

WATCHLIST – FRAUDS THIS WEEK

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FRIDAY 2nd OCT 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

INDIA

INTERNATIONAL

1. **ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED, 2 HELD IN TARN TARAN**
2. **THREE PERSONS HOSPITALIZED AFTER CONSUMING SPURIOUS LIQUOR IN IDUKKI; TWO LOSE EYESIGHT**
3. **ILLEGAL, COUNTERFEIT DRUGS WORTH Rs 1.5 CRORES SEIZED IN UP'S PRAYAGRAJ**
4. **HOW GANGS FROM RAJASTHAN, JHARKHAND CON PEOPLE REMOTELY IN CHENNAI**
5. **'INVESTMENT FIRM' DUPES 241 OF Rs 76 CRORE; MUMBAI POLICE'S EOW ARRESTS 2 OWNERS**
6. **FAKE PAN MASALA MANUFACTURING UNIT BUSTED IN BHUBANESWAR**
7. **PM-KISAN SCAM; DEFRAUDING FARMERS IN TAMIL NADU**
8. **EOW CHENNAI REGISTERS FIR IN Rs 28,000 CRORE FRANKLIN TEMPLETON SCAM**
9. **PNB DETECTS 1200 CRORE 'BORROWAL FRAUD' BY AHMEDABAD BASED COMPANY**
10. **PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS MAY TAKE Rs 6,000 CRORE HIT ON SINTEX INDUSTRIES FRAUD IN MUMBAI**

1. **FACEBOOK BANS U.S. ADS THAT CALL VOTING FRAUD WIDESPREAD OR ELECTION INVALID IN SAN FRANCISCO**
2. **Rs 77.4M FRAUD; PUNJAB IGP FOR ACTION AGAINST GUILTY TRAFFIC OFFICIALS IN LAHORE**
3. **'FAKE MAYOR' ARRESTED IN DURBAN FOLLOWING R200 000 SCAM**
4. **NC MAN CHARGED IN SCHEME TO GET \$6 MILLION IN COVID-19 FUNDS MEANT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**
5. **BROWARD LAWYER ACCUSED OF RAISING \$100 MILLION FOR FRAUD SCHEME**
6. **TRADE MINISTRY SEIZES RM65K IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS, ARRESTS FIVE IN JOHOR**
7. **THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT WATCHES SEIZED IN LOUISVILLE**
8. **\$15 MILLION BUSINESS EMAIL SCAM CAMPAIGN IN THE US EXPOSED**
9. **FAKE COPS TARGETING WORCESTERSHIRE VICTIMS IN TELEPHONE SCAM**
10. **SINGAPORE BUSINESSMAN CHARGED WITH \$558 MILLION WIRECARD FRAUD**

INDIA

1. ILLICIT LIQUOR SEIZED, 2 HELD IN TARN TARAN

Link: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/illicit-liquor-seized-2-held-in-tarn-taran-148514>

The police seized 33,000 ml of liquor and arrested two persons in two separate incidents in the district. The Sadar police conducted a raid at the house of Jaswant Singh and his son Jugraj Singh of Chutala village and seized 21,750 ml of liquor. The police party arrested Jaswant Singh, while his son fled the spot. Similarly, the Chabal police conducted a raid at the residence of Manjinder Singh of Padhri Kalan village and seized 11,250 ml of illegal liquor. The accused was arrested on the spot. The police have registered separate cases under Sections 61, 1, and 14 of the Excise Act.

2. THREE PERSONS HOSPITALIZED AFTER CONSUMING SPURIOUS LIQUOR IN IDUKKI; TWO LOSE EYESIGHT

Link: <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/3-persons-hospitalized-after-consuming-spurious-liquor-in-idukki-2-lose-eyesight-1.5092209>

Three persons have been hospitalized after consuming spurious liquor in Chithirampuram. As per the reports, they are in critical condition. Two have been admitted at the Kolenchery medical college hospital while one has been admitted to a hospital in Angamaly. The wife of one of the victim alleged that her husband has lost eyesight. The three consumed spurious liquor at a private homestay here. The owner of the homestay Thakachan, employee Joby and Manoj consumed the spurious liquor. It is believed to be illicit arrack. Vellathooval police have launched an investigation.

3. ILLEGAL, COUNTERFEIT DRUGS WORTH Rs 1.5 CRORES SEIZED IN UP'S PRAYAGRAJ

Link: <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Illegal-counterfeit-drugs-worth-Rs-1-5-cr-seized-in-UP-s-Prayagraj/28-09-2020-325446/>

A huge cache of illegal and counterfeit drugs worth about Rs 1.5 crores was seized in Prayagraj on Sunday, police said. "A joint team of police and drug inspectors arrived in front of the Modi guest house in Prayagraj to arrest the wanted criminal Anupam Goswami. We apprehended the brother of Anupam Goswami. We later seized illegal drugs worth more than Rs 1.5 crores from separate warehouses," Drug Inspector Govind Lal Gupta told the media. Action will be taken against the criminal traders under the Drug Control Act and Narcotics Act, he added (ANI).

4. HOW GANGS FROM RAJASTHAN, JHARKHAND CON PEOPLE REMOTELY IN CHENNAI

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/how-gangs-from-rajasthan-jharkhand-con-people-remotely/articleshow/78353384.cms>

A tiny tweak in the procedure to receive and process cybercrime-related complaints in the city has yielded rich dividends, both for victims and police. Those affected are now able to get their complaints registered, as the new norms enable them to lodge a complaint with jurisdictional police stations. Earlier, under a centralised regimen, cybercrime complaints were entertained only at city police

headquarter.

5. 'INVESTMENT FIRM' DUPES 241 OF Rs 76 CRORE; MUMBAI POLICE'S EOW ARRESTS 2 OWNERS

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/investment-firm-dupes-241-of-76-crore-mumbai-police-s-eow-arrests-2-owners/story-EiPI3Stuu6apgMWuAUUnEYJ.html>

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police arrested two of the six co-owners of an investment firm for allegedly duping 241 people to the tune of Rs 76 crore by accepting money from them by offering 12% annual interest. The accused used the money to invest in other firms for higher returns, but as they failed to pay the interest as well as return the principal amount, the investors lodged complaints against them.

6. FAKE PAN MASALA MANUFACTURING UNIT BUSTED IN BHUBANESWAR

Link: <https://odishatv.in/odisha-news/fake-pan-masala-manufacturing-unit-busted-in-bhubaneswar-479600>

Adulteration & manufacturing of fake goods are rampant in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police unearthed fake tobacco manufacturing units on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar in Jatani and Balipatna areas. Moreover, the STF has arrested two persons in the connection with the matter. Acting on a tip-off, separate teams of police conducted raids at two different houses where the units were operating and seized huge quantities of spurious tobacco which were reportedly being packed using counterfeit logos of several known companies.

7. PM-KISAN SCAM; DEFRAUDING FARMERS IN TAMIL NADU

Link: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/defrauding-farmers/article32644064.ece>

When the Tamil Nadu government machinery was busy grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic across the State, a WhatsApp message from a farmer alerted a top officer in the State Directorate of Agriculture to the fact that all was not well with the implementation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship welfare scheme for farmers, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan), in the State. The message, received on August 6, claimed that miscreants and middlemen had been stuffing the scheme's beneficiary list with 'ineligible farmers' with the intent to siphon funds from scheme. Just prior to its receipt, the Directorate of Agriculture in Chennai itself had smelt a rat while carrying out a routine verification of the scheme. It detected an unusual phenomenon: a sudden spurt in the registration of beneficiaries between April and July. The farmer's message turned out to be correct.

8. EOW CHENNAI REGISTERS FIR IN Rs 28,000 CRORE FRANKLIN TEMPLETON SCAM

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/eow-chennai-registers-fir-in-rs-28000-crore-franklin-templeton-scam/articleshow/78319346.cms>

In a major development, the economic offences wing (EOW) of the Chennai Police has registered a first information report (FIR) against the beleaguered Franklin Templeton Asset Management India Pvt Ltd (FTAMIL) and Franklin Templeton Trustee Services Pvt Ltd (FTTSPL) for hatching criminal conspiracy to defraud three lakh investors by causing wrongful loss to them and unlawful gain to themselves by committing various offences under the IPC.

9. PNB DETECTS 1200 CRORE 'BORROWAL FRAUD' BY AHMEDABAD BASED COMPANY

Link: <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/law-and-order/pnb-detects-1200-crore-borrowal-fraud-by-ahmedabad-based-company-re.html>

On Wednesday, another shocking bank fraud in the state-owned Punjab National Bank has come to light. The bank said in a regulatory filing that ₹1,203.26 crore borrowal fraud has been detected. The company under scanner is Ahmedabad based Sintex Industries Ltd (SIL). "Reporting of borrowal fraud of ₹ 1203.26 crore in NPA account of M/s Sintex Industries Ltd (SIL) at Large Corporate Branch at Ahmedabad, Zonal Office, Ahmedabad. This fraud of Rs. 1203.26 crore is being reported by the bank to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the accounts of the company. The bank has already made provisions amounting to ₹215.21 crore, as per prescribed prudential norms.

10. PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS MAY TAKE Rs 6,000 CRORE HIT ON SINTEX INDUSTRIES FRAUD IN MUMBAI

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/public-sector-banks-may-take-rs-6000-crore-hit-on-sintex-industries-fraud/articleshow/78422761.cms>

Public sector banks face a hit of close to Rs 6,000 crore on account of their exposure to Sintex Industries which has been classified as a fraud by Punjab National Bank, the large lender to the company. Although banks have already classified the account as a non-performing asset, they will now have to make full provision for the loan within four quarters which is the requirement for fraud accounts.

INTERNATIONAL

1. FACEBOOK BANS U.S. ADS THAT CALL VOTING FRAUD WIDESPREAD OR ELECTION INVALID IN SAN FRANCISCO

Link: <https://in.reuters.com/article/facebook-election/update-2-facebook-bans-us-ads-that-call-voting-fraud-widespread-or-election-invalid-idINL1N2GR2T4>

Facebook Inc on Wednesday banned ads on its flagship website and Instagram photo and video sharing service that claim widespread voting fraud, suggest U.S. election results would be invalid, or which attack any method of voting. The company announced the new rules in a blog post, adding to earlier restrictions on premature claims of election victory. The move came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump used the first televised debate with Democratic challenger Joe Biden to amplify his baseless claims that the Nov. 3 presidential election will be "rigged."

2. Rs 77.4M FRAUD; PUNJAB IGP FOR ACTION AGAINST GUILTY TRAFFIC OFFICIALS IN LAHORE

Link: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1582022/rs774m-fraud-punjab-igp-for-action-against-guilty-traffic-officials>

These irregularities were detected in the department's accounts having been committed allegedly with the connivance of officials of the accountant general office during 2017-18. Farooq Mazhar, a BS-21 police officer, was heading the department at that time; he is currently serving as the additional inspector general of the police's Elite Force. An official inquiry report — a copy of which is available with *Dawn* — reported serious irregularities, violations of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, irregular payments, excess and double withdrawal of allowances and leave encashment.

3. 'FAKE MAYOR' ARRESTED IN DURBAN FOLLOWING R200 000 SCAM

Link: <https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/where-durban-fake-mayor-berea-who-suspect-scam/>

A truly astounding turn of events has been reported in KwaZulu-Natal this week, after a 28-year-old suspect was arrested for posing as a local mayor. The man was taken to the Durban Central Police Station for processing and charged for extortion. He will appear at the Durban Magistrates Court on Monday 28 September 2020. The suspect was moonlighting in order to scam locals out of their hard-earned money. One woman was asked to pay him R200 000 to secure a fictional R1 million tender, but grew suspicious when she was told to drop the money 'in a bin near a taxi rank'.

4. NC MAN CHARGED IN SCHEME TO GET \$6 MILLION IN COVID-19 FUNDS MEANT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Link: <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article246098940.html>

A Garner man faces federal fraud charges after he applied for \$6.1 million from the Paycheck Protection Program that is intended for businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic, according to a news release. Tristan Bishop Pan, 38, received more than \$1.7 million he applied for by submitting 14 fraudulent PPP loan applications under businesses named Pan Insurance Agency, White Walker, Khaleesi and The Night's Watch. The last three are references for "Game of Thrones," the wildly popular series that aired on HBO.

5. BROWARD LAWYER ACCUSED OF RAISING \$100 MILLION FOR FRAUD SCHEME

Link: <https://www.law.com/dailybusinessreview/2020/09/29/broward-lawyer-accused-of-raising-100-million-for-fraud-scheme/>

Four Lauderdale attorney Andrew Dale Ledbetter, 78, was charged with conspiracy to commit fraud and securities fraud Tuesday, making him the latest in a series of people to be criminally charged over links to defunct Hallandale Beach commercial lending company 1 Global Capital LLC.

6. TRADE MINISTRY SEIZES RM65K IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS, ARRESTS FIVE IN JOHOR

Link: <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/09/30/trade-ministry-seizes-rm65k-in-counterfeit-goods-arrests-five-in-johor>

The Johor Domestic Trade and Consumers Affairs Ministry has seized counterfeit goods worth RM64,662 from eight premises, including the storehouse of an online business. According to a statement released by the ministry's Johor office, 16 enforcement officers conducted the raids from Sept 28 to 30 in Johor Baru, Kluang and Segamat, following complaints. About 1,700 fake items were seized, including handbags, apparel, watches and shoes. "Five individuals, including an Indonesian and Indian national aged between 30 and 40 years old, were also arrested at separate locations in Johor Baru.

7. THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT WATCHES SEIZED IN LOUISVILLE

Link: <https://www.wlky.com/article/thousands-of-counterfeit-watches-seized-in-louisville/34229061#>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Louisville seized thousands of counterfeit Casio watches. While checking a shipment Tuesday, a CBP officer found 10,500 fake Casio watches that were going to Laredo, Texas. If real, the counterfeit watches would have been worth \$682,500. The package was coming from Hong Kong. In the 2019 fiscal year, CDP and Homeland Security Investigation sized 27,599 shipments of counterfeit goods that would have totaled in more than \$1.5 billion if the goods were real.

8. \$15 MILLION BUSINESS EMAIL SCAM CAMPAIGN IN THE US EXPOSED

Link: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/15-million-business-email-scam-exposed-in-the-us/>

The FBI is investigating a global business email compromise (BEC) campaign that has netted cybercriminals at least \$15 million in illicit proceeds. On Wednesday, cybersecurity researchers from Mitiga said the campaign, which is ongoing, uses social engineering techniques to impersonate senior executives using Microsoft Office 365 email services. The Israeli incident response company said over 150 organizations -- ranging from law, construction, finance, and retail -- have been identified as victims worldwide. The majority of those tracked so far are in the United States.

9. FAKE COPS TARGETING WORCESTERSHIRE VICTIMS IN TELEPHONE SCAM

Link: <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/local-news/fake-cops-targeting-worcestershire-victims-19030362>

A warning has been issued by Worcestershire's police force of telephone scammers pretending to be officers in an attempt to dupe the victims out of cash. The convincing callers pretend to be from the police and say they are investigators and ask for bank details or get their victims to withdraw cash 'as part of their investigations'. West Mercia Police has said the con artists have stepped up their attempts in the county in recent days. A spokesman said: "We are aware that criminals are pretending to be police officers are again attempting to defraud people in Worcestershire."

10. SINGAPORE BUSINESSMAN CHARGED WITH \$558 MILLION WIRECARD FRAUD

Link: <https://www.bloombergquint.com/onweb/singapore-businessman-charged-with-558-million-wirecard-fraud>

Singapore authorities charged the directors of a local accounting firm with fraud for falsely claiming his company held 475.5 million euros (\$558 million) on behalf of disgraced German payments business Wirecard AG in 2016. R.Shanmugaratnam, a director of Citadelle Corporate Services Pte, was charged with five counts of "wilfully and with intent to defraud" falsifying letters to Wirecard, Wirecard UK & Ireland Ltd., and Cardsystems Middle East FZ LLC, according to charge sheets filed on Thursday and seen by Bloomberg News.



TRUE BUDDY CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED
16th Floor, Tower - B, World Trade Tower
Sector 16, Noida - 201301
Contact: +91 78389 89503
Website: www.tbcpl.co.in

To Unsubscribe
Please contact us at +91 7838989503
OR
Send a mail on controlroom@tbcpl.co.in