

WATCHLIST - Frauds this Week

HIGHLIGHTS

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2. SPURIOUS LIQUOR DEATHS; PANIPAT SIT BUSTS RACKET, 10 HELD
3. THREE NABBED WITH COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY OF RS 6.5 LAKH IN ROPAR
4. SURAT-BASED ENTITY AND 17 OTHERS BOOKED FOR BANK FRAUD
5. GOVERNMENT TO FILTER FIRMS FOR INPUT TAX CREDIT FRAUD
6. RS 223 CRORE BANK FRAUD; ACB CHARGES EX-REGISTRAR COOPERATIVES IN SRINAGAR
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10. TWO ARRESTED FOR RS 35 CRORE GST CREDIT FRAUD IN CHENNAI

INTERNATIONAL

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5. NINE CHARGED WITH FRAUD IN MARKHAM PRIVATE COLLEGE SCAM
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10. OPERATION BANNISTER (OPERATION APHRODITE)- SEIZURE OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN IRELAND

SERVICES OFFERED:

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INDIA

1. 55,956 LITRES OF ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED BY EXCISE DEPARTMENT, IN SPECIAL DRIVE DURING DIWALI IN UP

Link: <https://newsroompost.com/india/up-55956-litres-of-illicit-liquor-seized-by-excise-dept-in-special-drive-during-diwali/559325.html>

In a special drive against manufacture, sale and smuggling of illicit liquor, the Excise department seized 55,956 litres of liquor during the Diwali festival in Uttar Pradesh. "During days preceding and after Diwali, a total of 2,297 cases were registered across the state in which 55,955.90 litres of illicit liquor has been recovered and 5,67,254.00 kg lagan used in preparing illicit liquor has been destroyed at the spot," UP Excise department told media persons. "Also, 782 persons involved in the illegal act have been arrested and 23 vehicles seized, UP govt spokesperson said in a press release.

2. SPURIOUS LIQUOR DEATHS; PANIPAT SIT BUSTS RACKET, 10 HELD

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/spurious-liquor-deaths-panipat-sit-busts-racket-10-held/story-8xHnSts0dRnSOJ3bjYCwTJ.html>

After eight people lost their lives after consuming spurious liquor in Panipat and Sonapat, the special investigation team of the Panipat police has unearthed a racket involving manufacturing, transportation and sale of illicit liquor and has arrested 10 people, including the mastermind of the operation. Police said Naresh Kumar of Naina Tatarpur village, Sonapat, and his partners Kuldeep Singh of Gajbar village and Mohit of Beholi village, Sonapat, had been manufacturing the liquor in a house in Naina Tatarpur village for the last two months. Police have also arrested Bantu of Rajkheri village, Sandeep of Bilaspur village, Panipat and Mandeep of Naina Tatarpur village, Sonapat, and a woman of Dhansoli village for selling the spurious liquor.

3. THREE NABBED WITH COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY OF Rs 6.5 LAKH IN ROPAR

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/punjab-3-nabbed-with-counterfeit-currency-of-rs-6-5-lakh-in-ropar/articleshow/79212303.cms>

Ropar police on Friday has arrested three persons involved in counterfeit or fake currency and recovered an amount of Rs 6.50 lakh of the counterfeit currency. The police said that fake currency notes of Rs 2000 were recovered from the accused. The police have identified the accused as Nand Lal alias Nandu of Ropar, Abhay Singh alias Tony of Ambala (Haryana) and Sushil Kumar alias Bunty of Ambala Cantt (Haryana).

4. SURAT-BASED ENTITY AND 17 OTHERS BOOKED FOR BANK FRAUD

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/surat-based-entity-and-17-others-booked-for-bank-fraud/article33109288.ece>

On its request, a term loan of ₹50.25 crore was sanctioned under a consortium arrangement from three banks — the Corporation Bank, the Central Bank of India and the Union Bank of India. The Union Bank of India also sanctioned ₹40 crore in favour of 1,500 individual farmer members of the entity. It is alleged that the funds taken in the name of the farmers were siphoned off.

5. GOVERNMENT TO FILTER FIRMS FOR INPUT TAX CREDIT FRAUD

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/government-to-filter-firms-for-input-tax-credit-fraud/story-Nmr3UKILfVYwtVaK8d3rSL.html#After>

After launching a nationwide drive against fake Goods and Services Tax (GST) invoices that saw 25 arrests in just four days, the Centre is considering to amend laws to check fraudulent claims of input tax credit (ITC) through bogus bills, a finance ministry official said. "An urgent meeting of the Law Committee of the GST Council is being convened on

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Wednesday [November 18] on this matter that will further tighten the GST registration process,” the official said requesting anonymity. The recent crackdown against people indulging in creating fake bills by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) resulted in the arrest of 25 people. The agency has also identified about 1,180 entities and booked 350 cases against unscrupulous elements involved in availing and passing on of ineligible input tax credit (ITC) fraudulently, he said. The crackdown that was carried out between November 9-13 was resumed after the Diwali holidays, he added.

6.Rs 223 CRORE BANK FRAUD; ACB CHARGES EX-REGISTRAR COOPERATIVES IN SRINAGAR

Link: <https://kashmirobsrver.net/2020/11/17/rs-223-crore-bank-fraud-acb-charges-ex-registrar-cooperatives/>

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday filed a supplementary charge sheet against two people, including former Registrar of Cooperative Societies in a whopping Rs 223 Crore loan fraud unearthed in J&K State Cooperative Bank Srinagar in March this year. The ACB filed a supplementary charge sheet against the then Registrar of Cooperative Societies J&K Mohd Mujib-Ur-Rehman and his deputy Ashiq Hussain in the Rs 223 Crore J&K State Cooperative Bank loan Scam, an ACB spokesperson said Tuesday. He said both the accused were produced in the court when the charge sheet was filed.

7.ACCUSED INVOLVED IN Rs 400 CRORE FRAUD WITH CITIBANK HELD IN GURUGRAM

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/gurugram-accused-involved-in-rs-400-crore-fraud-with-citibank-held/articleshow/79236022.cms>

A man involved in a Rs 400 crore fraud case with Citibank in 2010 was arrested by the Gurugram police, officials said on Sunday. The accused was arrested then but he was on bail granted by the court. But later on the accused didn't appear before the court and was declared a proclaimed offender. The arrested accused was identified as Shivraj Puri, a resident of DLF Phase-5 in Gurugram.

8.11 PEOPLE ARRESTED IN ASSAM FOR POSING AS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

Link: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/11-in-army-uniform-issue-fake-ids-and-letters-caught-patrolling-near-assam-airport-arrested-172095>

At least 11 people were arrested on Tuesday for posing as Air Force personnel and patrolling near the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, police said. One among them, who is a student of BDS in Bhopal, issued fake appointment letters and identity cards of Air Force 4th grade employees to the 10 persons, and they were brought for patrolling in the airport area, which also houses the Borjhar Air Force Station, Baruah said. "We have registered a case and arrested them. Further investigation is on to ascertain if there is any organised gang behind this," he added.

9.GST COUNCIL LAW PANEL TO TAKE UP STEPS TO CURB FAKE INVOICES IN TELANGANA

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/gst-council-law-panel-to-take-up-steps-to-curb-fake-invoices-7055137/>

CentrProvisions related to registrations including deemed registrations are likely to be tightened as the government looks at curbing rising cases of fake invoices under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. The measures, which would help in plugging revenue leakages and boost GST revenues, will be discussed in a meeting of the law committee of the GST Council on Wednesday. Finance Ministry sources said that businesses, whose owners or promoters do not have commensurate financial track record, like filing of income tax returns and payment of income tax to the government, may undergo detailed physical and financial verification by tax officers, before their companies can be considered for GST registration.

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10.TWO ARRESTED FOR Rs 35 CRORE GST CREDIT FRAUD IN CHENNAI

Link: <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the+south+indian+post-epaper-southind/two+tn+men+arrested+for+rs+35+crore+gst+credit+fraud-newsid-n229655156>

On Thursday, the Delhi Police's cyber cell arrested five suspects who defrauded at least 27,000 applicants by depositing the registration fee of around Rs 1.09 crore in the Union Health Ministry's name. According to a Hindustan Times report, in terms of the number of victims identified, police said it was one of the force's biggest frauds ever busted. Police said that since masterminds legally operated a center that conducted online recruitment exams for government and private agencies, they had access to job seekers' data to whom they targeted job offers used to send messages.

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INTERNATIONAL

1.CUSTOMS SEIZED ALMOST \$1.4 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY IN CHICAGO

Link: <https://voiceonline.com/authorities-combating-unauthorized-and-counterfeit-goods-during-pandemic/>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized a package from Ukraine that contained bogus currency totaling more than \$1.3 million. Officers were inspecting a package that claimed to have prop money. Each of the 13,957 counterfeit bills were \$100 denominations. Even though it was said that it was to be used as prop money, reproducing currency is still illegal.

2.CUSTOMS SNAGS \$2 MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS AT ROC AIRPORT IN NEW YORK

Link: <https://roodepoortrecord.co.za/2020/11/09/counterfeit-goods-seized-and-store-shut-down-at-local-china-mall/>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Rochester Airport Port of Entry announced Tuesday it seized approximately 200 counterfeit items in October, which added up to nearly \$2 million. Among the notable items snagged were knock-off versions of popular brand items from Gucci bags, to Rolex watches and even a knock-off North Face jacket. CBP says the fraudulent goods violate Intellectual Property Rights, Food and Drug Administration rules, and, included some drug paraphernalia.

3.LAMBORGHINI AND PORSCHE VEHICLES SEIZED IN \$16M PPP FRAUD CASE IN HOUSTON

Link: <https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/9-million-worth-of-counterfeit-goods-found-at-dallas-fort-worth-port-of-entry>

While scores of business in the area and worldwide are hurting and even closing permanently due to the pandemic, a team of scammers allegedly conned federal COVID-19 relief programs out of \$16 million, according to prosecutors. The 20-page federal indictment unsealed Tuesday accuses the team of using that money to buy luxury items like Porsches and Lamborghinis. The suspects from the Houston area are Amir Aqeel, Pardeep Basra, Rifat Bajwa, Mayer Misak, Mauricio Navia, and Richard Reuth. Their first court appearance was 2 p.m. Tuesday on charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Aqeel is also charged with three counts of money laundering.

4.WISCONSIN DMV INVESTIGATOR UNCOVERS MORE THAN \$4 MILLION IN FRAUD

Link: <https://www.wfmj.com/story/42898377/dozens-of-counterfeit-bills-found-in-trunk-on-us-route-422>

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) reports that an investigator has uncovered a string of fraudulent vehicle titles worth more than \$4 million. "DMV's Investigators are working throughout the state each day to protect Wisconsin consumers purchasing motor vehicles," DMV Administrator Kristina Boardman said. "It's an honor to have one of Wisconsin's DMV investigators recognized for his innovative work uncovering schemes that defraud motorists in Wisconsin and span to other states." According to WisDOT, it all began in spring of 2019, when the Wisconsin DMV noticed a trend of counterfeit replacement Mississippi titles being submitted to Wisconsin DMV Customer Service Centers. After the discovery in the DMV, the case was forwarded to Field Investigation Unit investigator Joel Ingebrigtsen.

5.NINE CHARGED WITH FRAUD IN MARKHAM PRIVATE COLLEGE SCAM

Link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/11/12/amazon-sues-influencers-for-allegedly-marketing-counterfeits.html>

A private career college in Markham is at the centre of a fraud investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police Anti-Rackets branch. Nine people in connection to the Royal Institute of Science and Management (RISM) are facing charges. It is alleged that over a period of six years, the owners and employees of the school recruited students to

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apply to the Ontario governments second career funding program. The program is designed for unemployed workers to obtain new skills and reintegrate themselves back into the work force. The program offers funding of up to 28 thousand dollars to each person eligible for tuition, books and living expenses.

6.TWO WAREHOUSES IN MANILA SELLING COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS ORDERED CLOSED

Link: <https://www.kbc.co.ke/counterfeit-goods-worth-ksh100-million-destroyed-in-mombasa/>

Two warehouses that allegedly sold counterfeit goods in Binondo, Manila were ordered closed by the Manila city government on Wednesday afternoon. Among the products found inside the first warehouse were counterfeit products such as shampoos, lotion, body wash, bath bombs, and other high-end products bearing the brands of Unilever, Procter and Gamble, Victoria's Secret, Calvin Klein, and Bvlgari. Meanwhile, boxes of Johnson and Johnson's baby lotion, Cetaphil, bath soaps, medical and cosmetic products, among others, were found in the second warehouse.

7.US MAC INDUSTRY WARNED OF DANGEROUS ILLEGAL REFRIGERANT

Link: <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/cbp-seizes-fake-merchandise>

The global mobile air conditioning association, MACS, has warned of illegal online sales of a refrigerant containing a cocktail of ozone depleting components, as well as highly dangerous R40. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently alerted the market to online sales of a product marketed as Cool Penguin F-12. Sold in small cans through online retail platforms for motor vehicle air conditioner use, the product is marketed as being CC12F2, better known as R12, the ozone-depleting CFC regulated under the Montreal Protocol. However, the EPA claims that the gas is actually a cocktail of CFC12, CFC-14, HCFC142b and HCFC22, along with non-ozone depleting components.

8.THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF ALCOHOL SEIZED FROM HUDDERSFIELD SHOP OPERATING ILLEGALLY

Link: <https://www.lancs.live/news/lancashire-news/over-1m-worth-fake-nike-19256848>

Alcohol worth thousands of pounds has been seized from a Huddersfield shop which was attempting to sell it without a licence. Kirklees District Police licensing officers and the Huddersfield Neighbourhood Policing Team have warned they will not hesitate to take action against businesses that act outside of the law following the seizure last week. Licensing and NPT officers attended at a premises in the town centre in a joint operation and seized over £2000 worth of alcohol linked to illegal sales. The business had withdrawn an alcohol license application in September after previous partnership led operations found counterfeit cigarettes in the shop.

9.JULIUS BAER TO SETTLE FOR \$80M IN FIFA CORRUPTION SCANDAL IN U.S

Link: <https://www.fox9.com/news/minneapolis-customs-officials-seize-41500-of-counterfeit-smartphone-accessories>

The \$80 million payment is only one portion of the settlement with the DOJ that also includes a three-year deferred prosecution agreement. The lender plans to make provisions for the settlement amount in this year's financial results. "This will mark another step in Julius Baer management's continued efforts to pursue the closure of remaining regulatory and legal matters in cooperation with the relevant authorities," a representative for Baer said in a recent statement. The government's investigation dates back to 2015, and the bank claims it has cooperated since its inception. The Swiss FINMA, Financial Market Supervisory Authority, held its related regulatory proceedings into the alleged corruption, but officially concluded them in February of this year. FINMA previously banned Julius Baer from competing large acquisitions and forced it to appoint an independent auditor after finding "significant shortcomings" in its anti-money laundering safeguards. It also ordered Baer to bolster its anti-money laundering policies.

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10. OPERATION BANNISTER (OPERATION APHRODITE)- SEIZURE OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN IRELAND

Link: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/11/12/fraudulent-claims-amounting-to-almost-rm20mil-made-by-employers-under-wage-subsidy-programme-parliament-told>

A total of 155 fraudulent claims amounting to almost RM20mil were made by employers under the Wage Subsidy Programme (WSP), says Deputy Human Resources Minister Awang Hashim. The false claims were among 345 complaints lodged with the Social Security Organisation (Socso) against employers under the WSP since its implementation in June aimed at assisting employers hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. Socso has received 345 cases of complaints against employers regarding payments under the WSP involving RM19,986,200.

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