

WATCHLIST - Frauds this Week

HIGHLIGHTS

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2. 62 CARTONS OF LIQUOR SEIZED FROMA 'ANGANWADI' CENTRE IN BIHAR
3. AUTO DRIVER HELPS BENGALURU COPS BUST COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY RACKET
4. LAKHIMPUR POLICE ARRESTS ONE WITH FAKE GOLD AND CURRENCY NOTES
5. COUNTERFEIT TATA WIRON BARBED WIRES WORTH RS 30 LAKH SEIZED IN JAMSHEDPUR
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3. BCSO INVESTIGATING COUNTERFEIT MONEY SCHEME IN SCHERTZ
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6. MANITOBA PUBLIC INSURANCE SAYS FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS SAVED \$13 MILLION THIS YEAR
7. NAVAJO COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. DIRECTOR JEFFREY LEE INDICTED ON THEFT, FRAUD CHARGES
8. BELARUS
9. FOUR
10. PE

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INDIA

1. ILLICIT LIQUOR WORTH Rs 8 LAKH SEIZED IN UP'S MUZAFFARNAGAR

Link: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/illicit-liquor-worth-rs-8-lakh-seized-in-ups-muzaffarnagar/1999813>

Police have seized 160 cartons of illegal liquor smuggled from Haryana into Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, officials said on Saturday. The seizure of liquor worth Rs 8 lakh was made near Kalyanpur village under Ratanpuri police station on Saturday afternoon, they said. The liquor was being smuggled from Sonipat in Haryana in an oil tanker. A police team intercepted the tanker, seized the liquor and arrested two people identified as Amit Kumar and Harish. A third accused managed to flee the scene, police said.

2. 62 CARTONS OF LIQUOR SEIZED FROMA 'ANGANWADI' CENTRE IN BIHAR

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/62-cartons-of-liquor-seized-from-anganwadi-centre/articleshow/79981311.cms>

A state excise department team seized Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) from an anganwadi centre at Mutulpur village under Hattha police outpost in Muzaffarpur district on Saturday. The two-storey government building, supposed to supply nutritious diet to pregnant and lactating women, was being used to store and supply illicit liquor, much to the surprise of the excise officials.

3. AUTO DRIVER HELPS BENGALURU COPS BUST COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY RACKET

Link: <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/top-bengaluru-stories/auto-driver-helps-bengaluru-cops-bust-counterfeit-currency-racket-932012.html>

Mohammed Imran alias Gudlu, 32, a resident of Shamanna Garden, Mubarak alias Usman Khan, 31, of Gangodanahalli, and Jamal Akhtar, 38, from Bapujinagar, are the arrested suspects. Around 1:15 am on December 15, the main suspect Imran travelled on the auto-rickshaw of one Manjunath from City Market to Shanthinagar bus stand.

4. LAKHIMPUR POLICE ARRESTS ONE WITH FAKE GOLD AND CURRENCY NOTES

Link: <https://nenow.in/north-east-news/assam/assam-lakhimpur-police-arrests-one-with-fake-gold-and-currency-notes.html>

Lakhimpur police has arrested one person along with artifacts made of fake gold at Fatehpur Laogaon in Bangalmora. The accused, Md. Abdul Jalil hailed from Fatehpur Laogaon and was arrested along with a boat-shaped artifact and a statue of Jesus Christ on Wednesday. This is the thirteenth case involving fake gold and counterfeit currencies to have been reported in Bangalmara area in the last three months. The infamous trade of fake gold and counterfeit currency notes brought notoriety to the district as fraudsters here have repeatedly duped people from various parts of the state and the country.

5. COUNTERFEIT TATA WIRON BARBED WIRES WORTH Rs 30 LAKH SEIZED IN JAMSHEDPUR

Link: <https://avenuemail.in/tag/counterfeit-tata-wiron-barbed-wires/>

As part of the ongoing effort to protect its brand and assets, Tata Steel, with the support of local Police conducted a joint raid on Garg Ispat Industries located at Bharatpur in Rajasthan were selling unauthorised Tata Wiron Barbed wire products. The raid was conducted on December 24, 2020, where the Police seized 945 bundles of counterfeit material estimated to be valued at Rs 30 lakh and the machine used for making the counterfeit products was seized from the premises of Garg Ispat during the raid.

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An FIR has been lodged Under Section 420 (Cheating and Dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 485 (Making or possession of any instrument for counterfeiting a property mark), 486 (Selling goods marked with a counterfeit property mark), 120-B (Criminal Conspiracy) of IPC and Sections 63 and 65 of Copy Right Act and Sections 103, 104 of Trade Mark Act.

6. CBI BOOKS HYDERABAD-BASED INFRA FIRM IVRCL FOR ALLEGED BANK FRAUD OF Rs 4,837 CRORE

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/cbi-books-hyderabad-based-infra-firm-ivrcl-for-alleged-bank-fraud-of-rs-4-837-cr-11609341524863.html>

The CBI on Wednesday carried out searches at the premises of infrastructure firm IVRCL, its Managing Director E Sudhir Reddy and Joint Managing Director R Balarami Reddy who have been booked by the agency for an alleged fraud worth over ₹4,800 crore against a consortium of banks, officials said. The agency has booked the Hyderabad-based company and its directors on a complaint from the State Bank of India, CBI Spokesperson RC Joshi said.

7. MUMBAI CYBER COPS WARN OF 'FRAUD' FOOD OFFER ADS ON NEW YEAR

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/mumbai-cyber-cops-warn-of-fraud-food-offer-ads-on-new-year-eve/articleshow/80048093.cms>

The cyber police at Bandra Kurla Complex has warned people not to fall victim during the New Year Eve to food fraud advertisements that are posted on Facebook and other social media flashes "Buy 1 Thali Get 2 Thali free in your first order with the fraudster's contact number". Already the cyber police have received several written complaints after they lost money from their account after clicking on the link to place the food parcel order.

8. THREE ANIL AMBANI COMPANIES HAVR REPORTEDLY BEEN ACCUSED OF FRAUD BY BANKS- THE AMOUNT AT STAKE IS NEARLY TEN TIMES MORE THAN WHAT MALLYA OWED

Link: <https://www.businessinsider.in/business/corporates/news/three-anil-ambani-companies-accused-of-fraud-ten-times-more-than-vijay-mallya/articleshow/80002892.cms>

India's infamous fallen billionaire, Anil Ambani, may have claimed that his 'net worth is zero' but Indian banks aren't buying it. In the midst of Reliance Communications' bankruptcy resolution process, three Indian banks — the State Bank of India (SBI), Union Bank of India (UBI) and the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) — are classifying the company's accounts and the accounts of its units as fraudulent. Sources told the Economic Times that the three banks, which includes India's largest lender, are looking to launch a deeper probe into the transactions from the account of three Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group entities — Reliance Communications, Reliance Infratel and Reliance Telecom.

9. CBI FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST 24 ACCUSED FOR ACCUSED LOSS OF OVER Rs 297 CRORE TO VARIOUS BANKS IN MUMBAI

Link: <https://newschamt.com/business/bank-fraud-cbi-chargesheet-rs-297-crore-loss-idbi-dena-indian-overseas-bank/>

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has right now filed a chargesheet earlier than Special Judge for CBI circumstances, Mumbai in opposition to 24 accused together with a non-public company based mostly at Mumbai, its director, Chartered Accountant, then officers of Indian Overseas Bank, Directors/proprietor of related corporations/companies and so forth for inflicting an alleged loss of Rs 297.80 crore (approx) to the financial institution.

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It was alleged that the accused allegedly aided in diversion and facilitated in siphoning-off funds by means of submitting faux and cast buy invoices/LCs. It was additionally alleged that the mentioned company had availed credit score limits from varied banks and monetary establishment. Out of those nationalized banks, Indian Overseas Bank Mumbai Branch has disbursed credit score services to the tune of Rs 292.20 crore (approx) beneath consortium association.

10. SBI, PUNJAB AND SIND BANK ALLEGEDLY CHEATED OF OVER Rs 131 CRORES; CBI REGISTERS CASES

Link: <https://www.indiatvnews.com/business/news-major-bank-fraud-sbi-punjab-and-sind-bank-rs-131-crores-cheating-cbi-registers-cases-674100>

The State Bank of India and Punjab and Sind Bank have been allegedly cheated of over Rs 131 crores in two separate cases of fraud. The first case was registered on a complaint from SBI against a private company based in Gujarat's Ahmedabad and others including directors, public servants, and unknown others on the allegations of cheating the State Bank of India to the tune of Rs 67.07 crore, the CBI said. The company was engaged in manufacturing cotton yarn, knitted grey fabric, and finished garments. It was alleged that during the period 2011 to 2015, the accused entered into a conspiracy to cheat SBI by way of forgery/falsification of accounts and diversion of funds, the probe agency said. The company allegedly availed Fund Based Working Capital (FBWC) with SBI, MCB, Vapi Branch. It was further alleged that only around 20% of its receipts and payments from its debtors and creditors respectively were routed through banking channels, and the remaining amount was siphoned off. Meanwhile, searches were conducted at 10 places including official and the residential premises of the accused/private company at Silvassa and Mumbai which led to the recovery of incriminating documents and articles.

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INTERNATIONAL

1. HOPKINSVILLE TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO COUNTERFEIT MONEY ARREST

Link: <https://www.wkdzradio.com/2020/12/30/hopkinsville-traffic-stop-leads-to-counterfeit-money-arrest/>

A counterfeit \$100 bill was reportedly found during a traffic stop on Skyline Drive Tuesday morning. Hopkinsville Police say 20-year-old Trevon Shingles of McDonough, Georgia, was stopped for going 20 MPH over the speed limit. During the stop, Police say they could smell marijuana inside the vehicle. After a search of Shingles's vehicle police allegedly found marijuana in the driver seat along with a counterfeit \$100 bill in the driver's door.

2. FAKE COVID-19 CURES, TEST KITS AND TREATMENTS SEIZED BY US CUSTOMS

Link: <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/investigations/fake-covid-19-cures-test-kits-and-treatments-seized-by-us-customs/63-27377305-b1e6-4dcc-91ff-7de8f124d800>

It's been a busy year for U.S. Customs and Border patrol. This year, agents seized more than 1.3 billion dollars worth of counterfeit products entering the US. New in 2020, fake COVID-19 products, including COVID tests and so-called COVID cures are keeping agents busy. Dangerous Fakes It's a lot to keep up with. More than 2 million small packages enter the country from foreign destinations each day, according to us customs and border protections. "The added challenge for this year actually has been the COVID-19 counterfeit issue," said John Leonard, Executive Director of Trade Policy and Programs, at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

3. BCSO INVESTIGATING COUNTERFEIT MONEY SCHEME IN SCHERTZ

Link: <https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2020/12/25/bcso-investigating-counterfeit-money-scheme-in-schertz/>

Bexar County Sheriff's deputies found drugs, counterfeit money and tools to continue making the fake currency during a welfare check in Schertz on Friday. According to investigators, the bust happened at the Valero gas station located at 13176 E I-10 Frontage Road. The sheriff's office said deputies were called out to the location for a welfare check for two women asleep in a vehicle in the parking lot. Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar said the sheriff's office is coordinating with the United States Secret Service in the investigation.

4. THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT SURGICAL MASKS SEIZED IN PHOENIX, SOME AT SKY HARBOR AIRPORT

Link: https://www.azfamily.com/news/continuing_coverage/coronavirus_coverage/thousands-of-counterfeit-surgical-masks-seized-in-phoenix-some-at-sky-harbor-airport/article_d134cee8-4a15-11eb-a827-93864964886c.html

More than 200,000 counterfeit surgical masks were seized in Phoenix over the last 45 days, some of them at Sky Harbor Airport. The masks were all intended for hospital workers and medical staff throughout the nation. Homeland Security and Border Patrol agents made the seizures. "Homeland Security Investigations and our partner agencies are committed to identify and seize these potentially hazardous medical products before they could harm our frontline workers," said Scott Brown, Special Agent in Charge for Homeland Security Investigations in Phoenix.

5. PA. LT. GOV. JOHN FETTERMAN PESTERS TEXAS COUNTERPART TO PAY \$3 MILLION FOR VOTER FRAUD CASES

Link: <https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/12/pa-lt-gov-takes-to-twitter-asking-texas-counterpart-to-pay-3-million-for-the-states-3-voter-fraud-cases.html>

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Pennsylvania's lieutenant governor wants his money. Lt. Gov. John Fetterman has been taking to Twitter over the last few weeks, asking his counterpart in Texas to pay up. It all stems from Lone Star State's Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick offering up to \$1 million last month for evidence of fraud in the Nov. 3 election, the Houston Chronicle is reporting. Now Fetterman, a Democrat, points out there were just three instances of voter fraud in Pennsylvania.

6. MANITOBA PUBLIC INSURANCE SAYS FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS SAVED \$13 MILLION THIS YEAR

Link: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7256981/numbers-show-employment-up-in-manitoba-pallister-to-hold-press-conference/>

Numbers released Friday show Manitoba added thousands of jobs in July, with jobs now nearing pre-pandemic levels. Statistics Canada says the prairie province saw 12,000 new jobs last month, and job numbers are now at 94.7 per cent of what they were in February. Premier Brian Pallister said despite the numbers, the province is extending some programs to help people get back to work and businesses survive. That includes the Manitoba Gap Protection Program, which will see applications extended until Oct. 31.

7. NAVAJO COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. DIRECTOR JEFFREY LEE INDICTED ON THEFT, FRAUD CHARGES

Link: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2020/12/31/navajo-county-health-boss-jeffrey-lee-indicted-theft-fraud-charges/4098519001/>

A former Coconino County official who went on to oversee Navajo County's Health Department has been indicted on 16 counts of theft, misuse of public money and fraud, according to court documents. The indictment announced Tuesday comes on the heels of a state audit that found Jeffrey Lee used purchase cards issued to him in both counties for personal benefit and falsified information in records. Navajo County said he was placed on administrative leave with pay Tuesday.

8. BIDI VAPOR TAKES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST COUNTERFEIT SALES IN MELBOURNE

Link: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/bidi-vapor-takes-legal-action-162300928.html>

Bidi Vapor, LLC, the manufacturer of a premium vape pen called Bidi® Stick, announced that on December 11, 2020, a federal judge in the Southern District of New York granted a temporary restraining order and asset freeze against 24 defendants—most based overseas in China—selling counterfeit Bidi-branded products through the wholesale website, DHGate.com. "The manufacture and sale of counterfeit goods hurts all responsible suppliers of quality products."

9. SCAMMERS TARGETING VULNERABLE BRITS WITH FAKE NHS VACCINE TEXT

Link: <https://ca.style.yahoo.com/nhs-covid-19-vaccine-fake-text-scam-140028607.html>

A fake text message claims to be from the NHS and tells people they are eligible to apply for the COVID-19 vaccine. The message reads: "NHS: We have identified that your are eligible to apply for your vaccine" and advises recipients to follow a link to an "application form" for more information and to "apply." This link goes to a convincing fake NHS website that asks for personal details. The website then asks for his bank and card details in order to "confirm identity." Spelling mistakes on the site and in the text message itself are warning signs of a phishing scam, said Which?

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10. HOW SCAMMERS SIPHONED \$36B IN FRAUDULENT UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS FROM US

Link: <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/2020/12/30/unemployment-fraud-how-international-scammers-took-36-b-us/3960263001/>

In a Zoom session with the camera turned off, Mayowa describes how he scoops up U.S. unemployment benefits fattened by COVID-19 relief, an international imposter attack that has contributed to at least \$36 billion being siphoned away from out-of-work Americans. Mayowa is an engineering student in Nigeria who estimates he's made about \$50,000 since the pandemic began. After compiling a list of real people, he turns to databases of hacked information that charge \$2 in cryptocurrency to link that name to a date of birth and Social Security number.

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