

WATCHLIST - Frauds this Week

HIGHLIGHTS

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2. CIDCO POLICE SEIZE RS 24K ILLICIT LIQUOR
3. NIA FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST THREE FOR TRAFFICKING FAKE INDIAN CURRENCY FROM BANGLADESH IN MUMBAI
4. DUPLICATE TEA OF A FAMOUS TEA BRAND SEIZED IN CUTTACK
5. FAKE NOTES OF FACE VALUE 1.44 CRORE SEIZED FROM RAJDHANI PASSENGER, 2 HELD IN AHMEDABAD
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INTERNATIONAL

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4. HESPERIA WOMAN, 29, ARRESTED AFTER PROVIDING COUNTERFEIT DRIVER'S LICENSE TO DEPUTIES
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8. GANG IN DUBAI TRIES TO SELL \$4M FAKE CURRENCIES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, ARRESTED
9. HANESBRANDS GETS FAVORABLE JUDGMENT IN CHINESE INFRINGEMENT CASE AGAINST CHAMPION
10. BELGIAN KIDS CHANNEL EX-CFO FOUND GUILTY FRAUD WORTH MILLIONS

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INDIA

1. CRACKDOWN ON MANUFACTURERS OF ILLICIT LIQUOR IN TARN TARAN

Link: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/crackdown-on-manufacturers-of-illicit-liquor-192763>

In a crackdown on the manufacturers of illicit liquor on the first day of the New Year (on Friday), the district police conducted raids at five places and recovered 76,500 ml of illicit liquor. The police said in a raid on the residence of Dheera Singh of Pandori Gola village, 18,750 ml of illicit liquor was recovered. Dheera Singh was arrested. Five months ago, the spurious liquor tragedy had happened at Pandori Gola which claimed the lives of 12 persons and six persons responsible for supplying spurious liquor had been booked.

2. CIDCO POLICE SEIZE Rs 24k ILLICIT LIQUOR

Link: <https://english.lokmat.com/aurangabad/cidco-police-seize-rs-24k-illicit-liquor-1/>

The Cidco police special squad arrested a man for smuggling liquor amounting Rs 24,120 on Saturday. According to the details, Cidco police station PI, Ashok Giri received the information from the informers that a man is taking liquor for illicit sale for the upcoming grampanchayat elections. He is standing at Sharad Tee Point in front of Deogiri Bank and waiting for a rickshaw. The special squad rushed to the spot and arrested Rahul Rajkumar Jaiswal and seized liquor amounting Rs 24,120 in two white coloured gunny bags from him.

3. NIA FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST THREE FOR TRAFFICKING FAKE INDIAN CURRENCY FROM BANGLADESH IN MUMBAI

Link: <https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/mumbai-nia-files-charge-sheet-against-three-for-trafficking-fake-indian-currency-from-bangladesh>

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a charge-sheet against three persons for their alleged involvement in trafficking Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) procured from Bangladesh. According to the central counter terrorism law enforcement agency, the supplementary charge sheet was filed against Jasim Shaikh, a resident of Amrut Nagar in Mumbra in Thane district, Ishak Khan and Radhakrishna Adappa, both residents of Chikkaballapura district in Karnataka. The charge-sheet was filed before NIA Special court in Mumbai. The accused have been charged under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 120B, 489B, 489C & 34 of IPC for criminal conspiracy, using as genuine, forged or counterfeit currency-notes or bank-notes and common intention. "The case pertains to the seizure of FICN having a face value of Rs 82,000 from the house of Jasim in Mumbra," a NIA spokesperson said. "Investigation in the case has revealed that the arrested accused persons had conspired to circulate FICN in different parts of India."

4. DUPLICATE TEA OF A FAMOUS TEA BRAND SEIZED IN CUTTACK

Link: <https://kalingatv.com/state/duplicate-tea-of-a-famous-tea-brand-seized-in-cuttack/>

After ghee, masala, sauce and oil the manufacturers at Cuttack district in Odisha are now making spurious and duplicate tea leaves at factories. According to sources, a raid has been conducted in Cuttack Sadar police limits and tea of a popular brand and manufacturing equipment has been seized. Various parts of a manufacturing unit has also been seized.

5. FAKE NOTES OF FACE VALUE 1.44 CRORE SEIZED FROM RAJDHANI PASSENGER, 2 HELD IN AHMEDABAD

Link: <https://kalingatv.com/state/duplicate-tea-of-a-famous-tea-brand-seized-in-cuttack/>

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Two persons were arrested in Ahmedabad on Thursday after Railway Police Force (RPF) personnel seized fake notes of Rs 2000-denomination and face value 1.44 crore which was being brought from Delhi by Rajdhani Express by one of the two accused. According to RPF officers, Vikas Sharma (31), a resident of Kalol in Gandhinagar, was held at 9.15 am on Wednesday from platform number 5 of Kalupur Railway Station after the Rajdhani Express arrived.

6. DRI DETECTS 412 SMUGGLING CASES WORTH Rs 1,949 CRORES IN 2019-20

Link: <http://www.uniindia.com/dri-detects-412-smuggling-cases-worth-rs-1-949-cr-in-2019-20/india/news/2280199.html>

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), one among the premier investigation agencies in India, has made its presence felt over the financial year 2019-20. The probe agency demonstrated prompt action in detection of 412 cases of smuggling resulting in seizure of contraband worth Rs 1,949 crore. Through Risk Assessment Techniques and Data Analytics, the central agency was able to unearth 761 complex cases of Customs involving duty evasion of amount Rs 2,183 crores while it has been on the forefront of Nation's fight against the trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

7. TWO INDUSTRIALISTS ARRESTED IN Rs 67-CRORE GST FRAUD IN TELANGANA

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/hyderabad/telangana-two-industrialists-arrested-in-rs-67-crore-gst-fraud-7136587/lite/>

The GST officials of Medchal commissionerate arrested two industrialists and their auditor in Hyderabad Wednesday for allegedly defrauding the government to the tune of Rs 67.76 crore. The officials from the anti-evasion wing arrested industrialists Arjun Chowdary, Kiran Chowdary, and their auditor Vikas Saraf for issuing fake invoices by the creation of fictitious firms and evading GST. Another accused Gordhan Singh, also an industrialist is absconding, said an official press release. The investigators found out that the three accused industrialists created non-existent firms and issued fake invoices without actual supply of goods and facilitated fraudulent availing of the input tax credit by over 200 firms across the country and thereby defrauding the government revenue to the tune of approximately Rs 67.76 crore.

8. KERALA POLICE TO INVESTIGATE ONLINE LOAN APP FRAUD

Link: <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/kerala-police-to-investigate-online-loan-app-fraud20210106181038/>

The crime branch of the Kerala police will be investigating the online loan application fraud as per the order of the Kerala state police chief Loknath Behra, the state police said on Wednesday. A high-tech crime enquiry cell will also assist the police during the investigation into the matter. "The crime branch will also seek the help of Interpol, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Police as some foreigners and people from other states are also involved," the police said.

9. ANOTHER POTENTIAL FINANCIAL FRAUD DETECTED IN BENGALURU

Link: <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/top-bengaluru-stories/another-potential-financial-fraud-detected-in-bengaluru-934863.html>

In yet another case of suspected financial fraud in Bengaluru, several people have registered complaints against Chennai-headquartered Vishwapriya Financial Services Securities Limited (VFSSL), alleging that it has cheated them of lakhs of rupees. Four FIRs have been registered at Siddapura and Girinagar police stations in the last few days. The complainants have accused VFSSL, its managing director and other officer-bearers of cheating.

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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. APP LOAN FRAUD RUNS INTO Rs 21,000 CRORE IN TIRUPATI

Link: <https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/tirupathi/app-loan-fraud-runs-into-rs-21000-crore-665581>

The volume of online loan fraud amounts to a whopping Rs 21,000 crore, according to the payment gateway Razor Pay. With such a huge amount, one can imagine the number of victims given the fact that they take loans of small amounts. Stating this in his keynote address as part of the ongoing AP Police Duty Meet being held in Tirupati Sunil Kumar Naik, CID DIG said the menace of loan apps had not only led to such a huge fraud but has also resulted in many people committing suicide while many others were subjected to various kinds of harassment.

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1. SOUTH AFRICA'S ALCOHOL INDUSTRY HAS WANTED THE PUBLIC TO BEWARE OF ILLICIT LIQUOR PRODUCTS AFTER A COMPANY HAD THOUSANDS OF BOTTLE CAPS STOLEN

Link: https://www.securindustry.com/food-and-beverage/south-africa-warning-of-illicit-liquor-after-bottlecap-theft/s104/a12749/#.X_f3yNgzY2w

The theft took place on December 30 at a warehouse owned by the unnamed company – a member of the South Africa Liquor Brandowners Association (SALBA) – and the organisation is now concerned that criminals may use them to inveigle counterfeit drinks into the supply chain. “One of the illicit alcohol practices is to refill used, branded bottles with illegal alcohol, reseal them and sell that to consumers,” said SALBA chairman Sibani Mngadi. “This practice poses a major health risk to consumers.” It's not yet clear if the theft was carried out to order by counterfeiters, although there is unlikely to be any other market or use for the closures. South Africa is currently in the midst of a lockdown due to COVID-19, which includes a ban on alcohol sales, a curfew between 9pm and 6am, and a sweeping restrictions on social interactions.

2. 1,216 PIECES OF COUNTERFEIT JEWELRY WORTH OVER \$700K SEIZED CBP IN LOUISVILLE

Link: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/1216-pieces-counterfeit-jewelry-worth-over-700k-seized-cbp-louisville>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Louisville intercepted a shipment, arriving from Hong Kong, manifested as a jewelry set containing more than 1,200 pieces. On January 5, CBP officers in Louisville halted the shipment that was bound for Hollywood, Florida. CBP officers inspected the parcel to determine the admissibility of its contents in accordance with CBP regulations.

3. SEIZED COUNTERFEIT GOODS REACH NEW HIGHS IN PUERTO RICS AND THE USVI

Link: https://www.theweeklyjournal.com/business/seized-counterfeit-goods-reach-new-highs-in-puerto-rico-and-the-usvi/article_dbb1790a-502a-11eb-ae2a-67be7d6ce156.html

With the holiday season ending, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operations in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands are reiterating their consumer alert for counterfeit and pirated goods with regard to online shopping. Amidst the pandemic, a recent fiscal year comparison reveals that CBP officers and Import Specialists have witnessed significant statistical increases in the seizures of products that violate Intellectual Property Regulations (IPR). Clothing and accessories from well known brands are among the top seizures. The San Juan Field Office, which is responsible for multiple ports of entry in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, experienced a 175% growth in the number of IPR seizures in Fiscal Year 2021 to date in contrast to the same period in Fiscal Year 2020.

4. HESPERIA WOMAN, 29, ARRESTED AFTER PROVIDING COUNTERFEIT DRIVER'S LICENSE TO DEPUTIES

Link: <https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2021/01/06/hesperia-woman-29-arrested-after-providing-counterfeit-drivers-license-deputies/6574877002/>

Authorities arrested a 29-year-old Hesperia woman Tuesday after they said she provided a counterfeit driver's license at the sheriff's station in Victorville. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department officials said deputies arrested Stephanie Ruiz on suspicion of forgery and forging an official seal. Sheriff's officials said Ruiz went to the station to pick up her vehicle, which was being held in relation to a separate investigation. After providing her license, a deputy noticed “several errors,” which led him to determine the identification card to be counterfeit, Sheriff's officials said in a statement.

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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>

Federal agents seized more than 200,000 counterfeit N95 surgical masks over the last 45 days as part of an investigation launched by agents at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, authorities said this week. Officials estimated the masks were worth more than \$1 million. The investigation began in October, when agents with Homeland Security Investigations, a part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, went through a shipments of 3M N95 masks headed to a company in the Phoenix area. A sample mask was removed and sent to 3M, the company that makes many of the N95 masks used to protect medical workers from COVID-19, the novel coronavirus that has infected at least 19 million people in the United States and killed 333,524 Americans, according to the COVID Tracking Project.

6. MORE THAN R4 MILLION IN 'COUNTERFEIT' SPICES SEIZED IN GAUTENG

Link: <https://www.news24.com/news24/SouthAfrica/News/tis-the-season-more-that-r4-million-in-counterfeit-spices-seized-in-gauteng-20201231>

R4.5 million in suspected counterfeit spices and packaging have been seized from premises on Old Vereeniging Road on Thursday in Gauteng. Gauteng MEC for community safety Faith Mazibuko took to Twitter to share images of the goods seized during a warrant search by members of Kliprivier visible policing with the assistance of Spoor & Fisher, a firm that handles the prosecution and enforcement of trademarks, patents, designs, and copyrights.

7. GUARDIA CIVIL SEIZE 30,000 COUNTERFEIT TOYS IN MURCIA

Link: <https://www.euroweeklynnews.com/2021/01/03/guardia-civil-seize-30000-counterfeit-toys-in-murcia/>

Five people are being investigated after five commercial premises were raided and 30,000 units of toys of different brands were found, some lacking regulatory labelling and some that did not comply with the regulatory standards that govern their manufacture. The investigation began when specialists from the Fiscal and Borders Unit of the Guardia Civil of Lorca detected the sale of counterfeit toys in small businesses in Murcia.

8. GANG IN DUBAI TRIES TO SELL \$4M FAKE CURRENCIES THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, ARRESTED

Link: <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/news/crime-and-courts/gang-in-dubai-tries-to-sell-4m-fake-currencies-through-social-media-arrested>

The Dubai Police arrested three Africans for allegedly trying to sell \$4 million in fake currency. The police also seized some tools, including a bottle of a chemical substance, white powder and a small device that looks like a printer. Brig Jamal Al Jalaf, director of the Criminal Investigation Department at the Dubai Police, said that the police received a tipoff that three African visitors were in possession of around \$4 million in fake currency and were planning to sell it in the Deira area. The police prepared a plan to trap the suspects after locating their whereabouts. The investigating team send a decoy to convince them that he is willing to buy the entire money for Dh100,000. The gang told the buyer that the dollars were original but had a black substance that could be removed using specific chemical substance.

9. HANESBRANDS GETS FAVORABLE JUDGMENT IN CHINESE INFRINGEMENT CASE AGAINST CHAMPION

Link: <https://fashionunited.in/news/business/hanesbrands-gets-favorable-judgment-in-chinese-infringement-case/2021010527545>

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HanesBrands (HBI) said Tuesday that it has received a favorable judgment from the Nanjing Intermediate People's Court in a trademark infringement case involving its Champion brand in China. The case involved the production and distribution of counterfeit Champion products and the operation of unauthorized Champion retail outlets by six defendants. According to the company, the defendants, Hurricane, Chengda, Rainbow Wing, Fuxun, Yunma and Wu Zhanghao, were ordered to immediately cease all infringement of the Champion brand. The defendants were also ordered to pay fines totaling more than 600,000 USD.

10. BELGIAN KIDS CHANNEL EX-CFO FOUND GUILTY FRAUD WORTH MILLIONS

Link: <https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/belgium-all-news/148501/ex-cfo-of-studio-100-found-guilty-of-fraud-worth-millions/>

Maarten Stevens first came to the attention of the authorities as a result of an internal audit of the company in 2016. Irregularities were discovered, and a judicial investigation launched. Studio 100 is one of the most prominent entertainment companies in Belgium, and particularly in Flanders as well as the Netherlands and Germany. It produces TV shows for children and live musicals for adults, runs theme parks, introduced the world to girl group K3 and their successors and has made billions for front-men Hans Bourlon and Gert Verhulst, a former continuity announcer who now has a talk show, cookery shows and, with his family, his own reality show.

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