIGARETTE MANUFACTURER BUSTED IN CHINA
3. SINGAPORE POLICE ARREST 1 MAN & 2 WOMEN AGED 34-40 FOR SELLING 3,200 COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS WORTH S\$40,000
4. NEARLY \$1M IN COUNTERFEIT WATCHES SEIZED IN BOSTON
5. WAKEFERN, SHOPRITE PAY NEW JERSEY \$235K FOR FRAUD ACT, HIPAA VIOLATIONS
6. \$150 MILLION TO BANKRUPT; FRAUD STARTUP TELLS COURT IT HAD JUST \$25,000 LEFT AFTER CEO ARREST IN LAS VEGAS
7. COUNTERFEIT HAND MASSAGERS SEIZED AT THE BORDER IN U.S
8. INVESTIGATION, SEARCH NETS ARREST, 8 POUNDS TO METH, WEAPONS ON ARKANSAS
9. GNR CRASHES ON A1-PORTUGAL ON COUNTERFEIT CLOTHING
10. WORLD BANK DEBARS GERMAN MANUFACTURER FOR FRAUD, COLLUSION, AND CORRUPTION

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INDIA

1. UP TO LAUNCH 10-DAY ANTI-ILLICIT LIQUOR DRIVE ON NOV 6

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/up-to-launch-10-day-anti-illicit-liquor-drive-on-nov-6/articleshow/79024831.cms>

Excise department along with police will launch an anti-illicit liquor drive across the state between November 6 and 15 in view of the upcoming Diwali festival. The 10-day drive is aimed at curbing illegal distillation and sale and the smuggling of illicit liquor. Sanjay R. Bhoosreddy, additional chief secretary, excise, said the teams will conduct raids against smugglers and carry out search and seizure operation at highway dhabas and campuses of closed industrial units.

2. COPS SEIZE ILLICIT LIQUOR WORTH OVER Rs 65,000 IN BHAYANDAR

Link: <https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/brewing-tragedy-cops-seize-illicit-liquor-worth-over-rs-65000-in-bhayandar>

The authorities in Thane district seem to be waiting for a replay of the Malad-like hooch tragedy of 2015 or the recent incident in Punjab which claimed more than 80 lives due to consumption of illicit liquor as isolated zones running deep into the jungles and marshy land in and around the villages of Bhayandar continue to be the favourite destinations for local brewers. This is evident of the fact that illicit hooch continues to flow freely as the notorious liquor mafia having their prominent presence in the rural areas of Bhayandar, appear to have brazenly continued with their nefarious activities, posing a serious threat to human life amid the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

3. JHARKHAND SCHOLARSHIP SCAM; FRAUD WENT ON UNCHECKED EVEN AS RED FLAGS WERE WAVED IN CENTRE AND STATE

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/jharkhand-scholarship-scam-fraud-hemant-soren-6915609/>

On October 31, barely 48 hours after The Indian Express told him that official records had listed 180 beneficiaries from his school for the Centre's pre-Matric scholarship for minority students, the principal of Blue Bells in Jharkhand's Ramgarh rushed to the nearest police station. "We have not applied for any minority scholarship...take swift action against those involved in this fraudulent activity," wrote Mahendra Verma in his complaint at the station in Gola.

4. ED SEIZES Rs 6 CRORE CASH AFTER RAIDS ON AHMEDABAD FIRM

Link: <https://www.cnbctv18.com/legal/bank-fraud-ed-seizes-rs-6-crore-cash-after-raids-on-ahmedabad-firm-7358041.htm>

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized Rs 6 crore cash after it raided an Ahmedabad-based company in connection with a money laundering probe linked to an alleged Rs 488 crore bank fraud case, the central probe agency said on Saturday. It said Rs 5.99 crore cash and some foreign currency was seized on Friday after it raided six residential and office premises of the consultancy and builder group - True Value Group and Vipul and Manish Associates, it said in a statement. ED's money laundering case, filed under the criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), in this alleged bank loan fraud is linked to the Ardor group of companies.

5. DHUBRI POLICE BUST FAKE CERTIFICATES MAKING GANG, ARREST 2 IN ASSAM

Link: <https://nenow.in/north-east-news/assam/assam-dhubri-police-bust-fake-certificate-gang-arrest-2.html>

Dhubri Police have busted a gang involved in making fake certificates of several schools and selling each document for a huge amount of money. Dhubri superintendent of police Anand Mishra said, "Acting on an input, one Mofidul Islam of Kaldoba Part III village under Agomoni police station was trapped while he was trying to deliver the fake certificates and mark-sheets to a person at Nandinipar under Golakganj police station."

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6. THREE SPECIAL POLICE TEAMS TACKLE CYBER FRAUD IN SOUTH MUMBAI

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/three-special-police-teams-tackle-cyber-fraud-in-south-mumbai/articleshow/79052398.cms>

To tackle cyber fraud, additional police commissioner Satya Narayan Chaudhry formed three special teams dedicated to detect cyber crime in the three zones of south Mumbai. The teams are yielding results-seven people caught including a Nigerian from Delhi, a man caught for sending obscene videos to a homemaker in Wadala. "Each team is headed by a police inspector rank officer and assisted by staff. The officials heading these teams have knowledge about detecting such cases, interest in cyber cases and are dedicated to work on cracking difficult cases," said Chaudhry.

7. BIHAR RESIDENT HELD FOR ONLINE FRAUD IN KULLU

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/chandigarh/bihar-resident-held-for-online-fraud-in-kullu/story-Gi9AFOFOiYwuehyIRf2XyH.html>

A Bihar resident was arrested by a special team of the Kullu police for tricking an Anni resident of Rs 10.62 lakh on pretext of updating their ATM card. The accused was identified as Chandan Kumar, 20, a resident of Banka district in Bihar. The case was registered at Anni police station on December 30, 2019. According to police, the accused fraudulently extracted information from the 61-year-old complainant, who is a retired JBT teacher of Anni in Kullu on pretext of updating his ATM card. Of the said amount, the accused had transferred Rs 2,61,440 two of his bank accounts. Kullu superintendent of police Gaurav Singh said police are conducting probe. He appealed residents to not to share any bank account-related information with anyone.

8. CBI REGISTERS FRESH BANK FRAUD CASE AGAINST SIDDHI VINAYAK LOGISTICS IN NEW DELHI

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cbi-registers-fresh-bank-fraud-case-against-siddhi-vinayak-logistics/article32986914.ece>

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a fresh case against Surat-based Siddhi Vinayak Logistics Limited (SVLL) and others for allegedly cheating the erstwhile Andhra Bank of over ₹89 crore. The company, which had taken loans of about ₹2,000 crore from 13 banks, is already facing probe by multiple agencies. The latest FIR also names Laxmi Baid, Rajkumar Baid, Deepak Baid and Roopchand Baid as accused persons. They had secured two term loans involving ₹100 crore for SVLL from July 2012 to September 2014, for the purchase of 336 commercial vehicles.

9. 25 DEFAULTERS GET RECOVERY CERT IN KARNALA NAGARI SAHAKARI BANK FRAUD IN NAVI MUMBAI

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/navi-mumbai/25-defaulters-get-recovery-certs-in-karnala-bk-fraud/articleshow/78981427.cms>

The assistant registrar of cooperatives (ARC) for Panvel has issued recovery certificates to 25 out of 62 smaller loan defaulters who collectively owe Karnala Nagari Sahakari bank Rs 10 crore. However, no decision has been taken on the 63 major loan defaulters, who have been named in the Rs 512 crore fraud case due to pending inquiry.

10. GST OFFICERS UNEARTH TAX CREDIT RACKET WORTH Rs 1,278 CRORE IN DELHI

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/fake-billing-scam-gst-officers-uneearth-tax-credit-racket-worth-rs-1-278-cr-in-delhi-nab-1-11604033098746.html>

The anti-evasion branch of Central Goods and Service Tax, Commissionerate, Delhi (East) busted a major racket, which generated fake bills worth about ₹1,278 crore, for fraudulently claiming ITC. A person has also been arrested in connection with the incident, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday. Upon receiving specific intelligence, the officers of the CGST exposed a racket for generation of huge inadmissible input tax credit (ITC) through fake billing of ₹1,278 crore (approximately), the Finance Ministry's statement read.

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INTERNATIONAL

1. CBP TRUMPETS ONGOING OP AGAINST FAKE GOODS FROM CHINA

Link: <https://www.securindustry.com/clothing-and-accessories/cbp-trumpets-ongoing-op-against-fake-goods-from-china/s107/a12528/#.X6QFq9AzY2x>

In a single day, customs officers at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) intercepted 812 shipments from China containing counterfeit and otherwise illicit goods. The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) action- dubbed Operation Mega Flex XVI- concentrated on detecting, intercepting and seizing illicit goods arriving in small parcels from China, and uncovered counterfeit footwear, handbags, and clothing, as well as prohibited plant and animal products. The LAX operation is just one part of the nationwide campaign, which first started in July 2019. Memphis CBP revealed today that its clampdown yielded nearly 200 seizures of counterfeit ID cards and illegal narcotics over the past 16 months.

2. COUNTERFEIT JUUL E-CIGARETTE MANUFACTURER BUSTED IN CHINA

Link: <https://nypost.com/2020/10/30/counterfeit-juul-e-cigarette-manufacturer-busted-in-china/>

Juul Labs helped Chinese authorities take down a manufacturer that allegedly ripped off its vapes and sold the fakes overseas, the company said Friday. The operation was one of the largest ever broken up by the e-cigarette maker in its efforts to crack down on potentially dangerous counterfeit products that could make their way to underage buyers, company officials say.

3. SINGAPORE POLICE ARREST 1 MAN & 2 WOMEN AGED 34-40 FOR SELLING 3,200 COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS WORTH S\$40,000

Link: <https://mothership.sg/2020/10/singapore-arrest-counterfeit-goods-online/>

The Singapore police have arrested one man and two women, aged between 34 and 40, for their suspected involvement in online sales of counterfeit goods. On Oct. 28, 2020, officers from the Criminal Investigation Department conducted raids at Lorong Ong Lye, Choa Chu Kang Avenue 4 and Anchorvale Road, resulting in the arrests. During the operation, 3,200 pieces of trademark-infringing goods comprising apparel, fragrance and cosmetic products with an estimated street value of more than S\$40,000 were seized.

4. NEARLY \$1M IN COUNTERFEIT WATCHES SEIZED IN BOSTON

Link: <https://www.wcvb.com/article/nearly-dollar1m-in-counterfeit-watches-seized-in-boston/34522960#>

Four counterfeit watches, which would have been worth nearly \$1 million had they been genuine, were confiscated last week by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Boston. The three counterfeit Rolex watches and one counterfeit Richard Mille watch originating from Hong Kong were destined to a person in the Boston area, officials said. "Counterfeit goods threaten American consumers, brands and our economy," said Jason Jalbert, acting area port director for Boston. "The proceeds from illicit goods are known to fund criminal activities and organized crime, which is why CBP remains focused on intercepting these items."

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5. WAKEFERN, SHOPRITE PAY NEW JERSEY \$235K FOR FRAUD ACT, HIPAA VIOLATIONS

Link: <https://healthitsecurity.com/news/wakefern-shoprite-pay-new-jersey-235k-for-fraud-act-hipaa-violations>

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs and NJ Attorney General Gurbir Grewal announced a settlement with Wakefern Food Corp and two associated ShopRite supermarkets to resolve violations of the NJ Consumer Fraud Act and HIPAA, stemming from improper records disposal. The monetary settlement includes \$209,856.50 in civil penalties, along with \$25,143.50 to reimburse attorneys' fees and investigative costs. In 2016, reports found ShopRite's Millville and Kingston locations failed to properly dispose of electronic devices used to collect signatures and purchase information of more than 9,700 pharmacy customers.

6. \$150 MILLION TO BANKRUPT; FRAUD STARTUP TELLS COURT IT HAD JUST \$25,000 LEFT AFTER CEO ARREST IN LAS VEGAS

Link: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidjeans/2020/10/29/fraud-software-company-ns8-files-bankruptcy-after-ceo-arrest/?sh=5584a5c382e4>

A cyber-fraud software company that imploded last month after its CEO was arrested on fraud charges has told a bankruptcy court that it had only \$25,000 left, just months after announcing a \$120 million funding round backed by big-name venture capital firms. Las Vegas-based NS8, which filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Tuesday, is now preparing to go after money it says was allegedly stolen by its former CEO, Adam Rogas. As part of the bankruptcy, investors and shareholders will now be able to assert fraud claims. During a virtual hearing Thursday morning in Delaware Bankruptcy Court, an attorney representing the company, Michael Klein, told the court that NS8's shareholders and creditors would target a \$72 million sum generated by shares sold by early investors in April — a transaction known as a tender offer — including a \$17.5 million payment to Rogas.

7. COUNTERFEIT HAND MASSAGERS SEIZED AT THE BORDER IN U.S

Link: https://www.ifallsjournal.com/news/public_safety/counterfeit-hand-massagers-seized-at-the-border/article_f4116be7-9411-5097-91de-ccc3a6ef8e44.html

More than \$500,000 in counterfeit hand massagers were seized Saturday at International Falls by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers. The goods have been determined to be in violation of intellectual property rights regulations. The 5,220 hand massagers were found in a rail container destined for Ranier; they would have been worth \$521,843, had they been genuine, CBP staff report.

8. INVESTIGATION, SEARCH NETS ARREST, 8 POUNDS TO METH, WEAPONS ON ARKANSAS

Link: <https://www.kait8.com/2020/11/04/investigation-search-nets-arrest-pounds-meth-weapons/>

A federal, state and local drug investigation led to authorities finding nearly \$350,000 in suspected meth, counterfeit money and nearly three dozen weapons, leading to a man's arrest. According to a post on the Cleburne County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, Branden Brewer, 43, of Quitman was arrested Oct. 23 after a traffic stop near Malvern. Authorities believe Brewer was likely headed for Cleburne County and were able to get search warrants for his business and a storage unit, the post noted.

9. GNR CRASHES ON A1-PORTUGAL ON COUNTERFEIT CLOTHING

Link: <https://illadelink.com/gnr-crashes-on-a1-portugal-on-counterfeit-clothing/>

GNR seized nearly 4,500 counterfeit clothing items in an operation on Monday in the Albergaria-a-Velha area. All of this happened during an inspection of the goods control by soldiers from the Coimbra Tax Action Unit, who discovered a delivery van loaded with 4432 imitations of well-known brands with an estimated value of more than 140,000 euros at the exit of the A1 to Albergaria. The 38-year-old driver of the vehicle was identified and a news report of the crime of forgery was created and sent to the local court.

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10. WORLD BANK DEBARS GERMAN MANUFACTURER FOR FRAUD, COLLUSION, AND CORRUPTION

Link: <https://fcpcablog.com/2020/11/04/world-bank-debars-german-manufacturer-for-fraud-collusion-and-corruption/>

The World Bank debarred a German water maintenance equipment manufacturer Wednesday for 30 months for fraud, collusion, and corruption involving a project in Myanmar. Haren-based Berky GmbH and five subsidiaries are ineligible to participate in World Bank-financed projects during the 30-month debarment. The \$100 million project, fully funded by the World Bank, was designed to improve management and development of the Ayeyarwady River Basin and national water resources in Myanmar.

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