

# WATCHLIST – FRAUDS THIS WEEK

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3. **NOIDA POLICE ARRESTS 4 IN "FRANCHISE FRAUD" OF Rs 30 CRORE**
4. **SMUGGLER OF FAKE INDIAN CURRENCY NABBED ON BANGLADESH BORDER**
5. **DELHI COPS BUST FAKE CALL CENTRE IN BAREILLY AFTER AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE'S CARETAKER DUPED OF Rs 1.40 LAKH**
6. **UP GOVT SUSPENDS TWO SENIOR IPS OFFICERS OVER CORRUPTION CHARGES, FRAUD**
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8. **FUGITIVE SCOT ON FBI'S MOST WANTED LIST RAN 420,000 EUROS SUPERCAR SCAM**
9. **FOUR BROTHERS FROM NEW YORK CHARGED IN \$26 MILLION AMAZON SCAM**
10. **INDIAN ARRESTED IN USA FOR Rs 160 CRORE H1B VISA FRAUD**

# INDIA

## 1. 7,000 LITRES OF ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED IN CHANDIGARH, PUNJAB

**Link:** <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/7-000-litres-of-illicit-liquor-seized-in-punjab-tarn-taran-police-2285886>

The Punjab Police on Wednesday seized 7,000 litres of illicit liquor from Tarn Taran district during an operation carried out with the help of drones equipped with cameras. The operation was carried out in Mand area of Marrar village in Harike alongside Satluj riverine area in the district, they said. A manhunt has been launched to track seven people named as accused in the case, senior police official Dinkar Gupta said in an official statement, adding that all the suspects are natives of nearby villages. Seven boats were also recovered from the spot, six working stills were also found and destroyed at the site itself, he said.

## 2. POLICE SEIZES 12,000 kg LAHAN, 100 ltr ILLICIT LIQUOR IN HOSHIARPUR

**Link:** <http://www.uniindia.com/punjab-police-seizes-12000-kg-lahan-100-ltr-illicit-liquor-in-hoshiarpur/north/news/2137190.html>

District Police on Wednesday seized 12,000 kilograms of Lahan, 100 litres illicit liquor, 12 tarpaulins and three drums used in manufacturing Lahan in Mand area in Dasuya sub division. In a statement here, SSP Hoshiarpur Navjot Singh Mahal stated that a special drive had been launched against the people involved in the trade of liquor smuggling.

## 3. NOIDA POLICE ARRESTS 4 IN "FRANCHISE FRAUD" OF Rs 30 CRORE

**Link:** <https://www.ndtv.com/noida-news/noida-police-arrests-4-in-franchise-fraud-of-rs-30-crore-2283771>

With the arrest of four men, Noida Police on Saturday said they have busted a "franchise racket" run by them to dupe around Rs 30 crores from over three dozen people from multiple states. The police also recovered properties worth around Rs 10 crore, including 3.300 kg gold, Rs 13,54,550 cash and a Mercedes car, from the accused persons, a senior officer said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central Noida, Harish Chander said the accused had floated a company named "Hypermart", registered in Sector 63 of Noida, and targeted people with an offer of giving them a franchise store of the firm in their city.

## 4. SMUGGLER OF FAKE INDIAN CURRENCY NABBED ON BANGLADESH BORDER

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/kolkata/smuggler-of-fake-indian-currency-nabbed-on-bangladesh-border/story-udVYbT2UKAgEjf1aZ2ZJFP.html>

Police arrested a fake Indian currency note (FICN) smuggler with notes in denominations of Rs 2,000 and 500 in Bengal's Murshidabad district on Monday night. The face value of the seized notes is Rs 1.34 lakh. Officers from the Shamsrganj police station arrested 38-year-old Kabirul Sheikh from the Dhulian Ghat area. Though the counterfeit notes have a face value of only Rs 1.35 lakh, the arrest is being seen as a proof that FICN smugglers are active during the pandemic.

## **5. DELHI COPS BUST FAKE CALL CENTRE IN BAREILLY AFTER AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE'S CARETAKER DUPED OF Rs 1.40 LAKH**

**Link:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/delhi-cops-bust-fake-call-centre-in-bareilly-after-akshardham-temple-caretaker-duped-of-rs-1-40lakh/articleshow/77748121.cms>

An unauthorized call centre selling fake insurance and pension policies was busted here and its 14 employees, among them nine women, were held by a team of Delhi Police. Bareilly Police also took part in the operation which was launched after the caretaker of the national capital's famous Akshardham temple filed a complaint saying that he has been duped of Rs 1.4 lakh by a caller who promised him an insurance policy with lucrative returns.

## **6. UP GOVT SUSPENDS TWO SENIOR IPS OFFICERS OVER CORRUPTION CHARGES, FRAUD**

**Link:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/up-govt-suspends-two-senior-ips-officers-over-corruption-charges-fraud/story-O7uxxAQV65beDNF5oFKYtK.html>

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday suspended two senior IPS officers for their alleged involvement in corruption and links with fraudsters involved in duping people on the pretext of providing them government contracts, said home department officials. They said both the cops—DIG (rules and manuals) Dinesh Chandra Dubey, Lucknow, and DIG, provincial armed constabulary, Agra, Arvind Sen are promotee IPS officers of the 2003 batch. While Sen is due to retire in January next year, Dubey will superannuate six months after Sen. In a press note issued by the home department, Sen was suspended for his alleged links with the racketeers involved in duping people on the pretext of giving contracts by the animal husbandry department.

## **7. CBI SEARCHES AT FIVE LOCATIONS IN Rs 938 CRORE SBI LOAN FRAUD CASE**

**Link:** <https://www.businessinsider.in/india/news/cbi-searches-at-five-locations-in-938-crore-state-bank-of-india-loan-fraud-case/articleshow/77694307.cms>

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday conducted searches at five locations in Delhi and Madhya Pradesh in connection with the Rs 938 crore loan fraud in the State Bank of India (SBI). The searches were being carried out in Madhya Pradesh's Morena and the office premises of KS Oils Ltd on Delhi's Barakhamba Road, as also of its Managing Director and promoters. A senior CBI official here said that the searches were conducted at four locations in Morena including the residential and official premises of Managing Director Ramesh Chand Garg and promoter Saurabh Garg.

## **8. KINGPIN HELD IN FAKE PASS RACKET FOR LOCAL TRAIN TRAVEL IN MUMBAI**

**Link:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/mumbai-kingpin-held-in-fake-pass-racket-for-local-train-travel/articleshow/77769678.cms>

With the arrest of the kingpin, the railway police have busted a racket of fake passes and IDs being sold for local train travel. Anees Rathod, the prime accused, is based out of Antop Hill and used to run an agency for assisting people procure PAN and Aadhaar cards.

Police said he used the opportunity the lockdown provided to diversify his work and make fake passes and IDs. He charged customers after checking their financial backgrounds.

## **9. MAN RUNNING A FAKE CALL CENTRE DETAINED IN VADODARA**

**Link:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vadodara/man-running-fake-call-centre-detained/articleshow/77696307.cms>

A fake call centre used for cheating American citizens by promising loans was busted in Gorwa area on Saturday. Officials from the detection of crime branch (DCB) had received information about the accused. Rohit Sahoo, running the call centre from his house in Jalanand Township in Gorwa. DCB sleuths raided the house, detained Sahoo and seized a laptop and five mobile phones from him. Police have declared his accomplices Jinnie alias Maksud Beg Mirza, a resident of Ahmedabad, and David Markson alias Vijendra alias Viju Parmar, who lives in Gotri, as wanted.

## **10. PUNJAB AND SIND BANK DECLARES DHFL LOAN ACCOUNT AS FRAUD**

**Link:** <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/punjab-and-sind-bank-declares-dhfl-loan-account-as-fraud-11598454236543.html>

Public sector lender Punjab and Sind Bank on Wednesday said it has declared its exposure of ₹815.44 crore to Dewan Housing Finance Corp Ltd (DHFL) as fraud. "...it is informed that a non-performing asset (NPA) account -- Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) -- with outstanding dues of ₹815.44 crore has been declared as fraud and reported to RBI as per regulatory requirement. Further, the bank has already made provision of ₹203.86 crore as per the prescribed prudential norms," it said in a regulatory filing.

# **INTERNATIONAL**

## **1. OVER 120,000 COUNTERFEIT GOLF PRODUCTS SEIZED IN MULTI-CITY RAIDS IN CHINA**

**Link:** <https://www.forbes.com/sites/erikmatuszewski/2020/08/23/over-120000-counterfeit-golf-products-seized-in-multi-city-raids-in-china/#569936a46352>

A historic crackdown on counterfeit golf equipment seized 120,000 pieces of fake product bearing brand names such as Titleist, TaylorMade, PXG, PING, Callaway and XXIO after police in China simultaneously raided 10 locations in four different cities this week. The U.S. Golf Manufacturers Anti-Counterfeiting Working Group, also known as the Golf Group, announced the successful raids against the online product sellers. The joint operation, conducted with assistance from the Golf Group, was carried out by more than 100 Shanghai Police officers as well as local police in the Guangdong and Fujian Provinces in China. Counterfeit products confiscated in the raids include golf clubs, club heads, shafts, grips, bags, labels and more, making it the largest crackdown against online counterfeit golf sellers ever conducted in China. The entire network was completely uprooted, from the manufacturer of club heads, and the shaft and grip suppliers to owners of assembling workshops, shipping centers, and online chat rooms. A total of 15 suspects were detained and later arrested.

## **2. FTC REPORTS OVER \$118 MILLION LOSSES DUE TO CORONAVIRUS-RELATED FRAUD**

**Link:** <https://securityboulevard.com/2020/08/ftc-reports-over-118-million-in-losses-due-to-coronavirus-related-fraud/>

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has received over 175,000 consumer reports related to Covid-19 scams, totaling a whopping \$118.81 million in losses. So far, the top fraud reports relate to: Online shopping, with 26,792 reports; Travel and vacations, with 21,674 reports; Credit cards, with 6,063 reports; Banks, savings, loans and credit card unions, with 4,717 reports; Healthcare, with 4,109 reports. Online shopping was the number one fraud complaint, causing \$16 million in losses, according to the latest report. However, COVID-19 complaints related to fraud, identity theft, Do Not Call, and other consumer protection problems were also noted as a troubling trend.

## **3. SEVERAL OBX BUSINESSES TARGETED BY COUNTERFEIT \$50 BILLS IN DARE COUNTY**

**Link:** <https://www.wavy.com/news/north-carolina/obx/several-obx-businesses-targeted-by-counterfeit-50-bills/>

The Dare County Sheriff's Office is warning residents after several businesses in the Outer Banks received counterfeit bills. Officials say three different businesses in Kill Devil Hills and Nags Head received counterfeit \$50 bills. The bills look to be on high-quality paper but appear to have been washed and all with the same serial number. Officials say that in one instance, it seems a \$1 bill was turned into a \$50 bill. They say that if you use a money marker pen on it, it will show up as a real bill.

## **4. FAKE ICRA CONFERENCE HOSTED BY GOOGLE SCHOLAR PROFILE IMPOSTER SCAMS \$530 REGISTRATION FEE**

**Link:** <https://syncedreview.com/2020/08/22/fake-icra-conference-hosted-by-google-scholar-profile-imposter-scams-530-registration-fee/>

Robotics conference "ICRA2021", to be held in Vienna, Austria on July 19-21, has recently opened for paper submission and registration at the cost of US \$530. However, as Reddit users pointed out, the conference title is an acronym for International Conference on Robotics and Applications, which is one-word slip from the well-known top IEEE ICRA- International Conference on Robotics and Automation. Jagdeesh Kumar, the organizer of the scam conference, is a self-proclaimed PhD graduate from Harvard, Stanford, and Cambridge, who also fabricated his Google Scholar page via listing fake 2600+ paper citations and published books in different fields.

## **5. THREE ARRESTED IN JAPAN ON SUSPICION OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FRAUD**

**Link:** <https://in.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-japan-dentsu/three-arrested-in-japan-on-suspicion-of-coronavirus-relief-fraud-idINKBN25M1X2>

Three men were arrested in Japan on Wednesday on suspicion of making fraudulent applications for government funds for businesses hit by the coronavirus in a scheme that may have cost taxpayers up to 400 million yen (\$3.77 million), NHK reported. The suspects received the money from a government programme to distribute more than \$20 billion in aid, which was contracted to a not-for-profit group linked to advertising giant Dentsu Group Inc, police told Reuters. The three, who all live in central Japan's Aichi prefecture, were arrested on suspicion of falsifying documents showing that their income had fallen since the beginning of the pandemic to get 1 million yen (\$9,418) each in government aid.

## **6. POLICE "ACTED ON INTELLIGENCE" AFTER SEIZING AROUND 15,000 EUROS WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT CIGARETTES IN BRADFORD**

**Link:** <https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/18674606.police-acted-intelligence-seizing-around-15-000-worth-counterfeit-cigarettes-bradford/>

Yesterday, the news that officers from Bradford South Neighborhood Policing Team (NPT) had seized the illegal cigarettes was posted on social media, by West Yorkshire Police - Bradford South. On Friday, officers seized a "large quantity" of illicit cigarettes from a car which had been abandoned in a Great Horton car park. The car was also unregistered, uninsured and had a Statutory Off-Road Notification (SORN). In an updated statement, West Yorkshire Police revealed that the cigarettes it seized were worth around £15,000, adding that officers acted on intelligence from "concerned residents and people in the community". A spokesperson from West Yorkshire Police said: "On 21 August, NPT officers in Bradford South acted on intelligence and seized a large quantity of counterfeit cigarettes in the Great Horton area of Bradford.

## **7. INVOICE FRAUD STRIKES AMAZON IN \$19 MILLION SCAM**

**Link:** <https://www.pymnts.com/news/b2b-payments/2020/invoice-fraud-strikes-amazon-in-19m-scam/>

In a case that highlights how anybody — truly, anybody — can be a victim of invoice fraud, federal officials have reportedly charged two brothers in New York State for an alleged \$19 million scam targeting Amazon. The eCommerce conglomerate issued a press release late last week announcing its cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of the individuals charged by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. The allegations, outlined in a separate announcement by the District Attorney's Office, claim the brothers "manipulated" Amazon's vendor system to have the company pay for goods Amazon never actually purchased.

## **8. FUGITIVE SCOT ON FBI'S MOST WANTED LIST RAN 420,000 EUROS SUPERCAR SCAM**

**Link:** <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/fugitive-scot-fbis-most-wanted-22583845>

A Scots businessman who was on the FBI's most wanted list after going on the run for five years has admitted carrying out a £420,000 luxury car scam. Afzal Khan fled the US after being accused of conning a string of customers and financial firms at a motor dealership he ran in New Jersey. The 38-year-old, originally from Edinburgh, handed himself into authorities in the United Arab Emirates in February and was flown back to America.

## **9. FOUR BROTHERS FROM NEW YORK CHARGED IN \$26 MILLION AMAZON SCAM**

**Link:** <https://ia.acs.org.au/article/2020/four-brothers-charged-in--26m-amazon-scam.html>

Four brothers from New York have been charged with defrauding Amazon of \$26m (\$US19m) as part of a "new twist" on wire fraud. The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York brought charges against brothers Yoel Abraham, 28, Heshl Abraham, 32, Zishe Abraham, 30, and Shmuel Abraham, 24, last week after uncovering a wire fraud scheme that aimed to pocket \$45m (\$US32m) from Amazon. The "sophisticated and layered fraudulent invoicing scheme" involved the brothers billing Amazon for goods that they never provided.

## 10. INDIAN ARRESTED IN USA FOR Rs 160 CRORE H1B VISA FRAUD

**Link:** <https://trak.in/tags/business/2020/08/22/indian-arrested-in-usa-for-rs-160-crore-h1b-visa-fraud-find-out-how-he-duped-us-govt-by-fake-jobs-firms/>

A man of Indian origin has been arrested in the United States under the allegation of being involved in an H-1B visa fraud worth \$21 million. The fraudster, Ashish Sawhney, has been charged with a total of six counts for bringing foreigners to the USA through fraudulent visas and attempting to live in the US under false statements himself. A press statement has been released by the Department of Justice, Eastern District of Virginia, which confirms the fraud by sterling man Sawhney and his arrest. He filed for fake H-1B visas for his company which led to his companies earning gross profits of \$21 million between the period of 2011 to 2016.



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